

Saying farewell too soon

Rise in teen suicides draws attention to a local problem

Teen suicide is a growing phenomenon across the country. Though each case is unique, there are several trends in the causes of suicide. Studies have shown that stress, confusion, pressure to succeed, self-doubt and financial difficulties are all problems that average teens face which may contribute to the increasing rate in teen suicide.

There have been several suicides in the area recently, which have affected numerous students.

Sophomore Caitlyn Moore has been affected by suicide several times in the past.

“My cousin tried to commit suicide two years ago. My friend also committed suicide,” said Moore.

Moore has had her share of experience with teen suicide, and believes it should always be taken seriously.

“It makes me think, when people joke around about suicide, they don’t fully understand what actually went on to make that person do that,” said Moore.

It is possible that teens are undergoing more pressure today than in the past.

“Teens are put under a lot of pressure, but how that pressure is handled is critical to the student’s actions.

Pressure isn’t any worse than when I started teaching 39 years ago, teenagers have the same struggles,” said guidance counselor Jerry Stroud.

Added pressure could very well be the culprit.

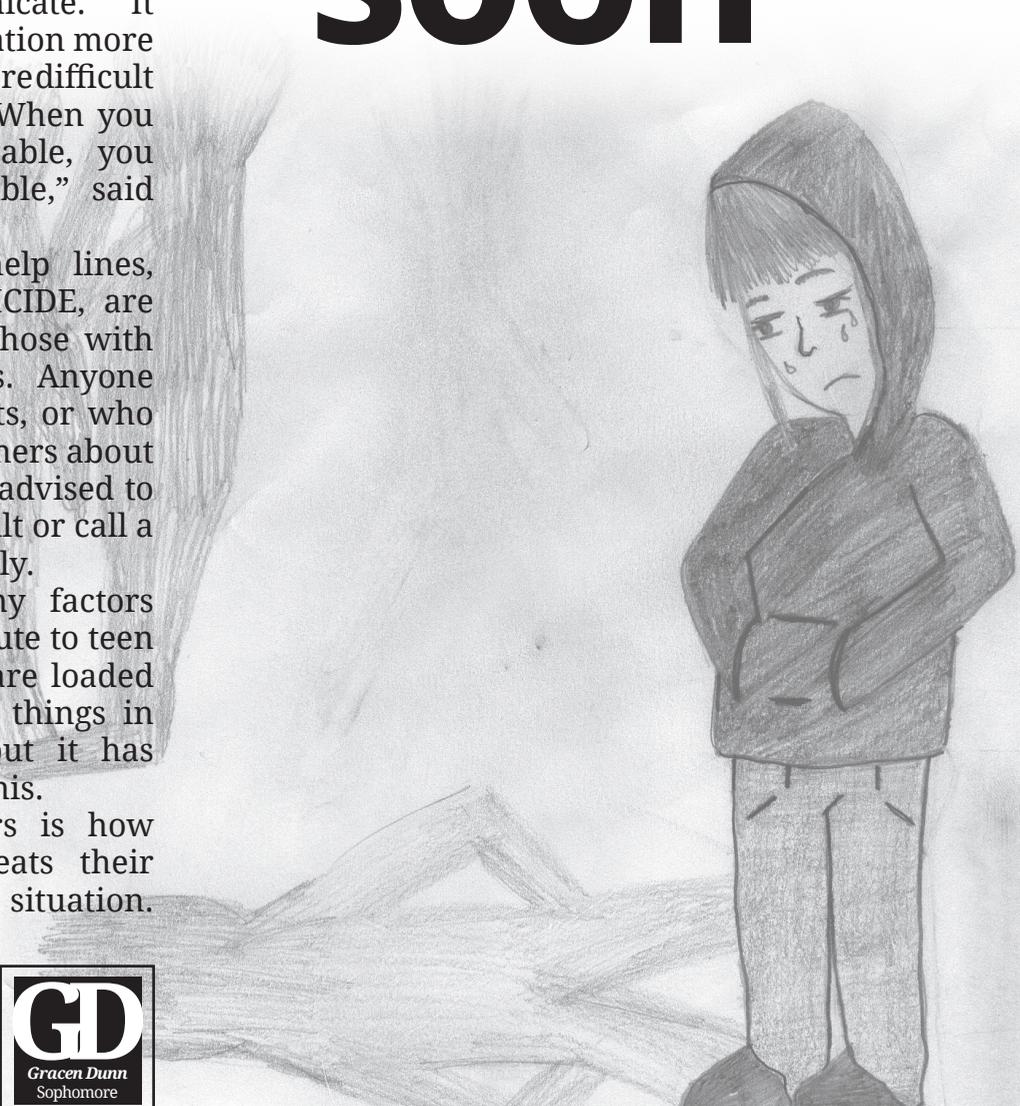
“The pressure comes from media, messaging, Internet, texting, all of these new ways to communicate. It makes communication more immediate, and more difficult to sort through. When you are more vulnerable, you are more accessible,” said Stroud.

Hotlines and help lines, such as 1-800-SUICIDE, are always open for those with suicidal problems. Anyone with such thoughts, or who has heard from others about these thoughts, is advised to go to a trusted adult or call a hotline immediately.

There are many factors that could contribute to teen suicide. Teens are loaded down with many things in today’s society, but it has always been like this.

All that matters is how an individual treats their individual situation.

Though it is a very personal matter, it should always be taken seriously.



Art by Kennedy Nelson

New York City here we come

Choir and band to celebrate holiday in the Big Apple

November: a time to spend with family and enjoy great meals. It is also a time of travel for many students at PHS.

The band is planning for their New York and Philadelphia trip they take every year. This year, however, students from the choir department will be enjoying this trip as well.

Band director Bill Laughlin says that many students and adults will be going on the trip this year.

“There are 65 students going on this trip along with 40 adult chaperones that will be coming along,” said Laughlin.

This trip will take place for about a week during November.

“We will be leaving on November 23 at 6 p.m. and return on November 28 at around 5 p.m.,” said Laughlin.

In Philadelphia, the students will be enjoying many activities.

“The trip will include a tour of Philadelphia, visiting Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell and performing in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade,” said Laughlin.

In New York, the students will

be participating in many other activities as well.

“In New York the students will visit Rockefeller Center, the Top of the Rock Observation Deck, the Statue of Liberty, Financial Center and Wall Street, South Street Seaport, Little Italy and Chinatown, a Broadway show, a guided tour around Manhattan, a visit to Ground Zero, a Subway ride, a visit to Times Square and a Dinner and Dance Cruise are also on the agenda,” said Laughlin.

Laughlin is excited about a certain aspect of the trip that he will be taking the students on.

“I am excited about the opportunities to show our students around Philadelphia and the cultural capital of the world, New York City!” exclaimed Laughlin.

Senior Jerrod Richards is a member of the band, and will be attending the trip this year.

This is not Richards’ first trip to New York though.

“I was able to attend the trip in 2007,” said Richards.

Richards has been a member of the band for some time.

“I have been in the band for

six years now,” said Richards.

Richards is very excited about the trip this year, and some of the events that they will be attending.

“I am excited about going to the Statue of Liberty again, and spending time in Chinatown,” said Richards.

Senior Megan Guerra is a three-year member of the choir and will also be attending the trip for the first time.

Even though it is Guerra’s first time on the trip, she is looking forward to it very much.

“I’m super pumped to go and see *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway, this will be my second time seeing Phantom, but this time it will be on one of the greatest stages of all,” said Guerra.

This trip for some is going to be of old news, while for others, it will be a new experience.

From Broadway, to the City of Brotherly Love, this trip will be an experience for everyone.



10 List

Books we want at the library

1 *Millennium Series* by Steig Larsson- Book one leaves Lisbeth Salander, a pro hacker, intertwined in a disappearance of a young, wealthy woman. Book two makes her a suspect in a murder case and in book three she becomes the victim of a shooting and is determined to find out what really happened.

2 *The Hunger Games Series* by Suzanne Collins- Katniss’ sister gets picked to play in the televised “Hunger Games”, Katniss takes her place in book one. Katniss wins the games and is accused of starting a rebellion in book two, and in book three Katniss survives “Hunger Games” twice and Capitol, still angry over the rebellion.

3 *The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner* by Stephanie Meyer- Bree is one of the newborn vampires created in Eclipse to fight the Cullens for Victoria; the newborns are told many lies to turn them against the Cullens; this book helps the readers understand the gentle side of the innocent people-turned-vampires.

4 *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett- Three completely different women band together to fight the times they live in: the 1960s. Two black servants and a white, unmarried woman fight back.

5 *Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series* by Jeff Kinney- The narrator Gregory Heffley is a normal middle school student; the series takes him through the regular teenage life.

6 *Crank Series* by Ellen Hopkins- Book one starts with a normal, quiet teenage girl; she gets kidnapped and switched with Kristina, a fearless girl who becomes addicted to crank. Book two tells the story of Kristina, trying to kick her addiction. Book three follows Kristina through her 20 years of addiction, her children being broken up and how badly addictions control her life.

7 *The Confession* by John Grisham- an innocent man is about to be executed and the only one who can save him is the one who should rightfully be punished. It is about his harrowing descent to doing what is right.

8 *Worth Dying for: A Reacher Novel* by Lee Child- Jack Reacher stumbles upon a missing child report that is decades old and decides to solve it.

9 *Faces in Time: A Time Travel Thriller* by Lewis E Aleman- A man falls in love with a movie star through movies and old television shows; now that she is selling her face for a cosmetic transplant he knows he must do something and time-travels back 20 years. He is chased across the country and risks everything to save her.

10 *Oogy: The Dog Only a Family Could Love* by Lawrence Levin- After a family has their cat put to sleep, they encounter a dog with only one ear and scar tissue covering most of his face. They soon find out he was used as bait in dogfights and was on the brink of dying.

By Allison Ater

