

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter



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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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Producing The Producers...Q & A With Sarah Pastelyak

Kay Kurtz-Vogel '74

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With less than four weeks to Dieruff High School Theatre Department's production of "*The Producers*", a Mel Brooks musical; Director Sarah Hinkle Pastelyak (DHS '02) found time to answer a few questions for our alumni publication.

Sarah is a 10 year faculty member at DHS. She began her career as an English teacher and now the Theatre Arts Teacher. She was responsible for the resurrection of its musical theatre program. Prior to 2009, the program lay dormant for 30 years; the last production being the "*The Music Man*" in 1979.

DHS Theatre Company's previous productions include: "*Back to the 80s*" ('09), "*The Wiz*" ('10), "*Hair*" ('11), "*Hairspray*" ('12), "*Aida*" ('13), "*Chicago*" ('14) and "*In the Heights*" ('15).



KKV: Last year, Dieruff High School received an unprecedented six Freddy Awards, including, "*Best Overall Performance of a Musical*". How does your impressive record with "*In The Heights*"

translate into additional pressure or expectations for this year?

SHP: I think the expectations and pressure we feel each year are those that we put upon ourselves. We always tell the students the goal each year is to be better than the last in terms of not awards, but in areas such as performance, skill and teamwork. We are always giving ourselves new obstacles to overcome- this year included: working with a professional set and learning to tap dance.

We don't set out to win awards; we set out to better ourselves from the year before. The awards garnered are just a nice affirmation that we will continue to execute our work with high expectations.

KKV: It is certainly an honor for you to be chosen to direct the performance for the Allentown School District Foundation's High Notes Gala scheduled for April 2nd. How does that additional responsibility impact your work on "*The Producers*"?

SHP: Since the start of the Gala, Dieruff and Allen have alternated directing the production each year. Directing in this sense means choreographing and teaching the two ensemble numbers that you see at the start and end of the performance. Andrea

and I co-direct these numbers whenever it is our year and this year is no different.

Having this responsibility is quite a challenge because we have very limited time to rehearse. We are given two rehearsal days with all of the students before we have to run the entire production at Symphony Hall for a dress rehearsal. Not only do we have to prepare the full group for the performance, we also need to rehearse and perfect our individual performers who will represent our Dieruff group. This takes time out of *The Producers* rehearsal but the students do a good job of preparing themselves before we work with them.

KKV: Some people have said that your choice of musicals has been somewhat "risky" and "risqué". Two years ago it was "*Chicago*", and last year "*In The Heights*". And now, "*The Producers*". What criteria do you use in the selection of a musical?

SHP: What can I say...we love doing "different" shows! In all seriousness, we pick shows that the students can relate to and productions that will highlight our students' natural talents. Showcasing talent is important, but it's more important to me that students enjoy working on the show.

Continued on Pg. 4



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Once a Husky, Always a Husky

Members of our Scholarship Committee considered the young lady a "natural". Everything on her application form spelled "SCHOOL SPIRIT".... all capital letters.

She boasted an enviable academic record. She was on the Cheerleaders Squad. She was an outstanding member of the Drama Department; in fact, she was considerably more than "outstanding" in the school musicals. As a junior, she appeared in "Chicago" and was honored to receive a Freddy Award Nomination. In her senior year, she was recognized for her fabulous performance in "In The Heights", and won the coveted Freddy Award for Choreography.

And so, at the Dieruff Troika Awards in 2015, graduating senior Paris Cordova captured one of the four "School Spirit Scholarships" presented by our Alumni Association.

Several weeks ago, I had the pleasure of talking with Paris at the high school. She was on a break from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she is enrolled, with a major in Theatre, and a minor in Dance. She had returned to her high school alma mater to say hello to her mentors, Sarah Pastelyak and Andrea Forrest. Paris knew those two ladies would be in the auditorium leading rehearsals for the ASD Foundation High Notes Gala.

Paris proudly reported that she had made Dean's List at IUP with a 3.25 average. She told me that she had served as Stage Manager for her first theatre production. She wanted me to know how much she appreciated receiving her "School Spirit Scholarship" from the Alumni Association, and that she had applied those monies toward books and tuition.

I asked her how her propensity to demonstrate school spirit was helping her in her college career. Without hesitation, Paris gave credit to her mentors, Sarah and Andrea. She explained that those two women had taught her how to develop her self-esteem by "working hard, and by being true to herself". She went on to say that she wanted to make them proud of her, and to thank them for making such a positive contribution to her life.

It is rewarding to see a young alum like Paris Cordova appreciate her Dieruff Heritage, and return to express that gratitude. In the words of Principal Susan Bocian, "Once a Husky, Always a Husky".

With warm Husky regards,

John



By Kay Kurtz-Vogel '74

Beginning this month, we'll start to feature a few functions to help navigate your way around our alumni website. As site administrator, I've received numerous requests to change email addresses, passwords, home addresses, etc. With over 2,500 registered classmates, maintenance of personal information is a task to be handled by alumni.

There are two alumni information sections that you can edit. First is **Contact Information** – this includes name, address, phone number, email addresses, etc. Second is **Profile Information** – this is where you enter school information, spouses' names, kids' names, sibling information etc.

It's easy to update your info - just follow these steps.

Go to **MEMBER FUNCTIONS** section found on the left margin of homepage.

Click - **Edit Contact Info**

Update what needs to be changed

Scroll down to bottom of page and click **Save Changes** button

Click - **Edit Profile**

Enter information that you want to share – profile information can be seen by only registered classmates.

Scroll down and click **Save** button.

Click - **Change Password** (if you want to change an existing password)

Enter a new password / minimum 5 characters

Please re-enter to verify

Scroll down and click **Save** button.

Next month - Private messaging between registered alumni.

- How to view your class roster

Alumni Profile - Frank Nacci '65

Joanne Ogrzydziak '76

Back in the 1980s, when I worked on Hamilton Street, I would casually glance inside the storefront businesses I passed on my way to the office. One in particular, Nacci Printing, sparked some recognition during those daily lunchtime strolls as I thought, "Nacci. That name sounds like someone who went to Dieruff." What I did not know was that, three decades later, I would have the opportunity to meet the president and CEO of that company, Francis "Frank" Nacci '65, this month's honored alumnus.

Upon contacting Frank to introduce myself from the alumni association, he kindly welcomed me to visit his business, which is now located on North Eighteenth Street in Allentown. I was greeted by a man of genuine warmth and humility, who expressed a sincere desire to "give back" to his community for all of the good fortune he has enjoyed throughout his life.

Growing up within the rich diversity of Allentown's Ridge Avenue, on which his parents owned and operated a grocery store, Frank attended Sheridan and Harrison-Morton Schools before arriving at Dieruff in the Fall of 1962. Enrolled in the Trade & Industrial Course, Frank spent part of his day at William Allen (where the classes were taught at that time), yet still managed to participate in Football and Track in which he lettered (Varsity D) all three years. When asked of his most memorable teachers while at LED, he mentioned, without any hesitation, Mrs. (Marguerite) Finizzi, Mr. (Thomas) Persing, and, especially, Mr. (Robert) Wolfe, his auto mechanics instructor who still stops by to visit with his former student.

Following graduation, Frank worked as a general inspector for Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., for three years prior to entering a management program with the Household Finance Corporation. Several years later, during a brief relocation period, Frank was asked by a friend to help out at his bindery business. Although he had no previous experience, he agreed to lend a hand and soon discovered that the notion of running his own enterprise was very appealing to him. That concept would be realized later that same year, when Nacci Printing, Inc., was founded as Envelopes, Inc., in October 1974. A full-service commercial printing company today, the business has seen much growth and prosperity during its forty-two years, currently employing forty persons who are "like family." A Founding Partner and the Official Printer of the Lehigh Valley IronPigs Baseball Team, Nacci Printing, Inc., is also the Official Printer of the Lehigh Valley Phantoms Hockey Team, the PPL Center, and the Lafayette College Sports Program.

Although Frank credits his wife, Carole, and his many dedicated, long-time employees for ensuring that operations run smoothly, it is clear that his success shines from his strong work ethic and his ardent desire to build a solid local economy. The colorful commendations and prints, displayed in his spacious office, serve as a winsome testament to his character along with the glowing testimonials from his many loyal customers who, as Frank says, seal an agreement with "only a handshake."

Recognized as a community leader within the



Lehigh Valley and beyond, Frank is a member of the Boards of Directors of St. Luke's Hospital – Allentown Campus, Lehigh Valley IronPigs Charities, and the Graphic Arts Association. Retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Frank also served for twenty-six years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, and is very committed to honoring and supporting our veterans. He was very pleased when I explained Dieruff's participation in "Operation Recognition," a program that authorizes school districts to grant diplomas to veterans who left school (prior to graduation) to serve in Vietnam.

I very much enjoyed my meeting with Frank, who generously took time from his busy schedule to share his memories of Dieruff. This graduate from the Class of 1965, who celebrated his 50th Reunion last year, gratefully attributes the preparation necessary to run a successful business, and his active interest in civic involvement, to his many life experiences. The LED Alumni Association is proud to honor alumnus Frank Nacci, who exemplifies the very best of Husky Pride!



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Producing the Producers (Cont. from Pg.1)

We spend a lot of time with the material and know we need to pick a show that all can get excited about; whether it is the iconic dances of *Chicago*, the fun hip hop music of *In the Heights* or the deeply moving content of *Hair*. Our recent selections have been more contemporary and ones that not only students enjoy, but productions we know that haven't been done often in the Lehigh Valley. We get a lot of, "How are you going to pull THAT off?!" type questions.

To me, that question means two things: one, we've sparked interest enough for people to come see the show. And two, we have a reason to prove to the community that we CAN pull off a show like, *Hair* or *Chicago* or *The Producers*.



Deborah Hamburger (Stage Crew Manager), Andrea Forrest (Co-director / Choreographer), and Sarah Pastelyak (Co-director / Producer)

KKV: You and your choreographer, Andrea Forrest, have worked well together for several years. What is the secret to that chemistry?

SHP: Andrea has been an invaluable asset to the theatre company having worked as its choreographer since 2010, moving into the position of Assistant Director in 2012 and Co-Director in 2014. She and I have always worked in tandem and have, over the years, come to share the work load of putting together the full production.

Over the past two years, Andrea has really taken over a lot of the performance direction for me being out on maternity and taking time to raise my children. She is more than my co-worker, she is one of my best friends. The secret to our chemistry is that we have a mutual understanding of what we want for the program and share the same vision for our theatre company's future. In addition, our directing styles are complimentary and I believe we get the most of our students because of it.

KKV: Your relationship with your cast and

crew has been remarkable. How have you been able to establish that bond?

SHP: When you spend as much time as we do with our cast and crew it's inevitable that we become like a family. For many students, the theatre company IS their family. We rehearse together, eat together, joke around together, cry and laugh together, and problem solve together. There's a magical transition that transpires among all involved in every show that is only truly understood by anyone that's been part of a production. There's no perfect way to capture it in words except to tell you that we all just genuinely care for one another on and off the stage.

KKV: This year you were able to secure a set that has had a significant "history". Would you share that with us?

SHP: Sure! The set we were able to get for this year is one of great magnitude! It is the professional touring set that has been on tour in professional productions, university productions and amateur ones, such as ours, for the past 8 years. We knew we would not have the time or man power to complete everything that this production demands in the way of set and costume so we opted to spend a majority of our budget renting these items for our show. Our students are working incredibly hard and for that we wanted to give them a set that rivals their performance.

KKV: What have been your biggest challenges with "The Producers"?

SHP: Biggest challenges have been tap dancing and working with a small cast which in turn puts a lot of demands on the students to know many different roles, dances and songs. It has also been very difficult work orchestrating everything that goes on behind the scenes like countless costumes changes, set changes, and wig changes.

KKV: What goals have you established for this year's production?

SHP: Our goal is pretty much the same every year and that is to put on a production that we can be proud of in addition to teaching our students that the process of putting on a show is equally as important as the product itself. Through the process, we aim to teach our students about the value of hard work, dedication and teamwork.

KKV: With one-year-old twins at home, how have you been able to balance your home life and your career at Dieruff?

SHP: It is certainly not easy and I'm not sure that the two are never equally balanced; the scale is always tipping one way or another. For April, the show gets a lot more attention than my family and so I try to maximize my free time with them as

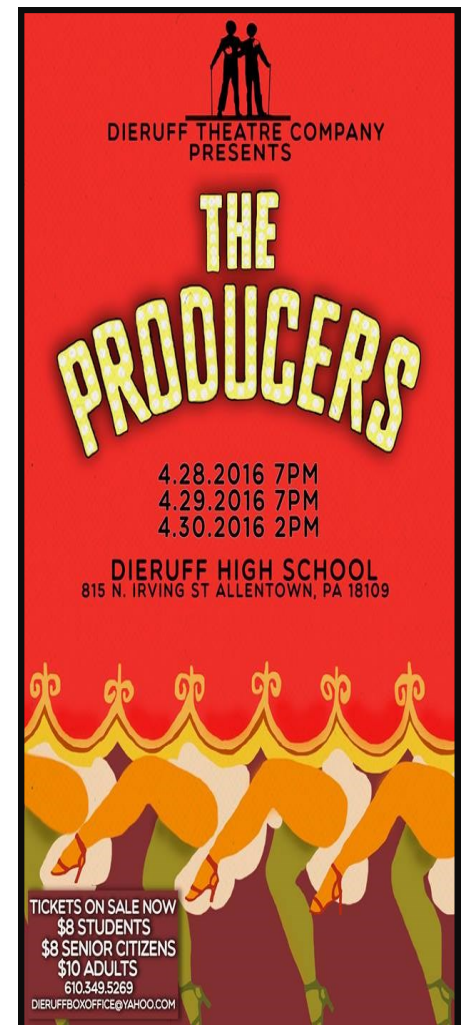
much as possible.

As a full time working mom there are a lot of demands from both the home and the workplace and very simply stated- I have a lot of support from family, especially my husband Eric, and friends, including Andrea, who has taken on a lot more responsibilities with the production.

KKV: What would you like the Dieruff Alumni to know about you and the Dieruff Drama Department?

SHP: That we are always grateful for the outpouring of support we get from you, the alumni. Your presence is always felt and we can't express how much it means to have the continual backing of our own Husky Family. We see you at rehearsals, we feel you cheering for us at your own Freddy parties and hear your loud applause at each show; for all of this and more we love and thank you for your genuine interest in our theatre program and its students!

Break a leg Dieruff Theatre Group! I'm looking forward to a little bit of "Springtime" on April 28th, 29th and 30th!





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Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman



breeds, it is coat blowing time. We are shedding our winter coats and need a lot of grooming. I really get groomed on windy days so the hair blows away. Sometimes, I get groomed at the hill at the park and the birds love the hair for their nests.

My coat is changing from winter chocolate to summer auburn. Luckily, the sore by my eye has cleared up. Again if you use Google and look up zinc dermatosis in huskies, you will see what I looked like. The cor-

Spring is somewhat of the Down Time for us. A lot of events in May and June, but April is time to enjoy walks and spring. Love to nap on the back porch. Just really love that warm sun. Mom says I must have some wires crossed, because I do not like snow, but so enjoy warm weather. But for both Misha and me and the northern

ner of my eye and down into the nose area looked nasty. Luckily, it did not hurt. But after a bunch of tests, I am on zinc pills and I healed up. Found out sled dogs/northern breeds have a recessive gene which inhibits zinc absorption and can lead to skin problems. Take my pill with peanut butter and all is well.

Been going for long walks. Spring smells are great. One warm night, seemed everyone was out and about. I love to socialize. We saw an elderly lady and her grandson. She wanted to pet me and around older people, I can be gentle. So got a hug. But the grandson, in his twenties....different story. He wanted to tussle and play and I gave him plenty of husky hugs and kisses. Found out he was an Allen graduate. Told Mom how he wished he would have had a dog as a mascot. Wonderful words. Talked a bit and when we left Mom said, "Husky Pride". Shockingly, both of them said "Husky Pride" back. Such a good feeling to know Husky Pride is all over the place, even on a park bench in Nazareth,

Have a Happy Spring!

Love,

Kiska V, Diva Dog

DHS Florida Alumni Association Class of '66 and '67 Mini-Reunion

Joanne Ogrydziak '76



"Tough as nails, strong as bricks – we are the Class of '66." This is the proud motto of the members of Dieruff's seventh graduating class whose Florida residents meet every Spring. Hosted by Robert "Bulldog" Hontz and his wife Mary Lou (Mackes '67), the Third Annual Florida Mini-Reunion was held this year on Saturday, March 12, and welcomed visiting alumni from all over the country. Classmates traveled from California, Nevada, Colorado, Maryland, and Pennsylvania for a full weekend of friends, food, and fun in the sun.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with "Bulldog" who very kindly explained how the annual event got its start. A few years after he and "Lulu" moved to Florida, they got in touch with some of their high school friends

whom they had not seen in forty years. Calling themselves "The Breakfast Club," these loyal Huskies exchanged e-mail addresses and, after some of their classmates had also relocated to the Sunshine State, then decided to hold their inaugural Florida Mini-Reunion in 2014.

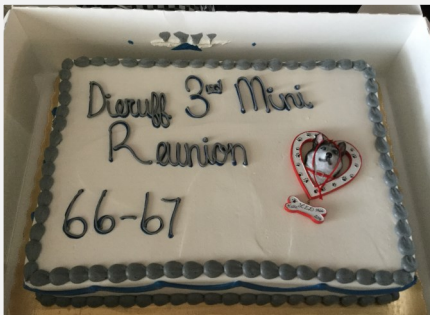
That first year, celebrated with an Italian theme, the event had thirteen attendees. The 2015 fiesta had a Mexican flavor which was enjoyed by sixteen alumni. This year's menu, however, stole this alumna's heart with its many authentic Polish dishes, which were all prepared by Mary Lou. Bob had sent me several pictures of the buffet table which made me homesick for my Slovak grandmother's kitchen on Greenleaf Street; I could see the buttery onions glistening on the pierogis and could almost hear the crackling of the steaming cabbage and noodles. As Bob mentioned that each year's mini-reunion featured a different nationality, what came to mind was the diversity that we all shared as Dieruff Huskies, representing the great "melting pot" of Allentown's ethnic neighborhoods. What was most endearing is the group's culinary tradition which began in 2014. Skip Kintz, the record-setting Husky basketball player and Parade Magazine All-American whose name is immortalized as Dieruff's first 1,000-point scorer, specifically requested hot dogs with Yocco's sauce. Referring to them as "Skippy Dogs," the classmates pass around a tray of these yummy, Lehigh Valley favorites upon the culmination of their party. That act of sharing seems like a celebratory toast to, not only their lasting friendship, but also to their Allentown roots.

This year's event for nineteen also included a Friday visit to Epcot, a special treat for the out-of-state alumni, and a Sunday afternoon gathering at the home of Bill and Diane (Rush '67) Wasser. Joining the Hontz's and the Wasser's were fellow '66 grads Jeff Arbogast (1966 Kiska Award recipient), Pat Conrad, Joe and Roz Fruhman, Bill and Roz Hontz (Bob's cousin from Liberty '66), Skip and Jane (Vuksta) Kintz, Dave Leibensperger, Cheryl Oliveri, Kathy Seiple Lagler, Pat (Todd) and Rollie Heimbach, and Alex and Brenda Yarema. So that their visiting class-

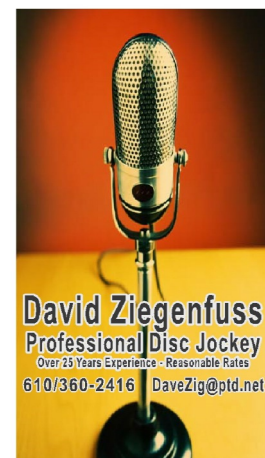
mates would not have to stay in hotels, the couples who are now transplanted Floridians extended their "Husky Hospitality" to serve as hosts in their own homes.



The members of this Husky Pack, who will be heading north this summer for the Class of 1966 50th Reunion in August, prove that Husky Pride reaches way beyond the Lehigh Valley and remains in our hearts forever. Already planning for next year's festivity which will feature American (local) foods from the '60s, Bob and Mary Lou look forward to hosting more than twenty classmates. This '76 alumna just might take a trip down south next Spring. Wonder if they'll serve cheesesteaks? Either way, I'd like to try a Skippy Dog and some of those blue and gray M&Ms.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

To get your event listed, please email event before the 24th of each month to: dhsalumninews@ptd.net

- April 6:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- April 22:** Baseball - Dieruff Vs. Easton 4:00PM
Coca-Cola Park (Visit website for ticket info)
- April 28, 29, 30** "The Producers" Dieruff Theater Company
(See Poster Pg. 4 For Details)
- May 4:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- May 6:** HUSKY FEST - east parking lot 3PM-7PM
- May 21:** 4th Annual Husky Golf Outing (See Poster Pg. 5 For Details)
- July 30:** Fandangle IV 2PM - 6PM
East Side Youth Center - Details to follow soon!
- August 19 & 20:** Class of 1966 50th Year Class Reunion Weekend
CLICK ON LINK FOR DETAILS:
[/000/2/6/8/20862/Userfiles/file/DHS-66_50th_Reunion.pdf](http://000/2/6/8/20862/Userfiles/file/DHS-66_50th_Reunion.pdf)

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: www.Dieruff-Alumni.org

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The **Dieruff Jazz Band** will be performing late April and May. Please come out and support the group. We will be joined by some special guests at some great places. Here's the schedule:

April 21st - Godfrey Daniels in Bethlehem 6:30-8:30 special guest Spencer Reed on Guitar

May 5th The Dime in the Renaissance Hotel, Allentown as part of the Allentown Jazz Festival 5:30-7:30 Special Guests TBA

May 6th -Husky fest 4-4:45pm

May 14th - Dieruff Band Barnes and Noble Book fair at the Lehigh Valley Mall. The DHS Jazz Band and Percussion ensemble will perform in the afternoon between 1 and 3:30PM.

Also, we have been invited to perform at The Hotel Bethlehem Date TBA

We hope you can come out and support this great group!! For More info please call the Band Office 484-765-5623



Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

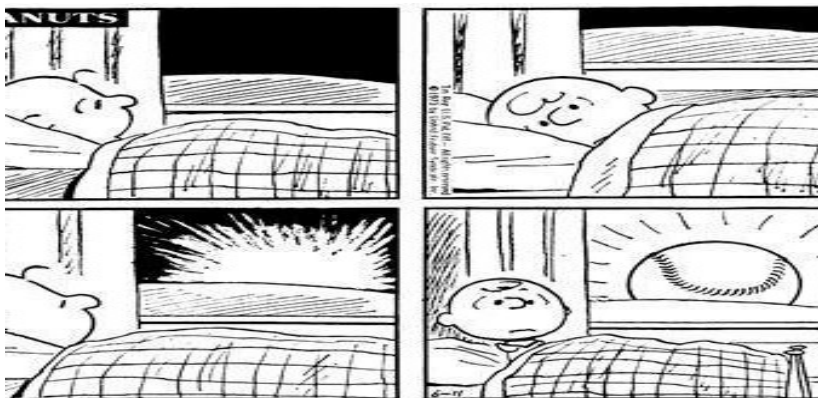
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We publish an online digital .pdf copy of the newsletter 11 times annually, with two special printed editions for the Fandangle and Dieruff-Allen Game tailgate. All digital copies will be emailed by or on the 5th of each month. Deadline for inclusion for the next month's edition is by the 24th of each month, unless arrangements are made. Please email articles, advertising and events to:
DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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Happy Opening Day!