

♥ The Potter Post ♥

Issue 5 Volume 3

February 2024

PJH Congratulates Teacher and Classified Employee of the Year!



Potter Junior High teachers and staff recognized their Teacher of the Year, Miss Gonzalez as well as Classified Employee of the Year Ms. Iniesta with a surprise announcement at breakfast. They will be honored at the upcoming school board meeting. Thank you to these amazing educators for all that they do for our students, school and community! Congratulations to Mr. Huish, our Assistant Principal, who also announced his retirement so he can focus on being a full-time grandpa!

Left: Mrs. Ramirez, Dr. Gonzalez, Miss Gonzalez and Mr. Huish celebrate teacher of the year. Right: Mrs. Ramirez, Mrs. Venton, Ms. Iniesta, Ms. Carre, and Mr. Huish celebrate classified employee of the year.

Show the Love!



We love Mrs. Srinilac because she's patient, and she gives us candy! Kelly Jaimes, Jamie Torres. She's funny and very helpful. She'll sit down and help you one on one to make sure you understand. Ashlee Duarte



We love Tallulah Laurenson because she's funny, sweet, energetic and outgoing! She helps us in math class. Charlotte Brunson, Arturo Torres. She is non-judgemental, and will help you no matter what! Leyelle Johnson.



We love "Baby Quinn" because he's the nicest boy in Newspaper. Ares Miramontes. Aidan is a great kid and an amazing "little brother" in newspaper. Rae Rannells, Brooke Armet, and Leyelle Johnson.



We love Miss Pat because she's nice, caring and patient! She lets us go on the blacktop. Gerry Leon, Itza Alegria, Charlotte Brunson. She is the best, she always takes the soccer ball out and watches our games. Raul Tomas Francisco. She's always making us laugh!



We love Mr. Ramos because he's cool, he's chill, he lets us get away with things, and he's understanding and tries to help us. Ashlee Duarte, Aleena Mendez, Alejandro Rojas. He's a good counselor, and he helps with problems. Domingo Domingo and Raul Tomas Francisco



We love Eric Vu because he is the nicest person to ever exist. He is so kind. He's super smart and studious and helpful. Charlotte Brunson, Lilia Suarez, Aleena Mendez. He is hardworking, and a good athlete. Well rounded student! Diana Bailon and Leyelle Johnson.



We love Mrs. Seaux because she gives us free time, she brought us donuts and she's nice. She also acts like us and that gives us a better relationship. We do our work but have a good time in class. Kaylee Tovar, Alejandra Sanchez, Ashlee Duarte



We love Ms. Maggie because she's very nice, and she understands us. She gives us front of the line passes and she always wants to know the chisme! (gossip) Ashlee Duarte, Charlotte Brunson. She waits for me in the morning because I'm always late. Mateo Mares

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a very fun day to celebrate, but have you ever wondered why we celebrate it? This holiday is celebrated on February 14, and has been this way since the end of the 5th century, but Valentine's Day was first created as a more religious holiday. It is generally celebrated today because it became more about love than religion in the 14th century. This day was first created in ancient Rome, as a day where Christians would honor a martyred Saint named Valentine. They honored this Saint by having a festival called Lupercalia, and it involved feasting, and exchanging gifts to loved ones. As you may wonder, who was Saint Valentine? Saint Valentine was a Roman priest that suffered in the persecution from martyrdom. Sadly, on February 14th, 269 he had refused to renounce his faith, so Claudius the Roman emperor at the time executed him outside of the Flaminian Gate. That is why they dedicated this day to honor St. Valentine. Later on, the holiday evolved into a day where you share cards, gifts and candy with loved ones you care about. All in all, Valentine's Day is a great day to celebrate and to have fun! By: Brooke Armet



Black History Month



February is a very important month because it is Black History Month. This month raises awareness for African American citizens around the world. We also thank important citizens that changed the world, like MLK Jr., Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, Jimi Hendrix and so much more! MLK Jr. fought his whole life for civil rights and later died for it. Rosa Parks made one big decision not to get off the bus for a white man and risked her life for it. Jackie Robinson was the first African American baseball player for Major League Baseball. He played for the Dodgers. Lastly, Jimi Hendrix was an African American singer, songwriter, and guitarist during the 70s. He became very famous worldwide. These are just a few of the many African Americans who changed the world through their hard work and dedication. Thanks to these people, we live in a better world. Although there are still frightening things in life too, you can be the person to change it. By: Gracie Campbell

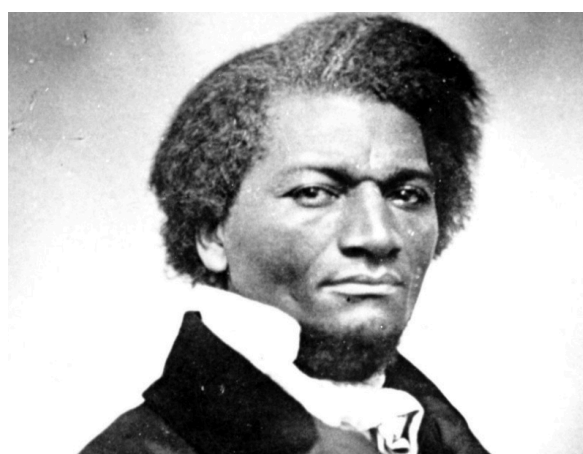
Counselor's Week



It is greatly important to recognize our counselors here at Potter Junior High. Our counselors all love and appreciate each student here, so it's only right if we go ahead and appreciate them right back. We went around campus asking students what they appreciated about their counselors and here's what they said. Seventh grader "Gio" Martinez said, "I love my counselors because they are very nice and kind." He isn't wrong, our counselors are so kind! Next, 7th grader David Garcia said "I like my counselors because you know, they're chill and they help me with everything, they're just there for me." The counselors are certainly super chill. Next, Sofia Carboni said, "I appreciate my counselors because they are really nice and I guess they help you all the time, like, whenever you need help." Finally, we interviewed Ace Veura and he said, "I appreciate my counselors because they are nice and they help me out when I need help." You should also appreciate the hard work your counselors do for you. Happy counselors appreciation week! By: Luna Hribik & Lily Martin

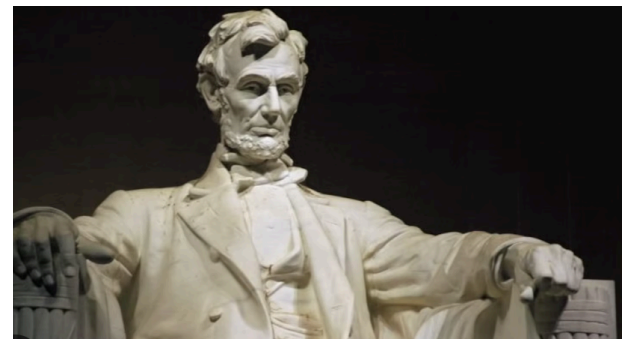
Frederick Douglass

Every February 14th, we celebrate Frederick Douglass. He was born in February of 1818 into slavery to a white dad and to a black mom, and at the age of 8 he was sent to live in the household of Hugh Auld. While living there Hugh Auld's wife taught Frederick to read but then stopped due to Hugh Auld's beliefs. He ended up teaching himself to read and write, and later gave himself the last name Douglass from a poem. When Frederick Douglass was 15, he attempted to escape slavery, but was caught before he could do so. Frederick was owned by a ship captain, Aaron Anthony. After many failed attempts to escape, at the age of 20, he dressed up like a sailor and hopped on a train in order to get away, then arrived in New York City, and the year was 1838. He married the woman who helped him escape. He became an abolitionist, a person who fought against slavery with the goal of ending it for good. He helped others escape by becoming a conductor on the Underground Railroad. Frederick Douglass also wrote abolitionist papers. By: Heaven Baez



Candies

If you are looking to buy your valentine some candy, then this is the article you need to read. Valentine's Day is known for candies like the heart shaped chocolate boxes, the mini hearts with messages, and even the Valentine grams with the Nerd rope. We interviewed students around campus about which candy they would like to receive. Luna Hribik said she'd like the heart shaped box with chocolates inside. "My favorite candy is Snickers." said Yareli Ibarra. Rae Rannells Jaxson Schuman, and Leyelle like Leyelle's See's Candies she's selling for her fundraiser. (Buy it from Leyelle!) Ada Porter likes Hersheys. Robert White said, "I would have to say Nerds, or candy hearts." See's Candies is the winner! So if you don't know what to buy for your valentine, now you know which is the best option. By: Aidan Quinn & James Russell



Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States, born in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. He was the son of Thomas Lincoln, an illiterate pioneer farmer, and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who died when Abraham was nine years old. He grew up in Illinois. Abraham became US president at the age of 52. As mentioned, Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth President of the United States, known for his crucial role in the abolition of slavery and his leadership during the American Civil War. Lincoln began his political career in the 1830s as a member of the Whig Party and later joined the newly formed Republican Party. Lincoln became president in 1861, just when the nation was on the verge of a Civil War due to tensions between the North and the South on issues such as slavery and the rights of states. During his presidency, Lincoln faced the challenge of keeping fighting against the Southern Separatist Confederation. Technically, Abraham Lincoln was killed on April 14, 1865, shortly after the surrender of the Confederation by John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer. His legacy endures as one of the most important presidents in American history, remembered for his moral leadership. His political ability and his dedication to the principles of equality and freedom for all citizens. By: Raul Tomas Francisco



Super Bowl

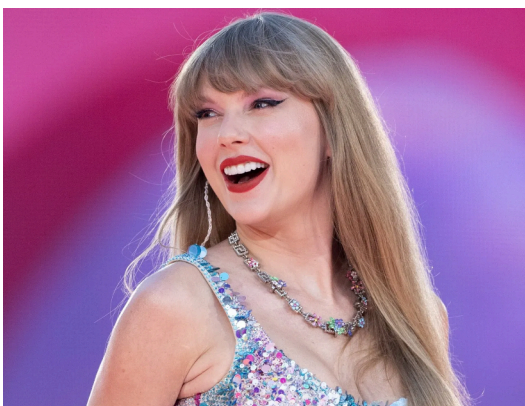
The Super Bowl is one of the most-watched annual sporting events in the world, with over 123.4 million viewers, and in my opinion, is worth all the hype. The game, the commercials, the halftime show, and the overall excitement make the Super Bowl worth watching! This year's Super Bowl was on Sunday, February 11th, and was held in Las Vegas at the Allegiant Stadium. Super Bowl 2024 was a success, at least for the fans of the Kansas City Chiefs. Sadly, the 49ers lost. Even though they lost, the game was great! Both teams played well and gave it their all. The halftime show was performed by Usher and I was certainly blown away. Usher is incredibly handsome considering he's 45 years old! When he ripped off his T-shirt my jaw dropped to the floor, literally. Surprise, surprise! Alicia Keys, H.E.R., Lil Jon, Ludacris,

Will.i.am, and Jermaine Dupri also took the stage. I know someone is just waiting for me to mention Taylor Swift, so don't worry swifties! Yes, Taylor was at the Super Bowl cheering on her boyfriend Travis Kelce. She attended the Super Bowl along with some of her friends. After the Chiefs won the Super Bowl, Swift and Kelce shared a victory kiss. Now enough about Miss Swift, let's talk about all the commercials, one of my favorite parts! All the commercials this year were on point, but the TEMU commercial was getting on my nerves. That commercial played so many times! According to Google, the best Super Bowl commercial this year was State Farm's "Like a Good Neighbaaa," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito, with a score of 6.68. I loved that commercial, but only for the puppies in the

beginning. I asked a few PJH students what their favorite Super Bowl commercial was. 7th grader, Lily Martin said that her favorite commercial was the TEMU commercial. I couldn't relate. 7th grader, "Gio" Martinez said that his favorite commercial was also the TEMU commercial, which I can't relate to AGAIN. Ms.Seaux said, "I don't have any interest in football, I only watch for the halftime show." She said that she loved the performance by Usher. I liked the Google Pixel commercial, the story was heartwarming. Lastly, I asked people which team they routed for. Overall, more people said they were routing for the 49ers, as they should! I think PJH can agree that this year's Super Bowl was excellent and everyone enjoyed it and had a great time. By: Luna Hribik

Swifties

Taylor Swift...the woman is a legend. Whether you are a Taylor Swift lover or hater, you have heard of her and her nationwide "Eras Tour", her billions of fans across the world, and her 14 Grammys- oh and the fact that she is a billionaire, and is the number one artist on all music platforms. She won album of the year again this year and is dating the best linebacker in the NFL. Taylor is an icon. Taylor Alison Swift's achievements go on and on. She started her music career when she was only 14. When Taylor was 19 years old, Kanye West ran up on stage and ruined her first VMA award speech (in my opinion.) No matter your thoughts on Taylor Swift, you can not deny that she is an ingenious, well-thought-out businesswoman who will continue succeeding in life. If you think you are a true Swiftie, test your knowledge of all things Tay-Tay with this trivia quiz! Stop by room 17 with the answers and win a prize! What is Taylor's middle name? What is Taylor's lucky number? How many cats does Taylor have? Bonus Question: Which one of these is not her cat? Benjamin Buttons, Meredith Gray Olivia Benson, Tay-Tay 2.0. By: Rae Rannells



Ronaldo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GOAT! Cristiano Ronaldo is 39 about to turn 40 next year! His birthday is February 5th. How many memories has Ronaldo made in his soccer career? He's been my idol for so many years, and I hope it's your guy idol too. He has been doing good in his career at 39 and nothing stops him. However, he is injured while he is supporting his team. He also supported when there was a match against Inter Miami. That game was incredible 6-0 against Messi and Ronaldo didn't even have to do anything! How incredible has Ronaldo been during his soccer career! Once again happy birthday to the goat! By: Elian Ariza

Self-Love Day

National Self-Love Day is celebrated on February 13th. On National Self-Love Day you love yourself and give yourself a chill day by reading a book, watching a movie, doing a jigsaw puzzle, spending time in nature, and doing a hobby. Also, you can show self-love to yourself by stop comparing yourself to others, not worrying about other's opinions, allowing yourself to make mistakes, and processing your fears. By: Valentina Garcia Olivas

TikTok

Why would Tiktok remove celebrities' songs from their app? They removed a lot of famous songs because there was an expired deal between TikTok and Universal Music Group. Artists like Drake, Bad Bunny, Ariana Grande, Billie Elish more have been removed, so you won't be able to use their songs on TikTok anymore. TikTok also believes that because of them that is why their music is very popular. Many people think that a lot of celebrities may go downhill because people are not gonna use their songs anymore. And that is why TikTok removed songs from famous celebrities' off their app. By: Aurelio Francisco Gonzalez



President's Day

What is President's Day and why is it important? President's Day is a federal holiday that is celebrated on the third Monday of February. To honor the presidents of the United States, including George Washington, who served as the first president of the United States, and Abraham Lincoln who served during the Civil War. Presidents Day was originally established to honor George Washington, but over time it also recognized all the presidents of the United States. President's Day is important because it is a day to honor past U.S presidents. By: Julio Salvador Zacarias

Groundhog Day

Do you know the purpose of Groundhog Day? It's all about watching a groundhog come out of his hibernation spot to forecast the weather, and originally takes place in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania on February 2nd. Our weather furry forecaster's name is Punxsutawney Phil! The legend claims that if the groundhog sees its shadow, we have six more weeks of winter. But, if the groundhog does not see its shadow it means that it's the beginning of spring. How did Groundhog Day come to be? To summarize, Europeans in the Middle Ages believed that the month of February was the year that hibernating animals such as hedgehogs, bears, and groundhogs came out of hibernation. They thought that they could use these animals to forecast the weather. When Germans came to the United States they brought this tradition with them. The specific reason that we associate Pennsylvania and groundhogs with Groundhog Day is because some of the Germans moved to Pennsylvania and there just happened to be groundhogs there. This tradition caught on and became and still is a memorable event. February 2nd has already passed, which means that the results for this year's early spring or long winter are in! So, did the groundhog see his shadow? For the first time in 4 years, Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow. That means that spring is going to come early according to the legend. Early spring will be March 19th. I hope you learned something or more about Groundhog day! Happy early spring! By Annia Camacho

Daylight Savings

Are you excited about daylight saving time? On March 10th, we will finally be in summer mode. The sky won't get dark at 5 pm and everything will be perfect. I love this time schedule because I love to be outside late at night, but sadly you can't really do anything past 5 during fall/winter because it gets dark so early. You can have so much more time in your day to hang out with your family and friends, go outside etc. versus in the winter. You're pretty much stuck inside after school. I know the biggest thing I am looking forward to in March 2024 is finally having longer days than usual. By: Elin Gangnath



Notebook Part 2

We left off with a boy getting kidnapped and knocked out in a white room. Once he woke up again he was in his bed. He thought all of it was a dream so he decided to get up to play some video games with his friends. After a couple of hours, he felt a little creeped out that his father wasn't home and he couldn't seem to find his phone to text him. He eventually gave up looking and kept playing video games with his friends. 2 more hours passed and his dad still wasn't home and was getting hungry so he went downstairs to warm up some leftovers. As soon as he got downstairs he saw the same notebook on the table. At this point, he was shaking and freaking out as he shut his eyes and fell to the ground. He passed out. To be continued. By: Robert White and Jaxson Schuman

Fashion

Many people can argue what the best fashion era is, yet there's a lot to look over. We want to get to the bottom of this issue. Personally, Elene believes the best fashion era is the 90's and Dana thinks the 2000's had the best style. We interviewed people to decide overall what the best and most fashionable era was. Eighth grader, Isabella Scott quotes, "The 90's-2000's is the best fashion era because it was very original." Additionally, eighth grader, Diana Mendoza says, "The Renaissance era is the best fashion era because it's fire!" We wanted to get one more perspective so we asked eighth grader, Rhea Ortiz her opinion. Rhea stated, "I think the 90's was the best fashion era because it was overall the best." As you can see, through most people's perspectives, they believe that the overall best, unique fashion era was the 1990's-2000's. What's your favorite fashion era? By: Elene Garland and Dana Hollcraft



Banana Bread Day

Did you know that national banana bread day is celebrated on the 23rd of february? Banana bread provides many good vitamins and minerals. Banana bread is the number 1 searched recipe since january 2010. February 23rd was claimed national banana bread day because during the great depression they founded a new baking ingredient that was used in banana bread making it the newest recipe that was made by ripe bananas. Baking soda was quickly put into receipt books. One simple banana bread recipe includes: bananas, flour, baking soda, salt. Vanilla extract, cinnamon, butter, and brown sugar. Firstly you mix your dry ingredients (flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon). Then start to mash your ripe bananas in a bowl. When your bananas are mashed up you have to add melted butter. Next add in ur mixture of dry ingredients until there are no flour streaks. Next put ur banana bread in a 350 degree preheated oven. To tell if your banana bread is done stick a knife through it and when the knife comes out clean your banana bread is done. By: Diana Bailon Mendoza

Chocolate

Do you like dark chocolate? Do you want to know more about dark chocolate? Dark chocolate was invented in 2000. BC. The Mayas from Central America created dark chocolate using fermented beverages mixed with wine, or spices. Although dark chocolate might be seen as candy or just a sugary food in general, it contains something called flavonoids. This fancy sounding word can help blood flow and make our hearts even healthier. BUT WAIT, before you go buying chocolate not all chocolate is equal. The higher the cocoa level the better, so you might want to switch chocolate teams because dark chocolate is where it's at. By: Angel Castro Melchor

Rain

It's toxic, poisonous; people would go savage after one drop landing on their skin. That one drop, would leave your skin burning with bruises and once they would go to sleep that day, they would wake up completely insane, out of their minds. I remember it all from the beginning to end. The rain would come and go on bright sunny days. At first we thought it was harmless, but then, it started little by little. the people would start getting sick. For this case There wouldn't be enough teachers to teach, grocery workers would be out, so stores would close to your left and right, all because everyone was getting sick. They would think it was just some kind of virus and would go away in the morning, but it never went away. The first person I saw who had an effect was my mom. She got sick, I thought she would be fine. Then, within minutes, her face turned to a pale green. Shortly after she tried attacking me. I got away as fast as I could, I ran down the stairs trying to exit the apartment. I got to floor 2 but then I noticed something out the window. They were everywhere, pale greenish faces, limp walking. I didn't know what to do, so I just hid. I hid for about 1 week, but then I couldn't do anything and then they got to me. By: Elene Garland

My Life as Candy

To begin, I was made in a factory, a sweet smelling, candy factory. I was one of thousands, not very special or different from the rest, but still I was my own person...well, my own chocolate. I remember the day I met my family, the other chocolates in my box. I was nervous, as everyone was. What if they hated me? I wondered, but they didn't. We were best friends, a beautiful family. Even though there wasn't much to talk about, every moment with each other was great. Then, we were bought, and everyone was excited, but we shouldn't have been. February 12th 2024, I peeked out of the box and saw a teenage boy. He was looking around at different flowers and then he saw my box. I was going to be bought! I thought we were gonna be given to a girl, but no. This gross teenage boy just left us on his bed stand in his disgusting room smelling of dirty socks, for us to rot. He forgot about us. Weeks had passed and everyone was depressed, strawberry cream began to rot, caramel melted. Everything was over, and that was the end. So, next time you forget about a box of chocolates, think about what you might be doing. By: Dana Hollcraft



Scary Story: Part 2

Next up in the Scary story, Jason turned around and there was a man behind him. As soon as his eyes locked onto the man's eyes his heart dropped. He went to scream, but nothing came out of his mouth. He was frightened. There was just silence for about 2 seconds until "RAHH!" said the man as he swung his fist. Luckily, Jason dodged it and ran upstairs to his room. He went to call 911 but the phone line was cut. He didn't know what the man wanted with him. He didn't know what to do with the phone line cut, he was locked in his room, and there was a mysterious man in his house. By: Jaxson Schuman