



- 1. Junior **Akira Lopez** sings in AcaPella after the boys song, "Can't Touch This." "I was surprised. I didn't think we would get a theme this year," said **Lopez**.
- 2. The AcaPella show choir girls perform during the Parent Preview. "The energy we got from our audience really helped us perform," said senior **Ashlynn Sanders**. "It gave us a boost of adrenaline."
- 3. Freshman **Olivia Hood** sings a solo during the Bravo performance at the Parent Preview. "I was always reassured with the support from Bravo and Aca after our shows," said **Hood**.

PARENT PREVIEW: SHOW CHOIR STARTS STRONG

Show choir's AcaPella and Bravo gave their first public performance in front of friends and family.

Bravo's theme was "Work Hard; Play Harder." The message was what seems impossible can happen when one works persistently to reach that goal. AcaPella's show, 'Frozen Heart,' was about learning to love again.

"Our theme was different from anything else we have done. I was kind of skeptical, but I'm glad I stuck it out," said senior **Mason Holland**.

Holland didn't think that the group was prepared for their first public performance, considering they did not practice with the band beforehand.

On the other hand, senior **Ella VanZee** felt confident going into AcaPella's parent night performance.

"It was a very strong first performance, and it felt good to perform in front of an audience," said **VanZee**.

BE YOU: Q&A WITH ABYGAIL SCHURING



Q: How would you describe your art? What does it aim to say?

A: I would describe my art as very colorful and playful. Some people would even consider my style as an 'anime' style. My message for my art is simply to be yourself.

Q: What inspires you to do your art?

A: I've taken a lot of inspiration from a close friend of mine 'Punniz' that lives in Thailand.

Q: Why are most of your subjects female?

A: Most artists, or even beginning artists, can agree that its easier to draw the gender that they identify with. Most of my subjects are female because I am female and because I see them everyday. I know my proportions.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to say?

A: If there is anything I can say, don't be afraid to break the social norms. Who cares what anyone thinks? This is high school and no one cares as soon as you're in the real world.

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WIN AGAINST DMC

● Left: The girls' varsity basketball team celebrates a win against Des Moines Christian. "After Kylie got the block on defence, we were freaking out," said sophomore **Eliza VanZee**. "We were all holding our breath and just praying that the layup would go in."

● Below: The student section cheers on the girls basketball team during the close game against DMC.



The varsity girls' basketball team played against the 2nd ranked team Des Moines Christian on January 19. It was a close game and was won by a layup in the last seconds of the game.

"The DMC game was a battle, and every minute was intense, so every play contributed to the last one. After one of the last timeouts, my teammates were very positive and encouraging

which helped going back onto the court," said senior **Faith Diers**. "We were just kind of passing the ball around looking for the open person, and with a few seconds left, I drove off the pass and shot the ball with full confidence."

Senior **Madison Naig** had tied up the game at 46 points in the last two minutes. She led Pella with 21 points this game.

After beating DMC, Pella's record was 7-6.

"This season has had its ups and downs," said **Diers**. "There have been many close games that we have let slip away from us in the last quarter that we know we could have won. I enjoy every second with the other girls though, and we are continuing to grow as a team."

● **Emma Chervek** and **Josh Mayhem** pose with their mentors **Geoff Buchanan** and **Jess Williams**. **Joe Roberts** taught with **Bryant Hancock**.



STUDENT TEACHERS

PHS had several student teachers at the beginning of second semester. **Josh Mayhem** worked with **Geoff Buchanan**, **Joe Roberts** worked with **Bryant Hancock**, **Sam Watts** worked with **Taaf Vermeulen**, and **Emma Chervek** worked with **Jessica Williams**.

"It was a really interesting year to have a student teacher because we are doing so many things differently," said **Williams**. "Trying to work with her on how to engage students when we can't do all of the same learning techniques that are up and out of your seat or working with different partners was difficult."

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WHAT DID YOU DO ON YOUR SNOWDAY?



"I went sledding with da freaking boys. We hit the slopes, then had a group fist fight on the pond." -Sophomore **Luke Fairchild**



"I took the transmission out of an old Ford Ranger. I then proceeded to do all four wheel breaks on an old Pontiac, and finally to clear snow." -Sophomore **Luke VanEssen**.