



## Farewells and Memories

Jack Mickle | Editor-in-Chief

“You will certainly be the richer if lessons learned at Canevin are remembered all through life,” wrote the late John Joseph Wright, Bishop of Pittsburgh, in his farewell message to the seniors in the 1965 Mosaic. I don’t think I could agree with him more. Seniors – the time spent at Canevin has consisted of some of the most formative years of our lives. We have all changed in one way or another, whether it was from scared freshmen to brave seniors, our tastes in music or clothing, or we simply learned more about ourselves and others.

It is hard to believe we started at Canevin four years ago. The Class of 2021 has witnessed the most change any class has witnessed in the 60 year history of the school. We entered and will graduate under two completely different administrations. We entered in a time of prosperity and will graduate during a pandemic. But the years in-between are where the lessons and experiences lie. All of the memories that filled these years are vital to who we are today. Hopefully some of the memories are related to schoolwork that will help in college, but it would be safe to say that the most important are

the memories made socially through athletics, clubs or just making friends and hanging out with them.

The memories we have made may range from the happiest to the most painful. The painful ones are always a thorn in your side, but you can only learn from them. Some of us may be leaving with a bad taste in our mouths. However, I ask, is the grass always greener on the other side? I would consider us to be the luckiest group of kids ever! We have been given a quality education in a loving environment by people who deeply care. Canevin only exists because people care. Even though at times it may not seem like it, I know deep down that we all truly care about each other and only want the best for one another.

It truly has been a blessing for me to have attended Canevin for high school. I will miss it deeply because it has provided me with everything I’ve ever needed – friends, an education, and even a job. Canevin will always hold a special place in my heart, and I’m positive the same goes for everyone because “though we wander far and wide, may thy memories every glorious be our light and be our guide.”

## My Experience at the BLM Panel Discussion

Mac Johnson | Staff Reporter

On March 26 I had the privilege of attending the Black Lives Matter Panel at Bishop Canevin. Five BLM activists from across the country came here to speak to us about being activists who should strive for social justice. Their powerful message not only applies to the BLM movement but to all social justice issues as well.

At the beginning, each speaker briefly introduced themselves and discussed their experiences being an activist. The panel included Kyna James (the current Community Organizer for the Alliance for Police Accountability), Klarissa Ames (Co-Founder and Vice President of RE Visions), Alexis Mighty (Founder of the group Pittsburgh I Can’t Breathe), Devonte Johnson (current Youth Organizer for the Alliance for Police Accountability), and Tanisha Long (Founder of Black Lives Matter Pittsburgh and Founder and President of the education-centered non-profit RE Visions). All of them focused on the need to spread awareness and

foster understanding while bridging the division within communities on issues such as housing, representation, youth participation, and political organizing.

Their stories about why they decided to become involved in activism were inspirational. Each panelist took the time to answer audience questions. One of their biggest points throughout the event was that, even as high school students, we can use our voices for positive change within our spaces and make the world better. Their passionate words made me feel like I have the ability to do just that.

My experience at this session gave me insight into the feelings and frustrations of the BLM movement. It was a very relevant and engaging panel for which I am grateful I was given the opportunity to be an attendee. Their talk motivated me to think about how I can be an advocate for social justice. Each one of us CAN truly help to change the world.

## BC Remembers the Holocaust



On April 19 Bishop Canevin honored the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by participating in the International Daffodil Campaign. The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh promoted the event while the POLIN Museum in Warsaw was the official worldwide sponsor.

During WWII, Jews in Warsaw, Poland were confined to an extremely crowded ghetto from which they were eventually transported to concentration

camp. On April 19, 1943, Jews in this ghetto rose up to resist the Nazi attempt to transport the last remaining Jewish residents. The uprising lasted for a month and has been considered the greatest act of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.

In remembrance, people from all over the world wear yellow paper daffodils and at Canevin, members of the Book Club and Mrs. Miller’s junior English classes made all the daffodils which were offered to

the school community to wear for the day. The book club recently chose the Holocaust as a reading theme and Mrs. Miller’s class studies the subject as part of its World Literature curriculum.

Pictured (l-r) are Dina Getschall and Jai’den Collins wearing a daffodil pin to show Canevin’s commitment to the principles of solidarity, justice and resistance to oppression.

## The Leonid

*The Leonid* is a member of Quill and Scroll and the Pennsylvania School Press Association. It is published six times a year by the journalism students at Bishop Canevin High School.

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The policy of the *Leonid* is to provide a forum for student expression.

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# Ask Us Anything

*Two staff reporters  
anonymously give their best advice*

### *How should I study for finals and the AP tests?*

The first thing you need to do to study for finals and AP tests is to just believe in yourself. You have been learning this material all year. You've got this! A great way to study for these tests is by reviewing your notes and old quizzes/assignments that you have received throughout the year. If there's anything you're really confused on make sure you write it down and ask a teacher. They are always willing to help. If you don't feel comfortable asking a teacher for help, you can always ask a fellow classmate or an upperclassman. Khan Academy is another great study resource. They have a vast selection of lessons and quizzes you can take. They also have AP exam reviews. YouTube is also a great resource. Crash Course videos and so many more channels provide easy-to-understand lessons on almost every subject. Remember to just study and pace yourself. You are going to be stressed if you wait until the last minute. Take advantage of the time you have now and study a little bit every day. You've got this!

Summer might not seem like a long time, but you can actually get a lot of work done during the summer. The possibilities are endless as long as you're open to them. The first thing you can do is get a job. College is expensive and it doesn't hurt to start a savings account. There are a lot of summer programs that you can attend. Because of COVID, many of these programs have shifted to a virtual platform. Don't pay for anything unless you're really interested in it because there are a lot of free programs available to high school students to teach you a new hobby or get a jump on your next school year's courses. If you're looking for anything specific, talk to the school counselor or another faculty member. There is also a variety of summer classes that you can take through college for free. The summer is also a great time to get your volunteer hours done. Don't forget to take time for yourself, too. Summer is a time to relax and have fun. Do something to make yourself happy this summer. You deserve it!

### *I need service hours. What should I do?*

Service hours this year are a little wonky, I know. From someone who always waits to the last minute, I truly understand your panic. Many faculty members will be more than happy to help you find a way to volunteer. You can always talk to upperclassmen to get ideas. There is a list of service opportunities on the school website. Service comes in many different ways. You can always tutor, help an elderly neighbor, volunteer at a food bank, or sort books at the library. A new opportunity this year is helping at the Carnegie or the Green Tree Historical Societies organizing exhibits, filing, taking photographs or conducting interviews, and more. The possibilities are endless!

### *How do I ask someone to prom?*

First, don't do anything bad, unless you know that the person will be fine with it. You don't want to make a sign and embarrass the person and yourself. Make sure to be friendly. You can ask the person whenever – during a conversation, in the hallway, or on FaceTime. Just make sure not to ask over text. Don't be afraid to be rejected. Not all people say yes to a prom proposal. Just remember to have fun. Go with someone you're going to actually enjoy spending time with. You don't want it to be awkward and you don't want to be ditched. Have fun!

### *How should I make effective use of my time this summer?*



## Book Review: *Wild Bird*

Renee LaGrosse | Section and Sports Editor

Wendelin Van Draanen's novel, *Wild Bird*, shares the story of Wren Clemens. She's a troubled teen who has been stuck at rock bottom. It all started at 3:47 a.m. Wren is forcibly woken up by her parents and a strange man. She was clearly intoxicated and just coming off a high, too. They explained nothing. Wren was forced into a car, then onto a plane, and then marched straight into the wilderness of Utah.

Wren is angry at everyone; she's so lost and broken. First, she blames her parents for sending her to this camp. Her anger won't help her build a tent properly or start a fire. Will Wren be able to accept the truth or will she remain angry at the

world?

*Wild Bird* is a beautifully written novel. It is both insightful and action-packed. Each chapter was so unexpected. They were a rollercoaster of emotions. I was happy that Wren was staying strong and laughing at her sarcasm and backhanded comments. Van Draanen's story shows what real anguish feels like. Van Draanen shows that hard work, determination and a good friend are all you need to turn your life around. Overall, it was a fast-paced young adult novel. I would recommend this book to teens who are looking to find their true selves. This book is definitely a 5/5.

## American Literature Themes Highlight Self-Awareness



As part of the American Literature courses taught by Mrs. Charlotte Smith, one of the main themes in all the poetry, short stories, dramas and novels that are read and analyzed is the idea of "Dreams, Diversity and Destiny." As such, the sophomores have periodically completed projects that highlight an awareness or discovery of themselves as American citizens and a projection of their goals for school and future careers. One of the projects – a personal quilt square – was drawn after they had studied

Faith Ringgold's "Tar Beach" which utilizes quilting as an illustration technique. Other recent projects included the preparation of their family trees or the composition of a family history story, as well as drafting resumes, business correspondence, letters of advice to incoming freshmen, and their own adventure story based on Jack London's "Call of the Wild." Pictured are several of the personal quilt squares hand-drawn by the sophomore class that best represented how they pictured themselves.

## Movie Review: *Mortal Kombat (2021)* Delivers a Spring Finisher

Adam Reyes | Arts and Entertainment Editor

*Mortal Kombat (2021)* is the directorial debut of Simon McQuoid and the reboot of the *Mortal Kombat* film franchise. Based on the best-selling video game franchise of the same name, *Mortal Kombat (2021)* follows Cole Young, played by Lewis Tan, as he is introduced to the champions of Earthrealm while they train to fight in a tournament to protect Earth. The tournament, known as *Mortal Kombat*, features the chosen warriors of Earth fighting to protect the realm from Outworld, a realm that hopes to conquer Earth by winning the tournament. The denizens of Outworld are led by the sorcerer Shang Tsung, played by Chin Han.

Unlike the original *Mortal Kombat* movie and the sprawling number of games, this new film focuses on the events leading up to the tournament and not the actual tournament itself as the sorcerer Shang Tsung sends his champions to try and take out Earth's heroes before they can compete in *Mortal Kombat*. While this is an unexpected plot for *Mortal Kombat*, I certainly appreciated the fresh take on the series; although by the end of the film, I felt like this plot seemed more of a setup to potential sequels rather than a true film that can stand on its own. Multiple other changes were added to the plot as well to mixed effect, including the addition of a brand new character who the audience follows as the story's main protagonist.

Cole Young is our "Alice" introduced to this story and is someone I was very skeptical about leading into this film. To my surprise, Cole Young turned out to be a very interesting main character with proper motivations and unique

skills and abilities. I would even like to see him added into the video game franchise. Although where Cole shines, the other iconic characters seem to be tossed onto the sidelines, especially our Outworld antagonists who are thrown into the film just to be punching bags and warriors for our main cast to perform some fatalities.

Fatalities are a staple of the video game franchise and I am very happy with how they turned out in the film; with an R rating, the film can definitely stay true to the story and over-the-top finishers. The action scenes, on the other hand, are very hit or miss, with some scenes having amazing choreography and abilities that fit right in with video games, while other action scenes have too many quick cuts and do not show off characters to their full potential. I would say the most iconic characters in the series, Scorpion and Sub Zero who are played by Hiroyuki Sanada and Joe Taslim respectively, have the most stunning and jaw-dropping fights in the film. Benjamin Wallfisch also delivers an amazing score that honors the original film's fantastic music in a new and refreshing way.

Overall, *Mortal Kombat (2021)* is a decent film from the first time director with hit or miss fight scenes, a good protagonist with some missed potential in the side characters, and a solid musical score. I am personally excited to see how the director will improve for the next installments of the series, and I have faith that he will be able to take the *Mortal Kombat* movie franchise in an amazing direction. *Mortal Kombat (2021)* opens in theaters on April 23 across the United States.

Happy Spring!





# Canevin Celebrates International Week

Charlie Serena | Staff Reporter

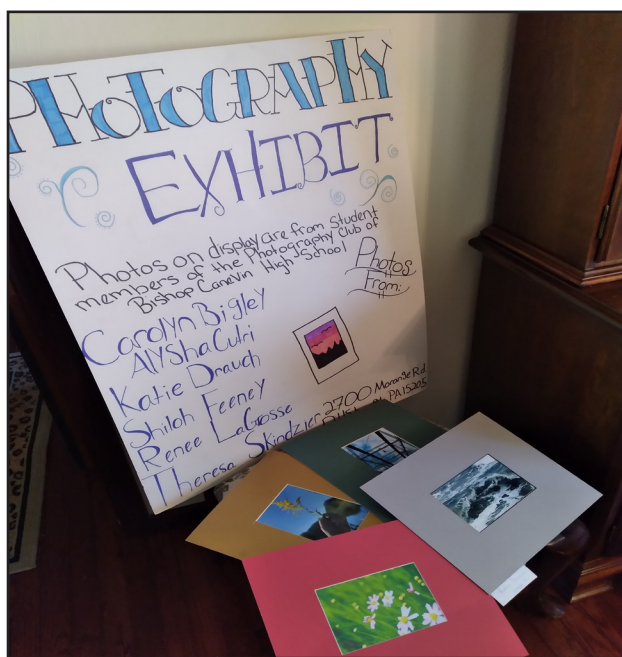


The International Club was very busy the week of April 11 as International Week was held COVID-style. On Monday, Fr. Jon, a Catholic priest from Nigeria, celebrated Mass. The entire building was decorated with flags from countries from around the world and a procession of these international flags opened the Mass. The readings were given in six different languages.

The World Cup soccer games were held on Wednesday with the championship at

the end of the day on Monday of the following week. That day also was the annual International Fair where the classes moved from station to station, participating in various activities such as Kahoots, Irish stepdancing with Molly Frick and Brogan Victor, informative booths about different countries, and a “find the country on the map” game. It was great to be able to still hold this event. Felicidades Senorita Barber and members of the International Club!

## Photography Club Exhibits in Carnegie



The Photography Club presented their second annual spring exhibit again at the Carnegie Municipal Building from April 1-May 31. Members who contributed photos were Carolyn Bigley, Alysha Cutri, Katie Drauch, Shiloh Feeney, Renee LaGrosse and Theresa Skindzier. Janae Banks-Hicks prepared the exhibit sign.

# The Interesting Life of Nancy Jirku

Mac Johnson | Staff Reporter



Nancy Jirku, Bishop Canevin’s new part-time Administrative Assistant, has lived a very exciting and interesting life. Although she was born in the United States, she spent most of her life residing in foreign countries, such as Canada and Columbia. All the while, she hoped to return to America someday. She finally got to live her dream when she recently moved to Pittsburgh.

Not long after her birth her family moved from the state of Washington to Columbia, South America. Living in a foreign country at a young age was difficult. The language barrier made her feel like an outcast. “I can remember living in the mountains in Columbia and skipping kindergarten because I felt like I didn’t belong,” said Jirku.

When she was six years old, her family then moved to Quebec, Canada. A couple years after the move, her family faced a difficult situation. Jirku and her sister were found to be illegally enrolled at an English elementary school. Her parents promptly sued the Quebec government for the right for their children to be taught in English. Jirku’s parents won the court case and they were given certificates of entitlement to English education. “Growing up there was a miserable experience,” she said. She did not like the linguistic restraints of Quebec. Eventually she applied for a passport at the age of 19. Sadly, the death

of her father forced her to stay in Canada.

While attending college in Quebec, Jirku participated in a foreign exchange program and went to Germany. She even taught some English classes there to students at a local community college. “That was when I realized how difficult teaching really is, to be able to explain things to others so that they can understand and learn is not as easy as you might think,” she reflected. After college, Jirku began working at Concordia University in Montreal. She held three different positions there but, no matter what job she was in, she always tried to make a positive impact on the lives of students.

In 2018, Jirku decided to once again pursue her dream of moving back to the U.S. “I downsized my earthly possessions to what could fit into a Dodge Caravan and, after visiting Philadelphia, Lancaster and Harrisburg, I fell in love with Pittsburgh’s skyline and decided this was the city for me,” she enthused.

After traveling many roads, she has ended up at Canevin. She is very happy to be a part of the Canevin community and is excited about her future at the school. When asked what she likes best, she said, “I like the diversity and easy-going nature of the students. The faculty members are also approachable and dedicated to teaching.”

# Get to Know the Class of 2021

Sarah Barron | Staff Reporter



**Gabriele Gerbino** of Rahner House chose this year to attend school virtually due to COVID. His favorite memory from Canevin is all the pep rallies. For the last two years he has created the comic strip six times a year for The Leonid newspaper. He enjoys music, singing, dancing and reading in his spare time. In the fall he plans on attending Duquesne University to study Classical Civilizations.



**Charles Serena**, known as Charlie, is a member of Ricci House and fondly remembers playing on the Crusader football team during his sophomore and junior years. He plans on attending trade school and working for his family's landscaping business. In his leisure time, Charlie likes to play football or basketball on neighborhood fields or courts.



**Francis Skindzier** is the Class of 2021's Salutatorian. He plans to attend Pennsylvania State University to study engineering. He'd also love to be a member of the Penn State Marching Band. One of his favorite memories at Canevin was "almost catching a turkey at band camp one time." Francis is very involved in school activities, including the Marching Band, Wrestling team, Track and Field, editor of the Mosaic yearbook, National Honor Society, Book Club, Student Ambassadors, Science Club, and Stage Crew. Outside of school Francis enjoys being a part of the Boy Scouts and JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development). He also likes to complete puzzles and puzzle games along with reading lots of books.

## Forensics Learns from Mock Trial

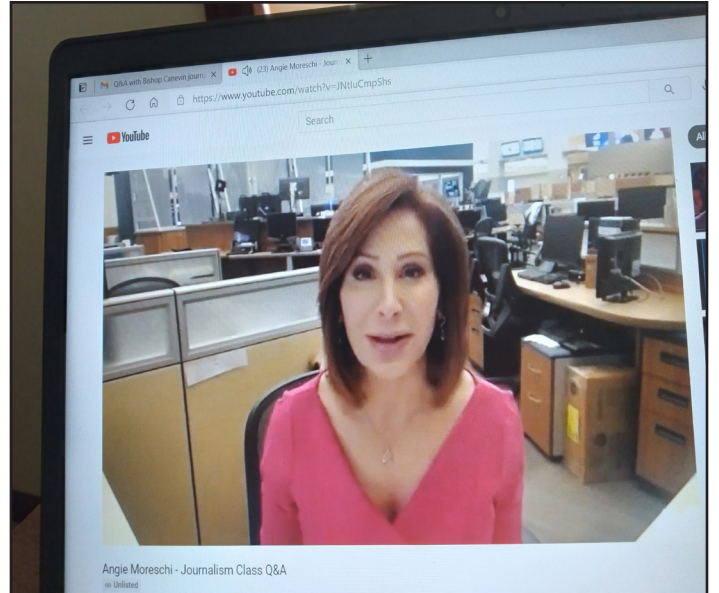
Christian Andrews | Staff Reporter

On March 18 murder and scandal struck Bishop Canevin during Mrs. McLemore's mock trial. During first period, students in her forensics class were given various positions, jobs and factors to consider during the legal case. The crux of the matter was that someone was shot at an event and both sides had

to research and state their case. It was a very professional scene consisting of a judge, a defense side, a prosecution side, witnesses, a jury, and various other specialists who testified. The experience was very hands-on. At the trial's conclusion, the suspect was found not guilty.



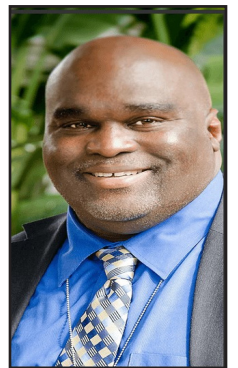
## WPXI Reporter Speaks to Journalism Class



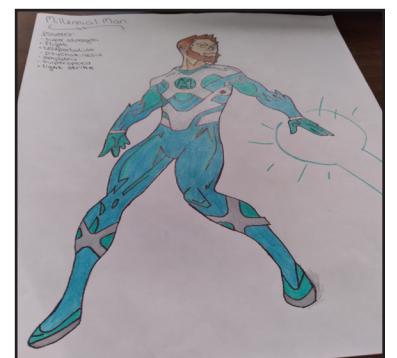
**Angie Moreschi**, investigative reporter with WPXI-TV, recently gave a presentation to the journalism students and spoke about the issues she has researched and how she turns them into reports on the nightly newscast.

## "Dynamic Deacon" Speaks at Canevin

On April 16, the Canevin community was treated to the talk "Praying with Confidence" by guest speaker Deacon Harold Burke-Silvers.



## Theology in Film Studies Many Themes



One of the movies watched in Theology in Film, as taught by Mrs. Charlotte Smith, was "Captain America" and the pursuit of justice, teamwork, trust and honesty. An adjunct project for the class was to design a superhero (pictured is Millennial Man drawn by Alysha Cutri).

Other films watched this year that covered themes of spirituality, redemption, leadership and faith included "Ben Hur," "Woodlawn," "Prince of Egypt," "Chariots of Fire," "True Grit," a documentary on 9/11, "Stand and Deliver," "Heaven is for Real," and more.

# Sports Briefs

Keyshawn McCaskill | Staff Reporter

The Bishop Canevin Boys Basketball Team was ranked 5th in the entire State in Class A.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review named junior Kevaughn Price as Player of the Year in Class A. The newspaper also named junior Alysha Cutri, pitcher, as a Player to Watch in Softball.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Jaden Gales, Dom Elliott and Shea Champine were named WPIAL All Section players (Class 1A, Section 2) in boys' basketball. The newspaper also named Elliott to the Best of the Best Male Players of the Year in Class 1A (as chosen by the PG Scholastic Sports Staff) and, along with Kevaughn Price, was also named as part of the Fab 5 for 1A.

The Roundball Classic, cancelled last year because of COVID, is back

at Geneva College, featuring eight games over May 13-15 with around 170 basketball players representing various classes. Invited to attend to represent Class A is senior Dominic Elliott and the coach will be Canevin's Gino Palmosina. Playing for the Class A girls will be senior Savannah Abbott.

The Canevin football coaching staff has added two new leaders. Linwood Snyder will be coaching defense, coming from a stint as first assistant coach at Pittsburgh Carrick and prior coaching jobs at Perry Traditional Academy (his alma mater) and Quaker Valley High School.

Coach Dezzy Ball has returned to Canevin where he started his coaching career before going onto some years coaching at Serra Catholic and Greensburg Central Catholic. Welcome, Coaches! #brickbybrick

# Two Seniors Sign to Play in College



Frank Nicholson recently signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Carlow University in the fall.



Mike Smith signed to be on the bowling team at Robert Morris University this fall.

# Boys' Volleyball is Back

Rutanya Taylor | Staff Reporter



The Crusaders Boys' Volleyball team is back and ready to play. Captain Christian Andrews, senior, said, "I have hope we will make it to the playoffs this year." Other seniors include Joseph Brooks, a defensive specialist, Jordan Ruffing, setter and right side hitter, Nicholas Paluso, outside and right side hitter, Jack Staley, right side hitter, Collin Milko, middle block/hitter, Matthew Mell, outside hitter, Carson Gaitens, outside hitter and middle block/hitter, and Carmen Worrall, middle block/hitter. Three juniors and two freshmen complete the team. Most only started playing volleyball when they got to Bishop Canevin. These men have a lot to offer and many expect a great year from them.

# Baseball's Calm Before the Storm

Luke Andruscik | Staff Reporter

After a year's hiatus, the Bishop Canevin baseball team is back in action. The team is lead by seniors Nevan Crossey and Bradon Logan, along with junior Justin Gmys. Helping the team succeed are juniors Francis Bocchichio and Trey Varley, sophomore Luke Andruscik, and freshmen Dom Varley, Michael Vaughn and Mason Glover. This team is so excited for the year.

After being shut down last year due to COVID with the season


cancelled, all of the players on the team from last year want to continue playing and win. Since the winter, the Crusaders have been practicing indoors. Now that basketball season has ended, they have been practicing outside and getting ready for everything that will be coming their way this season. The Tribune-Review has ranked Bishop Canevin third in Class 1A. The Crusaders have four upcoming section games and are looking particularly to beat West Greene and Mapletown.



Students in Mrs. McLemore's Physics class received extra credit when performing an analysis while riding the incline in downtown Pittsburgh.



All students participated in an outdoor Stations of the Cross towards the end of the Lenten season prior to Easter.



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