

VOLTAGED

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#2k16Promposals

By Jessica Pereira

One of the most exciting events that occurs during each individual's senior year is prom, and SPHS seniors have never disappointed with their elaborate public *promposals*. So why should this year be any different? What other time is there to *prompose* to that special someone than the first pep rally of the year and the wonderful Science Park Winter Concert.

Three brave and romantic senior guys took it upon themselves to ask three lucky ladies to the 2016 Science Park Prom. In the midst of the excitement, these seniors decided to make their move. Joseph Damiano kicked off the *promposals* by delivering a speech to the entire student body, teachers and visiting alumni regarding his many accomplishments at SPHS.

He then asked Gabriela Revi to accompany him to the 2016 prom. Fortunately for Damiano, Revi accepted.

Adrian Romero was also not intimidated by the large audience when he decided to ask Angelee Caraballo to prom. Along with giving a brief speech regarding his long-lasting friendship with Caraballo, Romero provided a poster, made by Paige Jurado, saying, "Will You Be My Key To A Successful Prom?" Another endearing perk was the large stuffed panda bear Romero gave to Caraballo. Such an elaborate and thoughtful gesture could not be denied, so she, of course, accepted. The day ended with four seniors already having their prom dates.

Rumors were flying that a third *promposal* would be occurring during the winter concert.

Tyler Coleman not only rocked his solo with the senior twins, Joshua and Jonathan Christie, he was also #blessed with a prom date.

Prior to the end of the concert, he grabbed the mic. To our surprise, this wasn't a reaction for the requested encore to "This Christmas," but to ask Rosenda Soto to prom. Once again, having a poster that Paige had made, this poster wittingly stated, "Asking Might Be A Nightmare, But It's My Dream To Take You To Prom." With a gesture like that, how can a girl resist? Obviously, Rosenda accepted.

The prom season has begun and the prom bells are definitely ringing. These *promposals* have only marked the beginning of an entertaining tradition that will continue throughout the rest of the prom season and for years to come.



An Interview with Coach Swartz

By Jessica Pereira

With the track season underway, I chased down Coach Swartz to get his opinion on the season and the team.

Q: What are your expectations for this season?

A: Our girls are very young, with only one returning senior. Our goal is to gain experience and to work hard. Our boys should make some noise as we are heavy with juniors and seniors who have talent.

Q: How far do you think the team will make it in the season?

A: I expect to see some state medals and very competitive times from our boys. Our girls will represent and become very competitive.

Q: How prepared do you feel the team is for the season?

A: Both teams are working hard, and they have a great attitude.

Q: Do you fear any setbacks that will keep you from reaching any goals set for the season?

A: Nope, there is nothing to fear but fear itself!

Q: What words of encouragement do you tend to tell your runners to hype them up for their meets?

A: I tell them how proud of them I am, and they are my track family. And as Science Park Chargers we must represent!



Girls Basketball Team

By Ines Borralho



Where positive work ethic, dedication, and optimism is concerned, the SPHS Girls Basketball Team embodies all traits necessary for the utmost success during the 2015-2016 school year. With the aid of the coaching staff as a driving force in their relentlessness, the girls feel ready to take on the Independence Division for a second time. Having lost three seniors last year, the team is relatively young, which is ideal for a learning experience.

Senior Nicole Pimentel prides herself on her leadership skills and undying devotion for the betterment of the team. She prioritizes her academic career above all, but never fails to attend every practice and pushes the younger athletes to succeed. Looking back, she recalls both her achievements and the tribulations that led her to the honorary position she is in now. It goes without saying that the team is destined for an overall successful year.

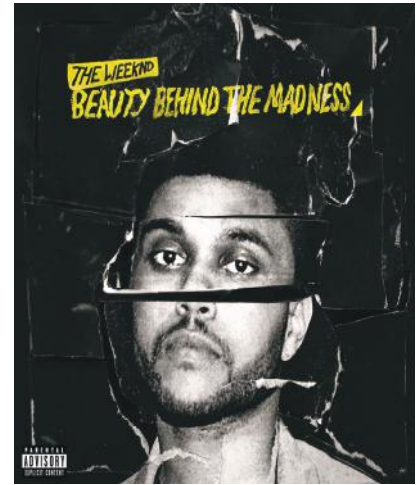
Beauty Behind the Madness Concert Review

By Sofia Cabodeira

After successfully topping the charts with two singles from his new album, Abel Tesfaye, most notoriously known as The Weeknd, has managed to skyrocket himself from uploading his mix tapes onto YouTube to becoming an iconic artist. *Beauty Behind the Madness* is his second debut album and contains his dark and mysterious attitude but also is structured to appeal to a wider audience. His current tour in North America has brought both old and new fans together to enjoy his ever-enticing music. I was lucky enough to be one of those fans and attended his concert at Prudential Center.

The night began with an opening act by Travi\$ Scott, which got everyone fired up and eager for The Weeknd to appear. With the beginning notes of "Real Life" roaring, he ascended from a platform onto the stage and began singing in his signature sultry, brooding voice. His performance was enhanced with lighting and screens that added to the dark vibe, but nothing could upstage his vocals. When playing his incredibly popular song, "The Hills," he surprised the audience with a fire spectacle, which was timed with the beat, bringing the performance to the next level.

As the last song played, no one was ready to go home quite yet. As the audience shouted for an encore, Tesfaye graced us with one last song before finally bringing his performance to a bittersweet end. As sad as I was to go home, I will always have the memories - and of course the videos I took - to reminisce on this night of madness.



The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2

By Osayre Gomez

Mocking Jay Part 2, produced by Nina Jacobson and Jon Kilik and directed by Francis Lawrence, was released on November 20, and grossed a whopping \$442.2 million worldwide. It runs for 137 minutes which makes it the longest film within *The Hunger Games* franchise. I'm not going to lie, I have been looking forward to this installment ever since I finished reading the trilogy back when I was a freshman, and now I feel old.

The movie was well worth the wait. The special effects were superb. My personal favorite were the lizard-like mutts that had terrorized the main characters in the underground tunnels of the Capitol. As a fan of the book franchise, I was well aware that these raging hybrids would soon appear, but this scene in particular surprised me as I did not expect to receive such a feeling of horror, which was only another defining element of the film.



The cast did an exceptional job, and I feel that the audience was actually able to sense the emotions emanating from the screen. Not to mention, Jennifer Lawrence's commitment to her persona as Katniss

and how phenomenal she is as an actress. Her fellow partners in crime, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth, embraced the personalities of their characters incredibly well, playing Peeta Mellark and Gale Hawthorne, respectively.

The films depicted the trilogy with so much thought and detail that I felt as though it exceeded everyone's expectations. The set of District 13 was especially done in such a way that it seemed as though the images that I had formed in my mind were literally taken and utilized to create the world of Panem. Although I appreciated the special effects and the actors, the film did not begin with a bang, as it took half of the running time for the plot to really take off. I believe the film could have expanded more with the climax and with the scenes where the crew is in the Capitol. However, I would still give *Mocking Jay Part 2* a solid 4 out of 5 stars.

Throwback to... Homecoming

By Sariah Gonzalez



This year's Homecoming Dance, hosted by the Class of 2016, was certainly one to remember. As the theme of the evening was inspired by *The Great Gatsby*, the atrium was beautifully adorned and had an air of the Roaring Twenties through the lighting and décor. Notwithstanding, the food, music and environment made the evening an exciting and fun night for all who attended.

The guests began appearing at six o'clock. Shortly after, the dance floor was booming as DJ Rawwr provided a wide variety of musical selections. The students, along with staff members, danced to Latin music, electronic dance, hip-hop, pop, and more.

The DJ created a nice balance of each genre so that each individual had the opportunity to show off his or her dance moves. As a result, the colorful flashing lights, the music, the movements, and the unity while dancing with the crowd was incredible. At one point, while the song "How Deep is Your Love" played, confetti was released above the crowd of euphoric dancers. Overall, the dance scene was lively and enjoyable.

The food was also noteworthy. A buffet-styled ethnic dinner was available for students in the cafeteria, which was also adorned with enchanting lights. For just five dollars, the students were able to enjoy generous servings of different cultural dishes, including diverse styles of rice, pork, chicken, etc. Also, the buffet line was painless; guests were able to eat their dinner whenever they chose, so the line remained relatively short the entire night.

December 8, 2015 was a remarkable night for all who attended this year's homecoming dance. There wasn't a dull moment thanks to the music, the tireless crowd, and the lively spirits of the guests. A sincere "thank you" is owed to the staff and members of the senior class who worked diligently to make this night enjoyable; all expectations were surpassed. Everyone was dressed beautifully, countless pictures were taken, and memories were made.



VOLTAGE

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