

THE DEVIL'S HERALD

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CLASS OF 2019

A farewell bid to high school

By
Olivia Kunitsky
Senior Editor

Walking through the crowded, low-ceilinged hallways of Avon Grove on my first day of high school, I remember feeling completely uncomfortable. I couldn't imagine how I was going to spend the next four years of my life here.

It's funny how things can change so much; now here I am, less than a month away from graduation and writing my last article for *The Devil's Herald*.

My experience at the high school, and my time as I have gone through the different schools that make up the district as well, has honestly been something that I will always cherish and take with me as I move on in life.

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I can confidently and proudly say that I am grateful that Avon Grove has been the place where I have been able to develop that weapon.

If I had to pick just one memorable experience out of the many that I have had the opportunity to enjoy at the high school, I would choose the very beginning of this school year.

It was before the whole stress of college applications started and

before all of the worries that come with thinking about the unknown future.

With more than a little hesitation, I listened to a friend and decided to try out for Avon Grove's first-ever girls golf team, even though the first time I picked up a golf club was the day before tryouts.

The team made no cuts because most of us were very inexperienced, so I was officially a part of a new sport and a new group.

Although I was not very good at golf, the season as a whole was the first time in my life that I did not place high expectations on myself and it was one of the first times that I did something just for the fun of doing it.

The whole point to my story is that as I was whacking golf balls on the lush green grass of the Inniscone golf course, I realized what living in the moment actually feels like.

It's easy to focus so much on the future that you start to just go through the motions on a daily basis, thinking that nothing but the future matters.

But it's important to have those moments, even if they are small, when your full attention is on the present and when you are really living life.

Speaking of the future, after spending most of my senior year



-Courtesy of Bryanna Laws

Seniors Justin Woodward, Junior Machorro, Chelsea Kneedler, Haley Allen, Olivia Kunitsky, and Becca LeSturgeon represent their schools on College Decision Day.

very unsure about what I wanted in a college, I have decided to attend Villanova University and I will be majoring in cognitive and behavioral neuroscience.

Although I have known for a long time that I am interested in medicine, I have not always known what area of medicine I wanted to study.

However, because of the amazing teachers that I had this year, I figured out that I specifically have an interest in the brain. I am happy that I now have more of

an idea of what I want to do going into college.

There are a few teachers that I would like to specifically thank for their contributions to my educational experience at Avon Grove.

To Mrs. Worrell, for being the tough yet amazing teacher that you were. Thank you for not only teaching me about English but also educating me about life, for pushing me and challenging me more than any English teacher ever has, and for your unforgettable, witty comebacks.

To Ms. Rurode, for managing to consistently make AP Biology my favorite class to go to every day. Thank you for pouring every bit of your effort into your teaching, for always empowering your lectures with genuine enthusiasm, and for being someone that a student can talk to about pretty much anything. Thank you for showing me what true passion looks like.

To Mr. Wimer, for always having the most interesting life stories to tell. I don't know how you did

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ELECTION 2020

Educating the future

The future of education remains one of the most important issues

for prospective student voters

By
Abby Osborne
Staff Writer

All junior Brisa Luzzi-Castro wants is equal opportunity in education.

"A big concern of mine regarding education today is the lack of equality and opportunity for all," said Luzzi-Castro.

Within the educational system in America, the achievement gap, whether that's based on socioeconomic status, race, or many of the times both, has become an ever pressing issue facing students today.

In a recent *Washington Post* article, Valerie Strauss examines how socioeconomic status and race not only affects one's secondary education but their post-secondary education plans as well. She explains how students of color are much more likely to attend "high poverty schools": Hispanics are 52% more likely, African-Americans are 29% more likely, Asian-Americans are 4% more likely, and "other" are also 4% more likely.

Attending these "high poverty schools" can potentially set up these students up for failure in terms of post-secondary education preparation as these schools are "less likely to offer advanced placement courses and access to dual enrollment in high school and college classes."

This can be potentially detri-

mental when it comes to applying to college and going through college courses as one might not feel as prepared if their school hadn't offered them any preparatory classes.

These issues regarding poverty and race are interconnected. According to the U.S. Census, minority groups are much more likely to be below the poverty line (Native Americans at 22%, African-Americans at 20%, Hispanics at 20%, multiple races at 13%, and Asian/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders at 9% compared to Caucasians at 8%).

Poverty doesn't just affect students in high school. It persists if students decide to attend some form of college.

"[Student loans] are too expensive and take too long to pay off," said junior Kaelin Salley.

As of February 2019, there is a total of \$1.56 trillion in student loans owed by 44.7 million Americans according to the U.S. Federal Reserve. And with the price of attending college increasing, this number isn't getting any smaller either.

Because of the increase of the burden of student loan debt and the growing disparities between school districts that are poor and primarily educate minority students and school districts that are affluent and primarily educate white students, the intricacies of these issues regarding education

are becoming hotly debated within the impending 2020 primary election for Democrats and Republicans.

"I would want a presidential candidate to address the price of higher education as well as a resolved process of refinancing student loans that lessens debt," said junior Kayla Fineza.

Fineza isn't alone with her wish. According to Harvard's Institute of Politics, 57% of

people said that they considered student loan debt "a major problem" with relatively little disagreement among party lines.

This growing concern regarding education has caused presidential candidates to emphasize their stance on a number of the individual issues—especially on free college for all and how to address the problem of students loans.

The five major Democratic presidential candidates (determined by the most recent national



-Photo by Abby Osborne

Junior Kayla Fineza works on one of her school assignments. Fineza cites education as one of her top priorities in selecting a candidate to support.

polling data conducted by Emerson Polling from May 10-13) have expressed their view on the issue.

Looking at the price of college, Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Elizabeth Warren have expressed support for the idea of making public college free for all (as per their issues page on their official websites) while former Vice President Joe Biden has suggested making the first two years of community college free for all according to Education Next.

Senator Kamala Harris has said, specifically in her latest CNN town hall meeting, that a major priority for her is committing "to debt-free college."

Mayor Pete Buttigieg wants to significantly decrease the price of college in a way that doesn't hurt poorer households through them having to pay more in taxes, a consistent message he's

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MUSIC

Finishing the year on a good note



-Photo by Ashtin Rector

The Avon Grove band performed in the auditorium on May 15.

By

Ashtin Rector

Staff Writer

The band held its last band concert at the high school on May 15.

"In the band we all help each other and all strive to do as good as we can every year," said sophomore Dylan Huss.

Avon Grove's band always

wants to help make the students better and the band helps them learn more about how to improve their skills within the band. It can help their futures in band if they decide to go that way because they've learned so much through the band.

"It's great being in the band because you meet so many new people and it's lots of fun

throughout high school," said Huss.

The band always gets new students every year and they need no experience. For middle schoolers coming up to the high school, the band is a great club to join and they can learn so much from being involved in the band.

"It's good knowing that there's so much to join and the band is a

great option if I decide I'd like to join the band," said eighth grader Nicholas Borreggine.

For upperclassmen leaving the band, it may be difficult because some have played since their freshman year and their high school band career is finally coming to an end.

However, some students will be moving on to college to still

be involved with band and music itself.

"Band has been some of the most fun I've had during my high school career and I will always remember the years here at Avon Grove," said senior Steven Luke.

CLASS OF 2019

Senior reflects on four years at AGHS

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it, but you were always somehow able to relate a real-life anecdote to whatever lesson you happened to be teaching that day. Thank you for allowing learning to mean more to me than just reading textbooks or doing worksheets.

To Mrs. Moschetto, for allowing my friends and I to eat lunch in your classroom because there was never any room in the cafeteria. Thank you for sparking my in-

terest in psychology and for being more than a teacher—thank you for being a friend.

To Mr. Habbart, for also allowing us to eat lunch in your classroom. Thank you for making calculus my favorite subject of all time, for preparing your students so well for the AP exam, and for being the best math teacher that I have ever had.

And last but certainly not least, to Mr. Gregory, for giving me the

wonderful opportunity to write for the newspaper. Thank you for being one of the most caring teachers at Avon Grove, for allowing me to realize my love for writing, and for being the first person that made me feel comfortable as a nervous freshman.

Thank you Avon Grove, I've had a wonderful time here and wouldn't trade it for anything. But now it is time for me to move on to the next stage of my life.

ELECTION 2020

Education is a hot topic

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repeated throughout the campaign trail.

In terms of student loans, Sanders supports lowering student loans as well as having "lower interest rates on students loans" as per his website.

Warren has proposed, most famously, a plan to cancel "up to \$50,000 in student loan debt for 42 million Americans" through an ultra-millionaire wealth tax according to her issues page. She even has a calculator on her website that helps show students how much of their debt would be cancelled under her plan.

Harris has strongly emphasized, especially in her most recent CNN town hall meeting, that she wants students to have the ability to refinance their student loans in a way that would make

it "on par with the federal lending amount" and "income based repayment would be the norm."

Buttigieg has said that he wants students to also be able to refinance their student loans, and he wants to "expand the access to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program" as per an interview he did with WHBF Iowa.

On the Republican side, President Donald Trump doesn't support a plan for free college or debt-free college according to an interview his campaign co-chairman, Sam Clovis, did with Inside Higher Ed. *Forbes* reports that President Trump wants to eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, and he "would reduce the number of income-driven repayment plans to one, and offer student loan forgiveness for both undergraduate and graduate

federal student loans," as well as to end subsidized student loans.

Former Governor Bill Weld has expressed support for "managing college debt with free tuition for some displaced workers" according to Politico. However, no information could be found about his plan to address student loans.

"The candidate that I choose should believe in helping people's lives in terms of education, and I stand with this," said Luzzi-Castro.

With her whole heart, Luzzi-Castro believes that education is a fundamental right—one's socioeconomic situation and race shouldn't determine that. Equal opportunity is equal opportunity, and to her, it goes without saying that America, the land of the free, should strive to achieve that.

News Briefs

Iguana slung at restaurant manager

An iguana, which was thrown at a restaurant manager, needs surgery for a broken leg, according to Painesville police. Arnold J. Teeter, was charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and cruelty to animals. Teeter grabbed the iguana by the tail and threw him across the restaurant at the manager injuring the iguana severely. The iguana has been treated for a broken leg, poor body condition, and metabolic bone disease. Teeter was released on \$10,000 bail. Plus he was told not to have any animals. Teeter appeared in court on April 29. Later a woman said that she owned the iguana, according to News 5 Cleveland.

~ By Ashtin Rector

Two men steal a Pepsi vending machine across from a police station

According to UPI, security cameras outside a service store in Washington state captured the moment when two men stole a whole Pepsi vending machine, despite a police station right across the road. Ryan King, owner of the ProFormance Lube Center in Spokane Valley, went into work Wednesday, May 1 and noticed immediately something was missing. King said to KHQ-TV, "We have had small thefts, but nothing this drastic. As soon as we got in, we could tell it was gone." King later looked at the camera footage and saw two men dumping the 700 pound machine into the bed of a pickup truck. King was shocked to see how the criminals did this, "It just goes to show how brazen criminals are." The theft was even more shocking since there was a police station across the street. "I doubt I'll ever get the machine back," King said.

~ By Zach Humphreys

Washing machine snake stowaway smells "like Downy"

According to AP Newswire, an escaped family pet survived a wash cycle in a Chicago washing machine only to come out smelling like Downy. The owner of the washing machine Sanela Kamencic told WMAQ-TV she was "totally creeped out" when the snake turned up Wednesday in her washing machine. She then called police who brought the snake to animal control and reporting that it "smelled like Downy."

~ By Lara McKinnon

Turtle flies into windshield in South Carolina

According to AP News, John Gardner was driving down a South Carolina highway when the truck in front of him hit a turtle in the road. The turtle shot back and smashed right into his windshield and caused \$2,000 in damages. Gardner was covered in glass shards and the turtle died from the impact.

~ By Olivia Watson

Upcoming Events

Sports Awards
June 3, 6:00p.m

Senior Awards
June 5, 7:00p.m

Graduation
June 11, 7:00p.m
Bob Carpenter Center, University of Delaware

Last Day
June 14

ESPORTS

AG Esports Team Yark finishes 2nd overall

The new Esports team had 3 teams in the playoffs



- Photo by Kieran Francke

Connor Green checked the statistics and the other team's players to help his team win the match.

By
Kieran Francke
Staff Writer

Team Yark from the Avon Grove Esports team was defeated in the playoff final by the Akron Eagles. They were outscored by the Eagles 20-7 and lost in six games in the best of seven series.

Rocket League is a video game that can be played by as little as one person per team and as many as three players per team. Players control cars which try to shoot a ball into a goal like soccer.

In their last regular season

matches on April 29, two of the four Avon Grove teams played themselves. Avon Grove's first team is called Team Yark and consists of Jake Delferro, Sean Wright and John Isabella. They swept Scott's Tots, a team comprised of Connor Green, JC Vande Poole, and Sean O'Connor.

"I am very proud of my team. We are playing really well for a first year team and we hope to do well in the playoffs," said John Isabella.

Scott's Tots played two matches in their last week of the regular season and defeated a team from

Ridgewood High School in Ohio (located about halfway between Cleveland and Columbus).

The other two teams are The Deadly Ping (Caleb Defrank, Nick Kuech, and Charles Altig), and Bepis (Joe Abbuzzezzi, Gryffyn Black, and Matt Resch).

Three of the four AG teams made the eight team playoffs in their rookie season. Teams make the playoffs based off a power rankings system.

The Avon Grove Esports team plays in a club league sponsored by a company called Playvs. Avon Grove's four teams play against

13 in the Eastern Club Rocket League division with other teams from Ohio, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.

At the end of the regular season, Scott's Tots was Avon Grove's top finisher finishing tied for fourth with OMA Warriors from Oak Mountain Academy in Carrollton, Georgia.

Next were Avon Grove's Bepis and Yark, who made up a three way tie for sixth along with The Wood Soldiers from Ridgewood High School in West Lafayette,

Bepis and Scott's Tots faced each other in the quarterfinals with Bepis coming out on top 3-1 in the series by outscoring Scott's Tots 11-7.

In the semifinals, Yark defeated Bepis. John Isabella led Bepis with four goals and eleven saves across the six games. Jake Delferro had one goal and ten saves, and Sean Wright contributed 2 goals and 8 saves.

Next year the team hopes to add *League of Legends* alongside *Rocket League*.



- Photo by Kieran Francke

Jake DelFerro and Sean Wright (Team Yark) played Rocket League on April 29.

Ohio. Scott's Tots, Yark, and Bepis all made the playoffs.

Yark defeated OMA Warriors in the quarterfinals 3-1 in the best of five series. The team outscored the Warriors 11-5 over four games.

"The *League of Legends* international tournament finals last year got almost as many viewers as the Super Bowl," said team coach Mr. Pizzini.

BOYS LACROSSE

Red Devils lose to defending state champs to finish regular season

AG ranked seventh in the district



-Photo by Zach Humphries

Jackson Muller (white #8) defends a Bishop Shannahan attacker in the loss on May 7.

By
Zach Humphries
Staff Writer

The AG boys lacrosse team, the 2017 3A state champions, hosted the 2018 2A state champion Bishop Shanahan Eagles on May 7. With the continued success of

both teams, most fans were expecting a close game.

The first quarter kept up with expectations as the teams were tied at three.

Then Bishop Shanahan took over on offense in the second quarter, outscoring AG 8-2, and

the Red Devils could never come back after that as they lost the game 15-8.

AG was led by Zach Augustine, who scored a hat trick, along with Mike Russo and Jackson Muller who each scored twice.

Coach Jackson described what

went wrong against Bishop Shannahan, "We had difficulty getting possessions off the faceoff and a few failed clears hurt us."

Despite the lopsided loss, the coaching staff remained positive.

"Defensively, we focused on supporting each other in our team slides and communication as well as winning our individual matchups. As coaches, we are proud of how the team continued to battle throughout the game," said Jackson.

The team finished the season against Great Valley and won to improve their season record to 11-4. The team made the playoffs ranked seventh in the district and defeated tenth seeded Souderton, 14-2.

The Red Devils lost to Conestoga, 5-4, in the quarterfinals, but reached the state tournament after defeating Upper Dublin, 11-4.

Coach Jackson explained how important the seniors have been all season long.

"Seniors always have the urgency that can't be explained until they go through it, but playing like it could be their final time in AG jerseys is something that can truly push our team. We want to stay together as long as we can and extend the postseason."

**Boys Lacrosse
Regular Season
Results**

11-4

- March 28 vs. Sun Valley Win (17-0)
- March 30 vs. Spring-Ford Win (12-5)
- April 2 at Rustin Win (13-3)
- April 4 vs. D'town West Win (13-2)
- April 6 at CB East Win (7-6)
- April 9 at D'town East Win (9-6)
- April 11 at Kennett Win (12-7)
- April 13 at Manheim Township Loss (8-6)
- April 15 vs. Unionville Win (16-5)
- April 17 at Oxford Win (14-1)
- April 27 vs. Springfield Loss (6-5)
- April 30 vs. Henderson Win (10-3)
- May 1 at WC East Loss (16-12)
- May 7 vs. Bishop Shannahan Loss (15-8)
- May 9 at Great Valley Win (13-4)