



# THE DEVIL'S HERALD

Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

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## CLUBS

# COME TOGETHER

## Black Student Union strives to educate and diversify AGHS

By  
**Abby Osborne**  
Senior Editor

Before the Black Student Union existed, junior Lynsi Hutchinson didn't feel that safe at Avon Grove High School.

"When you're in I/E, or even a club, and don't know anyone, it's especially disconcerting when you're the only Black person or the only person of color in that room."

But during Black Student Union meetings, there's no tension in the air. Students mill around, an abundance of chatter and laughter filling up the air, while some diligently do their homework.

Ms. Polin's classroom hosts the club and it is adorned with historical themed posters and posters of current and former presidential candidates. It makes one's shoulders drop, immediately feeling one with the gaggle of students within the room.

"I definitely feel 100% more comfortable in the school. Before we were more spread out across the school and you would go in

and [not know who anyone is] and automatically there was that click," said Hutchinson. Kaelin Salley, a senior and the vice president of the Black Student Union, attests to this.

"It does make me feel more comfortable at school, [knowing] that I have a club of people that look like me and are like minded."

This is precisely what sophomore president Bria Nartey, wanted—a safe and comfortable space for Black AGHS students.

"BSU was created to recognize and further educate Black students about their heritage. Also to recreate a free flowing, energetic atmosphere—a place for students to be free to be themselves," said Nartey.

Additionally, Nartey stressed she wanted to cultivate and "empower the family atmosphere growing amongst Black students at Avon Grove."

This family atmosphere is strengthened through constant collaboration and discussion amongst the members about any

SEE BSU PAGE 5



- Photo courtesy of Bria Nartey

Senior Jordan Reeves discusses an issue with members of the Black Student Union. These issues can range from discrimination they might face at school, mircogressions they experience throughout the day, or some type of event they want to hold as an organization.

## PROFILE

# Avon Grove teacher co-authors book on Tuskegee

By  
**Will DiBonaventura**  
Staff Writer

As someone who is both a history teacher and historian, Mr. Michael Kowalski always had a passion for history, which is evident by his work both inside and out of the classroom.

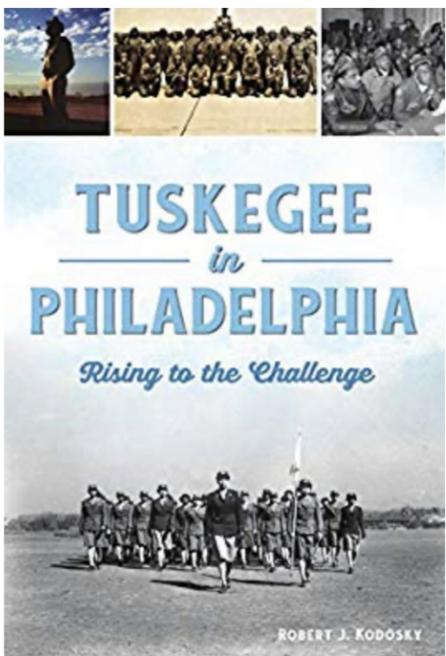
Outside of his teaching role at Avon Grove, Mr. Kowalski has been busy co-authoring a book on the Tuskegee airmen of World War II and their lives after the war.

A first year teacher at Avon Grove, Mr. Kowalski was previously an economics teacher at Great Valley High School, and he decided to teach world history after coming to Avon Grove.

"I liked the challenge of teaching a new subject," said Mr. Kowalski.

According to sophomore Chiara Busala, Mr. Kowalski's appreciation for history is evident in his teaching, "He's very engaging and he tries to get the class engaged [by] being active in his teaching."

As a Penn State alum, he enrolled in a graduate program at West Chester University where he studied under Dr. Robert Kodosky. After they collaborated on a thesis together, Kodosky requested Mr. Kowalski's assistance in contributing to a book about the Tuskegee airmen called *Tuskegee in Philadelphia: Rising to the*



### Challenge.

The airmen were a group of African American soldiers trained in Tuskegee, Alabama in the 1940s. They were the first African American pilots in the United States Army Air Corps (before it was deemed the Air Force).

Named after the Tuskegee air base, where they received their training, the Tuskegee airmen were active during World War II.

They constituted the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Air Corps. During the war, the airmen primarily ran missions in North Africa and Sicily.

SEE TUSKEGEE PAGE 5

## STUDENT LIFE

# Social media and the effects on students

By  
**Olivia Watson**  
Staff Writer

In today's day and age we can get any source of information at the tips of our fingers. We can share tweets, like an Instagram post, and snap each other. But is that necessarily a good thing?

Social media not only affects students, it also affects teachers, parents, and many more.

"We tend to hear about the negative things in social media, like bullying or if there's threats or things like that," said Ms. Giovanetti, the school psychologist.

Some Avon Grove High School students feel that social media can make them tired, distract them, make them feel bad about themselves, and it can be degrading and toxic.

"I think it takes away from things that kids should be doing at times," said Ms. Giovanetti.

According to a study done by Pew Research Center, 24% of teens thought that social media had a negative effect on them. Out of the 24%, teens thought that 27% of the negative effect is from bullying and rumor spreading.

"When I was in school you had to worry about what people thought about you," said biology teacher Ms. Rurode. She went on to say that now people also worry about what their social media presence gives off.

Some people may feel judged or self-conscious while comparing themselves to others.

Social media can also be used for the wrong things.

"Even with some of the recent events that have happened here, people aren't all using social media for good. It's really easy to feel brave from behind your phone keyboard or behind a computer keyboard and be hurtful on social media."

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

- "Minorities of teens describe that effect as mostly positive (31%) or mostly negative (24%), but the largest share (45%) says that effect has been neither positive nor negative."
- "Girls are more likely than boys to say Snapchat is the site they use most often (42% vs. 29%), while boys are more inclined than girls to identify YouTube as their go-to platform (39% vs. 25%)."
- "Meanwhile, 17% of these respondents feel these platforms harm relationships and result in less meaningful human interactions. Similar shares think social media distorts reality and gives teens an unrealistic view of other people's lives (15%), or that teens spend too much time on social media (14%)."

Sp Adobe Spark

Statistics from Pew Research Center

But maybe all social media may not be that bad. Students view social media as a form of communication, a way for them to share ideas and thoughts, a creative outlet, and a place for them to have fun with friends.

A study done by Pew Research Center stated that, "three-in-ten teens say social media has had a mostly positive impact."

Out of the 31%, most teens thought it was positive because they could connect with friends/family, find out the news, express themselves, and educate themselves.

Pew Research Center also reported that, "roughly nine-in-ten teens go online at least multiple times per day."

This means that more teens have access to social media. "Like gamers... I know some people find their community online," said Ms. Rurode.

"I think it's good for kids to be social," said Ms. Giovanetti.

# THERE CAN O

## Twelve seniors fight for the u

By  
Naomi Partridge  
Staff Writer

"Rick-y, Rick-y, Rick-y," the crowd chanted as he came up to claim his title of Mr. Avon Grove. On Tuesday, February 11, Ricky Gomez was crowned Mr. Avon Grove 2020.

"I was really nervous going into it," explained Gomez, "but after the first group dance we were all so hype it made the rest of the night a lot easier."

The group dance consisted of a mashup of popular songs such as "Lottery" by K Camp, "Obsessed" by Mariah Carey, "Glamorous" by Fergie, as well as many others.

Next came the formal wear competition where the twelve boys showcased their fashionable looks. Most contestants wore something resembling a suit, but some contestants got creative with their looks.

Larry Schwenk, who was

described as "a man of pure wardrobe commitment, wearing the same identical blue outfit for the past four years," wore his same uniform for the formal wear.

Jackson Muller came ready to fight with his boxer look with gloves, a warm up jacket and a trophy belt.

Gomez wore all black and topped off his look with a gold chain and durag.

Grant Bailey came on stage strutting his stuff with a suit topped off with a stack of beanies on his head.

The talents portion of the show consisted of a lot of singing and dancing to a variety of songs, including "Tequila," "Baby," "Staying Alive," "Best of Both Worlds," as well as many more.

Gomez showed off his guitar talents with a combination of *Guitar Hero* and electric guitar.

Kody Clausius performed a magic trick that blew the

crowd's mind.

Grant Bailey performed an Evolution of Dance. Schwenk made cookies for the judges on stage, and J.T. Russel performed a skit showcasing his new "invention," the cupcake-inator.

Next were the interviews where every contestant was first asked a random question, like "Who is the most overrated celebrity?" and "You wake up to learn the national headlines are about you, what would they say?"

Muller's ideal day is April 25, "because it's not too cold and you don't get weird looks for wearing shorts."

When Jake Wysocki was asked if he could go back in time and stop one fashion trend from happening, he said that he would stop jean shorts while wearing a pair of jorts.

If Grant Bailey could be any cereal he would be Captain Crunch because

"not only is it absolutely delicious, he is a decorated naval captain."

Finally, contestants were asked, "Why do you think you should be Mr. Avon Grove 2020?"

Most of the contestants said that Jake Wysoki and Kody Clausius were better contenders for the crown than them.

Ricky Gomez walked into his interview eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and said, "Honestly, I would go on about how much of a hunk of a man I am, but Kody and Jake, they go together just like peanut butter and jelly."

After the interviews, the guys again danced to the mashup of songs they opened the show with while the judges decided the winner.

Jake Wysoki was named Mr. Congeniality, while Larry Schwenk was voted crowd favorite.

Grant Bailey won the second place title.

"It feels good! I went into Mr. Avon Grove to have fun with some cool people, and getting second place is just the icing on tip of such a great experience."

With his amazing talent, Ricky Gomez won the title of Mr. Avon Grove 2020.

"The amount of support I had was crazy and I'm extremely thankful for winning, but I honestly I thought Grant had it, his dance was more than flawless, but I'm forever thankful for this title."



Grant Bailey came home with second place after his Evolution of Dance performance. He danced for over five minutes to a remix of songs from throughout the decades. Even the eventual winner, Ricky Gomez, thought he "had it with his dance. It was more than flawless." Bailey said that he "really [loves] Mr. Avon Grove because it's an opportunity to put yourself out there and just have fun and goof off." He added that he "could not have asked for a better time working on Mr. AG and I would have been happy for anyone to get this place." Grant is in theater both in and out of school. He will be playing Reverend Shaw in *Footloose* in the spring.



On Tuesday February 11, Ricky Gomez was crowned Mr. Avon Grove. For his talent, performing for the first time since the middle school talent show, he played the electric guitar blindfolded. Gomez admitted that he "had a lot of butterflies going into my act but everything went well and having my name called out was amazing. The crowd's reactions was unlike anything I've ever experienced." During his interview, Ricky came out eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and left his interview with the crowd chanting his name. Ricky plays football and spends a lot of time lifting weights.



"The myth, the legend, the Big Blue!" announced Katelyn Enache, senior and one of the announcers of the competition, as Larry Schwenk ran onto stage. He won over the crowd by baking cookies on stage resulting in the title, "Crowd Favorite." Schwenk seemed just as enamored with the event as the crowd was with him. "[Mr. Avon Grove] is a great time. Everyone here is awesome. It is a great tradition we have at Avon Grove." He participates in eSports and loves to bake.

# ONLY BE ONE

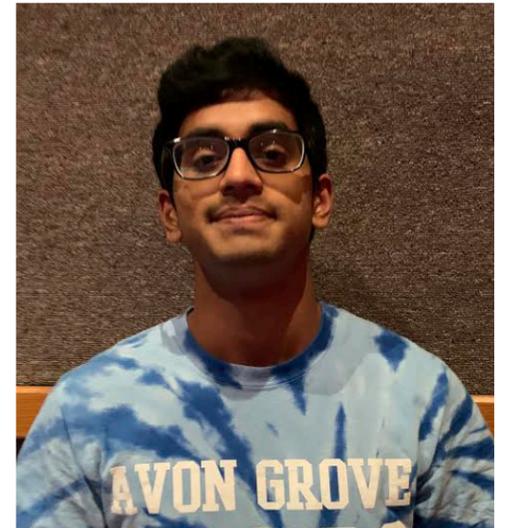
## ultimate title: Mr. Avon Grove



**Josh Mebane** sang "Take Me To Church" by Hozier. "I did this to just do more things at the school. It was all in all a really fun experience for me." Josh plays tennis at Avon Grove. He is an EMT and does allied health.



**Whit Daly** danced to "Me Too" by Meghan Trainor. His reasoning for participating in Mr. Avon Grove? "I did this because it is a fun way to showcase your talents and support AG." Whit plays volleyball and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for Avon Grove.



**Dheeraj Padada** sang "Baby" by Justin Bieber to "his special someone," Mr. Wimer. Padada said that he participated because "it is a fun event and it is really fun to hang out with all my friends." He is a cross country runner and an avid Cancer Society member.



"Pick a card, any card," said **Kody Clausius**, running up and down the aisles of the auditorium for his talent. After a failed card trick, Clausius performed a telekinesis trick that blew the crowd's mind. When all the other contestants were asked why they should win Mr. Avon Grove, they all said, "Kody should win," not them. He plays baseball for AG and will continue to do so at Gettysburg College next year.



While dancing on stage in a flamingo pool float and a lei, **Andrew Delaney** sang a tropical version of "Tequila." Delaney's motivation for competing was simple, "Why not? It is something fun as a senior to do. There is only one chance so why not do it." He plays baseball and is an Eagle Scout.



**Jake Wysocki** came away with the title of Mr. Congeniality. He danced to "Old Time Rock and Roll" from *Risky Business*. His mindset throughout the competition was the same as his overall performance. "I thought this would be a fun way to show school spirit and something fun to do."



For **J.T. Russell's** talent, he performed a baking skit. He exhibited his all new "cupcake-anator" which turned any object to a cupcake with the help of Kody Clausius. Russell said that he "did [Mr. AG] because it is cool to hang out with all my friends and stuff and it's a really great thing to do senior year." He plays baseball and is a member of the Cancer Society and Student Council.



**Jackson Muller** demonstrated his talent by performing CPR and then dancing to "Staying Alive" by The Bee Gees. Muller referred back to the fact that he's attended Mr. Avon Grove for the last three years, which inspired him to participate. He said that he "always thought it was so fun, so participating in it would be a lot of fun as well." Muller is in the secretary of the senior class, so he helped plan a lot of this show. He also plays soccer and lacrosse.



**Caydon Norris** really did have the best of both worlds, "I got to live out every little boy's dream tonight and sing Hannah Montana on stage and I had to come from wrestling practice to this and I smell awful." Caydon sang "Best of Both Worlds" by Hannah Montana. Caydon is in the Student Council and lived in Singapore for a year and a half in first grade.

# AG Life

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**THEATRE**

## Behind the spotlight

### Set building immerses the audience into the story

By **Anna Ashcraft**  
Staff Writer

Stage crew members, specifically those who put in time to build sets, work countless hours to bring the dreary high school auditorium stage to life.

"For me personally, it's a struggle just because I not only attend set building Saturdays but also rehearsals on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday so that I can do crew stuff there too," said senior Michelle Brumbaugh. "I am also involved in a lot of their clubs so it can be tricky."

"I plan my work and school responsibilities around set building. If I focus and use my time wisely, it's rarely an issue," said sophomore Bella D'Amico.

"I am a stage manager, so I create the set transitions and assign others their roles. I typically don't have a specific job because I do whatever is needed wherever and make sure things run smoothly," said Brumbaugh.

The students work from about 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. in the high school auditorium to create the base of the show. They put in many hours a week to help this complex process.

"We plan, construct, paint, and set up the various scenery and props needed to make the show real," said D'Amico. "On the days

when we have set building, such as on weekends, I get up around 7:00a.m. in order to get to school before 8:00a.m., which is when we really start building. We work on the set until anywhere from 12 to 4:00.p.m., and then I go home to do homework, eat dinner and relax, or I head off to work."

"So many great, fun people do set building, and it's a pleasure to work with them in order to achieve beautiful sets," claimed D'Amico.

Some of Brumbaugh's favorite props have been more intricate ones, such as a folding wall and wood that created an optical illusion of the depth of a room in *Mary Poppins*. She also likes the props in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* because many of them created illusions on stage.

Brumbaugh, D'Amico, and the other dedicated members of stage crew that participate in set building could not be able to make any of the outstanding props without Nelson Ernst.

Ernst is one of the supervisors of set building, who also helps the director, Mrs. Judge. He has been committed to the crew for twelve years; this being his final run.

"Nelson is a huge motivator for all of us and he inspires us all. He's amazing at what he does and we wouldn't be able to make the sets without him," said D'Am-



-Photo by Eliza Flanigan

Nelson Ernst helped the students to bring *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to life among many other shows.

ico.

He has grown very close to the students in crew, and he's helped them learn and grow over the years.

"Nelson is the heart and soul of the crew. Nothing that we do could be possible without him. He is just a caring person and skillful build-

er. Mrs. Curry also provides so much to us. Her painting skills are unmatched and I have learned so much from her," said Brumbaugh.

These students dedicate their time to work long and hard to make complex sets for the shows.

"I thought it would be a good creative outlet. I have also been

into art and building but didn't have much knowledge, so it taught me so much," said Brumbaugh.

**MUSICAL**

## FSEMS brings Aladdin Jr. to life

By **Lucin Milestone**  
Staff Writer

They want to show their audience the world, from the comfort of the high school auditorium. Fred S. Engle Middle School performed *Aladdin Jr.* for the Avon Grove community on February 21-22.

Seventh and eighth grader students started practicing for this musical on January 2. They have rehearsed on Mondays and Thursdays from then on to practice their final performance.

The middle school cast performed *Aladdin Jr.*, which consists of some different songs, along with some new characters and a reprise of some songs to more quickly

further the plot Fred S. Engle Middle School students perform the final scene of *Aladdin Jr.*

for the production of *Aladdin Jr.*

Mr. Latshaw is the father of a middle school student, with both him and Mrs. Shanon bringing in their outside experiences to direct the middle school's play.

"The old directors [were] teachers and had to be involved in [other] activities. The new directors

The high school has even become involved with this play by sending in some of their students to help the directors and students put their performance together.

"They keep us on track and answer our questions so we don't have to distract the directors," said Adelaide Etshman, who

selves.

Of course, practicing cannot be all fun and games all the time. The students do have to sacrifice their time for this performance.

"It means that I have to stay up longer to do schoolwork and I don't have as much time to hang out with friends," said R.J. Dun-

get to hang out with our friends," said Adelaide Etshman.

"I like that we are creating something for others to enjoy," explained R.J. Dunlap, when asked what he likes about being a part of the play.

The performance began with an explanation of the plot, using the song, "Arabian Nights," which was led by the genie, played by Nehemiah Norton.

Both Acts 1 and 2 displayed many colorful lighting and props, which even included a carpet that gave the effect of flying during the song, "A Whole New World."

Even with the musical being shorter than a high school production, the cast used their time

wisely to put on an entertaining, funny and generally well done performance.



-Photo by Lucin Milestone

are fully active in the play," said eighth grader Madisyn Hayward, who played Jasmine.

Along with having more time for the play, students said these directors were "more involved in building the sets" and making the costumes.

deals with all the props used.

Using their experience, the assistants, freshmen Nick D'Onofrio, Kaitlin Oberdoerster and Kalina Dolan, were able to help the students in knowing what they should do and relieve some of the stress from the directors them-

lap, who played both Prince Abdullah's attendant and Agrabahn.

While there were multiple opinions similar to Dunlap's, some students took a more positive side of it.

"By doing the play, we usually meet a lot of new people, and also

CLUBS

# BSU: The art of joy and belonging

BSU FROM PAGE 1

discrimination or microaggressions, brief verbal or physical actions that may be derogatory or hostile towards people of color whether it was intentional or not.

In a time where, according to researchers at Rutgers University, "Black teens experience several forms of racial discrimination every day," this has proved to be essential.

"There is constantly an incident and just being in here, and [we are] able to come back and be like, 'this is what happened, what are your thoughts, let's [figure out] how to move past it or even build upon it,'" said Hutchinson.

The members discuss these incidences almost like they're a delegation or a committee board. The person who was a part of the incident discusses in detail what happened and how it made them feel, and they would then ask the group how they personally feel about the incident which leads to a great discussion amongst members.

After a thorough analysis, the entire group present during the club meeting will come to a general consensus on how to move forward.

"If it's on a serious scale, we will go to school and we'll say 'this is what's going on, and we want you to do something...' If it has to be on a miniscule scale, that's what it is, but we want our voices to be heard, and we will make our voices heard," said Hutchinson.

This isn't the only thing the Black Student Union focuses on though.

"We have talked to Mr. DeShong about changing the curriculum in that Avon Grove learns more [than just] the beginning and end of slavery. We also wanted people to learn about more prominent Black historical figures other than Malcom X, MLK, Rosa Parks and Harriet

Tubman," said Salley.

In an article written for The Education Post, ShaRonda Knott-Dawson explained that "students' first exposure to Black History occurs through the study of slavery" and not extending much past that.

She recalls "[aching] to hear stories about people who look like me, or see the names of Black scholars in math or science, or even to talk about Africa, without talking about poverty and slavery."

Nartey, Salley, and Hutchinson all mentioned a similar sentiment.

"In a standard history class, students are usually taught about slavery and the civil rights movements, learning the same Black historians year after year—Harriet Tubman, Fredrick Douglas, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King," said Nartey.

Salley agrees with Nartey.

"Black kids deserve to be taught in depth about our history because all of it is important," said Salley.

Hutchinson reiterated Nartey's assertion.

"I feel like more people should know about Black history other than slavery and nothing else that comes after that except [the civil rights movement]."

She added that that schools need to address "the impact Black people have had."

Hutchinson even said that if we're talking about slavery, schools need to emphasize that "slavery wasn't just about taking slaves—it was about taking doctors and nurses and dentists and all these super educated people that could've had an impact but instead were in chains for God knows how many generations."

"Black History is more than a four-day unit learning about the same five Black historians we have learned about since elementary school," said Nartey.

Even if revitalizing the actual

history curriculum isn't possible, members of the Black Student Union would like to have a class dedicated to the history of Black individuals.

Hutchinson argues that there's a class on Greek and Roman History, so why can't there be an African-American History class?

"We have suggested, as a club, ways to administration to further diversify our staff and teachers at Avon Grove and to possibly introduce an African-American Studies elective class at AG as well," said Nartey.

In addition to the actual classes and curriculum, the Black Student Union has found ways to take education into their own hands.

"Right now with Black History Month we've been configuring these posters and we put the person or the group and describe their impact that they've had on society. I think what I hope to see is a lot more education throughout the school and a lot more representation. Most people can't even name four Black people in history," said Hutchinson.

Hutchinson mentions that typically students only know around four Black historical figures, like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, but are expected to know a myriad of different white, European figures.

She explains this issue is "why we really want to go on the commercials and talk about Black History Month."

Earlier this month there was an incident on the announcements where "at the beginning of the month they said 'Happy National Dentist Month!'"

"We were all up in arms because it's Black History Month. This is a lot more big of a deal than teeth," said Hutchinson.

In these commercials, the Black Student Union highlights a Black individual that's made important contributions to society but might not be as well known



- Photo courtesy of Bria Nartey

Members of the Black Student Union laugh, arm in arm, at homecoming.

or discussed like C.J. Walker, an entrepreneur and philanthropist that's considered one of the first Black millionaires ever.

However, tackling the curriculum isn't the only issue they're focused on.

"We are currently working with the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) toward preparations for a Multi-Cultural Week in March at AGHS [starting] March 23 [and ending] March 27. Then, on March 27, the "District Night of Culture" [occurs]. BSU [is] planning on attending this event," said Nartey.

The Black Student Union also collaborates with other clubs like ACTO (All Cultures Together Overcome) and the Humanitarian club "in several volunteer events across the [Avon Grove School District]," according to Nartey. This includes volunteer efforts like Multicultural Night, volunteering at the canned food drive, etc. They even walked in the community's parade and had a booth during Homecoming.

At its core though, the Black Student Union's main goal is inclusivity.

"[We are] an inclusive club that welcomes all who are interested or eager to learn about Black heritage, culture, food, experiences and so much more," said Nartey.

Hutchinson expressed something similar.

"We're not a race group whatsoever. A lot of people see us as a race group. We are an educational club about Black history and culture."

Throughout the entire I/E, Hutchinson beams. On more than one occasion, one of the members would come up to her to maybe tease her or crack a joke or two.

She'd tease back or come up with some witty retort. In the corner, there was a small crowd of students dancing and teaching one another when someone got confused.

In another corner, laughter continued to erupt. There was an ease within Ms. Polin's classroom. There was something that you don't normally feel within the halls of a school that can feel harsh and unwelcoming at times. Joy and belonging.

PROFILE

## Book takes flight

TUSKEGEE FROM PAGE 1

After the war, the details of their service and their dedication to forwarding social and racial equality via the civil rights movement served as a lasting inspiration for many Americans.

Robert Kodosky, the book's primary author, had been approached by the Philadelphia Tuskegee chapter. They had heard of his previous work, *Psychological Operations American Style*, which details psychological operations and their role in the Vietnam War.

With the assistance of three additional contributing authors, Kodosky and Mr. Kowalski began interviewing members of the Philadelphia Tuskegee chapter.

"The research process was a lot of fun because I got to perform research on the airmen and interview their families," said Mr. Kowalski.

Despite the inclusion of five authors in the book's developmental stages, the authors had very little contact before the book's release.

"We didn't have [a lot of] contact. We went our separate ways and did our separate research."

At the book's release event, which took place at West Chester University, Mr. Kowalski commented on the book's positive reception.

"Although we expected between 30 and 40 people, nearly

200 people were present, along with many local newspapers."

Personally witnessing the book's warm reception was one of the most rewarding aspects of the entire writing experience for the first-year Avon Grove teacher. "Their excitement made me excited," said Mr. Kowalski.

According to Mr. Kowalski, the book is set apart from other books documenting the lives of Tuskegee veterans by its unique perspective.

"The focus of the book is on their role in the community, [and] the story of them beyond their military service.

"The book does a great job of highlighting the impact of the airmen on racial equality [in America] and the importance of the Tuskegee as a group, [not just the airmen]," said Mr. Kowalski.

Thankful for the opportunity to interview several of the remaining Tuskegee airmen, Mr. Kowalski commented on the fortunate timing of the book's release.

"We are running out of time to tell their stories [due to many of the advanced ages of the remaining airmen]."

As the remaining Tuskegee airmen continue to age, they leave behind a legacy of bravery and perseverance that will continue to inspire many Americans for generations to come.

Opinion content in *The Devil's Herald* expresses the singular view of the writer.  
*The Devil's Herald* invites letters to the editor.  
 Please email Mr. Gregory (rgregory@avongrove.org).

# OPINION

## The final countdown There are 62 days of school left, do you still have the motivation?

By  
**Anthony Pirro**  
*Staff Writer*

School is coming to an end. A great, wonderful, stress-free end.

The only problem now is trying to keep your energy up and not letting your drive to stall out.

The beginning of the year was filled with energy after a restful summer. Now that we are reaching the end, our energy is draining.

There is no longer any way to refresh yourself.

We are stuck in a loop of waking up, going to school, coming home, starting homework, going to work, finishing your homework, and going to sleep.

You do that for five days in a row.

Then it's the weekend.

Is it really the weekend when you spend the entire time thinking

about school work you have to do for next week?

You have to balance your school life with your family life and your work life.

You have to go from your honors history test to your driver's test. From your school work to your homework.

The question is, how do you balance your school and home life?

"With seven hours taken out of the day, trying to do things that you want to do become time constrained. Add homework and jobs to that and you have no time left," said senior Hope Laskow.

Teachers have long said that school isn't the place to sleep, but then why is home the place to do school work?

Between skipping meals and missing sleep, school is a draining place that continuously gives you more work.

If you were tired in the beginning of the year, you'll be a zombie at the end of it.

"Between sports, homework and chores around the house, I never have enough time to get eight hours of sleep. Maybe without sports I could manage seven hours," said junior Richard Swyers.

The problem isn't so much with how much work we get in the school day. It's how much time outside of school gets taken up by school related activities.

Balancing school and life isn't so hard in the beginning, but at the end of the year you're tired.

School is a good thing, but a reduction of tests and homework could help with the health of students.