Are the rallies permanently on the turf?

By Vivian Vu

Since returning to school, there have been many changes, but one that has caught the attention of many students and staff members is the change in the location of rallies.

“I, personally, don’t like it,” shares ASB Vice President Andrew Stuffle. “I believe that it is too difficult to get everyone onto the stands in a timely manner. It is also unfair that one class must either be exiled to the opposite side of the field, or sit on the turf in the way of the performers.”

The main bleachers on the turf have a maximum capacity of three classes; there is no way to fit all four classes onto the bleachers. As a result, seniors were seated on the visitor’s bleachers during the first rally and freshmen were seated on the visitor’s bleachers during the homecoming rally.

“Neither this (Homecoming) rally nor our first rally were very enjoyable,” states senior Allison Mac. “At first, the seniors were sitting on the visitor’s side and no one could see anything.”

Many students agree that with such an open area, seeing and hearing what’s happening at the rally is difficult.

“I feel like having rallies on the turf makes our skit possible,” comments Sophomore Class President Runi Tanna.

“Other than that, the rallies weren’t very great.”

With our sight around the corner, a new concern other than the ones about heating and seeing the rally has been brought up. Although California does not experience some of the harsh weather that other places experience, many students and staff are concerned about when rallies will be held when the rainy season comes.

ASB has recognized these concerns and is taking action. “ASB is working on having a survey put out so we can show that the students would much rather prefer sitting in the gym due to weather, sound, and seating issues,” shares ASB President Russi Tanna.

“ASB will be making a well-written petition to try and get rallies back into the gym,” adds Andrew. “He (Mr. Reed) and Ms. Jones have had many meetings with Mr. Williams about it, and we found out that if 75% of the student body supports us, we can successfully petition it.”

Ruskin teacher caught cheating for students

By Hoang Nguyen

Ruskin Elementary School, located behind PHHS, was withheld its score due to a cheating incident in the 2012 testing year that involved a class of 23 students and a teacher who had helped the students erase marks during the exam.

Berryessa Union School District Superintendent Will Ector told San Jose Mercury News that the teacher will be put on leave for the rest of the year.

“Since the 23 students made up more than five percent of the 438 student population, the school’s API was withheld. Although all teachers should be licensed to administer testing with set procedures, Ruskin was not the only school to have been deprived of its API score; a total of 27 school districts have had severely enough violations for the state to forgo their scores.

“In the spirit of this 2011-2012 year, Ruskin held an API ranking with an API score of 943 out of 1,000, and with its high academic record the incident was taken very seriously. Though this event will cause the school to lose funding, Ruskin might lose even more money due to the charge from STAR testing to the CCSS (Common Core Curriculum). The CCSS is a national standard of education that 45 states have already voluntarily adopted, and California intends to switch to for the 2014-2015 school year.”

The LEGEND

Congressional deadlock leads to partial government shutdown, threatens default

By Vy Pham

The U.S. government began a partial shutdown Tues., Oct. 1 for the first time in 18 years after Congress was unsuccessful in agreeing on a new national budget before the end of the fiscal year.

The House of Representatives, controlled by Republicans, approved a spending bill amendment Sun., Sept. 29 to delay the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare) for a year.

The bill was rejected by the Democrat-dominated Senate. This prompted the House of Representatives to pass another plan to remove the Obamacare individual mandate. The Senate rejected that as well. As a result of this gridlock, Congress could not come to a consensus.

However, it did settle on one thing: both houses passed legislation signed by President Obama before midnight on Sept. 30 to continue paying Americans serving active duty in the army.

The government shutdown ended Thurs., Oct. 17 when Congress passed a measure to temporarily fund the government until Jan. 15, 2014 and raise the debt ceiling through Feb. 15, 2014.

Increasing the debt ceiling allows the nation to borrow money. President Obama signed it into law on the same day.

If Congress does not finalize the national yearly budget by then, the government will shut down again.

Even though a major fiscal crisis was averted, the fundamental issues that polarize the Republicans and Democrats remain unsettled and the U.S. economy will not be guaranteed a smooth ride until a definite compromise is reached.

Citizens all over the country were affected by the shutdown of America’s biggest employer.

According to a CNN analysis, more than 800,000 federal workers were sent home on furloughs, and millions worked for no pay when most government agencies terminated all non-essential functions.

According to a report from Mr. Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers, there was a reduction of .25% in fourth-quarter GDP (gross domestic product) growth by day 12 of the shutdown.

Every American national park, monument and museum closed. Airlines, hotels and restaurants were also affected due to vacation cancellations and reduced tourism. Permits and reviews for planned energy and transportation projects were halted and federal loans couldn’t be approved.

Federal agencies with independent funding like the USPS continued to keep their doors open. In the midst of the workers temporarily without jobs and uncertainty surrounding Federal Aid, the president and all members of Congress continued to collect their paychecks.

“Our government with independent funding like the USPS continued to keep their doors open. In the midst of the workers temporarily without jobs and uncertainty surrounding Federal Aid, the president and all members of Congress continued to collect their paychecks.”

Are the rallies permanently on the turf? By Vivian Vu

NEW LOCATION The last two rallies took place at the turf, instead of in the main gym. Many are bothered by this fact.

OPEN SOURCE

The students are not sure about the rally's location. Many are not happy with the idea of having the rally on the turf.

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The students are not sure about the rally's location. Many are not happy with the idea of having the rally on the turf.
Advanced Drama class hosts anti-bullying assembly
By Hoang Nguyen

The anti-bullying assembly, dubbed as Act Up Against Bullying, hosted by Advanced Drama Class and Drama Club. With the rest of Drama helping out in various ways, they hoped to make the assembly a success. Afterwards, there is an interactive activity where students will get to create a plan to counteract bullying.

In their social science classes, the event started off with a skit which contained actors in Drama and Social Science classes. After the assembly, the Mt. SAC Relays as well as the CCS (Central Coast Section) finals with a time of 3:41.14, the relay team pummels records...

Stanford Splash welcomes students to become inspired
By Theresa Nguyen

The Stanford ESP (Educational Studies Program) invites students to begin testing the waters of its campus through education enrichment classes offered by its biannually program for just $40. The two-day learning extravaganza gives students the opportunity to take as many classes as they want, explore new topics and find a new passion.

“Splash was a really fun and insightful experience for me to foster my interest in the different fields of medicine, and also explore the beautiful Stanford campus,” says senior Ivy Pham.

This year, Splash will take place the weekend of Nov. 2 to Nov. 3. Interested students can sign up by registering online to choose the classes they’re interested in and turn in a signed liability waiver form.

The registration process involves both a class lottery and first-come-first-serve class sign up phase. Although the class lottery closed last Wednesday, the first-come-first-serve class sign ups will open today and end on Tuesday. During the first-come-first-serve phase of registration, students can sign up for any of the remaining open classes.

“There are a myriad of classes fit for everybody—the aspiring chef, the dance/health junkie, the Harry Potter lover, the romantic and the introspective individual,” comments Ivy.

Stanford professors, undergraduates and graduates teach the classes, which are about one to four hours long. The teachers themselves design the classes, so each class is unique in its own way.

“Stem cell class actually inspired me to apply for a research program, and I actually ended up working on stem cells there too,” expresses senior Christina Bui, who had participated in the program during both her sophomore and junior years. According to Christina, students can expect to be in a fun learning environment while connecting with new people.

“I would recommend this to anyone that is interested in pretty much anything and wants to learn more about something,” Christina says.

Walk-in seminars are also open to any Splash student who have a cancelled class or have an empty timeout in their schedule on that day. The walk-in seminars are fun activities to keep students engaged while they have extra time to spare before their next class.

Track and Field Varsity Girls 4x400 relay team pummels records
By Vivian Pham

The Piedmont Hills Varsity Girls 4x400 relay team boasted its own Central Coast Section record three consecutive meet trials, and then brought the day old record down by another three seconds at the L-Building meet during the 2013 track season.

The girls ran the 4x400m relay finish with a time of 3:41.34, the nation’s second fastest time to date, to win the Championship, beating the CCS (Central Coast Section) record (3:47.83) after establishing it at the CCS finals in 2013 as well as the 3:44.47 they ran the day before at the trials. The ladies led throughout the relay. Junior Timyara Boyland ran the first leg of the race with a time of 55.4 seconds, and junior Bianca Bryant clocked in 55.5 seconds for the leg after. Class of ’13 Alexandra Diaz ran a 56.3 seconds for the third leg, leaving Class of ’13 Elisia Bryant to run as anchor with a time of 53.8 seconds.

“It’s always exciting seeing them run,” says their chemistry during practice is real, and their performance at the events shows just how much they have grown. We’re just going to keep on building and building and building,” says junior Tiffany Pham.

Students of Drama were inspired by this “actup,” says Mass Media & Digital Communications student Anna Woods, a series that started this morning. It was created in an effort to raise awareness on the effects of bullying and bullies.

“This is real, and their performance at the events shows just how much they have grown. We’re just going to keep on building and building and building,” says junior Tiffany Pham.

“I’m already pumped up to see what the next season brings us because we’re just going to keep on building and building and building,”

In state meet history, the Pirates became only the third team from Northern California to win the girls 4x400 relay, with Berkeley in 1974 and Skyline in 1994 as the previous winners.

“Bringing home this championship means a lot for us here at Piedmont Hills,” says Coach Chiko Robinson. “I’m already pumped up to see what the next season brings us because we’re just going to keep on building and building and building.”

Everyone was pretty much on the same page when they started putting up announcements about a possible flood. I think it was wildly exciting that a city of what happened two years ago happened again,” remarks senior Cindy Nguyen.

However, there were certain differences compared to the first time the leak occurred.

Unlike the first flood in 2012, which was caused by a malfunction in the bathroom and occurred nearly without warning, school administration was aware that an issue had come up with the water system near the L-Building and sent notices to the school to inform the students and staff.

Rooms were also not affected either, as the water did not reach the classrooms.

“I remember during the last flood that Mr. Murphy’s class had to move classrooms because of the water, but this year, none of the students moved at all,” explains senior Samantha Tu.

Due to a low preventing students from attending school without running water, staff sent students home even when efforts were made to solve the issue.
Why all these early days?
By Hoang Nguyen

...write reports on topics such as the school’s curricula...
AN EARLY RISE FOR KEY CLUBBERS

Division 12 East members gather at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom early Saturday morning for Fall Rally North.

The PHHS Key Club participated in the annual Fall Rally North at Six Flags in Vallejo, Calif. last Saturday with a clear goal in mind—to be the most spirited.

The Fall Rally signified the official start of the club for the school year. Key Club members from California and Nevada attended to learn from the motivational programs and compete in various spirit games.

The club put a lot of work into preparing for the event, from having multiple meetings to learn the cheers, to getting spirit gear and painting their own banners and signs.

“We’ve always placed second the past few years, but unfortunately, we didn’t make it to the second round this time,” says Key Club President Allison Mac. “Still, I think D12E deserved that spirit stick. We lost our voices during that rally.”

Although they did not win the spirit stick, the club members feel that the event went really well.

“The wait for the rides was long, but this meant that we had a chance to meet and talk to so many new people from all over California and Nevada. It was great to see so many people gathering who all love Key Club and the service and values it stands for,” adds Allison.

FRESHMEN OFFICERS JOIN THE ASB TEAM

By Vy Pham

ASB welcomed the addition of the Freshman Class Officers President Patricia Alvaro, Vice President Cassidy Chau, Secretary Jennifer Lai and Treasurer Tina Tran in September, a month just before Homecoming.

The new officers are excited to be a part of Leadership and play larger roles as students.

“I wanted to get more involved with school,” Cassidy states. She did not participate in student government during middle school, “so many new people from all over California and Nevada. It was great to see so many people from communication to teamwork that will help them to a better future.”

This year, the International project is “The Answer is the Sun” with a goal to raise $77,550 for 400 students from Piedmont Hills and the rest of Area 6 including Mt. Pleasant, Independence and Milpitas showed spirit, while fighting life changing stories among the many others as the South Bay Area.

FLC is the biggest event for each year. All those who attended learned through the several workshops with specific goals teaching people how to be a better person and how to “empower change” around them.

This annual event reached out to many attendees including junior Ramone Diners experience FLC for his first time, only having to say, “I really had a great time and met so many new people.”

“This year, I feel really pumped about FLC since I am a senior now,” says senior Michelle Ly.

In this big event, many bonded through the workshop that helped many build life skills from communication to teamwork that will help lead them to a better future.

This year, the International project is “The Answer is the Sun” with a goal to raise $77,550 to provide 5,170 cook sets, panel-styled solar cookers, for Afghan children. The goal of the International project in the previous year was to promote education in Bangladesh by providing a library and books with all the money they raise.
Students choose AP science, math courses over AP Literature

By Winston Lee

Seven sections of AP Calculus, four sections of AP Physics, six sections of AP Biology, two sections of AP Chemistry, four sections of AP Environmental Science, but only one section of AP Literature. These are some of the advanced classes many students are taking this year. These numbers beg the question of what in the world are these students doing? Ms. Nguyen exemplifies this type of student.

“I knew for sure I needed AP Stats and AP Physics because I wanted to go into the STEM field,” says Nguyen. “AP Spanish, AP Micro and AP Lit were the three classes I took that year. I was really good at them, I felt good about those.”

Le states that the lack of 4AP students is partially due to misconceptions about the class.

“For me, my passion is in the sciences,” states Le. “AP is really really hard, “ asserts Ms. Le, “because (Mr. Brown) is just a serious man. But in terms of grading, we’re not that far apart from each other.”

In regards to 4AP’s benefits, Le says “If you’ve taken 1A, 2A and 3AP and you thought you weren’t too bad then you should definitely 4AP. It’s a very interesting class; you’re gonna read a lot of interesting books that you wouldn’t otherwise read.”

Hillary takes into account the amount of work it requires and one’s ability to cope with it. “Although taking AP Lit would be a more enriching experience, it comes down to whether you have too much on your plate,” states Hillary.

“Definitely social media. It’s really made it more relaxing, so that makes it a lot more enjoyable for me as a teacher,” writes Hillary.

“I’d say the average student is quite a bit more responsible than I thought,” states Hillary. “I’ve had a lot of different jobs before this. I’ve worked at Jamba Juice, Barnes and Nobles, Borders. I worked at the bookstore at San Jose State, the library at San Jose State, and I was an administrative assistant for a nonprofit for a few years. I taught in the Philippines for five years before I moved here, and then I’ve been at Saint Theresa for more than five years, on and off, before coming here.”

“I’ve never had a class that I really enjoy, so that makes it a lot more enjoyable for me as a teacher. And again, the kids here and the staff here are so helpful, so great, that it’s really made it a great experience.”

What prompted you to become a teacher?

“I gave up my backwards hat and said ‘I’m actually okay with the ASB rules because they sound really reasonable. I guess I always knew from an early age that I wanted to do something to help others, and as I went through college I found that education was a way I could do that. I can help students through education or teaching, or by helping them solve different problems, to navigate their way through high school.”

What do you look forward to in Piedmont?

“I used to live in Milwaukee, WI, which is definitely more of an urban area, so the students I worked with were urban students. There’s just a difference between working here and working there.”

What prompted you to become a teacher?

“I’ve been at Santa Theresa for more than five years, on and off, before coming here.”

What should students be taking, if any, given their goals? Right now, for seniors, that might mean going through that application process for college and helping them to navigate that, and to see, when a student comes into my office with an acceptance letter, just that feeling of pride and joy and excitement, and to know that I helped along the way to that process.”

“I’ve always done pretty well in school, and I was good at it, explaining things, and it ended up being my job.”

“I’ve taken the AP courses in the last few years and it’s really working hard to make this transition to administration is that, in the ‘far, far future’ I would like to create an international school in China that would link or have an association with an American school. Having the position in administration here at Piedmont gives Ms. Nguyen experience that she may need later. This leaves the question if Ms. Nguyen plans on going back to the classroom someday, “I would definitely consider going back to teaching,” Ms. Nguyen definitely says.

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A Word From the Wise

Oh, here's a quote from Kirk Douglas. "Try to find what you love, then find a way making money off of what you love."

Enjoy yourself. In the first two years of college, find what you love. It is possible that you might pick a major that you don't like. And if you aren't going to college, really think about your options.

Prepare what you want to do, but no one can plan out their whole life. Make sure that you do your applications, but also make sure that you are actually ready for college. The college atmosphere is very different from high school. For some, you'll be moving out and living by yourself without their parents.

It seems to me that students feel pressured because parents put too much pressure on grades. There’s no certainty in learning. Students need to realize that learning never stops. It's a lifelong process. Never stop learning.

Have confidence, everyone struggles with a lot of things.

Work hard and find something you love to do.

Mr. Berg
Ms. Lee
Mr. Aberle
Mr. Vasques
Mr. Dolci
Madam Beaupre
Ms. Ocampo-Winters
Happy Halloween!

DIY Easy Halloween Costumes

By Vivian Vu

Get ready for Halloween this year by homemaking some of the easiest costumes! It’s quick, easy and money-saving.

• Want to be a feminist? Rosie the Riveter’s costume consists of a simple pair of blue jeans with a blue denim button-up. Finally, accessorize it with a red polka dotted head scarf.

• Black top hat, blazer, maxi skirt and white blouse would cover Mary Poppins’s outfit. Add some freshly picked flowers to the hat and a red bow to the blouse and... Viola! It would be perfect! During red lipstick and a black purse.

• For those cute couples out there that would like to match for Halloween, Mickey and Minnie Mouse might just be the pick. For the gentlemen, a plain black t-shirt and red pants would cover it. For the ladies, it’s a polka dot dress and it’s as simple as that. A possible purchase may be just be Mickey Mouse ears and gloves.

• With a blue shirt, blue pants and red cape, one is ready to save the world. The Superman logo can be drawn, cut out of paper or sewed on.

• Put on the needs glasses and get ready to be Carl from the movie UP. White button up shirt, bow tie and dress pants are the basics for this character. Then, borrow a grandpa cane from grandparents and all would be set. As an extra, some rainbow colored helium balloons floating in the back would bring out more distinctive features of Carl.

• A witch hat is quick to make and cheap to buy. Overall the classic witch costume is nothing more than a black outfit from top to bottom. Most of the pieces use to construct these costumes can be worn again. They are not random clothing bought especially for Halloween and late be left in the closet to dust. Each of these pieces can be reorganized with what one already owns to recreate another casual outfit for school. Homemade costumes are simple enough that most of the materials are found at home or can be purchased at a very low price, so save a few bucks for something else and still look fabulous for Halloween.

Revisit your childhood during Halloween

By Vivian Vu

Aired from 1991 to 2000, Are you Afraid of the Dark? is an American-Canadian horror/fantasy show that featured a different plot and different character in each episode. The series revolves around a group of children who call themselves “The Midnight Society.” They meet at a secret area in the woods every week and would take turn telling scary stories, which would be acted out. The stories are usually about paranormal phenomena, such as ghost, aliens, witches, magic, haunted houses, etc. Although Are you Afraid of the Dark? is a horror show, it’s intended audience is children. The stories rarely contain gore and characters normally don’t die.

Based on R.L. Stine’s book series, Goosebumps is a live-action horror series made for pre-teens and teens. Originally aired during the mid-1990’s, Goosebumps is a must-watch during the week leading up to Halloween. Similar to Are you Afraid of the Dark?, Goosebumps (another American-Canadian horror series) features different characters and a different plot in every episode. Ranging from stories about ventriloquists and monster plants, and dummies to more common monsters like ghosts and vampires, Goosebumps good show to watch on Halloween with family and friends.

LASO Club holds Halloween costume drive

By Cindy Nguyen

In celebration of Halloween, LASO (Latin American Student Organization) Club is having a Halloween costume drive in order to give underprivileged families Halloween costumes for their children to wear. “The drive is for children whose families don’t have the money for costumes, so they can have a chance to celebrate Halloween like any other normal child and this is all done by LASO,” states LASO club officer Kailee Pangelina. With Halloween coming up, children, teenagers and even adults will soon go out to buy this year’s new Halloween costumes. However, others need a little assistance to give their children, or even themselves the same experience as others have.

“We are just trying to make these kids have as normal of a Halloween just like any other child,” states Kailee. Aside from costumes, LASO will also be handing out candy and goody bags to the children as well as hold fun activities.

LASO members organized a Halloween costume drive and will be receiving donations from families who no longer need their old Halloween costumes. Both LASO club officials and members will be volunteer- ing and helping out to make sure the costume drive is successful.

PHHS’s Favorite Candy

PHHS’s Scariest Teacher

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY

By Cindy Nguyen

Want to be a feminist? Rosie the Riveter’s costume consists of a simple pair of blue jeans with a blue denim button-up. Finally, accessorize it with a red polka dotted head scarf.

Happy Halloween!
Ask Polly

Q What would you suggest to a freshman who doesn’t really have friends because their current group of friends don’t talk to them much? In high school, it’s kind of hard to make friends because of all the cliques. Advice?

Dear Anonymous,

For Piedmont Hills (I don’t really know about other schools because parrots hang out with Pirates), a good way to meet people is to join clubs. Try joining clubs that interest you and you’re bound to meet people whom you can connect with. There are over 80 clubs at our school, so I’m sure you’ll have no problem. Also, I’m going to assume that you’re a freshman. Freshmen should remember not to be afraid of talking to upper classmen. They were in your shoes once, and movie stereotypes are just movie stereotypes.

A

Q How do I handle the stress that comes with school, clubs, and life in general?

Dear Anonymous,

Don’t let stress surround you. When things pile up, they may seem like daunting tasks, but takes it one step at a time; you don’t have to tackle everything at once. Try making a list of what you need to do either in order of importance or level of difficulty. The hardest thing about stress is to not think about it as an obstacle but as a challenge. Once you find your rhythm, everything should start falling into place.

Don’t forget to take care of your body. Ice cream may be your comfort food, but it’s important to find nutrition not just for your health, but also for your brain function. Consider snacking on apples; they have just the right amount of natural sugars to keep you going without crashing. Also, don’t forget to stay hydrated by drinking water, not those carbonated drinks loaded with artificial flavoring!

A

November

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<td>Depressing Fact</td>
<td>Ponderous Tune</td>
<td>Wordy Advice</td>
<td>Magical Herb</td>
<td>Feel-Good Joke</td>
<td>Sunny Prospect</td>
<td>Necessary Reminder</td>
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<td>Every 18 minutes, someone commits suicide.</td>
<td>&quot;Sad Prayers for Guilty Ones&quot;</td>
<td>If the cake is bad, what good is the frosting?</td>
<td>Almond - money, prosperity, wisdom</td>
<td>Where do cows go for a first date?</td>
<td>The US economy is improving faster than anyone expected.</td>
<td>Remember to get all your vitamins, even that from the sun. Get the D (vitamin).</td>
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<td>Over 4000 children die every day due to lack of sanitation.</td>
<td>&quot;Simple Man&quot;</td>
<td>If the world seems cold, kindle a fire to warm it.</td>
<td>Dandelion - divination, wishes, calling spirits</td>
<td>How do you feel when there is no coffee?</td>
<td>The number of American cigarette smokers is decreasing quickly.</td>
<td>The mind creates the biggest obstacles in life.</td>
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<td>Veterans’ Day</td>
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<td>The ease of Facebook breakups has infected 22% of people.</td>
<td>&quot;Lightning Crashes&quot;</td>
<td>And all for love, and nothing for reward.</td>
<td>Honeysuckle - money, psychic powers, protection</td>
<td>What does a baby computer call his father?</td>
<td>Every year, millions of trees grow due to squirrels forgetting where they buried their nuts.</td>
<td>CSU and UC applications are due SATURDAY.</td>
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<td>Those who use cell phones are 2.5 times more likely to develop brain cancer near the ear they put their phone on.</td>
<td>&quot;American Pie&quot;</td>
<td>You need to recharge. Spend time alone in nature.</td>
<td>Pistachio - breaking love spells</td>
<td>Why didn’t the melons get married? Because they cantaloupe!</td>
<td>Penguins propose to their lifelong mate by giving them a pebble.</td>
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Want to submit your own comic? Send your idea to phleg-end@gmail.com
Girls Tennis serves stunning season

By Shannon Sanchez

Varsity Tennis is leading the season with a solid score of 8-4. Varsity's game against Evergreen Valley was an especially close call.

“We lost to Evergreen 4-3. It was a really close game, and it ended up depending on the doubles three,” recalls JV player Leanne Do. “They tried really hard, but we had a lot of simple mistakes like with footwork and communication.”

Varsity’s season is complete with challenges.

“It’s been tough; it’s our coach’s last season,” says co-captain Jessica Nguyen. “We don’t have very many returning players, but we do have a lot of really eager and good freshmen.”

Varsity singles two Amy Tran.

The JV players are working hard to improve their skills.

“We need to work on consistency,” she says. “Our opponent’s miles like with footwork and communication.”

Catch one of their games before November 8.

Nov. 5 and Lincoln High on Thurs. Nov. 7.

There will be games against Andrew Hill High on Thurs, Oct. 31, Oak Grove High on Tues. Nov. 5, and Lincoln High on Thurs. Nov. 7.

GO TEAM! Girls Varsity Volleyball team dominates Mt. Pleasant High in Tuesday’s game.

Girls Varsity Volleyball team brings heat

By Quincy Mao

Starting off the season with their toughest competitor Oak Grove, Piedmont Hills Varsity Girls Volleyball players won 2-1 in sets. A recent game with Mt. Pleasant The next game will be next Tuesday against Willow Glen High School.

PHHS’s Varsity Volleyball has been able to up their game each time. They practice each day as much as possible to get the most out of practice, especially when about to face their top competitor Oak Grove. “We have good chemistry” says Varsity volleyball player Kiana Luhai that feeling “confident” they will win against the game against Oak Grove felt “intense” to Lu Luhai and spectator Matthew Torres who cheered for Piedmont volleyball players.

The team conquered all their opponents at each game except one, setting the score of 8 wins and 1 loss to Independence High School. There will be games against Andrew Hill High on Thurs, Oct. 31; Oak Grove High on Tues. Nov. 5 and Lincoln High on Thurs. Nov. 7.

GO TEAM! Girls Varsity Volleyball team performs a spike serve.

GO ANMY! Co-captain Anmy Tran returns a serve in a match against Willow Glen High School.

Cross Country races toward strong season

By Winston Lee, Robert De Leon

This year’s Piedmont Hills Boys Cross Country team starts the fall season with a 2-2 score for Varsity, 3-1 for JV and 4-0 for Fresh-Soph. The team also competed in three invitational meets at Stanford University and Stevenson High School.

“These invitational meets show other schools our skills and provide the best students to other coaches, and maybe even apply for scholarships,” says team captain Trung Dang.

Dang hopes this year’s runners will compete in the Mt. Sac invitational meet in Los Angeles, Calif. and in the Central Coast Section Cross Country Championships at Toro County Park in Salinas, Calif. CCS is where the team strives to compete with the best runners in the state.

“I just want our team to do their best and hopefully make it to CCS,” says Dang.

According to Dang, the only obstacles the team faces are mainly injuries.

“There were times when we’ve had some of the best members who couldn’t make it to the meets because of injuries,” Dang states.

For Boys JV cross country runner Luke Tsai, being in the A League for cross country proves to be the primary challenge for the team.

“We’re racing against faster schools so it’s very tough, but you have to race against people who are better than you and then improve.

Despite these challenges, the team still trains hard for the chance of racing the top runners both in our community and in the state

“Practices are similar to last year,” Tsai explains. “They’re just more intense. There are longer runs, we do more hill repeats, and the courses are different so we are preparing for different courses.”

Dang has confidence in his team’s performance in future meets this year.

“(The team) is always committed to doing their best through practice and also applies that to the meet,” says Dang.

Tsai is also confident in the team, but is also mindful of the how the top competitors fair.

“It’s really hard to say just because we know the other schools are working hard too,” Tsai says. “But if we keep working hard, we should be okay.”

Earlier in the month the team also participated in the Rock’s Ran, and on Oct. 6. Three Cross Country members helped out at the water station where they provided water throughout the event. Team captain Rani Tanna says that as the day went by Coach Tippets decided to participate in the event.

Freshman Team

The Girls Freshman team fares less well, earning a losing 8-1 season record after losing the game against Branham High School 2-0 this Tuesday.

Despite their losses, the Freshman team’s spirit still burns bright.

“I really enjoyed the season so far,” says freshman Shayanne Catchesian, “we’ve had our ups and downs but we’re still going strong.”

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with hitting the ball, like not hitting it out as much,” says JV player Hannah Liu. “We get to know our opponents really well. We’re really good at predicting where the ball is going.”

“We are practicing lots of drills, footsteps, hitting back, lob hits, forehand and backhand and doubles play and communication,” states Do. “We cheer each other on and encourage each other a lot. I really love how close we are as a team.”

Varsity players also recognize their strengths and weaknesses.

“Some of the team’s biggest strengths are how we motivate each other and help people get better,” states Tran. “We could probably work on doubles play and serving.”

Varsity maintains high hopes for the future.

“My goals are to make CCS and also to make the best out of this year,” muses Nguyen.
Water Polo back in the game

By Kendra Hu, Vinh Vu

PHHS Water Polo was almost canceled at the end of the last school year. When rumors of the cancelation spread during the Water Polo Banquet, the swimmers fought to preserve this sport.

Parents attended the district meeting, met with ESUHSD (East Side Union High School District) Superintendent Christopher Funk and decided to start a petition in order to keep this "rare" sport within the district, according to water polo retiree Samantha Tu.

"Basically, we suspended it for a few major reasons: lack of qualified coaches, inadequate practice facilities and inadequate practice transportation to Independence (High School)," explains Athletic Director Peter Simos.

"There’s a grasp of effort between a few parents and students that voice their concern to the school board and superintendent," comments Mr. Simos.

However, it is an intramural program; the players are split into four teams to compete with each other to improve the team. The Piedmont Hills Water Polo Banquet, the swimmers fought to preserve this sport.

PHHS Football Team dominates at Santa Teresa

By Vivian Vu

The PHHS Varsity Football team dominated in their last game at Santa Teresa with a score of 37-6. "I felt like getting an A+ on a Calculus test," shares slot receiver Kenny Nguyen.

"In the first half we weren’t ready for the heat because we usually play at night-games, but in the second half we overcame it, and we were able to put up a lot of points," explains nose guard Bobby Rose.

During the second quarter of the game, the team made it nearly impossible for Santa Teresa to score, giving Santa Teresa a little movement room before taking the ball. The end of the second quarter, the Varsity Football team increased their lead by 7 points, and the team continued to thrive, earning a total of 37 points by the end of the game.

Their next game is today on the turf at 7pm.

"Come check out our game on Friday, I guarantee you will not be disappointed," encourages Rose.

Through hard work and perseverance, the Varsity Football team has been working with each other to improve the team and themselves.

"Our goal is to improve throughout the season," states Coach Matt Kiele. "They’re the [Varsity Football team] a good team. We just need to continue doing what we do and get better at it." A common goal among the team is to go just need to continue doing what we do and get better at it.

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Girls Varsity Basketball

68-13 (W)
41-21 (L)
62-14 (W)
56-7 (W)
37-14 (L)
37-6 (W)

Girls JV Basketball

47-0 (W)
42-7 (L)
37-8 (W)
46-8 (W)
13-0 (W)
22-8 (W)

PHHS Football Team dominates at Santa Teresa

By Kendrew Kwong

The Piedmont Hills Varsity Football team started off the season with a score of 37-6 against Santa Teresa. "The boys are really talented; they have lots of strength, speed and killer shot precision during our games," points out Navalta. "This year, the money we earn from fundraisers is going towards buying new goals for the future water polo program at Piedmont Hills. We’re trying to build strong team bonds this year, so next year everyone can focus on improving skills instead of learning who their teammates are." •

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  - **Dec. 25:** Christmas
  - **Dec. 31:** New Year’s Eve

**Art Scene Club to give campus new directions**

By Thoansa Huynh

P HHS’s Art Scene Club is currently creating new wooden directional signs to put up around campus.

“Our school campus can be confusing at times,” points out Club Treasurer Mary Tran. “The signs are a way to make it easier not only for students, but also for visitors or guests to navigate themselves throughout our campus.”

Art Scene Club Advisor and art teacher Noreen Rubay came up with the idea, and suggested that the club should create these signs to indicate the different subject areas in each building.

The club members will be using paint to create their own designs and incorporate courses into different themes.

**Drama Dept. brings some ‘Southern Hospitality’ to PHHS**

By Samuel M. Nguyen

F our sisters and one Texas town all it takes for the PHHS Drama Dept. to deliver a bit of “Southern Hospitality” with this laugh out loud, two act play set from Wed., Nov. 13 to Sat., Nov. 16 in the L-Building.

In the small Texas town of Fayro, the Futrelle sisters and their fellow citizens attempt to revive their dying town by convincing a saloon manufacturing company to relocate there. They plan to host the “Fayro Days”, a weekend that promises the quirkiness of the town. Fayro Days doesn’t exist however... or rather, it doesn’t exist yet.

For the past few years, PHHS’ Drama Dept. has been presenting dramatic tales like “Flowers for Algernon” and “Night of January 16th.”

“Be prepared to laugh,” says actress Jessica Hoian.

So what is it about “Southern Hospitality” that makes it hilarious?

“Well, there’s hospitality, and then there’s southern hospitality,” explains actress Erin Strickland. “It’s a way of living.”

The matinee performance is on Wed., Nov. 13 at 3:30pm with three performing nights following that from Thur., Nov. 14 to Sat., Nov. 16, at 7pm.

Most people only watch one showing, but Erin warns us, “The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese,” because this year’s play is double casted; every character gets two actors.

“Every show is not going to be the same thing,” says actor Guruprasad Thind.

“You’re going to want to see it more than once,” adds Jessica.

Being more than just a hilarious sit through, Southern Hospitality brings themes that make this “a feel good play,” according to Jessica.

These quirky characters will show the audience they can do anything, from the feisty 55 year old Rhonda Lynn Lampley to simplistic optimistic Reynard Chium.

“The cast features some contrasting “normal” characters amidst all the crazy such as Gina Jo, niece to the Futrelle sisters and wife of interim pastor, Justin Waverly. But who could possibly be normal while the other Futrelle Sisters around?”

When the lights go off, the shuffling sounds and shadows are tech crew members making the play run smoothly.

“It’s all done by students,” remarks Ms. Tiffany Woods. “When it comes to show time, there are no adults backstage it’s all run by the students.”

“For a tech crew to be successful the audience will never see or hear them ever. If we didn’t walk out at the end of the show all dressed in black, people wouldn’t ever know how many people are back there making the show happen.”

**Adelante Mujeres Club produces gender equality series**

By Margaret Chon

T he Adelante Mujeres Club’s Education Series—a week-long event of after-school seminars with topics centered around gender equality—began Mon., Sept. 23 in Ms. Orban’s room, F-12 and ended Fri., Sept. 25 with a showing of the short film “Miss Representation,” which discussed the portrayal of gender in the media.

“We women still make 77 cents to a man’s dollar. Every one of us will go to the workplace, so we need to be aware of the disadvantages women face,” asserts Historian Kimberly Lam.

The club invited several guests for the workshops, including speakers from the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition and the UC Davis Cultural Studies Graduate Group, as well as successful women from the business world.

“I wish I had something like this when I was in high school,” says speaker Melissa Junge, who is also in charge of Marketing for CCP psych assessments. “Keep the conversation (about gender inequality) going. This conversation proliferates through all industries.”

Over 100 students attended, and many of them found the seminars to be informative.

“(The seminar) is nice, because we can use in the real world,” says junior Katie Lam. “We get treated unfairly: men have to be muscular, women have to be pretty.”

Senior Justin Ng agrees.

“‘They’re basically student art-based, so we let them use their own creativity,’” explains Club President Tiffany La.

“There will be a few directional signs for each building, depending on its location.”

The club members will be working on the wooden signs after school every Wednesday throughout the school year.

“Our goal for this year is just to finish the F-Building, but I think that we’re going to finish before the end of this year,” speculates Club Vice President Jessica Chu.

There are roughly ten students working on the signs, so the project will take at least another year to complete.

**Painting** Art Scene club members work on F-Building signs.

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*Upcoming DATES*

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“(The seminar) is nice, because we can use in the real world,” says junior Katie Lam. “We get treated unfairly: men have to be muscular, women have to be pretty.”

Senior Justin Ng agrees.

“At this film because we want to bring awareness of our club, which is break- ing gender stereotypes, and the media oftentimes helps perpetuate gender stereotypes,” says Vice President Jessica Cao.

“We chose this film because it applies to everybody... We just want people to think and be more aware of what they’re actually seeing.”

The idea for the Education Series came from Adelante Mujeres’s ASB, screening of “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide” second semester last school year.

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