

The Eagle Times

Volume 3, Issue 4

TheEagleTimes.org | @theeagletimes

February 14, 2024

New Club Leadership

Reece Williams and Orli Trumbull (Sophmores)

Stepping into 2024, the Eagle Times will begin operating under new leadership.

The new team was decided by a vote held in December, declaring Orli Trumbull as the Editor in Chief, Reese Williams as the Social Media Editor, Viola Aderholt as the Print Editor, and Sean Gaines as the Digital Editor.

As the new team steps into a leadership role, they want to acknowledge and thank the previous team of editors. In 2022, Aavin Mangalmurti took charge of the newspaper; resuscitated it after the club's demise during COVID. His goal was to "find a way to bring people together and foster a sense of community." When reflecting on his years with the club, his proudest moment was "getting covered in the Post Gazette." In an interview with the Post Gazette, Aavin reflects on the struggles of being involved with school activities—or the lack thereof—after COVID 19. Sensing that a school newspaper would give the student body an opportunity to have their voices heard, he



Viola Aderholt, Orli Trumbull, and Sean Gaines, and Reece Williams

decided to take the wheel and, with the help of some friends, create the Eagle Times

Taking the position of Editor in Chief Aavin was supported by

Mariah Gaines (Print Editor), Orli Trumbull (Digital Editor), and Dia Singh (Social Media Editor). "It was a group effort," he says.

While reflecting on the development of the club, Aavin also shared aspirations for the future. He hopes that new leadership will "create more of a sense of journalism," and "gain more journalistic credibility and integrity as a paper and as writers for the newspaper." Orli Trumbull, the new leader of the newspaper, hopes to expand upon Aavin's aspirations. "I hope that the newspaper can be a resource for students to show off their artwork or short stories," she says, "the paper is meant to inform and reflect Obama students." She is optimistic that including student produced creations will increase relevance and engagement.

As Aavin hoped, the new leadership will work to "continue the legacy."

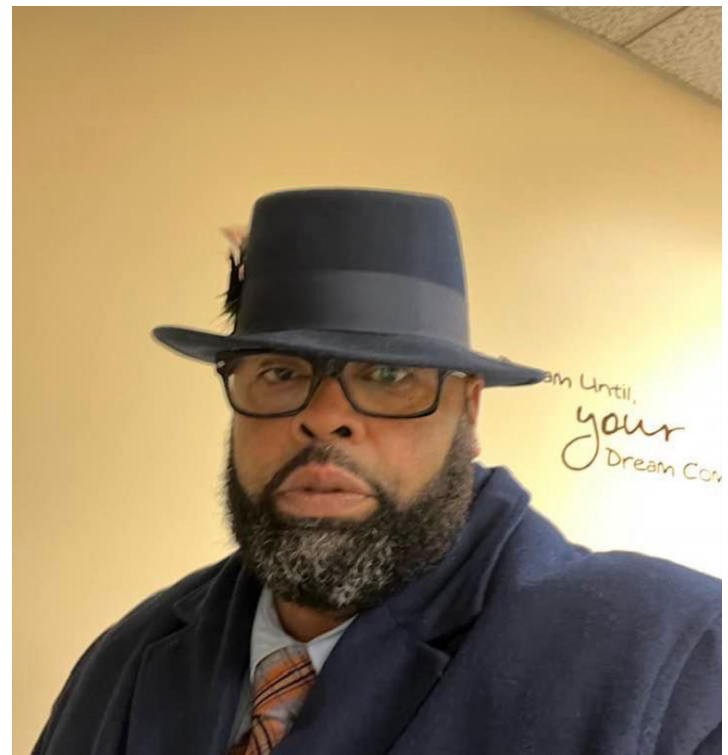
Valentines Day At Obama

Viola Aderholt (Sophomore) and Lucy Caroff (Junior)

"I haven't seen a lot of traction over the years, but I am hoping we get more" says Ms. Sharif when asked about Valentine's Day at Obama. She is excited for the Valentines festivities as well as many other students, while others such as junior Evan Peterson have an opposite take on the Holiday. "I don't care for it, it's pointless." "It's a pointless holiday, why do you need a day to give your significant other something?" said Peterson when asked about Valentine's Day. While gift giving is a good way some students show their love and appreciation, the month of February takes a toll on many people's wallets. Junior Sydney Pellegrino said "It's become a whole thing where people are more focused on getting stuff than spending time with their valentine" This materialistic aspect of almost every holiday has an impact on how people show their love.

This year alone the Americans have spent a total of \$25.8 billion on Valentine's Day, with each individual celebrating spending on average \$192.80. When asked about how much money she spends Junior Kailyn Ashley-Thompson says "A good seventy dollars or more, I gotta spoil my man." While junior Kenza Bey says "Thirty bucks at most." Kenza may be cheap, but Valentine's Day isn't about the money you spend, it's about the love you share with others.

With lots of money to be made Obama's marching band decided to create a carnation sale fundraiser. When asked about the carnations band teacher Ms. Sharif says "It's a nice token of appreciation for friends, family, or a romantic partner." No matter how you decide to celebrate most students agree with junior Raini Giles "It should be a holiday where you should go out, and spend time with the person and not just buy stuff."



Credit: Mr. Perkins



Credits: Schulz, Charles M.

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Perkins

Aavin Mangalmurti (senior)

Mr. Perkins' job description is simple: "Support Ms. Colbert." Perkins, who is Obama's new Vice Principal, was formerly at Allerdice and replaces Ms. Bailey (who moved to Allerdice). He will be specifically working with the middle school population in the building. In his first two weeks at Obama, Perkins has begun with the small things. "I've learned many students' names and I'm beginning to know many of the teachers," he said. "This whole week has consisted of trying to create relationships with students." Perkins is getting into the rhythm of lunch duty, dismissal, and everyday disciplinary activities.

Perkins is a career educator. He has been with Pittsburgh Public Schools for 21 years, 15 of which were as a teacher. This is his second year as an administrator. "I started off as a paraprofessional, then moved to being a teacher, and now am an administrator," he said. "The goal was just to keep continuing, not only my growth

and education, but supporting those students and families that I've met."

He wants to keep going. "I would like to eventually become a principal in my own building, if not here at Obama," Perkins said. "In the long term I'd like to be the Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools or at least the Assistant Superintendent" He wants to show out strong and gain experience in his administrative duties at Obama to signal that he is ready for bigger things.

Although the circumstances of Perkins' switch with Bailey may seem mysterious, Perkins is taking it in stride. He's glad to be at Obama because three of his children (including Senior Torrien Perkins) have gone here. "I not only have a connection to the building, but a connection to the staff," he said. "I love it here."

Book Club Meets With Author Jennifer Egan

Orli Trumbull (Sophomore)

On Monday, February 12, the Obama book club joined Woodland Hills students to meet Jennifer Egan, the author of Candy House. The visit was planned through Pittsburgh

Arts and Lectures, allowing Obama students to get a free copy of the Candy House and participate in the author talk. Students were able to ask Jennifer Egan questions, and were provided with pizza and candy (following the Candy House theme) after the meeting.



Credit: Orli Trumbull

Wishful Thinking for PPS Students

Isaiah Trumbull (Senior)

The Pittsburgh Public School Board decided in a 7-2 vote in January to table a resolution that would have enabled students to serve on the school board.

The proposal would have created the role of Student Board Representative through which two students, one junior and one senior, would have served. Those representatives would have been nonvoting participants at School Board meetings and been responsible for communication with the student body. The application process planned to involve a selection committee of high school principals evaluating letters of recommendation and transcripts. A final recommendation would have been made by the Superintendent for the board to consider.

The resolution was proposed by Sala Udin.

Gene Walker and Sala Udin voted for passage. Board members who did not support the proposal voiced concerns that the two students would not fully represent the student population, and that the Board had more pressing problems regarding efficient functioning.

Tabling the resolution does not mean that the movement is dead, rather that it can be taken up at a later date. Student Leader Pavel Marin says that “this is a way for the Board to take a look at the issue through the policy committee and come back with a concrete policy to implement.” He said, “this is actually a good thing because oftentimes board resolutions are forgotten about.” The student leader said that “the votes to table were not votes against the resolution, and the board as a whole is very supportive of the movement.” Many remain hopeful that the policy avenue will yield success, although Mr. Marin said that he is trying his best to get the policy passed soon so that the program can start in the upcoming school year.



Credit: 90.5 WESA

Ethnic Studies Class is brought to Obama

Clark Ehman and Hirai Shuda (Juniors)

As the 2023-2024 school year closes and the 2024-2025 year approaches, a new course is being created and reviewed in preparation for the upcoming school year. Ms. Clarke, along with various teachers from around the district, are in the early stages of producing an Ethnic Studies class. It was originally an, “initiative by the board, and a larger group of community members, parents, staff, and faculty.”

The primary goal of the course is “understanding the value in exploring history from a variety of backgrounds.” One reason for the creation of this class came from a decision by the school board to expand the number of credits needed to graduate. The newly-required fourth-year credit would now be acquired senior year by taking African American History or Ethnic Studies.

The first step in creating the course, Ms. Clarke said, was the “textbook review process,” where they would first “review the goals that the district had set out.” This process was essentially reviewing old history textbooks to see what was missing. The overall conclusion was that the voice of minorities was not present in any of the textbooks.

The next step was a Request for Proposal (RFP). The district sent this proposal to companies who had goals that aligned with that of the class. The purpose of this proposal was to find a company willing to publish the textbook needed for the Ethnic Studies course. There have “been challenges along the way, not everyone was supportive of the inclusiveness of the book.”

Ms. Clarke says the district has plans of closing out a second RFP and hopefully beginning the class in the fall of the upcoming school year. She says this course will benefit Obama students because “being an IB School, I think that it allows students to understand the value in exploring different ethnicities.”

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Come learn how to **LEAD YOUR SCHOOL** to make sure that everyone has a chance to **VOTE, PROTECT & CREATE** DEMOCRACY, THE CHANGE you want to see in the world!

Allegheny **YOUTH VOTE Huddle** | **March 15th, 2024** 11:30am - 4:00pm

FREE EVENT | LUNCH PROVIDED | LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Join us for youth-led workshops, panels, speakers and expert planning support. You'll leave with everything you need to organize a youth-led voter registration drive for your school.

South Wing Reading Room
2nd floor, Carnegie Main Library
4400 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
REGISTER HERE

Logos: CIVIC CLIP, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, NCJ/IPGH, PA Youth Advocacy Network, PENNSYLVANIA PROTECT, THE CIVICS CENTER, APA



photo of the game

Boys Basketball Senior Night

Sean Gaines and Rose Carli-Pierre (Sophmores)

On February 6, the Obama Boys Basketball players celebrated their senior night in a game against Brashear High School. Following multiple consecutive wins, the Obama Basketball team maintained their streak, winning their sixth conference game by a dominating score of 61-38. After an invigorating **halftime performance by Obama Cheerleaders, the following seniors walked** down the center aisle: Torrian Perkins, Keivan Harris, Tyvon Morse, Marquis Glass-Jones, Elijah Warren, and Isaiah Warren. They were met by their families and loved ones while applause echoed through the gymnasium. Each player was presented with flowers and snacks at the end of the game, as well as praise from Naron Jackson, their head coach. Though bittersweet, each senior had an amazing night and ended the game on a tremendous note of joy.

Reminders:

Half Day → Friday, February 16th

Basketball Playoffs → Next Week

*Keep an eye out voter registration in cafeteria!