Seniors show school spirit during spirit week.

By Alexis Campbell

Senior year at Franklin High School is the final chapter for these bright students, then they're on their way to start their lives. So why not cherish those moments by participating in senior spirit week with their friends? Each year seniors did different themes for the week. This year they included, Matching Monday, Toga Tuesday, Whiteout Wednesday, Tropical Thursday, and Freedom Friday.

Spirit Week at Franklin High has been a tradition for years. The days are decided by the student government. Many students look forward to this week, so they can show school spirit! Senior spirit week is important for a lot of seniors because it's the year that they graduate. This is something they've been waiting for since freshman year. Grades 9-11 have different spirit themes which makes senior spirit week memorable.

Senior Gabby Miranda participated in senior spirit week with a smile. According to Miranda, “This week means that I have finally made it to be a senior. Senior season baby!” Many people had different thoughts on senior spirit week. Senior Sophie Freedmen said, “It’s like a specific Halloween.” Not many seniors said they would want to change anything about senior spirit week. Although, senior Robert Garrett said, “Senior week should be longer because the fun would be extended!”

This event that happens one week out of the school year has a big impact on many senior students. Many participate in this event to show their school spirit and have fun with it! Even though it is their last year as a high school student they take advantage of this week for the last time. As senior Olivia Parks would say, “It’s my last year since I’m a senior so I have to go wild!”

Franklin High holds first pep rally in 10 years

By Seth Craven

For the first time in almost a decade, Franklin High School conducted a school-wide Pep Rally on Friday, Sept. 28 on the school’s football field. Members of the school’s Student Government Association (SGA) “pushed hard” for the event to be allowed back in Franklin High after a long wait. For years, many students have questioned why we have not held events like this, and during the week leading up to the Pep Rally there was a definite buzz growing amongst students. In preparation for the weekend’s Homecoming dance and football game, the entire Franklin student body gathered on and around the football field and participated in multiple games and events in order to raise school spirit.

The Pep Rally began with introductions of all the school’s Fall sports teams, with the varsity football team coming out last and getting the biggest response by far. For the rest of the day, students from each grade participated in team games, such as Tug-O-War and a Three-Legged Race. Many Franklin students had a mixed responses to the pep rally – with many being appreciative of the efforts made to put the event together, while others believed it to be a “waste of time.” A handful of seniors left early, but as a whole the senior class actually led the school in getting the most hyped and excited. Even with a large amount of mixed feelings on the Pep Rally, there was a large amount of anticipation for the football game and Homecoming dance at the end of the day.
Franklin High School hosted their annual Homecoming Dance and Parade on Saturday, Sept. 29th. The parade was open to everyone, as all Fall Sports and clubs participated in the parade.

THE PARADE

Who doesn’t like to watch a fun parade? People were especially drawn to the exciting attractions, as well as family, friends, or people they know who were in it. The parade started at 9am, along Cherry Hill Road between Treeline Drive and Reisterstown Road. All 2018 Fall Sports participated as well as JROTC, the administration, and even Franklin Middle School. They had little “floats” with different attractions and people riding on them. Sophomore D’Ayona Wester said, “The parade should start later, so more people can see it.” The parade started early because the homecoming dance is held later that night. It gives people a little more time to get themselves together.

THE DANCE

The Homecoming dance theme was Enchanted Forest. The Student Government Association (SGA) was the main root of the activities. They helped decorate and sold the tickets for the dance, which were $20 (perfect attendance discounted price was $18). To purchase a ticket, students needed money and their student ID. Friends from other schools could attend the dance if a ticket was purchased for them. Senior Jalonche Hawkins said, “It was fun.”

The dance started at 7pm and ended at 10pm. Students were not allowed in after 9pm, but overall there was a lot of people at both events. Senior Kasey Hall suggested that the school should “make sure everyone is having fun and being safe at the same time. Bring lots of water or liquids, so you won’t be so drained or tired.” All advice is useful in preparing for next year. In general, both the parade and dance were a huge success.

And The Winners Are....!

By Lili Stokes

Homecoming king and queen is a way for the students to express themselves. It’s not just something that is given to you, you must earn the title.

Two weeks before Homecoming, students begin nominating themselves on social media and around the school. The potential nominees tell other students to repost their flier, so more students see it. The week of homecoming, English teachers pass out a nomination slip to all their students which says to write in grade level and individual nominations for male and female court. After they are given back to the homecoming director, Ms. Scannell, she counts the votes to see which 3 people got the most nominations. Those people then move on to the official Homecoming ballot.

Homecoming was Sept. 29th, along with other homecoming activities including the homecoming parade and the powder puff game. About half-way through the Homecoming dance, the DJ stopped the music and Ms. Scannell asked for a drum roll; she then proceeded to announce the King and Queen for 9th grade and then continued in chronological order. The King and Queen for the freshman class were Sterling Fiorenza and Alyssa Frazier. The winners for the sophomore class were Ben Suffel and Mallory Stein, but unfortunately Mallory couldn’t receive her crown and sash. The winners for the junior class were Azariah Williams and Sire Hopkins, and the winners for senior class were Chudi Chika and Katie Israel. Congratulations on your win!
Homecoming Spirit Week
By Kameron Mishoe

The new school year has started, and it’s in full swing. What better way to get students excited than spirit week? Leading up to the big Homecoming game and dance, students were very excited. There was a different theme for each day of the week leading up to Homecoming. Monday was Pajama Day; Tuesday was Twin Day; Wednesday was Class Color Wars; Thursday was Throwback Thursday; and Friday was School Colors.

Spirit Week started off with a bang. Most of our students did a very good job participating in Pajama Day. It was a very fun and comfortable way to show school spirit while seeing other people’s cool & unique pajamas. On Twin Tuesday, there were many twins roaming down the halls at Franklin. The group of girls in pink pictured are seniors at Franklin High this year, and they were celebrating in such a fun way. Wednesday was Grade Color Wars - the freshman wore blue; the sophomores wore red; the juniors wore black; and seniors wore white.

Thursday was none other than the iconic day that everyone loves, Throwback Thursday. Everyone from students to faculty dressed up for this day. “I think it was fun for the teachers because it really takes us back to the 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s where all of us grew up. So, I know the teachers had a fun time bringing back our style and what was popular in our day,” said theatre teacher, Ms. Wahba.

Lastly, Friday was School Spirit day, where all students dressed up in their Franklin gear. At the end of the day we got to celebrate our Franklin pride and our fall sports teams and coaches at the Fall Pep Rally. “Spirit week has probably been the most fun week I’ve had at Franklin,” said junior Keegan Logie.
Franklin Mock Trial: Making Memories, One Big City at a Time

By Jenifer Fridman

“You never know when a moment in time is going to become an unforgettable memory, and then it just happens.” Junior Nada Abdalla used these words to describe the Franklin High School Mock Trial Team’s trip to Atlanta, Georgia for their second year competing in the Empire Atlanta International Mock Trial competition. The team came into Atlanta with positive attitudes, high hopes, and amazing results.

Empire Mock Trial is the most competitive of mock trial competitions across the country. Teams must be invited to go and meet all requirements. They hold three competitions yearly in New York, Atlanta, and San Francisco, but something about the environment (and the Waffle House) in Atlanta kept drawing FHS back to this particular place. In Atlanta, Franklin competes with some of the best Mock Trial teams in the country. There are state-championship winning teams as well as individually recognized Mock Trial competitors, which to most people would seem intimidating, but the seniors on the team think differently. The seniors believe that the underdog feeling most public schools would get at a competition like this is the driving force which pushes Franklin Mock Trial to want to win even more. Senior Maddie Ballan said, “Something about everyone thinking they can beat you just because of where you go to school makes you want to prove them wrong all in itself.”

Now, although Franklin did not disappoint in their results, placing 3rd out of 32, the highlight of the experience was not just the competition itself. Ballan said, “Our team is a family. Sure, winning is fun, but even when you’re losing, as long as you have people around you that make you smile and laugh, you can’t help but be happy.” The Seniors told stories of their family meals at Chick-Fil-A, the CNN center, and Waffle House, as well as of their team pep talks, hanging out in the hotel, going to the aquarium, and even just talking and laughing at the airport. “Something that sets us apart from other teams is how much we all know we need each other to succeed, and how easy it is for us to accept that since we all care so deeply for one another, not only as teammates, but as friends,” said Ballan. The students explained that this trip brought them all closer together, and expressed their high hopes for the season to come.
Clubs at FHS!
By Zach Simons

Here at Franklin High School, there are a ton of after school clubs. For a student who wants to get involved, there are clubs for a variety of interests. Clubs are a great way to build up your resume while having fun at the same time. Each club must have a teacher advisor, and depending on the club they might have student leaders.

The first category of clubs is science club. Science National Honors Society is advised by Mrs. Boruta in room 22 and meets one Thursday a month. Science Olympiad is advised by Ms. Nemoto and meets in room 33. Robotics club is advised by Ms. Nemoto as well.

The second category is language. English National Honors Society is advised by Mr. Showalter and meets in room 103. French National Honors Society is advised by Ms. Washburn in room 16. Spanish National Honors Society is advised by Ms. Gallagher in room 18.

The third category is religious clubs. Jewish Student Union is ran by Mordi Spero and meets in the engineering room. They meet Monday nights from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Starbucks in Pikesville. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets in the annex gym.

Franklin Laptops!
By Jacob McCarthy

Baltimore County Public Schools have taken a huge leap forward in advancing the school’s technology. Each student is now bringing home their county-loaned laptop. In order for the students to receive these brand-new computers, the students needed a signature from their parents or guardians. Franklin High students’ thoughts and feelings regarding the new laptops varies from person to person.

Junior Gabe Kingslinger was asked how he felt about the change from books to laptops, “It’s much easier to pull out a single computer rather than using multiple notebooks and novels.” Sophomore Kyle Sasser and Junior Benjamin Murphy both agreed that the new computers were “inefficient” and “inconsistent.” Another student who wanted to remain anonymous said, “the computers are forcing us to carry around the laptops and make our backpacks heavier.”

With the computers being given to the students, the use of books and paper are being moved in a different direction. The students will have to adapt and advance their knowledge of new technology.
Samudio Tells a Story of the Stress She is Under but the Stress is Worth the Reward in the End

By Kasson Williams

Esmeralda Samudio is currently a senior at Franklin High School, and her run for state president of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) was no spur of the moment decision. She was elected as chapter president in her junior year, and that motivated her to run for state president.

Samudio advises anyone who wishes to, to become part of the FBLA. Of her new role, she says that has been very stressful, planning events and speaking publicly in front of thousands of people. "I am kept busy, and there is little time for rest, but" Samudio added, "I enjoy my job, so it’s all worth it.”

Several sources also confirmed that they thought the job to be a difficult one, “what with all the planning you have to do”, said junior Erisa George and “that much public speaking must be difficult, especially in front of so many people,” said junior Ayanni Hurt. "I couldn’t even begin to put myself in Samudio’s shoes,” said senior Kelly Rice.

Why You Should Be a Part of the Largest Student Business Organization

By Esmeralda Samudio, Maryland
FBLA State President

What is FBLA?

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the largest business career student organization in the world. FBLA’s goals are to develop competent, aggressive business leadership, strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work, create interest and understanding of American business enterprise, develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism, encourage and practice efficient money management, encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty, assist students in the establishment of occupational goals and facilitate the transition from school to work.

Apart from all of the benefits FBLA provides for its students, members of FBLA can travel across the country and participate in informational workshops.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

FBLA National Fall Leadership Conference

Students and advisers participate in motivational general sessions, professional development, and career planning workshops. For many FBLA members, the NFLCs are a convenient and affordable way to experience much of the education and excitement of a National Leadership Conference, but closer to home. When: Fall.

2018 FBLA National Fall Leadership Conferences

Chicago, Illinois (Nov. 2–3)
Albuquerque, New Mexico (Nov. 9–10)
Charlotte, North Carolina (Nov. 16–17)

State Leadership Conferences (SLC)

SLCs feature competitive events and elections. Competitive event winners earn the opportunity to compete at the National Leadership Conference. Contact your state adviser for details. When: Spring.

National Leadership Conference

FBLA-Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) members have the competitive edge, as the best and brightest of FBLA and PBL convene to compete in leadership events, share their successes, and learn new ideas about shaping their career future through workshops and exhibits. This four-day conference is considered the pinnacle of the FBLA-PBL experience, especially for those running for national office. FBLA-PBL has forged partnerships with industry leaders to underwrite competitive events and scholarships for students achieving national ranking. When: Summer.

Institute for Leaders

Held in conjunction with the National Leadership Conference, this high-energy, intensive, two-day seminar is a focused, leadership experience for state and local chapter officers, as well as members and advisers. This training conference prepares student leaders and members to assume their elected responsibilities and develop valuable life skills. When: Summer, during NLC.

If you are still not convinced take a look at these student testimonials:

“Why did you join FBLA?”
Senior Max Sparks said, “I joined because my friends said they had fun at the New York trip and I wanted to go.”

Junior Max Holzman said, “I joined FBLA because I heard that FBLA was a great organization and it can help with your future and build my college resume.”

Junior Hayden Paige said, “I wanted to learn more about business and FBLA had the resources for me to grown me knowledge and interest in business. I would recommend FBLA to anyone that asked me. I’m so glad I joined.”

Senior Jenifer Fridman said, “I like to talk to people and FBLA events are a great place to network and meet new people.”
What Does Football Mean to You?

By Giovanni Parks

“An estimated 1.2 million football-related injuries are sustained annually,” according to San Francisco Spine Institute at Seton Medical Center in Daly City, California. Football is a contact sport which can lead to critical injuries. Common football injuries include hamstring sprain, ACL injury, knee ligament injuries, rotator cuff strains, ankle sprains, Achilles tendonitis, jumpers knee, shin splints, and metatarsal stress fracture. This is an important problem Franklin High School should be concerned about. Injuries like these can really affect student’s health.

Former Franklin High School football player Noah Lewis now plays at Calabasas High School. He plays right guard on the offensive line. He’s been playing football for 11 years now. He had a concussion caused by playing football. He said, “It really hurts, and it limits your physical activity.” He said that “injuries can affect your mental stability in a negative way.”

Lewis said that football “is a very physical sport especially at this position.” An offensive lineman must protect the quarterback and his other teammates by blocking. Blocking is very physical because he is in contact with his opponent every single play. This is very dangerous because it could lead to a lot more injuries because of the contact. Injuries cannot be stopped even though players have all that equipment used to protect them.

Injuries really play a critical role for Franklin High School football. Parents don’t want to see their children dealing with health issues especially at an early age. There have also been players that ended their careers due to injury. For example, Inky Johnson was a former college football player that played for University of Tennessee. Johnson went in for a tackle, and he fell onto the ground. He was rushed to the hospital. His doctor stated that he severely damaged his nerves in his right arm causing him not to be able to use his arm the same ever again. The doctor also stated that he’s not going to be able to play football anymore. This affected him emotionally, mentally, and physically because he wanted to continue playing football. Athletes still play football despite the risks and possible negative outcomes. Injuries should be a topic with considerably more attention than it currently gets.

By Nakira Boyd

Approximately, 5 billion dollars is put into youth sports with about 45 million kids between the ages 8-16 participating in sports in the US. Children are interested in just about any sport. The most recognized sport everyone knows about is football. Schools have football teams from elementary, middle, and high school. What attracts children to play football?

Is it the thrill of knocking your opponent off their feet? Let’s answer these questions. Jalen Johnson attends and plays football for Woodlawn High School, and Daquan Quinn attended and played football for Mervo High School. Both players understand the thrill and dream of football. Johnson said, “It’s a way to get my head straight, to release the pain from the struggles I went through as a small child. Mainly to prove to everyone that doubted me, I can be someone’s role model.” From his perspective, football isn’t just a sport, but holds more meaning behind the sport.

Quinn said his dream behind football was success. According to usafootball.com, “We live in a society where an increasing number of children are inactive.” Johnson responded to this claim by saying, “To my knowledge, I’ve always seen my teammates improve on running up and down hills. I see weight changes in me also, I used to be 300 pounds. Now, I’m all muscle with a weight of 230. So yes, I do agree on that information.”

Quinn said most people on his team aren’t overweight because during tryouts the coach is hard on them. He does agree that some coaches go easy to their teams, so it’s an easy way to lose weight, which makes people get more involved in football. Football has an impact on children who may not have anything to look forward to. The other reason why kids play football is entirely because their role model plays and well... the check too.
Franklin JV Football Kicks Off New Season

By Evan Ternent

Franklin High School’s junior varsity football team faced Woodlawn high school’s football team in the toughest matchup of the season yet.

The game against Woodlawn was the first of two games of the season. It went into overtime with the score tied at 14, then Franklin scored the winning touchdown. “It was a very tough game,” said sophomore Sam Canapp.

This was the first win for season for the JV team. Canapp described it as “a very good start.”

Franklin’s second game was canceled due to the high heat, so their second game was supposed to their third game. The second game was supposed to be against Du- matha, and the team was very excited. Instead, the game was against Kenwood High School and was a blowout. The score was 39-0, and Canapp described it as an “easy game.”

So far, the JV team has played very well as a team. Both games were wins for the team, and they are now maintaining a record of 2-0.

Franklin Boys Golf Shows Great Potential

By Andrew Gersh

When the season was approaching, there was a huge anticipation for the Boys Golf team at Franklin High School due to their top-10 Baltimore County finisher and the fact that there were no seniors in the starting lineup last year. According to this, the team was only growing.

As the season kicked off, the team started with a win against Catonsville and PatapSCO. This was crucial for the start of the season, however, the next match the team suffered a devastating defeat against Dulaney. According to junior Reid Jones, “Dulaney has the best team in the county (going by talent) but we are up there as well.”

At this point, realistically, this was how the team hoped the season would be going: everyone playing decent, winning to most, but lost a hard fought match to the best team. The team’s next challenge was Towson High School which is highly regarded at the school’s rivalry. The team played well, and they won by only a 3-stroke differential. The team was in a really good position heading into one of the toughest opponents, Perry Hall. Perry Hall had two top-10 finishers last season, and they were both returning students. After a long match in the rain, the team was topped 177-163.

The scoring system is relatively new for the county. Now, there are five starters, and the top four scores are counted and added up to make the team score. Whoever has the lowest team score, wins. This means that the competition between individual golfers has been more or less removed, and this is a huge issue in some people’s minds. Junior starter Kobe Pinsky said, “when playing a match it does not even feel like we have an opponent, so there is no competitive vibe.” Also, another issue is the fact that none of the matches matter besides for practice because every team can still compete in the County Championships and can compete to qualify for states in the District Championship.

Moving forward, October is the biggest month yet. The team has the senior night match against Hereford, and then soon after that, they have the County and District Championships where they can see how they compare to other golfers in Baltimore County and even more importantly, the entirety of the state of Maryland.
Apple Looks to Catch up to Samsung in Phone Race

By Zack Ziman

Apple announced the iPhone XR, XS, and XS Max were set to replace 2017’s iPhone X in the upcoming months. Apple is a powerhouse in the phone industry but needs to have a successful release in order to compete with Samsung to be the #1 seller.

The XR features an all-new Liquid Retina display alongside the most powerful chip in a smartphone. Coming in at $749, this will be the cheapest of the three new iPhones. The biggest downside about this phone is that the display is not OLED like the previous iPhones and will be unable to play videos in Full HD 1080p.

The XS has a 5.8-inch display alongside a dual camera 12-megapixel lens camera. The phone will come in the colors gold, silver, and space gray. This phone is an updated version of the iPhone X due to its similar design but faster processing. The phone comes in at the same price as the prior iPhone X at $999.

The XS max has the same specs as the XS besides the massive 6.5-inch display that it will feature. Larger displays have been a trend in the smartphone community, and Apple made sure to capitalize on this. The new phone will be Apple’s most expensive with a $1,099 price tag.

The Franklin community has had mixed feelings on Apple’s newest iPhones. Junior Brett Friebush believes that “Apple’s price tag is too high on their new iPhones and will turn many people away from the product. I have $6 to my name, so getting a new iPhone seems unrealistic for me.” Senior Anya Litofsky recently bought the iPhone and said, “I do not remember how I functioned without my new iPhone. I love it so much, and it is way better than what I used to have.”

The consensus on Apple’s products is that they are top of the line technology but have a price tag that is too big for many people.

White House Representatives Excited for Space Expansion

By Luqman Ssengo

Everyone’s taking a deeper look into the military’s newest incorporation, examining how the latest decision for Space Force has come about, and how it will or will not be successfully established, as well as pointing out the obstacles standing before the proposal. For the latest presidential idea proposed, the already high funded U.S. military has a big weight on its shoulders. Facing the priority of starting a whole new branch, the military wants to expand into space.

The idea of the Military Space Force was presented back in the ‘90s, when Senator Bob Smith of New Hampshire first broached the subject. The idea was recently brought about again by President Donald Trump. The U.S Air Force is the largest and most technological air force in the world, so Trump believes this multi-billion dollar task shouldn’t be out of reach. Expected by 2020, two years might be just the right amount of time to complete the requirements.

Only Congress can make it happen in the face of economic and safety concerns. With various bills and votes that have to be passed, congress has the last call. Cautionary is the only term to explain Congress’s appeal to the subject of the new Space Force. With complex other branches, the U.S. military might have its hands full and not be fully focused. On the other hand, the military and Trump see Congress as the only thing in the way, ultimately putting them at odds.

Space has changed significantly in the last generation. With other nations exploring space, it has become more crowded and adversarial. The Pentagon won’t wait for Congress. Defense officials are drafting a legislative plan. The Pentagon will begin working on the Space Force before official approval, thus causing more problems with Congress.
Brett Kavanaugh’s Scandalous Past

By Doug Ditto

President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh on July 9th, 2018 did not seem very controversial at the time of its announcement. However, on September 14th Dr. Christine Blasey Ford came forward anonymously in an article with The New Yorker, accusing Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her at a party in 1982. These allegations have put a major road block in the path to Kavanaugh’s confirmation to the Supreme Court.

In the wake of the allegations, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a daylong hearing on Capitol Hill, in which both Kavanaugh and Blasey Ford gave testimonies in front of and were questioned by Senators and prosecutor Rachel Mitchell. During a long and emotional day of testimonies, each side told a contradictory version of events regarding the 1982 party. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted to send the nomination on to the full Senate, but with a provision that no vote would be taken until the conclusion of a weeklong FBI investigation of the party and the accusations.

Following Ford’s allegations, two other women have come forward with similar claims against Kavanaugh. These allegations will not be included in the FBI investigation, as that pertains strictly to alleged assault of Dr. Ford. On Friday, October 5th, the Senate voted to advance Kavanaugh’s nomination by a vote of 51 to 49.

This has also brought a discussion around the country as to whether crimes alleged to have happened in high school should affect someone’s professional career. Junior Justin Magaziner said “The importance of the job is what determines whether a crime committed in high school should influence a person’s professional career. If interviewing for a position at McDonald’s, then there should be no issues. However, when talking about the Supreme Court, one of the most important jobs in the country, it should be brought into the conversation and strongly impact whether his nomination is confirmed.”

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