

BAYLOR UPSETS GONZAGA'S PERFECT SEASON

By Brad Hill

This year's NCAA tournament has lived up to the title and popular nickname "March Madness" with its many upsets. The madness kicked off on Thursday, March 18, with the first four games, played by teams who barely made the tournament and designed to cut down the field to 64 teams. The next day, the beginning of the round of 64 started off normally, but it soon turned to chaos when 15-seed Oral Roberts knocked off 2-seed Ohio State. Oral Roberts continued to play well throughout the tournament, sneaking into the Sweet Sixteen for the second time ever by a 15-seed by knocking off 7-seed Florida, who beat Virginia Tech in a hectic overtime match in the first game of the round of 64. First Four team 11-seeded UCLA also won their next 2 games to move to the Sweet Sixteen. Four teams seeded 11 or higher made the Sweet Sixteen, including Oral Roberts, 11-seed Syracuse, UCLA, and 12-seed Oregon State. Only UCLA and Oregon State advanced to the Elite Eight, with Syracuse losing to Houston and Oral Roberts missing a three at the buzzer against Arkansas. After the Elite Eight on Monday and Tuesday, the four teams who were left standing to compete for a championship included 1-seed Gonzaga, who was looking to continue their undefeated season and become the first undefeated team to win it all since the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers, 1-seed Baylor, 2-seed Houston, and 11-seed UCLA who traveled all the way from the first four and played an extra game than the rest of the teams. Baylor cruised to a win over Houston on the Saturday of the Final Four, but Gonzaga and UCLA went to overtime, where NBA prospect Jalen Suggs banked in a thirty foot three pointer to win the game after a putback to tie the game by UCLA. Baylor and Gonzaga then met on Monday, where Baylor got out to an early 16-4 lead and never looked back, cruising to a 86-70 victory and spoiling Gonzaga's perfect season.



NBA TRADE DEADLINE

By Brad Hill

Thursday, March 24 at 4 P.M. marked the end to an eventful trade deadline. With many contenders looking to bolster their squads and rebuilding teams looking to accumulate draft picks for their stars, different trade partners were found, and the NBA landscape was shifted. The biggest move of the day was All-Star Nikola Vucevic being traded to the Bulls from the Orlando Magic. The returning package Vucevic trade was centered around young prospect Wendell Carter Jr. and first round picks. Vucevic's teammate Aaron Gordon was traded to the Nuggets, while Evan Fournier, also formerly for the Magic, got traded to the Boston Celtics. Another big move broke after the deadline once reporters found that Victor Oladipo had been traded to the Heat for Kelly Olynyk and Avery Bradley. Other notable names to be moved included JJ Redick (to the Mavericks), Rajon Rondo (to the Clippers), and Lou Williams (to the Hawks).

NBA STANDINGS

EAST	
1. Philadelphia 76ers	32-14
2. Brooklyn Nets	31-15
3. Milwaukee Bucks	29-16
4. New York Knicks	24-22
5. Charlotte Hornets	23-22
6. Atlanta Hawks	23-23
7. Boston Celtics	23-23
8. Miami Heat	22-24
9. Indiana Pacers	21-23
10. Chicago Bulls	19-25
11. Toronto Raptors	18-28
12. Cleveland Cavaliers	17-29
13. Washington Wizards	16-28
14. Orlando Magic	15-31
15. Detroit Pistons	12-33

WEST	
1. Utah Jazz	34-11
2. Phoenix Suns	31-14
3. Los Angeles Clippers	31-16
4. Los Angeles Lakers	30-17
5. Denver Nuggets	28-18
6. Portland Trail Blazers	28-18
7. San Antonio Spurs	23-20
8. Dallas Mavericks	23-21
9. Memphis Grizzlies	21-22
10. Houston State Warriors	22-24
11. Sacramento Kings	21-25
12. New Orleans Pelicans	20-25
13. Oklahoma City Thunder	19-26
14. Houston Rockets	13-32
15. MN Timberwolves	11-35



THE TALON

MARCH 2021, ISSUE 4

PVCA STUDENTS AND FACULTY REFLECT ON WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By Alexa Walker

With March being National Women's History Month, PVCA's students and teachers are excited to be celebrating the influential women in their lives. Their focus is on those who inspire them and make them passionate about their beliefs and dreams for the future.

When asked who inspires her, Kadence Sharpe, a fourth-grader, said the woman to have the greatest effect on her was her grandmother. "She made the best mac-and-cheese in the world!" Sharpe said. Her grandmother raised eight children, played the piano at church, and collected things on her many travels. "She told us to stay strong when something bad happens and she'd always help us," Sharpe remembered.

The fifth-grade girls were also excited to talk about the women who inspire them to live out their dreams. Brooke Beggs looks up to Lisa Leslie, an ex WMBA player. "I guess she just inspires me to try hard

because I like basketball," Beggs said. She admires how Leslie responds to those who made fun of her by not taking the comments as an insult and, instead, using them to make her try harder.

When Anna Grace Van Dyke was asked who she finds inspiring, she thought of Joyce Lin, a pilot missionary who flew supplies across the world and spread the gospel. "I would like to be a pilot," Van Dyke added.

Teachers were also excited to share the women in their lives who inspired them. Mrs. Annis immediately thought of her mom when she was asked about someone who inspired her. "She was active in social issues. She was friendly and kind. She was just everything you could ask [for] in a mom, so she's my inspiration," Annis said.

An influential woman in Mrs. Mozdzonowski's life actually led to her pursuing her profession. "A woman who had a great deal of influence on me was my high school Spanish teacher, Mrs. Hamilton, who made me excited about the idea of teaching, especially Spanish.

She was lively, entertaining, fun, fair, and a great teacher," Mozdzonowski said.

Whether it be a family member, teacher, or celebrity, there is often a woman to encourage change in the next generation. PVCA acknowledges the history of those women by remembering their stories and celebrating the way they continue to inspire others today.



STARBUCKS VS. DUNKIN'

What does the PVCA Community say?



By Alison Witherow

The battle of the coffee beans, Starbucks vs Dunkin', is an intense and ongoing battle for supremacy. Each coffee company seeks to outshine the other and serves groups of people with specific preferences for coffee, food, and fun, unique drinks. Often when you are driving down the street and see a Dunkin' it will be no shock to see a Starbucks nearby, each desiring to win the loyal customers of the other. They are constantly trying to create similar but superior drinks to grow in popularity. For example, Starbucks decided to offer vanilla sweet cream cold foam shortly after Dunkin' came out with a sweet cream cold foam.

The PVCA newspaper crew decided to end the war and choose the winner with a blind taste test, Instagram poll, and informal survey. The drinks caramel macchiato, matcha latte, iced coffee with cream and sugar, vanilla bean frozen treat (Frappuccino or Coolatta), and strawberry refreshers were used to decide the winner. According to all of the newspaper team, Dunkin' won the matcha and vanilla categories but Starbucks won the rest, making Starbucks the winner.

According to our Instagram poll, Dunkin' won the votes of the students. And after questioning many students, the overall consensus was that Starbucks has better drinks and Dunkin' is the go-to for food.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETIES

NJHS INDUCTS 10 NEW STUDENTS

By Brad Hill

The induction ceremony for the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) was held during chapel on Friday, March 12. The list of inductees included Jared Anderson, Christian Garvey, Josh Henry, Caleb Hill, Joseph Rios, Princeton Privedenyuk, Hadley Kerns, Nick King, Yelianis Mateo, and Charis Smith. During the ceremony led by NJHS advisor Wendy Maynard, the students sang the hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness. There were six speeches given by current members of NJHS from 8th and 9th grade, followed by the presentation of pins and the lighting of candles. The inductees were chosen by the middle school teachers and advisor Wendy Maynard, based on the characteristics shown by the students. The five qualities taken into consideration were service, citizenship, leadership, scholarship, and character. While this honor might not go on their high school transcript, Mrs. Maynard says that the NJHS is important because "it shows that students were showing characteristics even before high school." She also says that the NJHS "helps to foster some of these characteristics and spur them on to grow in these (continued on page 2)



NHS INDUCTS 7 NEW STUDENTS

By Victoria Sharpe

Many students strive to excel in their character as well as in the academic world. The National Honor Society is one way that students can be identified for these accomplishments. This year's induction ceremony was held during chapel on Friday, March 12. Seven students from the junior class were inducted into the Society this year. The list includes: Marcos Aikman, Jacob Brosseau, Kayla Callender, John Russel, Joshua Shumskiy, Alexa Walker, and Alison Witherow, Katya (continued on page 3)

JAVEN MARQUEZ, THE KRISPY KREME FUNDRAISER CHAMP!

During Early March, the freshman class at PVCA ran a Krispy Kreme Donut fundraiser. In total, over \$1,000 was raised. The treasurer of the freshman class, Christiana Dockett, thinks the donut sale was a great success, saying that the class "reached our goal and beyond". Donuts were sold for \$10 a dozen, with the class making a profit of over \$5 per dozen. One of the largest orders came from first grader, Javen Marquez, who ordered 65 dozen donuts, 780 donuts in all. Javen said he "was planning to sell them to people who wanted a dozen each at [his] mom's work." Javen didn't sell all of the donuts, however. He ate some at his house. When asked about the quality of the donuts, Javen said, "They were really good." It was hard to fit all the boxes in the car, but Javen felt "really good." He also had some freshmen help him move the donuts.



GALYNA OVDIYCHUK REAL ESTATE

413-579-1604
govdiyichuk1604@yahoo.com



To my future clients:

One of my favorite parts of real estate is forming relationships with my clients and being able to watch them grow in their new homes over time. But really the best part for me is the opportunity to be an example of my faith. For me, the word "Christian" is not just a label I wear but a promise I make every day to be the best woman I can be, honoring God in all I do, including my work with my clients. Making my integrity and values the centerpiece of my services is rewarding for them and me. I recognize and value the trust my clients place in me to help guide them through one of the biggest investments of their lives. I am profoundly grateful to be fulfilling what I believe is my calling.

COMING SOON!



LONGMEADOW/ SPRINGFIELD LINE \$380,000

A beautiful, new construction, single family home located on the Longmeadow/Springfield line. A great family neighborhood! This house features a master bedroom suite equipped with walk-in closets, three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious kitchen, dining room, living room, office, and a family room for your enjoyment.

Call Galyna Ovdychuk at 413-579-1604
or email govdiyichuk1604@yahoo.com



503 TIFFANY STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MA \$275,000

This single family home will be on the market within days. A total remodel including a new roof, siding, windows, porch, and entry door. All NEW kitchen, bathroom, and hardwood flooring throughout the home. This open concept home is complete with three bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, family room, and office.

Call Galyna Ovdychuk at 413-579-1604
or email govdiyichuk1604@yahoo.com

PVCA TO HOST THE 30TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE



By Benjamin LeBlanc

After being forced to cancel last year due to COVID-19, Pioneer Valley Christian Academy will hold its 30th annual Plant Sale on Friday, May 7th, from 2:00 P.M. to 7 P.M., and on Saturday, May 8th, from 7:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in the school gymnasium. On Friday, students will have a noon dismissal, and the Plant Sale will open to PVCA families, staff, faculty, students and alumni. On Saturday, the plant sale will open to the general public.

"This year, we are giving PVCA families a chance to get into the sale before the general public," said grade five teacher, Mr. Beggs of the added Friday. "By extending the time, we can spread out the shoppers more. This is one of the ways that we have adjusted this year to deal with COVID-19 protocols. We want people to feel safe while they are shopping."

Over 10,000 plants will be available for purchase, including annuals, vegetables and herbs, hanging baskets, mixed plant containers, perennials, house plants, and small shrubs. Prices are in the process of being set, but usually fall in the range of \$2 to \$30, although "It is possible that we could have [prices] higher and lower than that," said Mr. Beggs.

100% of the proceeds from the Plant Sale will benefit PVCA. "[The proceeds] will go toward anything from the financial aid we provide our students, to maintenance on the building, to textbooks and classroom supplies," said Director of Advancement, Mr. Jespersen.

The Plant Sale will look slightly different this year to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions, according to several faculty members.



National Junior Honor Society inducts 10 new students (continued from page 1)

ways." Inductee Caleb Hill thinks that being in the NJHS is important because "it shows the qualities and good character in a student, and it is a goal to have these good characteristics. It is also special because not everyone is able to be in NJHS." Inductee Jared Anderson also agrees, saying, "I am blessed to have parents that teach me how to act out the five qualities for the NJHS." Overall, this was an incredible class of ten new inductees who should bless PVCA for years to come with their exemplary qualities.

Per COVID-19 regulations for non-designated events, the building will have capacity for 100 visitors, and all who enter will be required to wear face masks and practice social distancing. Additionally, PVCA is encouraging all customers to pre-register online in order to monitor occupancy levels. Upon arrival at the school, those who pre-register online will fill their time slot, while those who don't will have to wait in line to register on site.

With over 225 volunteer slots to fill, there is still a great need for student volunteers, said Marketing Coordinator Mrs. Funchion. Only middle and high school students can volunteer for the plant sale; middle schoolers can volunteer as wagon attendants, and high schoolers can volunteer as cashier assistants and floor attendants.



"Volunteers are the most essential piece of making the plant sale a success. While this year's sale may be very different from past sales, due to COVID-19 protocols, we still know we need people to fill key roles at critical times," according to the PVCA website.

Grower Direct, a greenhouse based in Somers, Connecticut that supplies major retailers on the east coast, is donating 100% of the plants for the Plant Sale. Grower Direct has supplied the Plant Sale every year since 1991 when its founder, Len VanWingerden, enrolled his children at PVCA and offered to hold a plant sale benefitting the school.

Since then, the Plant Sale has grown to become the largest school fundraiser event of the year and the largest plant sale in western Massachusetts, according to several faculty members. Over one Saturday in 2019, the Plant Sale raised more than \$70,000.

Mr. Jespersen noted a "pent-up demand" to do Spring outdoor activities such as gardening and how people

have missed the community provided by the plant sale—two factors that could contribute to a high turnout this year.

"It's a great reunion for a lot of people. People come to the Plant Sale not only for the plants, but also to reconnect with former teachers, administration, and the general PVCA community," said Mrs. Funchion.



A GOLDEN GALA: 2021 PVCA PROM SCHEDULED FOR MAY 28

By Alexa Walker

The past year has been a time of confusion and change, but despite the challenges, the juniors are proud to announce that there will be a 2021 prom! Save May 28 in your schedules for A Golden Gala: A Glimpse into the Roaring Twenties, featuring an exciting night, highlighting the lavish era. The look of the twenties would not be complete without a little sparkle, so the central colors for decoration will be gold, black, and white. Tickets will be available soon, but, ladies, do not forget to get your dresses approved before you buy them! More information to come for a dance that will be the bee's knees!



STARBUCKS VS. DUNKIN' INSTAGRAM POLL: STUDENTS WEIGH IN



By Benjamin LeBlanc

Starbucks vs. Dunkin'; it has come to represent the rivalry between west and east coast, between postmodern and modern culture, but most importantly, between buying coffee to flex on social media and buying coffee to get through the day. In an attempt to settle scores, at least within Pioneer Valley Christian Academy, members of the Newspaper Club participated in a blind taste test and gauged student opinion on the two coffee giants.

The taste test compared Starbucks and Dunkin' versions of iced coffee, caramel macchiato, matcha latte, strawberry refresher, and vanilla bean frozen drink. Starbucks won in every single drink category except for vanilla bean frozen drink. But students say there are several factors that need to be taken into account to determine which of the two coffee chains is the best besides the coffee itself, such as branding, pricing, and breakfast food options.

"It just [annoys] me that if I go [to Starbucks] and say I want a large coffee, they know what I mean, but they have to say, 'Don't you mean Venti?'" said James Nicol ('22).



By Emma Kerns

Prior to the pandemic, elementary school consisted of field days, playgrounds, birthday parties, family vacations, and field trips. Although these events were completely omitted throughout the current school year, PVCA elementary students remain hopeful for the upcoming spring and summer seasons.

Alison from third grade states, "I really hope there's a field day if COVID would loosen up, so we can also take off our masks, and go outside for lunch and recess more. It would be really awesome if I could play with my friends." Her classmate, Brady Garvey, is looking forward to playing sports again. "I'm excited for) sports. I usually play basketball, football, soccer and sometimes baseball." Both students anticipate a trip to Disney world, which reopened on July 11th, after being closed down for nearly four months.

The third graders are not the only ones looking forward to traveling. Several fifth graders also have some exciting destinations in mind. Just like Brady and Alison, Anna Grace also plans to go to Florida. "Yeah, (this summer), we're going to Port St. Joe," she stated. Anna Grace's classmate shared his summer plans, "I'm going on a couple planes," Craig explained, "To Hawaii and Puerto Rico, and on spring break I'm going to Tennessee for a family gathering." Ben plans to go on a cruise, "I just don't know where yet, but last summer it was Alaska."

Although quarantine previously limited these events, the elementary students look forward to exciting plans as the COVID 19 pandemic begins to subside.

The reason why Starbucks created its own set of sizes to replace the traditional small, medium, large, and extra large may have something to do with the fact that it caters to an untraditional consumer base. According to data from market research firm Nielsen, Starbucks' patrons are on average younger, wealthier and better educated than Dunkin's.

Additionally, Starbucks is more expensive, which is a major consideration for teenagers with limited spending money.

Ian Feragne ('22) put it bluntly: "Dunkin' is more cost efficient, Starbucks is way overpriced."

Though Dunkin' Donuts may have changed to Dunkin' in 2019 in an effort to rebrand as a "drink-led company", students say that the coffee chain is still the go-to place for breakfast food.

"Overall, I like Dunkin' better because they have a bigger variety of breakfast foods, [whether it be] snacks, croissants, donuts, bagels, muffins, you name it," said Marcos Aikman ('22). "Starbucks has a lot of good pastries, but they simply don't have the variety Dunkin' has for everyone's needs."

NHS INDUCTS 7 NEW STUDENTS

By Victoria Sharpe



(continued from page 1) Jemiolo, Skylar Chapdelaine, Luke Witherow, Alan Bekk, Sarah Emerson, and Neriah Henry all participated in the ceremony by lighting candles and giving speeches.

NHS member Sarah Emerson spoke about service and believes, "It is important that we point people to God through serving with a willing heart."

Ashley Drakes was asked what NHS means to her, to which she replied, "NHS means that selected students are being recognized for their ability and willingness to go above and beyond what's asked of them." Ashley also explained how it was important to have peer role models so students can know their goals are attainable. She continued to say, "It's positive reinforcement for those selected so they don't feel like their efforts are pointless."



Mrs. Jefson, PVCA's Director of Guidance, said, "The National Honor Society began in 1921 as a way to recognize students who exemplified the traits of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and citizenship. I believe it is important to recognize the students who exemplify these traits because it shows them that others see and value these traits. Being a part of NHS in high school is a time to strengthen these qualities in a person who will then carry these qualities out into the world as an adult. PVCA is very proud of our students and we desire to have all our students strive to be members of NHS".



To ensure the validity of the results from the taste test, the Newspaper Club took Instagram polls asking students whether they favored Starbucks or Dunkin' versions of the drinks used in the taste test. Unlike the blind taste test, which showed Starbucks as the clear winner, Dunkin' won in every drink category except for strawberry refresher in the Instagram polls—a complete reversal of results. Only one thing remained constant: students favored Starbucks' strawberry refresher over Dunkin's.

The flipped results can be explained by the fact that New Englanders' love for Dunkin' runs deeper than Seattleites love for Starbucks. According to Neilson, New Englanders frequent Dunkin' far more than Seattleites frequent Starbucks—it is the home of the Boston Cream after all. Even with implicit bias at play, several conclusions can be drawn from both tests.

The first is that Dunkin' will always be better than Starbucks to New Englanders. The second is that while Starbucks may have better drinks generally and refreshers specifically, Dunkin' has better breakfast food and more competitive pricing. In other words, Starbucks is ready-made for coffee enthusiasts who are willing to shell out a few extra dollars for seasonal drinks and darker roasts, while Dunkin' is the ideal choice for those who want a serviceable breakfast and coffee to start the day. The only question is, which consumer are you?



The Talon Staff

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

- Marcos Aikman
- Brad Hill
- Emma Kerns
- Benjamin LeBlanc
- Victoria Sharpe
- Caleb Sierra
- Alexa Walker
- Alison Witherow

ADVISORS

- Mrs. Caroline Funchion
- Mrs. Lindsay Witherow