



## PVCA Raises Breast Cancer Awareness Through Pink Day

By Alexa Walker



On March 11, 2022, Pioneer Valley Christian Academy celebrated Pink Day to recognize people in the school who have experienced breast cancer. There have been multiple staff members in recent history who have suffered from breast cancer, but Pink Day was for Mrs. Emerson.

With intensified radiation therapy for Mrs. Emerson starting in April, Mrs. Shively and Mrs. Funchion thought the school should show its support, even though breast cancer awareness month is October. The Pink Day fundraiser was held to assist with gas prices for the Emersons' trip to Boston every day and their meals. Students paid \$2 to come to school wearing pink for breast cancer awareness. In total, through many generous donations, the school raised \$1,150 dollars and a \$100 Big Y gift card for the Emersons. PVCA will continue to pray for their family.

"It made me feel loved and cared about," said Mrs. Emerson. "It was great seeing the support of the school family! We are blessed to be part of a great community!"

## Annie Play Hits the Stage at PVCA

By Alison Witherow



More Pictures Inside!

The middle school choir class put on the *Annie Jr.* play in place of a spring concert this year. They had three shows with full audiences. The Broadway musical about a lovable orphan girl, which was first performed in 1976, has become a staple of modern American theater.

Rachel Kaye, who played the lead, Annie, did an excellent job with her role along with the middle schoolers who played the various orphans, caretakers and city dwellers involved in the story. Mrs. Boisvert spent hours after school helping the actors perfect their roles. Ian Feragne ('22), who played Mr. Warbucks, attested to Mrs. Boisvert's commitment

to the play in a speech he made at the end of the final showing: "Through all my concerts and plays here Mrs. Boisvert has been there to corral and guide us to performing great shows for you all. So, as it is my senior year, from the bottom of my heart, I'd like to thank her for all the fun times and all the experiences I now have because of her."

Audience members were impressed by the talent and effort exhibited by the middle schoolers participating in the play. "It was an amazing play and it was nice to see how everyone used their God-given gifts to bless others with this play," said Kayla Calendar ('22).

## Slavic Students Reflect on War in Ukraine

By Joshua Shumskiy and Benjamin LeBlanc

On February 20, 2022, President Vladimir Putin of Russia did the unthinkable. Despite amassing 150,000 troops at the Ukrainian border over several months, the first news reports of explosions and panicked evacuations came as a shock. Now, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine enters its second month, PVCA community members with ties to the conflict have had time to think about what it means for them and the world at large.

Sam Martynenko ('21) is a former PVCA student who is now in the U.S. Army. He is being trained in Psychological Operations (PSYOPS), which enables soldiers to solve conflicts peacefully through diplomacy and persuasion.

"I think I could make a difference thanks to my Russian heritage and my ability to speak Russian," he said of his decision to join the program.

Although the conflict has become ex-

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Sam Martynenko ('21) on possible outcomes

tremely bloody, Sam believes the war can end peacefully.

"Russia won't give up, they won't back up, the only way this ends is if the Ukrainians and Russians come to a diplomatic agreement which I believe is possible as the presidents are speaking together," he said.

Indeed, Russia doesn't seem to be

slowing down any time soon. After columns of Russian tanks were turned to scrap by Ukrainians with shoulder-fired Stinger missiles, Russia has adopted a siege-like mentality, preferring to shell civilians instead of fight on the ground. The strategy seems to be an attempt to distract from Putin's military failures as well as terrorize Ukrainian into submission. But that is unlikely to happen: if Ukrainian civilians aren't taking care of their children in neighboring Poland, they're defending their country, whether by running supply lines, joining the military or making Molotov cocktails. As a result, nearly all of Russia's advances into the country have been stalled.

Morale is a big issue.

"The Russian soldiers don't want to be there, and if they are it's because they've been lied to," Sam said.

According to the New York Times, **UKRAINE**, see page 6