



## The Lynn Jefson Memorial Tutoring Center is Now Open to Students

By Alison Witherow

The Lynn Jefson Memorial Peer Tutoring Center is now available for all middle and high school students in need of help with certain topics, subjects, or assignments.

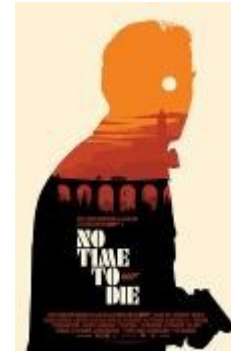
Former school Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Jefson always wanted PVCA to have a tutoring center. Sadly, Mrs. Jefson recently passed away after a long battle with cancer. In memory of her service to the school and her love for students, current faculty and students decided to honor her memory by making her dream a reality. With gifts given in her memory by the PVCA class of 2021 and by friends and relatives who donated to support the opening of the center, students have a comfortable and functional learning environment. The center is located in room 119, where several work spaces and a lounge area have been set up.

The tutoring center is a welcoming place for high school and middle school

students to receive help from others in order to be successful in school. Seniors, many of whom are members of the National Honor Society, are acting as student supervisors who oversee participating tutors and help tutees as much as possible. Faculty members, Mrs. Mozdzanowski and Mrs. Witherow, are heading up the activities in the tutoring center, and Mrs. Funchion has helped to prepare the room for students.

All tutors had to be approved by the English, math, and science teachers before tutoring in those subjects, ensuring all tutors fully grasp the concepts they are teaching. Any middle or high school student is welcome to receive help in the center, and teachers may recommend students for tutoring so they can better understand a certain concept.

The tutors are excited that the center has opened and for the opportunity to help other students achieve academic success.



## Make Time For *No Time To Die*

By Ian Feragne

A fitting end to an excellent reboot, *No Time To Die* is the quintessential Bond film. The film is about Bond's last mission as 007 to defeat his last foe, along with getting over a lost love and cementing a new one.

The casting of the new James Bond has been in question ever since a young Daniel Craig was cast for the role back in 2006, a decision that paid dividends thanks to how well he plays the classic gentleman spy. Bond's love interest, Madeleine Swann, played by Léa Seydoux, makes her second appearance in the Bond series and is the only Bond girl to span two movies. Seydoux' command of expression and realistic accent make for a unique character who draws out Bond's humanity over the course of the film.

Safin, played by Rami Malek, was the villain in the Bond finale and checked almost every Bond villain box. He was mysterious, cunning, brilliant and ruthless, but his demeanor was jarring when he first appeared on the screen. His manner of talking is unlike the witty and meticulous planning of Blofeld, played by the esteemed Christoph Waltz, or the oppressive presence and raw intellect of Le Chiffre, like in *Casino Royale*, but comparable to a mouse if a mouse were equipped with henchmen and a hunger for world-domination.

The movie starts with an extended opening scene that leads into the brilliant animations and title song that have defined the rebooted Bond since *Casino Royale*. Billie Eilish opens the film with an amazing piece that, while unconventional for a Bond movie, was complimentary.

The movie continues after the opening to a time-skip of five years, when James is seemingly on sabbatical until duty calls. I cannot say much because most, if not all, of the movie is integral to the plot. There is not a wasted minute in the film. It is bursting with action, but it takes a diversion from the usual nightly escapades of the last four movies: there is almost no  
Cont'd on Page 2



## *Dune*: Not Your Grandpa's Space Epic

By Benjamin LeBlanc

*Dune* is the space opera epic of the season--but is it good?

Based on the first half of Frank Herbert's best selling sci-fi novel of the same name, the film combines the trade-

mark scale of its genre with elements of Medieval and Arab culture to create a deeply immersive viewing experience. But *Dune* struggles when the overly spiritual lore of its source material takes the  
Cont'd on Page 2



The authors took a selfie

## Students Celebrate Hispanic Heritage

By: Gianna Albano and Angelik Roman-Roque

From September 15 to October 15, many families across the U.S. celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The holiday recognizes the values, traditions and contributions of American citizens whose families immigrated from Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and the Spanish-speaking nations of the Caribbean.

The observance began when Lyndon Johnson established Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. Ronald Reagan expanded it to Hispanic Heritage Month in 1985. September 15 is a special day for many Hispanics because it marks the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, according to [nationalhispanicheritage.gov](http://nationalhispanicheritage.gov)

To bring the celebration of Hispanic culture to Pioneer Valley Christian Academy, several Hispanic students, teachers, and parents were interviewed about their pride in being Hispanic. When asked what they loved most about their culture, many were eager to share their favorite foods, traditions, and other aspects of their culture.

"We love to cook and to gather with our friends and family. When I was back in Costa Rica, we had a schedule for breakfast, lunch, and dinner," said Maria Albano, Gianna Albano's (23') Step-mom. She added that the tradition is inspired by the concept of *pura vida*, or "pure life" in Spanish. "In Puerto Rico it's more than just a phrase, it is our culture and way of life," she said. "Costa Ricans (Ticos) use this term to say hello, goodbye, or even to let people know everything's good!"

Marcos Aikman (22'), who is Panamanian, said, "I love the food most, but the people are different in a good way. Their personalities are open, different from what you normally see in New England, and diverse, especially at PVCA".

While Angelik Roman-Roque (23'), who was born in Puerto Rico, doesn't remember much about her time there, she still enjoys her culture through its music, food and traditions. She also stressed the unity that ties every Hispanic culture to-

gether.

"Our culture doesn't fit into a box. Every single country is different in their own ways, there is no specific paradigm for how a Hispanic is supposed to act or look. Our culture cannot be generalized," she said. "I think it's beautiful that we're all so different but we understand each other and can come together because we are all Hispanics."

Gianna Albano (23'), who finds her roots in Italy, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, said the unique blend of cultures often leads spontaneous family gatherings full of "laughter, energy, music and dancing"

"I love how you never need a reason to throw a party but everyone will still make the most of it," she said. "The sense of community you find is so heart-warming, and it makes me so happy and proud of my Hispanic family."

When asked about his Hispanic Heritage, Jacob Brosseau (22'), who is Mexican, Italian and French, gave quite the answer: "A Lot of wraps, tortillas, and rice... lots of rice."

Those who immigrated from their home country to the United States talked about the hardest part of transitioning between cultures.

"The biggest difference for me was the geography," Maria Albano, Gianna Albano's (23') Step-mom, said. "Costa Rica has beautiful beaches. On the Caribbean side there are white sandy beaches and on the Pacific side there are dark sandy beaches. The flora and fauna is very exotic; full of wildlife and bright colors. The weather is gorgeous almost all year long."

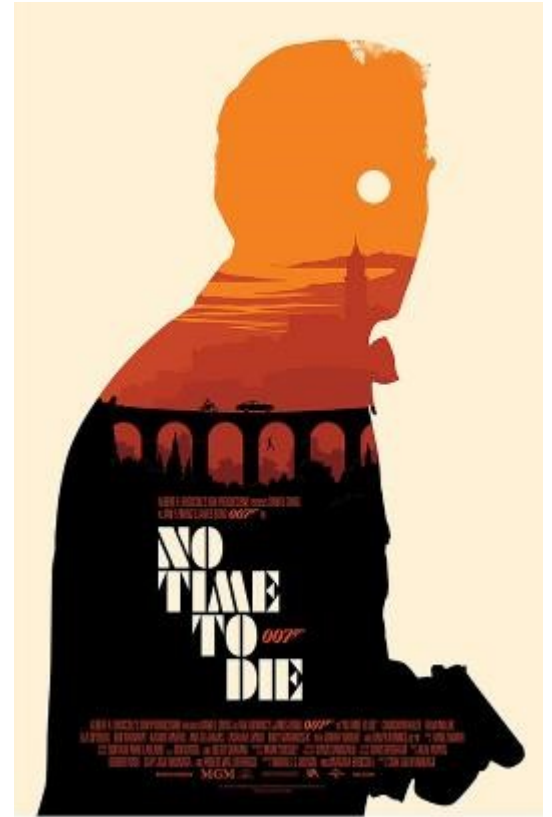
Mrs. Aikman, who teaches Spanish at PVCA and was born in Panama, said the culture shock she experienced after coming from her native country to New England in 1989 was intense.

"As a native, it was hard, because I came from a culture that is very open, and the weather down there is warm all the time," she said. "We are very friendly, and I came to a part of the United States that is very cold and where the people are more private. I didn't like the cold, so that was very hard for me. We are very cultural for us."

Despite living in the United States, Mrs. Aikman has managed to carry on many of the traditions of her native Panama. "Easter for us is the biggest holiday to celebrate, even bigger than Christmas," she said. "We celebrate the whole week, and it is called *Semana Santa*, or Holy Week."

Similarly, Zoraida Roque, Angelik Roman-Roque's (23') mom, who was born in Puerto Rico, felt that the sense of community in the U.S. was different from her native country.

"I felt like I was in a place where I didn't belong and it took me a long time to realize that it wasn't going to be the same," she said. "However, one thing that I do admire is how I can still celebrate the culture here in New England. I don't have to be in Puerto Rico to eat Puerto Rican food, I don't have to be in Puerto Rico to keep up with Puerto Rican culture, and our traditions."



## No Time To Die Cont'd

sexual content, which is a win for families with teens that want to see it together.

The film ties a firm knot at the end of the Daniel Craig era of the Bond series, leaving, to my knowledge, no loose ends for another Craig appearance. At the same time, it frees up Bond's boots to be filled by a successor if the filmmakers decide to continue in the series.

The ending acts are startling and come with a twist that brings humanity to Bond in a way that previous installments of the franchise just didn't. The first Bond movies portrayed an emotionless lady-killer, whereas Daniel Craig's Bond is shown to be unequivocally human, with emotions and motives far removed from the mission, and with regrets that plague him.

All in all, *No Time to Die* was an action-packed, heart-palpitating, keep-you-guessing finisher to the most human Bond we've seen on the big screen yet.

## Dune Cont'd

spotlight, and much of its dazzle is really a reflection of modern man's search for the supernatural.

The year is 10191, and noble houses have colonized planets across the universe under the watchful eye of a galactic emperor. Timothée Chalamet plays the main character, a young prince named Paul Atreides who is set to inherit a desert planet that holds the key to space travel. Suffice it to say, conflict arises and "Prince Charming" is forced to grow up too fast. Unfortunately, this solid premise is quickly soured by the film's attempt at spirituality.

Slowly but surely, Paul is revealed as the "messiah" prophesied to bring "paradise" to the native people of the planet. The natives, called Fremen, seminomadic folk whose garb looks more Arab than futuristic, recite prophecies he fulfills like Bible verses. The important role Cont'd on Page 3

## Dune Cont'd

of visions in the story only adds to the effect. A mystery woman, played by Zendaya, the subject of these visions, spends the little screen time she has guiding Chalemet to his final destination, by casting alluring looks at the audience in glorious slow-motion. Her ethereal presence is like that



of a spirit-guide ministering to the protagonist as he journeys through the desert wilderness.

When not trying to play-act Christianity, the film pours its \$165 million budget into world-building, and what a world it is: sandworms the size of skyscrapers swallow ships whole and rip through desert plains with ease; futuristic armies fight hand-to-hand by the light of a burning city, and all of it is set against the backdrop of Hans Zimmer's bone-rattling score (fans of the 2014 space epic, *Interstellar*, will recognize his blaring, portentous music). The technical know-how and artistic vision leaves no doubt as to why previous adaptations of Herbert's novel have failed.

The director's big ambitions are supported by a strong cast. Timotheé Chalemet gives a grounded and convincing performance. The audience can feel the duress he is under as heir to a bloody throne and the hardness that enters his voice as he weathers death and betrayal. Rebecca Ferguson succeeds in her supporting role as Paul's mother, Lady Jessica, a modern-day Mary caught up in her son's antics. While Zendaya played a minimal and rather forgettable role, the film is the first of two parts, so audiences can expect to see more of her character in the future.

Throughout *Dune*, it felt as if the insane visuals and score overpowered the actor's more subdued performances, which, along with some dense lore, made the plot a little hard to follow. And the spiritual elements seemed to go beyond what happened in the book, as if the filmmakers were more interested in creating a supernatural experience than good entertainment. Taken together, the film left me awestruck but also a bit dazed.

Let's hope the DVD version is a tamer watch.



# In Case You Missed It!

## Doughnut Debacle

By Benjamin LeBlanc

Several hundred orders of glazed Krispy Kreme donuts arrived at Pioneer Valley Christian Academy Tuesday, September 28th to revulsion from students and faculty, upending what should have been a satisfying end to one of the school's most lucrative fundraisers.

Nearly all of the 225 dozen donuts had a bitter flavor that left a strong after-taste. Descriptions of the flavor in question ranged from lemon-lime to vomit, and as the donuts were distributed and subsequently tasted in classrooms schoolwide, the hallways rang with expressions of shock and disgust.

Students complained, "They're disgusting!"

"The oil was rotten, there was something in the oil," said Spanish teacher, Mrs. Mozdzanowki, minutes after spitting a donut out onto her classroom floor.

"It's as if they made sourdough bread and made a gross donut out of it," said Alexa Walker ('22).

"It tasted exactly like sour milk," said John Russel ('22).

"As soon as it touched my lips, I went [retching sound]," said Ian Feragne ('22).

Some students milled around aimlessly, unsure of what to do with the donuts they paid money for, while others, somewhat mournfully, downed the tainted pastries, desperate to make good on their investment.

By the end of first period, around 30 boxes of donuts were discarded in educational therapist Mrs. Sprague's room and dozens more littered classrooms across the high school wing.

Mrs. Sprague and history teacher,

Mr. Annis, organized the fundraiser. The sophomore class ran the fundraiser, selling donuts at \$10 a dozen from September seventh to September 17th.

Krispy Kreme was initially unable to provide a definite answer as to how or what part of the donuts were corrupted, though the Connecticut location that supplied the donuts suggested the strange flavor could have resulted from a change to the company's glaze recipe, an explanation Mrs. Sprague firmly rejected.

It was later discovered that a bad batch of glaze was to blame. While picking up reorders from the Connecticut location on Monday night to be delivered to the school on Tuesday morning, Mrs. Sprague was told that the company tested a sample of their glaze for quality after receiving her complaint and discovered that the flavor of an entire batch of confectionary sugar mix was compromised. The store managers also gave her a tour of the facility, where pallets of glaze that had been recalled lined a back wall behind yellow safety tape.

"Every bag has a batch number, and every batch number they produce, they have to match up production to the product," she said. "So they had to pull [donuts] from various locations."

That included a location that had received an order of 1,000 dozen donuts.

Mrs. Sprague said it was Krispy Kreme's best interest to resolve the issue as quickly as they did: the fundraiser sells an average of 250 dozen donuts each year, making PVCA one of the company's largest customers in the area. But PVCA had plenty of incentive to reach a satisfactory agreement as well.

"[Krispy Kreme] has always been a good fundraising partner," she said. "[They've] always given students the most return on their dollar,"

PVCA is only charged \$5.25 per dozen donuts, allowing students to raise \$4.25 for every \$10 box they sell--the widest profit margin of any fundraiser; the See's Candy and Yankee Candle fundraisers raise half that amount from selling units twice as expensive, according to Mrs. Sprague.



# World & National News

## Facebook Aware That Instagram Harms Teen's Mental Health, WSJ Finds



**What happened?** A recent Wall Street Journal investigation into Facebook revealed that the company knows its photo sharing app, Instagram, badly harms teen mental health, especially that of teen girls. The revelation came after the company faced bipartisan criticism in several congressional hearings dating back to 2018 over its role in spreading misinformation, silencing political opposition, and its handling of user data.

**Why does it matter?** According to Facebook's own research, which it kept hidden from the public, "social comparison" is worse on Instagram than on other social networks, such as snapchat or TikTok, as the app focuses heavily on body and lifestyle.

Since adolescents comprise nearly half of Instagram's user base, Facebook has been slow to put safety measures in place or admit to wrongdoing that could hurt their profitability, per the Journal. Even more concerning, until the Journal published their findings, the company was working on a version of Instagram specifically for children.

**What does Facebook know?** (Not exhaustive)

- Instagram worsens body issues for one in three teen girls.
- 13% of U.K. teens and 6% of American teens say they became suicidal on the app.
- One in five teens say Instagram lowered their self-esteem, with U.K. girls most affected.
- "Young people are acutely aware that Instagram can be bad for their mental health, yet are compelled to spend time on the app for fear of missing out on cultural and social trends"

## Senate & House of Representatives Haggles Over Reconciliation Bill

**What happened?** President Biden outlined changes to his welfare and climate spending proposal Thursday, signaling progress on the much-delayed passage of his larger reconciliation bill. In order to gain the centrist votes needed for the proposal to pass the senate, Democrats lowered its cost from \$3.5 trillion to

to \$1.85 trillion by dropping some programs, but progressives still want more time to negotiate before putting it to a vote, per the Wall Street Journal.

**Why does it matter?** The proposal increases the role of government in everyday life in ways unseen since FDR's New Deal. Even in its cheaper state, it represents a cradle-to-grave vision of the U.S. welfare system and historically high spending on stopping climate change, to be paid for by around \$2 trillion in taxes on corporations and high earners. The Biden administration says the proposal will lift millions out of poverty and reaffirm America's superpower status; some economists estimate it will add



hundreds of trillions to our national debt over the next 10 years. According to the Journal, the bill would also revitalize Democratic voters in time for midterm elections and hand Biden a needed victory after presiding over military failure abroad and economic stagnation at home. The passage of the legislation has become even more of a necessity after Democrats lost a race for governor in Virginia and won another in New Jersey on a surprisingly small lead.

**What's in the bill?** (Not exhaustive)

- \$555 billion for combating climate change
- \$400 billion for free pre-k and discounts on childcare
- \$165 billion for discounts on medical insurance
- \$150 billion for affordable housing

## Missionaries Kidnapped In Haiti



**What happened?**

A group of 17 Anabaptist missionaries working for Christian Aid Ministries was kidnaped by a gang in Haiti last Saturday while visiting an orphanage near the nation's capitol of

Port-Au-Prince, the New York Times reported. The gang has demanded a ransom of \$1 million per hostage.

**Why does it matter?**

The kidnapping is one of 628 that have occurred in Haiti over the past year, and came after the country suffered a devastating hurricane and the assassination of its president, marking a low point in its history. Five children were among those kidnaped, their ages ranging from 8 months to five years old.

**What happens next?**

Most Haitian gangs carry out kidnappings in order to stock up on supplies and weapons, so it is unlikely the missionaries will be killed if a ransom is paid, per the Times.

The U.S. government has dispatched F.B.I. agents to the country to negotiate their release, and while the whereabouts of the hostages are known, the local police don't have the numbers to safely extract them.

**What are they saying?**

(A letter from the families of the hostages read in part)

"We thank him that he is God, and ask him to hear our prayers and bring our families home... We also pray that the light of God's love might shine out against the darkness of sin, that the gang members might be freed from their bondage to sin and experience freedom in Jesus Christ."

## Letter From The Editor

Hello Readers,

We hope you enjoyed the fifth edition of The Talon. We recognize the difficulty of bringing fresh and interesting news to a small student population where word spreads quickly. However, we have renewed our commitment to providing deep insight into what goes on at PVCA and beyond, and our team of student reporters has nearly doubled in size, allowing us to publish more frequently. With a fuller publishing schedule and a year of experience to draw from, our goals have shifted beyond simply writing news articles to reporting on stories as they happen, and painting a portrait of the school that informs and captivates. Furthermore, these resources will prove vital as we expand our coverage, so that by the end of the school year student profiles, guest columns, local features and national news will appear alongside reporting on school events.

- Benjamin LeBlanc, Editor

## Credits:

Alexa Walker.....Managing Editor  
Alison Witherow.....Reporter

Ian Feragne.....Layout Editor

Giana Albano.....Reporter

Angelik Roman-Roque.....Reporter

Benjamin LeBlanc...Editor-in-chief & reporter



THANK YOU

TO OUR YEARBOOK  
AND NEWSPAPER  
SPONSORS!



**BKaye** Realty &  
Insurance

Quality, Integrity, Loyalty



GALLERANI ELECTRIC CO., INC  
451 SPRINGFIELD STREET  
WILBRAHAM, MA 01095  
(413) 596-5766



COMMERCIAL \* RESIDENTIAL \* INDUSTRIAL  
TELEPHONE \* COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS  
QUALITY WORK \* REASONABLE RATES

MASTER LICENSE #13215A

MICHAEL P. GALLERANI  
ERIN K. GALLERANI



Make your backyard the *ultimate* staycation with

**Ondrick Natural Earth**



729 Fuller Road  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
ondricknaturalearth.com

Congratulations  
Class of 2021

We Are Social,  
Follow Us!



**Ideal Kitchens**

Leaders in Home Improvement  
www.idealitchens.us

STEVE WENNINGER

President

(413)364-1983 - Cell

swenninger@idealkitchens.us

838 Grattan Street, Chicopee, MA 01020

MA Lic. #154158

CT Lic. #614763