

Seniors place third in class competitions

By Sydney Mathis

Class competitions in PMHS are very big—the canned-food drive, the penny wars, the hallway decorating and the homecoming championship. Each competition happens at different times throughout the year.

The canned-food drive lasts a week and over that week-span each class is encouraged to bring in as many canned-food items as possible. They are also permitted to bring boxed food items, or toiletries. Each year there is a bonus item that is worth more points, like this year for example, the bonus item was boxed cereal.

Penny Wars also takes place over the span of a week. It is ran by the National Honors Society. The scoring works like this: all pennies are positive points. If students bring in silver coins, those turn your score negative. Whichever class has the most positive points at the end of the week wins.

The hallway decorating is only one aspect of our homecoming week. The classes are assigned a section of a hallway and are given a theme. They get to use paint, paper, markers and really anything they can find to transform that hallway into that theme. Students then can act as if they're a part of that theme and create a small performance. Then, a select number of teachers come to walk through their hallway toward the end of homecoming week.

Senior vice-president **Karly Fraker** organizes all of the class competitions and choreographs the dances. The class competitions mean a great deal to her.

"I'd say it is actually all I think about—over the summer, I was already thinking about homecoming ideas I could do," said Fraker. "I was thinking about the dance off months in advance."

Senior student-body president **Raul Moreno** has also contributed a great deal of time and effort into the class competitions all four years.

"I had to let go of my dignity with my songs and my advertisements to get people more engaged," said Moreno. "I had to put in a lot of detail to everything I did."

Not only are the competitions important for Moreno and Fraker, but for the rest of the school. More people participate in the class competitions than any other activities.

"I enjoy watching people that aren't that involved in school grow that way and be apart of something," said Moreno.

The seniors have bounced back and forth in the placings of these class competitions.

"I have choreographed the class dance for two years in a row," said senior **Maddy Morwick**. "We ended up winning last year."

Some seniors tried to incorporate outside connections to help their class succeed like **Bri Hendrix**.

"My freshman year the bonus items were toothpaste and shampoo, and my mom knows a Colgate representative. I was able to get into contact with her, and she donated an incredible amount of toothpaste, toothbrushes and mouthwash."

Having connections outside of the school is not the only

way students can participate in the competitions.

"My friends and I like to go door-to-door to collect cans," said Hendrix. "It is a good way to show the community that Perry cares and wants to give back."

Seniors have different favorites when it comes to different class competitions.

"Hallway decorating is my favorite because I like the design aspect of it and how your ideas become tangible in the end," said Fraker.

Hendrix had a different favorite.

"I like the canned-food drive because the winner doesn't get a tangible prize, but we get the satisfaction of knowing that everything donated is going back to help our community," said Hendrix.

Seniors agree that the most important part of the class competitions is not who wins, but rather the experience and the cause.

"I learned how to stop being a pushover have fun in the midst of all the chaos that is going on," said Fraker.

Moreno agrees, "I learned to interact with new people, stop being so bossy and focus on the goal as a whole."

Morwick and senior **Luke Greenwood** both agree that it is not the outcome of the competitions that is most important, but rather the memories you gain.

"Class competitions are so iconic for Perry Meridian because instead of competing with other schools, we are competing with each other, building ourselves up from the inside," said Moreno.



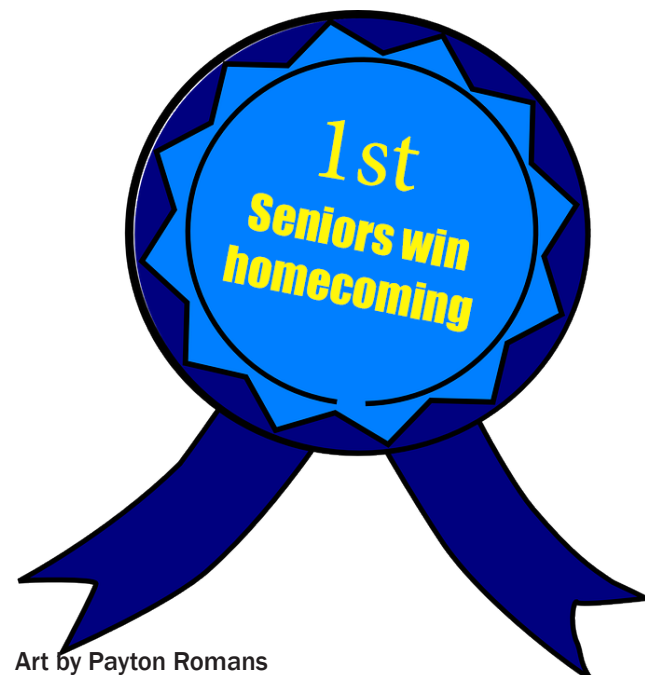
Senior Jacey Scales participates in the winter pep session, where the varsity cheerleaders teamed up with the wrestlers to perform a choreographed number (Photo by Alexis Lee).



Senior Purseh Gbadyu gets ready to power sophomore Maria Miller in her push cart, representing the Creative Writing Club (Photo by Alexis Lee).



Seniors send out their strongest representatives to compete in the tug of war competition at the homecoming extravaganza, coming out victorious by coming in first (Photo by Alexis Lee).



Art by Payton Romans