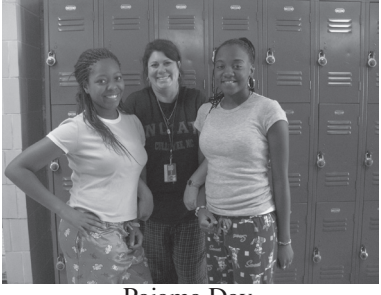



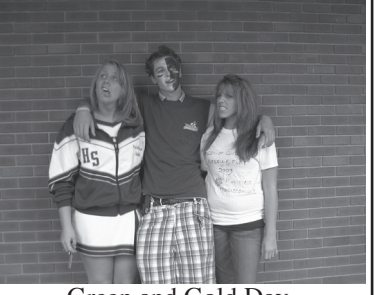


# THE PATRIOT

Volume 040 Issue 002 Pinecrest High School 250 Voit Gilmore Lane Southern Pines, NC 28387 910.692.6554 October 2008

## PATRIOT PANDEMONIUM

Spirit Week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
Pajama Day	Character Day	Wacky Tacky Day	Blast from the Past Day	Green and Gold Day

Photos by Maegan Caliri

and Sarah Lewis

### Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest '08 proved to be another hit for Pinecrest and the many clubs and organizations that participated in the event. Students were able to partake in a variety of activities including indulging tasty treats provided by Key Club, Interact and French Club (to name a few), putting their skills to test in a dance-off with the PHS cheerleaders, competing in the dodge ball or ping pong tournaments, sending members of the Patriot staff plunging into a tank of water or even casting their "mock" votes for the next President of the United States with the Young Republicans.

In the past, Pinecrest has provided its students the opportunity to buy a shirt to remember the day, but last year's celebration actually lost money with the addition of t-shirts, leading to the decision to eliminate these souvenirs, a choice some students feel was wrong.

Ultimately, Oktoberfest was another success: keeping students entertained, giving teachers a break, raising money for the school, and confirming the occasion to be a great addition to the 2008 homecoming week.

by Andrea Smith



Photo by Alexis Gibson

The Marching Patriots, above, show their school spirit at the annual homecoming parade.

### Parade Meets Expectations

This year's homecoming parade was held on October 16 in downtown Southern Pines. The parade hosted a number of Pinecrest organizations, including JROTC, SGA, the step team, French club, cross country, men's soccer, Skills USA, Key Club, the cheerleaders, Miss Pinecrest (Kaylee Baker), the varsity football team, and the PHS marching band.

Being the second year the parade has been held since the Senior Caravan (which replaced the homecoming parade tradition years ago), the turnout was great, according to Homecoming Parade Coordinator Mrs. Kristin Blue.

"We just hope it continues to grow every year," Blue said.

With twenty-eight entries from Pinecrest clubs, the parade lasted a good twenty-five minutes. Every club had something different to offer. The step team performed various step combinations for spectators, while the soccer team saw fit to chant, "Whoaaa," every time there was a pause in the parade. In addition, the football team proclaimed their love for football, and various clubs on floats tossed candy to the crowd.

by Alexis Gibson

### Homecoming Dance: Behind the Scenes

Usually after any kind of school dance, the main topic on everyone's minds is that of the dancing. Well, in order to avoid being redundant, this time the homecoming dance article focuses on what goes on "behind the scenes," rather than what grade level had the raunchiest dance style.

The homecoming committee is made up of members from the student government, with senior Morgan Zoellner as the current

chair. They are in charge of all aspects of organizing the dance, from picking a theme to negotiating a deal on the venue. For many, being held responsible for such a widely attended event would be somewhat overwhelming, but the students involved handled it with finesse and succeeded in pulling off a night that many found unforgettable.

Due to scheduling difficulties, this year's dance saw a change of setting.

Traditionally, the homecoming dance takes place at Pine Needles Country Club, but it was already booked for a wedding. No worries, this little glitch actually turned out to be better in the long run. Since Pine Needles was already occupied, the SGA rented out both halls of the Elks Club, which can accommodate more people. This increase of space led to the allowance of cheaper tickets because more could be sold; and of course everyone

knows, cheaper is always better for the perpetually broke student body!

This year's dance also saw the return to a true homecoming. Usually, the dance has a special theme, like a "black and white affair" or last year's Masquerade-style ball. For 2008, however, the student council decided to stick true to homecoming form and have a "Partiot Pride" themed dance.

by Sarah Lewis

### Homecoming Court Report

And the winners are.....

**Homecoming Queen Tolisha Covington**

Senior Princess Meredith Potter

Junior Princess Kiki Baldwin

Sophomore Princess Mary Bennett

Freshman Princesses Heather Brock and Travana Williams

by Natassia Saquilan

### Quotable Quote

"Life's just a story that goes on, as you turn the pages... but it's what you do that makes those pages worth turning and worth remembering."

-Angela Hutchins

### Party Poopers



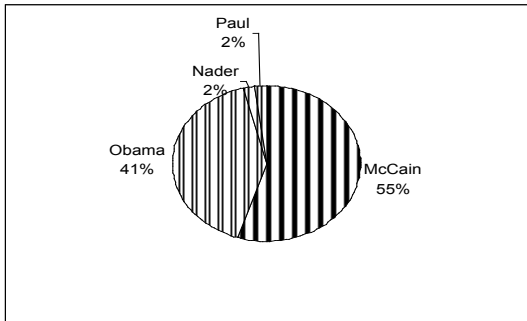
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## Presidential Election 2008



At Oktoberfest, Pinecrest's Student Government Association members polled those in attendance regarding the most supported presidential candidate. Although not by a large margin, the majority was definitely in favor of the Republican candidate, Senator John McCain.

by Maegan Caliri

### Featured Club: Young Republicans with Meredith Potter

Q: Who are the club officers?

A: "Our president is senior Kaylon Kirk, the vice president is senior Doli Campbell, I'm the secretary, senior Mary Wilkison is the treasurer, and the events coordinator is senior Patrick Crawley."

Q: What does the club plan to achieve this year?

A: "We will be heavily involved in the elections this November, endorsing candidates and working at the polls. We will also be hosting guest speakers, forums, and debates year long. This is a brand new club, so we're working to make it the best it can be!"

Q: When and where do you meet?

A: "We meet after school in Mrs. [Susan] Purvis' room 4101 or the media center for planning and meeting purposes. We also host forums and guest speakers."

Q: Why should more Pinecrest students join?

A: "Students with republican values should definitely consider being involved. It's an opportunity to be involved in politics and meet local leaders. We are learning about the political process, which is knowledge we can use all of our lives. You can sign up in Mrs. [Susan] Purvis' room!"

by Natassia Saquilan

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# Lifestyles

## Music to Our Ears

With their mellow acoustic instrumentals and heartfelt lyrics, it is no wonder For Tonite is taking the teen music scene by storm. For the past seven months, the duo has consisted of senior Scotland Shouse (guitar/lead vocals) and Brian Myers (vocals/keyboard), whose combined musical talents have resulted in a melancholic sound that embodies the emotional strains of relationships and heartbreak.

Arriving at the makeshift recording studio located in Shouse's house, the first signs of musical activity are the deafening blare of electric guitar and drums. The small room is covered in amplifiers and

Smithfield's barbeque - indications that the band is hard at work. Seeing my initial reaction, Shouse quickly reassures me: "Don't worry, this isn't what our music is like. This is just how we warm up before every session." True to his word, once their pent up energy has been released, Shouse and Myers settle down and play some samples of the acoustic power-pop melodies the band is known for.

One of the major challenges that bands face is, of course, writing songs. "Nearly all of our songs are about love and relationships," says Myers. The making of a song does not end there, however. "Sometimes, an idea for a song will come

## Positive Patsy

As a senior, I am so overwhelmed with the overload of college applications and the application process. What do I need to do in order to stay on track? Please help, I am freaking out!!!!

~Stressed Out Senior

In the words of Jesse McCartney: "Don't stress, don't stress, don't stress..." Seriously though, just stop and take a few deep breaths; everything is going to be fine.

The first step in easing the pain of your troubles is pinpointing which colleges are right for you. Once you find your top choices, websites such as [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.cfn.org](http://www.cfn.org) are prime resources to get more information about scholarships and tips on majors, financial aid, and the entire application process. Not only will websites like College Board help you sort out your issues with the application process, it will also give you guidelines for possible careers you might be interested in when selecting your major.

It is important that you mark your calendar for important dates, such as application deadlines or when scholarship information is due. As long as you maintain organization and stay focused, you will get through the process and soon enough find yourself submitting your deposit and packing your bags for the next chapter of your life.

While getting into college is a stressful and at times scary transition, remember that the majority of the senior class is going through the exact same thing; when all else fails, try talking about your application issues or asking your friends the questions you have. You might actually find that your friends have the same questions, and if this is the case, it is time to go to one of your teachers or counselors for help.

Good luck, and do not forget to stay positive!

Sincerely,

Positive Patsy

a.k.a

Lauren DonCanon



## Facts Snapple DOES NOT Tell You

- Polar bears are left-handed.
- Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.
- Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most stolen from Public Libraries.
- If coloring weren't added to Coca-Cola, it would be green.
- 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.

by Andrea Smith

to me during school. Then Brian and I will get together, write the guitar parts, revise the lyrics, and record it in my closet (it's soundproof)," explains Shouse.

Shows are the most important aspect of the music industry, and booking them is no easy task. This summer, the band went on a short tour with fellow bands Aniston, Divided By Friday, and Love & Reverie. "The feeling you get on stage is incredible. Your adrenaline is pumping, and yet somehow, you still feel comfortable," says Shouse. "Crowd participation is the best part. It's awesome when the people we're playing for know the lyrics to our songs." The band's next

show date is November 8 in Greensboro for the *Save the Arts* benefit show.

Even if you can not attend the shows, you can still check out For Tonite's music on their Myspace and support the band by buying one of their purple and yellow "For Tonite Loves You" shirts for twelve dollars. They will also be included on an East coast acoustic compilation CD called *Chill Out*, which will be hitting stores such as Wal-Mart, Best Buy, iTunes, and Napster in the late fall. For Tonite is quickly becoming one of the most popular local bands, so be sure to check them out.

by Caroline Corrigan



## Writing to Impress: College Essay Style

The deadline for early admission to most colleges is quickly approaching; how is your essay coming along? I know, you have been putting it off, or you whipped out that first draft but now cannot seem to make yourself go back and finalize it. Tomorrow. There is always tomorrow. Actually, there is not... so, stop procrastinating. Sit back, take a breath, and concentrate! Here are a few helpful hints to guide you on your way:

- First, stay focused. Answer the question and make sure you are actually writing about the topic you chose.

- Be personal and original. Try to write with creativity and style, and remember to be yourself. You are trying to get them to understand WHO you are, not just what you have done (or have not done, for that matter).
- Try talking. Write as if you were actually talking to them. Do not misunderstand me, take your essay seriously and focus on using appropriate words and correct grammar. What I am trying say is, add some flavor!
- Avoid clichéd and overly generic responses. Think outside the

box! Try writing something that you actually want to write about, something that you are passionate about, or will convey your personality. Do not try to write something you think that the admissions board wants to read because chances are, you are wrong.

- The introduction and conclusion are very important. The person reading your essay is not going to spend a lot of time on it. Therefore, it is important that you grab their attention with your intro. As for the conclusion, do

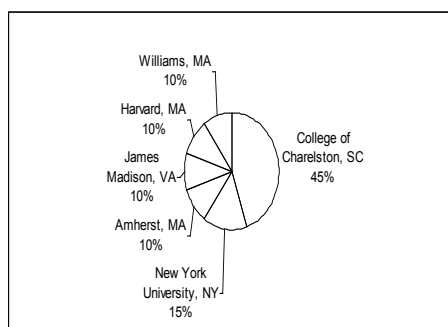
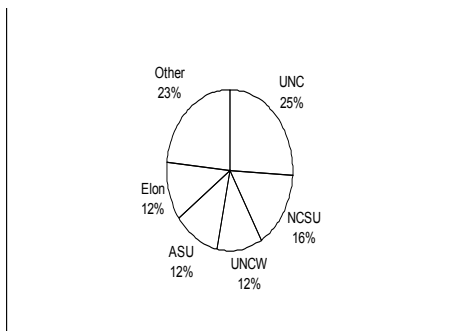
not just summarize everything you wrote. DUH! They just read your paper, you do not need to remind them of everything you said. This is your last chance to leave an impression, so make it count!

- Proofread and edit, then edit some more; have other people look over it and give you feedback. Revise, finalize, and send it off!
- Finally, forget about it. Stop stressing, you have done all you can, and now it is out of your hands.

by Sarah Lewis

## Where Are You Applying?

A survey of seniors revealed which colleges most were applying to. Here are the most popular in-state and out-of-state colleges:



by Heather Stallings

## Why IB?

Pinecrest has offered its students the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program since 2003, yet so few students this year—nine seniors and four juniors—are taking up the offer. While it does not seem to be a widely known or popular program here amongst Pinecrest's students, those who are in the program have much to say about it.

For senior Patrick Crawley, enrolling in the IB Program was a personal choice. "It looks good on college applications, and you have the volunteer hours that colleges look for," Crawley says. Every participant of the IB Program must fulfill a minimum of one hundred and fifty hours of volunteer work during their junior and senior year. Crawley also comments on the difference between IB and AP classes, saying that IB "has more freedom in what you learn about."

Another IB student, junior Jennie Thwaites, says she was somewhat worried when signing up. "I remember when my brother was in the IB Program," Thwaites says. "He would sometimes be up until 4 a.m. doing homework." Though her initial reaction was nervousness, Thwaites says she is enjoying the program and all of her IB classes.

To the underclassmen, Crawley definitely recommends the IB Program, and several students are already taking advantage of the IB Middle Years

Program (MYP), a program that prepares underclassmen for the actual IB Program.

Sophomore Patrick McLain and freshman Zamir Sealy are among these students, and both love MYP.

"[The IB Program] gives you highest qualifications," McLain says, "and looks very good on college applications." McLain admits that he prefers the MYP over normal classes, mostly because he believes that "regular classes don't get anything done and the students are always starting trouble."

Even as a freshman, Sealy also thrives to look appealing on college applications, and for him, the MYP is the first step in doing so. "I thought I would give myself a bit of a challenge. I don't settle for the ordinary," Sealy says.

Whether about to graduate or just starting off in high school, a variety of Pinecrest's students are being affected by the IB Program, and for all those sophomores: now is the time to consider.

by Alexis Gibson

## When OMG Meets SAT

Tests are a part of life and they can not be avoided. Perhaps the most infamous test of all is the Scholastic Assessment Test, most commonly known as the SAT. Like it or not, if you plan on attending college in the future, you must either take the SAT or the ACT Assessment, which was established by the American College Testing program. To many universities, your score determines how well you will perform in your first year of college.

The SAT is used to admit students to universities and promote critical thinking to those who wish to be successful in college. Some people have come to believe that this one test overpowers everything else high school students may have accomplished such as; how well they performed in all of their classes, recommendations, community service hours completed, class rank and involvement in school activities. Senior Tyler Sweed commented, "The SAT is definitely important; however, since the

emphasis is so great, it seems that's the only thing that matters when applying to college."

Another issue that has been brought to attention is that certain students do not test well even if they are prepared and understand the material. All the pressure put on students to do well on this test causes stress, which leads to weak test taking. The time limit is a huge factor in how well a student is able to test. Whether the student works better under pressure or feels rushed for time, it is said to be an "unfair limitation."

Despite all of the strong feelings toward the SAT, the most important thing to remember is to always do your best on any test you take, manage your study time, and stay calm. Even if you do not do as well as you hope the first time, you can always take it again, so it is not the end of the world!

by Natassia Saquilan



Photo by Natassia Saquilan

Junior Jourden Manusov, left, is studying in his spare time for the SAT.

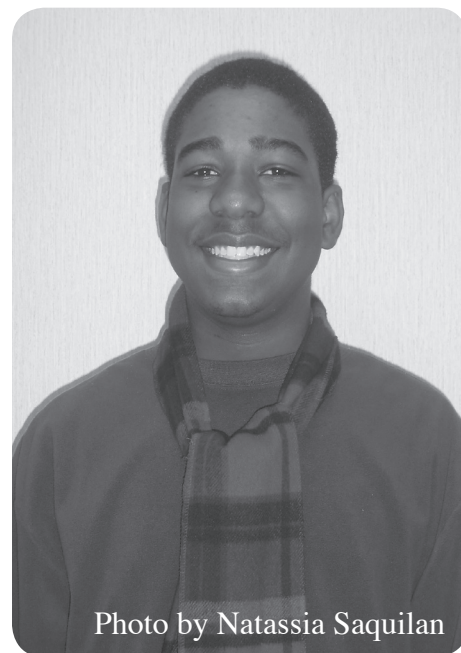


Photo by Natassia Saquilan

Freshman Zamir Sealy, right, is an IBMYP student.

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**Staff:** Maegan Caliri, Caroline Corrigan, Alexis Gibson, Tim Kaiser, Sarah Lewis, Kasey Ritter, Natassia Saquilan, Heather Stallings, Lauren Von Canon



## Cheerleading

Cheerleaders get their taste of victory by showing school spirit and helping those who are not so peppy get in on the action. Encouraging the rest of the school to get involved helps them bond as a team and grow closer to one another. The Sweet Heart Classic is the main competition for this year and starts in February. Considering that every



Photo by Maegan Caliri

wrong move could cost you points; senior Mary Wilkinson finds it frustrating because "everything cannot be perfect, but we are as close to perfect as possible." In order to prepare a flawless dance, cheer, and chant they add on two extra practices. They have their work cut out for them, but in the end, it is worth it to see the spirit throughout the school.

by Kasey Ritter

## Volleyball Keeps Momentum Going in Playoffs

The Lady Patriots volleyball team kept up their strong play in their first round playoff game on October 16. The Lady Pats finished with a record of 19-6. The varsity team was able to defeat first round opponent Ashley High School in three straight games.

Pinecrest went into the state playoffs as the number two seed in their bracket because of their second-place finish in the Mid-Southeastern Conference, behind Scotland. Ashley was ranked third as a participant from the Mid-Eastern Conference.

In the regular season play, one of the

most exciting games of the year was the Lady Pats against the Richmond Lady Raiders on October 2. The match was even most of the way with the Lady Patriots winning three games to Richmond's two. Pinecrest was able to win the last game by a score of 15-7.

Pinecrest's second round opponent was the top-seeded JH Rose. They are 21-1 and defeated their first round opponent, Chapel Hill, in three straight games. The game was played on October 21. The winner of that game will move on the next round to be played on October 23.

by Tim Kaiser

## Women's Golf

There is no denying that the golf team brings the heat onto the course. The girls are currently undefeated in the Mid-Southeastern Conference and placed third in Regionals. Taking second at the Keith Hill Country Club and first at the Pinecrest match, it is no surprise that they qualified for States on October 27 and 28. Coach Sandy Sackmann said "The girls have worked hard to get where they are at now and they are in it to win States."

by Kasey Ritter

## Cross Country

The women's cross country team has proven that they deserve the title of conference champions. They have not lost in seventeen years. This year proves to be no different with Lexi Schustrom honored as the conference runner of the year. "Both the men and women's cross country are high achievers and it pays off," Coach John Buchholz stated. The men are close to the top, losing their first meet, placing second in the conference with Regionals approaching on October 25.

by Kasey Ritter

## Pinecrest Football: A Joke No Longer

In the past two weeks, we have seen two of the most exciting games in the history of Pinecrest football. The Pats are 7-1 (3-1 in MSEC) with nail biting victories at Richmond, 31-28, and against Hoke for homecoming, 7-0. The Pats are now in a four-way tie for the conference lead.

In the October 10 game, Pinecrest entered into an electric atmosphere at the Richmond homecoming as the heavy underdog. Some prognosticators picked the Raiders by as many as twenty-three. Despite the odds, the Pats had almost as many fans on their side as the home team did. Pinecrest looked to be proving the predictions right at first, as Richmond scored on their first offensive possession off a 65-yard swing pass, with the Raider running back going untouched for the score. The Pats battled back and capitalized on four Richmond turnovers, mostly caused by the rain, to score seventeen points and take the lead 31-

28 with under five minutes remaining. Richmond's go-ahead drive ended on the 5-yard line and the Pats beat Richmond for the first time since 1992.

In the homecoming game on October 17, Pinecrest once again played in the rain, but this time the Pats were the ones hurt by it. Pinecrest had four turnovers and, as a result, failed to capitalize on the stops made by the defense. The game remained scoreless until the final two minutes, when running back junior Jamel Verbal pounded it into the endzone from ten yards out. This was the first homecoming game win for Pinecrest since 2002 and the first time they beat the Bucks since 1996.

The Pats still have conference games at Jack Britt on October 24 and home games October 31 and November 7 against Westover and Seventy-First.

by Tim Kaiser

# Entertainment

## Dessert Review

Strawberry Pillow 

Éclair 

Cookies and Cream Cheesecake 

Napoleon 

Tuxedo Napoleon 

Key Lime Tart 

For this issue's food review, the *Patriot* staff tested a variety of desserts from the Fresh Market. The winner, by an overwhelming majority, was the Tuxedo Napoleon. Its fluffy chocolate mousse imbedded with little chocolate chips, all wrapped up in a flaky crust layer offers an array of textures to satisfy any palate. The Strawberry Pillow was the most aesthetically pleasing but did not live up to its appearance, failing to satisfy our taste buds.

by Maegan Caliri and Sarah Lewis

## Dollar DVD Review: Off the Map

I was perusing the shelves of dollar DVDs in Big Lots looking for a movie to review, when I stumbled across *Off the Map*. The movie looked interesting enough: not revealing too much of the plot on the synopsis of the back cover, only giving clues about the New Mexico location and the IRS man who comes to visit the family that makes only a "very modest income" and ends up living with them. Truly, I was skeptical, expecting a boring drag of a movie, but after watching *Off the Map*, I felt a sense of renewal, knowing that I had chosen the right movie to review.

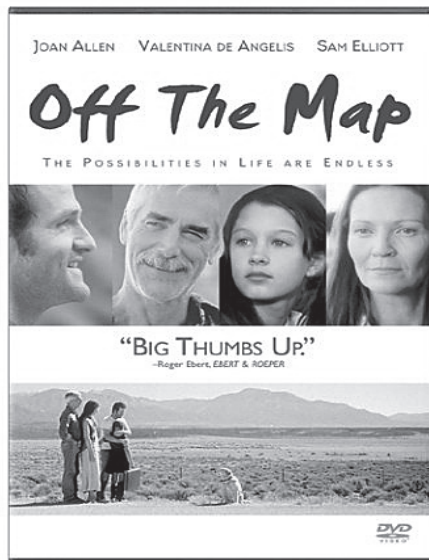
One of the many things that made the movie so intriguing was the intense diversity of the characters. The mother is sure-fire and "artsy" with her unique quirks. The father struggles with a strong case of depression that consequently takes a toll on the rest of the characters, each of

the characters dealing with it in their own special way. The daughter provides comic relief and a feeling of light-heartedness, with her strong desire to escape the desert and achieve a more material life. The IRS man is, however, the exact opposite; having everything that the daughter wants, he instead yearns for the simple life that the daughter lives.

The journey and transformation that each of the characters experience throughout the film makes the movie well worth its price of three dollars, containing a mix of humor, sadness,

love, and many more emotions. I strongly recommend that you watch *Off the Map*; you will definitely be glad you did.

by Lauren Von Canon



## iTunes Top 10 Songs

1. "Live Your Life" by T.I. and Rihanna
2. "Fearless" by Taylor Swift
3. "Hot N Cold" by Katy Perry
4. "So What" by Pink
5. "Whatever You Like" by T.I.
6. "Womanizer" by Britney Spears
7. "Love Story" by Taylor Swift
8. "Love Lockdown" by Kanye West
9. "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz
10. "Crush" by David Archuleta

by Natassia Saquilan



Photo provided by Natassia Saquilan



Photo by Maegan Caliri

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