



Upcoming Events

Holiday Break

Dec. 23-31

Open Gym – Girls Basketball

Dec. 20 & Jan. 3

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

No School

Jan. 16

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night

Jan. 17

End of 2nd 9 Week Grading Period

Jan. 23

Blocked!

By: Riley Beach, Brody Woodward

As you all know, some websites are blocked on the school computers and Wi-Fi, but have you ever wondered, "Why is this page blocked?"

We asked Mr. Baloch, the technology director for the entire school district, some questions about the filtering software that the schools use to block websites and files:

What determines a website to be blocked?

Most content filtering mechanisms, as with ours, work by blocking certain categories of websites. These categories are automatically populated by websites which meet certain criteria and fall within specific category or categories. We usually don't have a say in what goes into a category or what is left out. Thousands of new websites and millions of existing websites are analyzed each day and classified appropriately for which category or categories they should go into.

Potentially Liable Categories (will be blocked)

- Child Abuse
- Discrimination
- Drug Abuse
- Explicit Violence
- Extremist Groups
- Hacking
- Illegal or Unethical
- Plagiarism
- Proxy Avoidance
- Adult/Mature Content
- Dating
- Gambling
- Lingerie and Swimsuit
- Weapons (sales)



When using the school Wi-Fi, certain websites are blocked, why when we're on our own devices?

Many years ago, when school districts began using the internet regularly, the United States government passed a law called Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Basically what this law mandates is for school districts to only allow access to internet websites which are appropriate for our students.

Why do some websites, though not blocked, don't load completely? (example: Pokémon website)

In a single webpage, there can be links to many other websites/domains. For example, although we do not block the Pokémon website, we block advertising or inappropriate websites which may be on the Pokémon webpage page. Hence, the page will load but parts of it will not. In other words, if all the links on the webpage were from the domain Pokemon.com, which we don't block, then the whole thing will load without any issues. However, if there are links to advertisers such as adclick.com or other domains which we block, then these parts of the websites will not load.

The Best Auto Mechanic

By: Prowler Staff

Dalton Kennedy, an 8th grade student from our school was recently awarded the Gold Hammer Award for Best Auto Mechanic at the Mon Valley AIU3 School.

Dalton has been attending the school for the first few periods of the day, coming back to finish his school day at the middle school. This gives him real-world and career experience that he'd otherwise not receive. Dalton says, "It's a good school, there are students from different schools and we get to do hands-on things."

PHMS is very proud to recognize Dalton for his accomplishment. Mon Valley only gives this award to ONE mechanic student per school year, so it's quite an honor and accomplishment. We're proud of Dalton and his demonstration of PHMS Pride!



Dalton Kennedy after receiving his award, with Mrs. Janov, Mrs. Lee and Mr. Como

Sports Reports

Boys Basketball

By: Nick Muffi

As the basketball season progresses, PHMS 8th grade boys team is unbeatable. Coach Shosky, who is coaching 8th grade for the first time this season, expressed his feelings about this season, "We're enjoying a great undefeated season. Can't wait for it to end and get my school-paid vacation and enjoy my long walks on the beach."

8th grade player Ian Hansen said, "I really like this team; I think we play really well together." Let's hope the boys team keeps their winning streak alive for the remainder of the season.

As of December 13th, the 7th grade boys team is working with 4 wins and 4 losses. Mr. McCabe (who is coaching basketball at PHMS for the first time) says, "We are currently 4-4 looking to avenge 3 of our 4 losses in the second half of the season."

Come support the boys in the last home game of the season. The game is Wednesday, December 21st, after school in the gym. Free admission, so come support our teams!

Girls Basketball

The girls basketball season is about to start! There are TWO "open gym" sessions for any 7th or 8th grade girls interested in playing this winter.

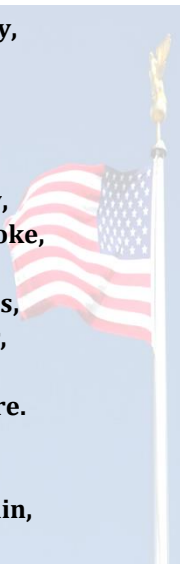
The first open gym is December 20th (after school in the gym) and the second is after break on January 3rd. Girls tryout dates will be January 4th & 5th for eighth grade and January 6th & 9th for seventh grade.

Student Poetry

One Nation

By: Olivia Supp

A beautiful day,
 busy streets
 many people,
 had to meet.
 Blue skies,
 turned to gray,
 filled with smoke,
 and dismay.
 Fire and debris,
 pollute the air,
 crying people,
 are everywhere.
 Many people,
 still unite.
 Despite the pain,
 we will fight!



Movie Review

Ouija: Origin of Evil

By: Nick Muffi

In 1967 Los Angeles, widowed mother, Alice Zander, unwittingly invites authentic evil into her home by adding a new stunt to bolster her séance scam business. When the merciless spirit overtakes her youngest daughter Doris, the small family must confront unthinkable fears to save her and send her possessor back to the other side.

Believing she is communicating with her deceased father, Roger, Doris again uses the Ouija board alone. The spirit leads her to a secret compartment hidden behind a basement wall where she finds a pouch full of cash. After presenting the money to her mother, Doris explains that she can contact Roger with the Ouija board. Alice, Doris, and Paulina have an Ouija session during which the planchette (the object you put your hands on) moves on its own. When the board answers a question only Roger would seemingly know the answer to, Alice begins believing that they are in contact with her dead husband, though Paulina remains unconvinced. Alice begins keeping Doris at home to channel spirits through the board for legitimate psychic readings. During one session, Doris briefly speaks in another person's voice. That night, Doris sees a shadowy figure when looking through the planchette and is led to a mirror where it again appears and possesses her. What happens next? Watch the movie to find out.



Ouija: Origin of Evil is an amazing movie for those of you that are into paranormal activity. Thus, with that being said, this movie is very spooky, with a lot of jump scares and unexpected plot twists. Also, this movie is loosely based on a true story. So, if you are also into true story horror films, this one is for you. Overall, this *Prowler* reviewer gives it a 9/10.

Book Reviews

Steve Jobs

By: *Kyler Bender*

As for the last issue, the *Prowler* had The Fifth Wave for the Book of the Month. Now, we move to a completely different type of literature. The book of the month has to go to the biography, Steve Jobs by Karen Blumenthal.

In Steve Jobs, the entrepreneur's biography, Mrs. Blumenthal explains in great detail of how he started and developed *Apple* into what it is now. Karen also explains Steve's intriguing past life.

She gives reason after reason of how he formed his company and explains how every CEO or President of any company thinks differently.

With an idea on how to work his employees, Jobs used a strategy of turning down his worker's projects and ideas one after another after another. His reasoning of his point is when you tell the worker, "That's not good enough." Their work gets better and better. Physiologically, this messes with the mind, which is the downside of this path of thinking. It messes with the brain thinking you're not good enough or there is someone better for the job and also gives you a reason to quit, which many ended up doing.

Now if biographies aren't appealing to you then don't bother. But if you are one of those people that stocks and bonds and different approaches to challenges and how entrepreneurs raise their company, this is *the* best book to read by far.

Now whenever you chose to take a decision on something that is most certain from someone else's approach to a challenge, don't discriminate them for it, maybe think.... *Different*.

Extra Book Review: Three Golden Rivers

By: *The Open Book Club*
Interest Group

In anticipation of the PHMS' school-wide unit: Pittsburgh unit, the OPEN BOOK CLUB recently read Three

Golden Rivers by Olive Price. This book was chosen as a pre-read because the story is developed around the Three Rivers in the 1850s. It depicts the beginning of Pittsburgh's industries. After the Bayard children were orphaned, Jennifer, Stephen, Carlotta, and Mady travel from Ohio to Pittsburgh to begin a new life. Stephen, encouraged by his grandfather, had a strong interest in glass and became an apprentice with a famous glass maker. Jennifer earned a job as a pastry chef at the Monongahela House. The four children, a horse, and a goat rented a clinger on Goat Hill and became emerged in a small multi-ethnic community. As the book continued, they made friends with Andrew Carnegie and Jenny Lind. Although the children faced many hardships, they were comforted by the support of their neighbors and their positive attitude that everything would be fine. The book portrays the importance of the rivers in the industrial development of the Pittsburgh region.

Video Game Review

Hello, Neighbor

By: *Nick Muffi*

This game WILL make you never want to go into your friend's/neighbor's home again. **Hello Neighbor** takes you into the house of Mr. Wilson; your creepy, not so happy neighbor. In this game, you have to find out the secret of his basement, which IS extremely creepy. But watch out ... Mr. Wilson may be creeping around any corner at any time, making it harder for you to find out the secret. Once you get the certain items in order to unlock the basement (crowbar, lock pick, keycard), you may unlock the basement. Whenever you do that; candle-lined steps guide you on your way down to the basement. What is the secret of his basement? Even once you get it to the basement, there is another door to discover, unveiling even more secrets about your neighbor. Overall, I'll give it a 10/10.

THE PHMS PROWLER STAFF

Jenna Fox, Riley Beach, Kyler Bender, Nick Muffi, Brody Woodward

