

**Staff Editorial:**

# Best solution for teen suicide:

## *Keep an eye on each other*

We as a staff have been very saddened by the news of the high concentration of suicides in our area.

The staff agrees that the vast amount of suicides is something to be extremely concerned and upset over.

A majority of the staff are not connected with any of

the recent suicides, or had any close experiences with suicide before. Despite this, we feel that it is something that could have been prevented.

Generally, we agree that suicidal feelings likely come from feelings of isolation and bullying, two things

that are easily prevented and can be changed.

For the most part, we the staff feel that the school or community should form some sort of neutral place for all youth to hang out after or during school. This would do a lot to alleviate feelings of loneliness, and if it were

watched over properly, could stop bullying.

Beyond that, there is not much that the school or community could do to help. We feel that the best way to really stop these feelings is the support and understanding of student peers.

# Recent events put life in perspective for Thomas

Life. I looked up this word in the dictionary, 36 definitions is what I came across. I began reading them,... and there were a few that stuck out at me.

I read them over and over.

In doing this, I could not help but to read the same one repeatedly. It just popped out more than the others. I sat there, looking at the words that described this four letter word, just realizing how powerful those four letters really are.

I have been brought up in a family that taught me self-respect. I was also taught to never take things for granted and to appreciate all things I have been given.

For years as a young kid, I did not think too much about what my parents and grandparents had to say. I just went on with life like a careless little kid.

Now looking back, I think differently.

In the sixteen years that I have been alive, I have been blessed with so many good things. I have a family who loves me and friends who would do anything for me. To go beyond that, I have a community full of support in everything I do such as sports, community service, 4-H and Scouts, therefore, I am appreciative.

As some of you read this, you may think, well this is will be a waste of my time if I continue reading. Well, I promise you this, it will not be, so keep reading.

For the Taylor Swift fans out there, think about the lyrics to the song, *Tim McGraw*. Do you recall the verse that goes: "September saw a months of tears?" For me, I do very easily because I am a fan of country music. Swift talks about how it is a "sad" time in her life.

September was a good month to me it seems. October was the

worst. Tragedies hit close to home with many people here at PHS. The loss of two classmates, both who had moved away, but still held a special place in many hearts of the students and staff here.

John Small, a fun-filled, energetic kind of kid took his own life.

Dishon Fulkerson passed away due to heart problems.

Seeing all the students grieve over this, made me realize something, many of us take life for granted. We do not think about when will be our last day here on Earth with our loved ones.

So, here comes my point: take chances, take lots of them. If you never take chances, you will never know what "could have been."

Love like you have never loved before. You will never know when the opportunity will end.

Quit hating others. Put yourself in their shoes, would you like to be the one receiving all the hatred?

Do not judge... What is the point? To make yourself feel better?

Respect everyone around you, even if you do not like him or her.

Never put anyone down, build one another up.

Next point, listen to *If I Could Be Like That*, by Three Doors Down, they pretty much sum up what I just said in four minutes.

My message to you is to live life to the fullest. I have seen the passing of

many young people affect students here at PHS and surrounding schools. Live life with no regrets and cherish every moment of it.

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# A request to all bullies: Get lost.

After all the things that have happened in the month of October, the topic of teen suicide is a tough topic to talk about. We have had countless discussions about bullying or maybe even suicide, but hear it from a different perspective this time: a student, someone just like you.

Some of you might take one look at this column and think that this does not apply to you, but the rest of you will actually take the time to read this. This applies to everyone from students to teachers.

Bullying is one of the number one reasons for teen suicide. Suicide is the killing of one's self because they feel like they do not belong. Right

now we are all equal, we are all students and we are here to learn. But what makes us different from each other?

We all come from different cultures or maybe we do not believe in the same things. High school is stressful but we should not be stressed or bullied to the point of suicide. We are going through the same thing here that makes us equal. Yeah, we might not all take the same classes but we are students.

Why do people bully? We bully because we are insecure about ourselves, and if we pick on someone else then other people may not notice our flaws or weaknesses. Our differences should not

be frowned on; they should be the things we like most about ourselves because they set us apart from everyone else. We are all bully even if we do not know it, we are guilty.

No matter what we are going through there will always be someone to talk to, yeah we have heard that a thousand times but take life seriously. Everyone deserves to live a long happy life, and if you feel like you do not then talk to someone. It does not have to be a teacher; it can be a friend or a parent. It is true that we do not know what we have until it is gone and when it is gone we will wish we would have done something.

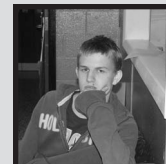
We do not know what goes on in each other's mind or what they go through outside of school. We only really know who we are and what we think about. So do not judge someone based on what you hear, or what they look like. Be a good friend and try to go outside your own group of friends. Make a new friend that is what high school is for. To be comfortable around everyone, we are a big family. We all know how losing someone affects not only our self but the community.

We have to stick together because just by being a friend, we can save a life.



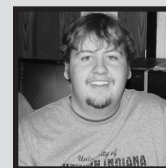
## What to be thankful for...

**"Food."**  
Dylan Hoover  
Junior



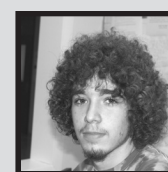
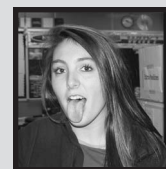
**"My health and the health of others."**  
Caleb Grissom  
Senior

**"For everyone in my life."**  
Jacob Coe  
Senior



**"The right to bear arms."**  
Philip Durbin  
Senior

**"Family and friends."**  
Taylor Pigg  
Sophomore



**"For nose goes."**  
Wes Phelps  
Junior

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Little known facts from familiar faces*



Senior  
**Caleb Andry**  
loves to wear penny loafers.



Junior  
**Zack Bradbury**  
has a nephew and a niece.



Sophomore  
**Marci Busick**  
likes to ride 4-wheelers.



Freshman  
**Nicole Raney**  
likes to drive her rhino off-road vehicle.