ESUHSD-union deal adds five more days to school calendar
By Margaret Chen

All ESUHSD (East Side Union High School District) schools have extended their school calendars by five days after the district and teachers’ union reached an agreement on contractual issues Wed., Nov. 13. “December 20 has been added to the calendar as the last day of finals and four days have been added after Memorial Day,” explains union president Shelley Moneymaker. “School will still end in May.”

Negotiations for the 2013-2014 school year began in March, but disagreements over furlough days—forced day-offs without salary for staff—and teachers’ pay delayed resolution. “Both sides agreed that the furlough days needed to be brought back,” recalls Ms. Moneymaker. “The district said they could only do one or the other, so that is why it took longer for both sides to reach a fair agreement.” She also notes that this year was the last for furlough days to continue. In the end, the district agreed to grant ESUHSD teachers a 1.95% raise.

Ms. Moneymaker predicts that the changes will be valuable to the schools. “More instructional minutes (benefit) everyone,” she asserts. “Last year students had to take finals and AP tests on the same day.” According to Ms. Moneymaker, the teachers’ union will begin negotiations for next year’s contract in March 2014 and will attempt to address some of the teachers’ dissatisfaction.

“We’ve given up many, many, many things to the district,” says union vice president Patri- cia Bolster, who speaks here as an individual rather than for the union. “It’s been years since that changed,” she continues. “English classes don’t top out at thirty—they’re topping out at 35 in some classes—which is not easy for the kids, or the teach- ers. We have not gotten back our librarians. We have not gotten back our bookroom technician. We have not gotten back our career technicians. These are things we’d like to see happen.”

By Hoang Nguyen

This year’s Christmas showcase SNL (Silent Night Live), a tribute by the Advanced Drama Class to PHHS, contained a parody of nine sketches that humorously follow pop cul- tures and featured original characters and a surprise ending.

“Our sole purpose is to have the drama department be active. We want them (the school) to ask, ‘What can’t we do?’” says director Kady Le.

The nine sketches included “Elf Code,” a parody of Girl Code on MTV (Music Television); “Substitute San- ta,” an original production about a South Pole Santa who was verbally abusive; “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” a feminist interpretation of the song “Baby, It’s Cold Outside”; “Government Shutdown,” a satire of the government shut- down with a solution presented by Sarah Palin; “All Things Christmas,” a game show; “Hell’s Kitchen,” a parody with guest Mrs. Claus; “Not That’s What I Call Xmas 5:48,” a rendition of popular songs rewritten in the Christmas Spirit; “Holiday Update,” a newscast for Christmas news; and their surprise closing number, a cast rendition of “Feliz Navidad.”

The name of the showcase itself is a parody of popular TV program Saturday Night Live, which is also formatted with a series of comedic sketches.

The directors of these droll dramas are se- niors Kady Le, Co-CA Trask, Jeffrey Bui, Mia Cotton and junior Guparshad Thind who all have one to two sketches.

This year, they had a little over a month to plan out the entire showcase. “It’s been stressful because of Act Up, we had to cut the amount of time to plan it (to one month),” explains Kady.

“We spent a week or two coming up with ideas and writing it, and a week to block the show— to transition it from script to stage,” says actor Andrew Stauffer. “We lost a week during Thanksgiv- ing, but came back running tech- nical aspects. For Wednesday and Thursday (two weeks prior) we have been running the show over and again.”

The show itself was a huge success. “We have been packed throughout the show, and the crowd’s been re- ally responsive.”

The amount of writing in class seems to be a fair amount and many students don’t even notice any major changes in their class- es compared to the years before. “I feel like I’m writing more this year because of the courses I’m taking, not really because of curriculum change,” says Connie. “I think that teachers are doing more writing this year. There are a lot of people who are stressing over their essays constant- ly this year which is more often compared to last year,” points out Christine, who takes three AP (Advanced Placement) classes this year.

The CC is meant to boost the educational standards in the US and is ex- pected to be adapted by schools all over the country.

The newly adopted legislation, by Gov. Jerry Brown, will also be replacing the state standardized STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting Program) test that students take at the end of every year that measures the students’ academic skills as well as mea- sures the students’ AP (Application Program- ming Interface) score. The CC testing will be computerized compared to the old-fashioned paper and pencil testing method, yet nothing is for sure since this is the first year schools are adapting to the CC.
PHHS hires long-term sub. in Music Dept.

By Kendra Hsu

PHHS officially hired a long-term substitute teacher, Mr. Gerry Johnson, who will be here until December and possibly through the end of the school year. Mr. Johnson took over three periods of Piano, and one period of String Orchestra and Guitar Class.

"I've been giving (lessons) like science, English, math, etc., but my major is music and it's more fun to be able to see them (students) grow," comments Mr. Johnson. "It's fun teaching, but prior to this, I worked for high tech technology companies like Apple and Oracle. I miss being able to help kids." The substitution originally was supposed to last a few days, but Mr. Johnson was soon contacted and asked to continue his job until December, which he agreed to. Mr. Johnson explained that he would consider subbing until the end of the year if he was offered the job.

"They would have to pay me more money," jokes Mr. Johnson. He admits that the first few days of teaching weren't as easy as he thought they would be. Usually he gets "pretty good lesson plans," but since this is a long term job, it's a little different. "It's challenging. You can't teach the same thing to everyone because they're all in a different level," explains Mr. Johnson. "Most of it I had to figure out."

He does sectional teaching for every class and conducted string orchestra in the Winter Concert last Thursday.

Currently, the district has posted a job in search of a music teacher with a music credential, and who is experienced with string orchestras. Many of those who fit these criteria have applied.

Students and staff help Red Cross by giving blood

By Amy Johnson

Last Friday from 9:30am to 2:30pm, Red Cross held their biannual blood drive in the I-building for students to donate blood and give back to the community. Every three seconds worldwide, someone needs a blood transfusion and donating blood will help one of these many people in need. Sign-ups were held in the main hall until Tues. Dec. 10.

"Every person has their own reasons for wanting to donate blood, whether a family member needed a blood transfusion, and this is their way of giving back," says Red Cross President Christina Bui.

There are other reasons students may not be able to donate. The minimum age to give blood is 16 and in order to donate one must meet the health and weight requirements. To have a better chance to donate, students should make sure they are staying hydrated to have healthy iron levels.

It has donated blood a few times now, and each time it was very rewarding to know I did a good deed. There are many people out there that need our help and I'm willing to give up some of my time to give it," says sophomore Rider Townsend.

Each person donates about one pint of blood. Red Cross officers encourage everyone to try and give blood even though some may be turned away because it helps the community. The club hopes that this year will be successful just like all the past drives.

PHHS seniors place in SCVMA

By Margaret Chen

Last Saturday, seniors Kevin Chang, Paul Tran and Kevin D. Pham received first, third and fifth place respectively in Division II of the 2013 SCVMA (Santa Clara Mathematics Association) Math Olympiad for High School Seniors, which took place at Miller Middle School. Kevin Chang also placed fifth in the overall competition.

"The competition was incredibly difficult, and the other schools typically spend about a month coaching their participants, so I was surprised that the three of us were able to place so far ahead," expresses senior Kevin Chang.

The three seniors received news of the competition only a week beforehand.

"All of the contestants were given previous contests from a competition that was written by the same contest writer," states Mr. Kuang. "I'm not sure how much time each contestant spent preparing, but apparently it was enough."

Most schools—including all of the high schools in East Side Union, Valley Christian, Leland and others at Santa Clara Valley—participated in Division II. Each school was allowed to enter a maximum of three seniors.

"The competition was a little intimidating, seeing that we were squaring off against top schools like Lynbrook," admits senior Paul Tran, referring to one of the Division I schools.

Students were handed 30 questions to complete in 90 minutes. Calculators (except those with QWERTY keyboards) were allowed.

"I answered about half of the questions and got fifth place... so this was no easy task," says senior Kevin Pham.

However, he reported that the competition was enjoyable as well.

"I thought that it was a great experience overall, because I was able to compare my math skills to others, and winning a trophy is never a bad thing... Going to these math competitions is a great experience," says Kevin Pham, and recommends those who love logic problems to join the school’s Math Team.

Next March, along with selected members of the Math Team, the seniors plan on attending the SCVMA Math Field Day, in which the team placed third overall earlier this year.
Society bids goodbye to leader of human dignity and forbearance

By Minh-Hieu Vu

T he death of Nelson Mandela, South African anti-apartheid leader and President of South Africa, at age 95 on Thurs., Dec. 5, left millions across from the globe, from China to here in California, heartbroken at the loss of a leader of human dignity and forbearance.

Nelson Mandela’s glory comes from not only from his dedication to ending the system of apartheid, but also from his unwavering commitment to non-violence and reconciliation. His story is a testament to the power of love and forgiveness, and a reminder to the world of the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of great adversity. Even after his release from prison, he continued to work towards a more just and equitable society, serving as South Africa’s first black president and working tirelessly for the betterment of his country.

But his legacy goes beyond his political accomplishments. Nelson Mandela was a man of great moral courage and integrity, who inspired generations around the world with his example. His words and actions continue to be a beacon of hope and inspiration to those who seek to build a better world. In his memory, we are reminded of the power of unity and of the importance of working together towards a common goal. His legacy will live on as a reminder of the timeless truth that out of the darkest moments of history, there can come new hope and new possibilities for a better future.

CSF’s Christmas Carnival brings cheer to little ones

By Vivian Pham

T he CSF (California Scholarship Federation) club spread the holiday season once again with its annual Christmas Carnival Thursday Dec. 5 at San Antonio and Lyndale Elementary Schools, located deep within the Alum Rock area. Though very poor schools, this car- nival is much more about spreading cheer than raising money, the board states. ASB hosted PHHS’s annual winter rally and featured games such as the wrapping game, in which everyone sort of thought, ‘Oh, it’s like a Christmas party, isn’t it?’ explains ASB president Vicken Badakhyan. ASB was able to hold the win- ter rally in the gym, instead of on the turf like the last two rallies, due to schedule conflict, which divided the student body into rally A and rally B. This decision was met with a mixed response, as it unevenly divided each class, especially in the cases of the freshman and the junior class.

“T he greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”

Members were excited from school in order to help with the various rooms: Santa, games, snack, crafts and inflating rooms. The schools’ respective Santa rooms host is a visiting jolly bearded fellow—history teacher Jeff Loggins or math teacher Kevin Murphy—and distributed toys to the kids while the games room hosted a wide variety of car- nival-style games. The snack room brought joy to their tummies through the making and tasting of marshmallow snowmen and the craft room gave them adorable hand puppets to take home with them.

“We added the kindergarten rooms last year. It’s like hosting a carnival within a carnival,” says club President Victoria Loo.

The kindergarten rooms had bits and pieces of the other rooms, such as snacks that required no assembly and board games to keep the little ones entertained.

YUM! Senior Steven Ou and a first grader share laughs and delicious marshmallow snowmen.

E ven though the days are shorter and the trees are bare, the holiday season is still in full swing this time of the year. It’s a time for family gatherings and sharing gifts with loved ones. But for some, this time of the year can be a difficult one. "The greatest gift is life. I am the captain of my soul. I am the master of my fate.”

GSA strives for gay and transgender acceptance

By Shannon Sanchez

G SA (Gay-Straight Alliance) pretended the youth planted and led YES/Youth Empowerment Summit conference last Sat- urday to learn about and advocate gay and transgender acceptance.

The YES conference was an ex- citing, new experience for PHHS’s GSA. “I’ve never been to (the confer- ence) which is why I want to go so badly,” explains President Katherine Nguyen beforehand.

The conference is incredibly useful to GSA across the west coast.

"The conference helps GSA’s all around California and Oregon con- nect,” says Advisor Andrea Ocmab- Winters. "It’s great for schools that are just starting because it empowers them to know that other schools have succeeded with GSA. It’s also a great place to meet other people who care about human rights.”

GSA prepared for the YES con- ference by selling ribbons for 50 cents each.

"It wasn’t about the $42 we made,” states Katherine. “It was about the 84 students and staff wearing a ribbon to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community. It was really awesome to see because we went from the ground, up this year.”

The YES conference succeeded in bonding a collection of people in a shared vision.

"LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning) youth sometimes feel left out,”反映. "Even though enough of a lot of people at Piedmont Hills are ac- cepting, it can be really hard to re- late to anyone because our LGBTQ+ youth experiences are so different.

PHHS’s GSA was sent two free DVDs from the Bob Ross Foundation, one about expression and iden- tity, and the other about marriage equality and LGBTQ+ families.

"It was really exciting for our club,” expresses Katherine. “We plan to show the segments next semester during club meetings.”

RETRACIONS

The following are corrections for the November 2013 issue of The Legend.

Southern Hospitality

Tickets were $8 for student admission and $10 for adults, not $10 and $12.

Mission College

"Mr. Howard” should have read “Mr. Peters.”

UNICEF

UNICEF hoped to raise $5000 this year, not $3.

THE GREATEST GIFT Class officers act as children receiving presents from their military dad in the Friday rally skit.

Yule Ball, rally, Spirit Week bring winter festivities

By Margaret Chen

A SB welcomes the arrival of winter with a Yule Ball, the annual winter rally and an accompanying Spirit Week. Last Friday starting at 7pm, ASB hosted PHHS’s annual winter ball. The theme was “Fire and Ice,” which ASB hoped would be a re- freshing change from the usual ideas centered around winter and the cold. The theme was very nicely done. The dress theme looked great, with girls wearing red and guys wearing blue or black. ASB also did the macarena to get into a conga line that circled the whole floor, and also do the macarena toward the end. If you went with the whole floor, and also do the macarena to get into a conga line that circled the whole floor, and also do the macarena toward the end. If you went with the right people, like I did, then you had a blast the whole night,” recalls junior Sabina Mota.

The winter rally was held ear- lier on the same day, featuring games such as the wrapping game, in which two officers from each class wrapped their class presidents with paper of the class’s colors.

“It was fun hearing our class cheer us on. I couldn’t really see much at the end though,” muses freshman class president Patricia Al-
Music department plays at winter concert

By Christopher Pham

On Thursday the Music Dept. hosted their annual winter concert under the direction of new Music Director Myles Ellis.

Various groups, such as the Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir played Christmas themed music such as “Stiegl Ride” by Leroy Anderson and classical pieces such as “The First Noel” arranged by Darmon Meader. Anderson and classical pieces such as “The First Noel” arranged by Darmon Meader.

“I’m definitely excited about playing the pieces and hearing what the other groups have to offer. The winter concert is an important annual event for the Music Department,” exclaims 1st violinist Cindy Nguyen.

Mr. Ellis was responsible for all of the groups’ performances, and chose the songs this year.

“I chose the pieces that would maximize the talents of the musicians playing, as well as the concert,” explained Mr. Ellis. Mr. Ellis welcomed the concert as a challenge.

“It was a bit difficult for the band and orchestra groups since I started directing them in the middle of the school year, but I think it’s lots of fun to conduct them,” explains Mr. Ellis.

A string quartet, consisting of seniors Christopher Tran, Cindy Nguyen, Michelle Ly and Christopher Pham also played at the start of the program.

“In past concerts, other string quartets played as a way to highlight their musical skills and were unique compared to the other groups. This year we chose to play the ‘Christmas Concerto’, or the ‘Concerto Grosso in G Minor’ by Arcangelo Corelli, since we were inspired by the winter theme of the concert,” explains cellist Michelle Ly.

Audience members were also impressed by the concert.

“I thought that the winter concert was an amazing success. There were a lot of interesting songs, and the new features such as the string quartet and the food concession stand made the night very memorable,” commented senior Shane Yen. Mr. Ellis also hopes to improve the orchestra and band groups as a whole in the future.

“What I think is most important right now is for them to improve on their sight-reading skills and sense of rhythm. I look forward to working with the music groups on that in the future,” muses Mr. Ellis.

Instrumental Club also hosted a concession stand selling hot chocolate and fuzzy socks in order to raise additional funds for the Music Department.

Prominent leaders advocate for Afghan women

By Mot-Hieu Vu

S ecretary of State John Kerry, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former First Lady Laura Bush passionately advocated for Afghan women’s “hard-fought rights” at a recent symposium held at Georgetown University.

According to these prominent leaders of the symposium, Afghanistan is in an important transition time as US troops are coming back home and it is essential that the US continues to advocate and empower Afghan women.

“As Afghanistan sees women standing up in Afghanistan, taking control of their country’s future, not only for themselves, but for all Afghans... we have to be determined that they will not stand alone,” says Mr. Ker- ry. “America will stand up with them as they stand up for the future of Afghanistan that secures a rightful place in the community of nations.”

Afghanistan is one of the most—if not the most—dangerous countries for women, trailing behind The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, India, and Somalia, according to a Thomson Reuters Foundation expert poll. Among persistent violence and severe poverty, the country also has extremely high rates of rape and domestic abuse.

But according to Amnesty International, the situation is looking up.

According to the Human Rights Or- ganization, “Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001 there has been significant progress for women’s rights in Afghanistan. Some of the improvements include:

- Increased enrollment into all tiers of formal education
- Increased life expectancy
- Reserved seats in the Afghan Na- tional Assembly and provincial councils for women
- Increased freedom of movement and an end to forced marriage
- Increased freedom to choose their marriage partners

Afghanistan is one of the most—if not the most—most dangerous countries for women, according to the Human Rights Organization.

“I’ve been to four charity concerts now, and I think this was by far my favorite one because the performances were amazing this year,” exclaimed Treasurer Rani Tanna.

During clean-up, Interim President Jake Pham from Milpitas High remarked “After walking around all day and basically trying to run to and from the stage, my back hurts, my feet hurt. But knowing that this event went well and that we’re helping people, and that we can all be proud at the moment.”

“I think this was by far my favorite one because you see at other benefit shows,” remarked first-year Interact member Kendrick Olero from Homestead High.

“Students who aren’t a part of Key Club will be having a Division Mixer at Mayfair Community Center, inviting all students to participate in the night of fun. Because their theme is ‘Heroes of the Night’, Key Club will really become heroes in holding this mixer.

“The mixer is both a fundraiser and social event for key members from different schools to get to know each other. All the money we make goes to PTP (Pediatric Trauma Prevention),” explains President Han Nguyen.

This is a full on effort from all of the schools attending this mixer.

“Independence High, San Jose High, Irvington High, KIPP San Jose Collegiate, American High, Mission San Jose, Washington High and Milpitas High will be attending,” says Sara Haydar.

According to Allison, tickets will be $13 if bought beforehand and $17 at the door. According to Allison, tickets will be $13 if bought beforehand and $17 at the door.

“Students who aren’t a part of Key Club won’t be left out of this event. “Students can just find one of the Key (Club) officers. There will also be a Facebook event page by the end of the week that highly encourage everyone to go because the mixer is going to be on the day we get out of school, and with all the schools going, it’s going to be so fun!” says Michelle.

According to Allison, tickets will be $13 if bought beforehand and $17 at the door. According to Allison, tickets will be $13 if bought beforehand and $17 at the door. By Winston Lee

SWEET SWEET JINGLES! Senior Kenneth Nguyen adds another dimension of holiday joy to the already impressive chorus of first strings in Symphony Orchestra.
By Theresa Huynh

Treblemakers spread holiday cheer at NASA

By Christopher Pham

S

By Vivian Vu

Finals: Do’s and Don’ts

Do: Sleep

Don’t sacrifice sleeping time for studying time. Not getting enough sleep on any night can be more detrimental than some might realize. During sleep, our brain makes critical connections and strengthens memory. If one doesn’t get the required amount of sleep (about 9½ hours of sleep for teenagers), it’s very likely that he or she is depriving himself or herself of necessary REM (Rapid eye movement) sleep and Slow-wave Sleep, both of which help with the acquisition of learned materials and declarative memory.

Do: Know when to stop studying

Students should know that studying late at night before a test may not be beneficial to their grade. “Within 12 to 24 hours of the test, it’s time to stop studying. You’re not going to learn a lot of new content. The likelihood is much higher that you’re going to stress yourself out and confuse yourself. For the last minute studier, flashcards can be a good resource,” explains Colin Greenwalk of Kaplan Test Prep.

Do: Energize yourself the next morning

Don’t test drowsily. Students should aim to get up earlier to maximize the amount of time they have in the morning to prepare before a test. Also, plan to eat a good breakfast filled with carbohydrates for a gradually and effective release of energy throughout the day. Students can try drinking a glass of water and doing some quick exercises to feel more awake. Drinking water and exercising in the morning will kick start a person’s metabolism, which in return will make them more awake and aware faster.

Do: Read the test instructions

Students should not forget the importance of instructions; what the teacher wants is in the instructions. Points missed from misread directions will only dampen a student’s day, so don’t skip this important step!

Do: Use class time wisely

Students should use the extra time they have after taking a test to go over their answers and look out for simple mistakes that could’ve been made along the way. Don’t forget that there is a time limit. Although some teachers might give students a couple minutes of extension, do not rely on that. Students should practice good test-taking strategies, such as skipping questions that are taking them too long and the process of elimination (for multiple choice tests).

Don’t: Stress

Students stressing about the test are counterproductive. They are not focused on the actual material on the test and are driving themselves crazy. Take a deep breath and calm down. It’s just a test. By now, students will know all they can know for their finals. Review a little bit and be confident!

Don’t: Forget how Finals were

Students can consider this a learning experience, and use this to their advantage next spring when second semester finals come around. Remember which studying techniques were effective and which weren’t, this will help students maximize their time and efficiency when studying for their second set of finals.

Treblemakers spread holiday cheer at NASA

By Theresa Huynh

Palmont Hill’s Vocal Jazz group, The Treblemakers, performed at a NASA building in Moffett Field Sat., Dec. 7. “The Treble Makers got this opportunity as a third time invitation to perform,” says senior Jeffrey Bui.

“Former Treblemaker member Marguerite Lehman got us a gig two years ago, and we’ve been invited back every year to perform for the same Christmas event.”

The Treblemakers performed classic Christmas carols such as “Aha!,” “Christmas Time is Here,” “Moondance,” “Charleston Alley” and “The First Noel.”

Highlights from the concert included solos from junior Rachel Khac and seniors Marco Atansido, Nicole Belmonte, Jeffrey Bui, Indy Dang, Tamaragono and Olivia Muto.

“Aha!” featured Indy and Tamara; “Moondance” featured Indy, Rachel and Olivia; “Charleston Alley” featured Jeffrey and Tamara and “The First Noel” featured Marco, Olivia and Nicole.

“The Treblemakers pose for a photo with Santa after their concert.

By Christopher Pham

Senior James T. Nishimura will join UC Berkeley’s nationally ranked Golden Bears tennis squad in the fall of 2014. Nishimura signed a National Letter of Intent, contractually binding him to the university with a near full scholarship.

Nishimura’s success didn’t come suddenly. Inspired by his parents, Nishimura first started tennis at age 7. He is ranked 44th in the nation and 10th in the state according to the Tennis Recruiting Network.

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“My parents were both Division I tennis players, so it was natural for me to start learning tennis at a young age. It turned out that I was pretty good at it, so I decided to continue playing,” remarks Nishimura.

Nishimura also competed in other events, ranging from national ranking competitions to the international JPTA (Japan Pro Tennis Association) in Kyushu, Japan.

Nishimura also plans to continue with tennis after graduating from college.

“I haven’t specifically decided on what I should major in, or whether I should go to graduate school, but playing tennis professionally is definitely on my agenda,” muses Nishimura.

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“We performed for fun, but there’s also a tiny bit of funding coming from this gig,” explains Rachel. “We use the money we gain from this performance to help pay for other festivals we’re going to later this year.”

According to Tamara, the concert went really well.

“We even made a lady cry during our last performance!” exclaims Tamara.

“I hope that our audience (had) their hearts lifted by our Christmas spirit-filled songs and (had) their minds blown by the power of our songs and the talent of our singers,” adds Jeffrey.

The concert was not only for funding, but was also a way for the members to bond.

“Since Vocal Jazz isn’t an actual class at school, we don’t get to see each other very often,” shares Rachel.

“Our NASA gigs in years past were really fun and helped the group build friendships, so I’m hoping we’ll be able to do that this year too!”

F

By Vivian Vu

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Don’t: Forget how Finals were

Students can consider this a learning experience, and use this to their advantage next spring when second semester finals come around. Remember which studying techniques were effective and which weren’t, this will help students maximize their time and efficiency when studying for their second set of finals.
Grandpa Frost’s Winter Stories

Nell, Womanman, Navidin, Glynis, and Brian, show how others may call it, Christmas is a western holiday tradition that is found in religious rituals across the globe yet making contemporary strides towards being more commonly known today.

“Christmas” is a compound word derived from “Christ’s Mass” and that’s what Christmas was largely known as a holiday for centuries and still is today. Christmas is a religious holiday for Christians around the world that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. The practice of Christmas was established as early as the third century and is the most widely observed holiday around the world today.

In ancient times, Yalda was considered a Christian holiday that was celebrated annually. It was originally a celebration of the winter solstice and was observed between December 21 and January 6 in the Julian calendar. This period was also known as the “Long Night,” and it was observed in Iran, Persia, and other parts of the Middle East. Yalda is a celebration that marks the transition between the shortest day of the year and the longest night of winter.

The festival of Yalda also includes a variety of customs and traditions. One of the main events is the reading of stories and poems by the elders of the family, who are known as “Mihrab.” These stories often include elements of Persian folklore and are designed to entertain and educate the younger members of the family. The festival also includes the exchange of gifts, such as sweets and candies, and the sharing of a special meal called the “Yaldafe,” which is typically made of rice, yogurt, and various fruits.

In Iran, the holiday of Yalda is celebrated by lighting candles and leaving them burning for 24 hours to symbolize the light of knowledge. This tradition is inspired by the story of Sarah and her son Isaac, who are known as the “Light-Bearers” in Persian culture.

Yalda is also associated with the celebration of the New Year, which is observed on New Year’s Day in Iran. The festival of Yalda is often referred to as the “New Year’s Eve” and is celebrated with various ceremonies and rituals. The main elements of the festival include the reading of stories, singing, dancing, and the exchange of gifts.

In ancient times, Kwanzaa was observed in the African-American community as a way to celebrate African heritage and cultural traditions. It is a holiday that is celebrated from December 26 to January 1 to honor African and African-American cultural traditions.

Kwanzaa is observed on the first day of the week, which is usually Sunday, and is celebrated by African-American families and communities. The holiday is based on the principles of umoja (unity), kwanzaa (self-determination), ujima (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuwa ya kunzi (matunda ya matunda ya kwanzaa), and afirikia (gathering knowledge and creativity). These principles are reflected in the seven principles of Kwanzaa, which are:

1. Umoja (Unity): Embracing the spirit of unity in all things
2. Kuumba (Creativity): Letting creativity be a way of life
3. Iman (Faith): Trusting in God and seeking peace
4. Jujua (Order): The importance of order and discipline
5. Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): Ensuring that we have the means of production for the benefit of all
6. Nia (Purpose): Finding a purpose in our lives
7. Kuwa ya kunzi (Matunda ya matunda ya kwanzaa): Cultivating the spirit of community and cooperation

These principles are reflected in the seven symbols of Kwanzaa, which are:

1. The Kinara (Candle Holder): Represents the unity of African people
2. The Seven Candles: Represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa
3. The Mound: Represents the food from which the ancestors lived
4. The Kwanzaa package: Includes the seven candles, theKinara, and the Kwanzaa packet
5. The Kwanzaa cake: A traditional cake
6. The Kwanzaa basket: Contains the Kwanzaa cakes and other items
7. The Kwanzaa ornament: A decoration for the Kinara

These symbols and traditions are used to celebrate the Kwanzaa holiday and to reflect the importance of the principles and values associated with the holiday.
Materialism around the holidays

Editorial

With holiday sales and pressure to buy gifts, Christmas—like many other holidays—has become another way for businesses to advertise their products and make financial profits. Almost every holiday can be made into some sort of shopping game to get the best deals and find the best sales, all for what? Gifts to give to others when the time comes?

“Hallmark Holidays,” a term predominantly used in America to describe holidays perceived to exist for primarily commercialized purposes, have become more apparent in our society throughout the years. Christmas, Saint Valentine’s Day, Easter, Father’s Day and Mother’s Day—the more common Hallmark Holidays—seemingly have lost their meaning. Days, which previously were meant to celebrate tradition, or love and appreciation for others, have become just another day to haphazardly pick out a card and stress the importance of the company you had?

Now don’t get us wrong here, giving presents isn’t a bad thing. Nobody is against the idea of receiving a nice card or gift during the holidays, but have society’s expectations made present giving and consuming the sole focus of holidays? Santa Claus—as we know him today—is a character that has been developed and redefined through the years, and while the origins of Santa Claus are unknown, what is known is that Coca Cola played a big part in shaping the jolly man we consider, to-day, to be Christ-

mas’s figure-head. No longer is Christmas a Christian holiday meant to celebrate the birth of Jesus; it has turned into a secular holiday meant to celebrate the “season of giving,” with Santa Claus as its guide. Not only has Christmas and the “Gift-Giving Season” become a staple to Americans’ (and other countries as well) December month, it is starting to take over November as well; slowly Thanksgiving is being devoured by the nation-wide event Black Friday. Every year, Black Friday has been starting earlier and earlier (Walmart started as early as 6pm), cutting Thanksgiving shorter and shorter. Black Friday has become a holiday of its own, based solely on businesses’ intent to sell merchandise. But what we have to remember is Black Friday is only a holiday because the public allows it to be one. Society is so focused on the present aspect of the holiday season, that all else is forgotten. Imagine 50 years from now, will you or a friend remember a holiday because of the presents you’ve received or because of the company you had?

The idea that people should cut short one holiday to prepare gifts for another holiday is a bit misguided. Holidays aren’t about the decorations, chocolates, Santa Clauses, Easter Bunnies, or presents; holidays should be about spending time with loved ones and making memories through experiences, not tangible items. ♦

My tip for the hungry shopper this holiday season; actually think about what you’re buying. If you have to come up with reasons as to why you need it, chances are you don’t need it. By the off chance that you do need it, consider comparing prices in other stores first.

Who knows? Perhaps that $40 turtle-neck sweater that was five percent off could be found in the bargain bin at another store? ♦

Warm hearts, cold wallets

By Samuel M. Nguyen

It’s 8am in the morning, the weather is 60 degrees Fahrenheit, the coffee in your hand is getting more frigid by the second and you start to ask, “Why am I standing here again?”

Black Friday—that’s your answer, of course! Why else would you be out there? To be the first one in the store this deal season...and get five percent off that horrendous turtleneck sweater you’ve always wanted.

But let’s be honest, is Black Friday even worth it?

It’s supposed to be the time of year to give your wallet some relief and yet the only thing it’s relieving you of is your hard earned paycheck. The one thing that trips up Black Friday shoppers the most is impulse buying. The moment a person sees the word “sale” or “deal” the product will immediately catch the shopper’s eye because it’s worth the money. But one of two things generally happens with this; the product being bought is worth little to no value to the shopper, or the sales price isn’t worth-while enough to be beneficial. Let’s not forget that these stores are making major money off of us; Black Friday wasn’t meant to benefit us, but them. In 2012, total spending amounted to over $59 billion dollars according to the National Retail Finance Corp. There were approximately 247 million shoppers, who each spent on average $423. In reality these sales are just to start off the Christmas shopping season, there are still sales on Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and for the rest of the winter season up until Christmas and even after with clearance sales. There is plenty of time to think over and consider what to buy. The entire shopping sea-
son spans from the end of November to the end of December with before Christmas and after Christmas sales. Black Friday is worth it in moderation. It’s an accumulation of sales that customers could possibly take advantage of, but the problem is customers go overboard.

Happy Holidays from The Legend!
Commercialization of Christmas

By Vy Pham

The season of finals is here. For many students, this would in- dicate procrastinating behaviors. Procrastination has been defined as a delayed response to a task or event. In a rapidly-changing society today where immediate gratification from media entertainment is omnipresent, this behavior is more prevalent than ever. For many students, this behavior was learned to be acceptable and therefore, it is not worth the effort to unlearn any procrastination habits. According to Psychology Today, the act of procrastination is merely an indication of possible underlying psychological issues. For instance, many chronic procrastinators also tended to have self-esteem issues. Students are insecure about their performance or ability, or they simply feel that the assignment is too difficult for them, they will most likely decide to put it off until later in hopes that the assignment will not be a problem for them in the present. Maybe students are perfectionists and feel that if the assignment is too hard, it's not worth the effort to do it perfectly, then it is not worth doing at all. However, the problem with this is that there is no matter how much a student procrastinates, the final product is the same. And other responsibilities will still be waiting for him or her, only to be much more unpleasant and difficult than the short time spent procrastinating. So for those who suffer from procrastination, it is important to ask oneself what it actually is. Participants draw names from a hat to determine the or- der and then proceed to choose a gift one at a time. Once opened, they have the choice of opening another gift, keeping the first one, or skipping it for a pre- viously opened gift. Although this may seem like a good idea, from this point, given one's choices, Christmas shopping ends. The spirit of giving to those who people might not normally have on their Christ- mas list. In addition, this is the money-saving solution for those with limited funds. In large group environments, such as work, school or volunteer organizations since each person only needs to purchase one gift. The added factor of excitement and sur- prise livens up the atmosphere as well.

In the end, this time of the year is just about receiving presents as well as giving presents. It might not nor- mally be much more than an expec- tation for those who people might not normally have on their Christ- mas list. In addition, this is the money-saving solution for those with limited funds. In large group environments, such as work, school or volunteer organizations since each person only needs to purchase one gift. The added factor of excitement and sur- prise livens up the atmosphere as well.

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Dear Anonymous,

The reaction is a little different for all of us. Most tend to brush it off; we react quickly to the beating in our chest ♦

And my words are as timed as the clouds of your breath /

The reaction is a little different for all of us. Most tend to brush it off; we react quickly to the beating in our chest ♦

We're really this mentally / Can it be? / Maybe / We're supposed to be a little bit crazy? / Can it be? / Did you ever think that just

The reaction is a little different for all of us. Most tend to brush it off; we react quickly to the beating in our chest ♦

Dear Not-so-straight A's,

Here's the verdict: yes and no. The major factor is to which colleges you apply. For top-tier universities like Ivy League schools, the GPA is a crucial

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If you yourself can't settle for a community college, there's always the

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...and the armed forces. You have the choice to transfer to a four-year university, seek specialized training in the working field or join the armed forces.

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Among those are community colleges.

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Colleges and universities that are not impacted or have 100% acceptance rates.

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Applying to colleges, even though 

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For top-tier universities like Ivy League schools, the GPA is a crucial

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For your parents who believe that straight A's are the only solution, it is never impossible to go to college. There is actually a surprising number of colleges and universities that are not impacted or have 100% acceptance rates.

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...and the armed forces. You have the choice to transfer to a four-year university, seek specialized training in the working field or join the armed forces.
PHHS Wrestling Team pins a strong start to their season

By Vivian Vu

O n Sat. Dec. 7, Piedmont Hills’ Varsity and JV wrestling teams started their season at Wilcox, where the varsity team managed to place third out of six teams.

“Were there two other guys with the same record (as me, 4-1) and as a team we took third in the tournament. So we have a new trophy,” says Captain Jackson Friend.

Friend has high hopes for his teammates and himself for the upcoming season, even with some struggles here and there.

“We don’t have enough people on the team to fill every weight class, which means we’ll be forfeiting those weight classes and it will make our team record look bad,” explain Friend. “But the more important thing is how well the individual wrestlers that we do have done. And I expect them to do pretty well. I actually expect a few CCS (Central Coast Section) qualifiers and one state qualifier which would be a big deal.

Varsity wrestler Brian Lam shares the same sentiment. “This season I’m just looking forward to pushing the team even harder and to bring home more medals and trophies because we didn’t have enough funds to go to as many tournaments as we wanted to,” shares junior Brian Lam.

Last week on Friday and Saturday, the JV and Varsity Wrestling team competed at Fremont High School.

“I only have the advice that for those who want to join the wrestling team is that wrestling isn’t for everyone, but if you stick through it, you will reach levels of mental toughness and physical fitness that you never thought possible,” advises Lam.

“What made me join the team was the discipline and resilience because there’s really no other sport like it in high school. I take pride in the fact that I just have to starve, bleed and get thrown around hundreds of times, and I’m willing to do it all over again the next day.”

PHHS Football team ends grand season with loss

By Vivian Pham

The Piedmont Hills Pirates ended their strong season on an unpleasant note with a 48-0 loss to the Milpitas Trojans at the CCS Semi-Finals on Fri., Nov. 29.

After nearly winning the BVAL (Blossom Valley Athletic League) Mt. Hamilton Division title two weeks before, which would have brought the third seed Pirates into the Open Division, they came out of the first round of CCS (Central Coast Section) playoffs victorious against sixth-seeded Salinas Cowboys with a score of 61-38. Coming off of this high, the Pirates needed to push hard for a state qualifier which would be a big deal.”

“We lost because of a lack of execution, missed opportunities and a lack of confidence,” says senior running back Kenny Nguyen.

Still, the overall season score for the Pirates (8-3) overshadows the loss. Teammates were always eager to go to practice—even to the point of practicing on Thanksgiving. During this last game, the Pirates showed a surge of collaborative play.

“This was the first time in a long time that they played together as a team,” says Ms. Hurst, who spectated the game. “You could also tell by the way that they played—they both offensively and defensively handled each other badly. Till they ended, they were fighting. Piedmont (Hills) never gave up.”

“In the end, we lost to a very good team,” says Head Coach Matt Kessinger. “It was my way of this group of kids though. In my 16 years of coaching, I’d have to say it was the best game we will be on, Jan. 8 against Silver Creek High School. Their second game of the season is against Independence High School and the third game is against Sobrato High School.”

Boys Soccer gears up for season

By Mith-Hieu Vu

Piedmont Hills High School Varsity and JV Boys Soccer started the season on Mon., Nov. 4, and their first scrimmage game on Mon., Nov. 25, against Mt. Pleasant High School. The game was an incredibly helpful source of preparation for their season and practice for making the CCS (Central Coast Section) Playoffs which are on Tues., Feb. 27, 2014. Game limits are set at 20 games, two scrimmages and one non-CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) contest.

According to Varsity center Marques Mosely.

“Every team has its own style of play, chemistry and dynamics. The other half were in JV last year. We played—both offensively and defensively—that they wanted this game to go badly. Till they end, they were fighting. Piedmont Hills never gave up.”

“In the end, we lost to a very good team,” said Head Coach Matt Kessinger, who is new to the position of this group of kids though. In my 16 years of coaching, I’d have to say it was the best game we will be on, Jan. 8 against Silver Creek High School. Their second game of the season is against Independence High School and the third game is against Sobrato High School.”

Girls Basketball prepares for games

By Faith Escalera

Girls basketball season of Varsity basketball started on Fri., Jan. 3 against Westmont High School. The team won their first pre-season game against San Benito High School in Hollister, Calif. with a score of 47-26.

“We play round year together so we try to get as much practice we can get. We hold scrimmages and play against each other a lot during the season,” says point guard Jennislee Sipat. “We’re preparing to change our game up a bit to play faster since we are a shorter team than most and because we lost our top 4 players due to injuries but they will definitely be back to play the regular season.”

“We study other teams before our games and we prepare ourselves mentally,” comments point guard Brian Tran.

The team’s goal this year is to win the league championships and CCS (Central Coast Section). “We are determined to bring home a championship to Piedmont Hills and with the players we have and the amount of commitment our girls and coaches have put in for this program, we are hoping our hard work will pay off at the end of the season,” adds Sipat.

The Girls Varsity Basketball team will be playing another pre-season game tonight at Wilcox High School.

Boys Boys Soccer’s first formal game is on Fri., Jan. 17 against Sobrato High School.

Varsity Boys Basketball dominates at scrimmages

By Vivian Pham

Trials for the Varsity Boys Basketball team began in mid-November and ended after a two-week process. Of the 77 boys who tried out, 19 made the cut for JV and 14 for Varsity.

Last pre-season scrimmage was against Sobrato and took place at Piedmont Hills Mon., Nov. 25. The Varsity team won with a score of 103-17.

According to Varsity center Shane Stubbs, seven members of the Varsity team are returning players. The other half were in JV last year and are learning to improve their teamwork and gameplay.

Both JV and Varsity agree that their team still need more practice in some aspects.

“Our offense will get us there, but our defense, we’ve gotta work on,” asserts returning JV player Marques Mosely.

“There’s always room for improvement on defense,” comments Stubbs.

This year, the Pirates hope to win the BVAL (Blossom Valley Athletic League) tournament to earn the league title and beat CCS (Central Coast Section).

Last year, Piedmont Hills was runner up for BVAL, coming second to Leigh, which the team aims to defeat this season. The Boys Basketball season officially starts next semester in January after the Christmas Holiday Break.

Girls Varsity Basketball

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<tr>
<th>Scoreboard</th>
<th>Girls Varsity Volleyball</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Varsity Football</td>
<td>2-0 (W)</td>
<td>0-3 (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-17 (W)</td>
<td>v. Independence</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
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<td>28-27 (W)</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
<td>v. Mt. Pleasant</td>
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<td>34-33 (L)</td>
<td>v. Pioneer</td>
<td>v. Prospect</td>
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<td>60-38 (L)</td>
<td>v. Milpitas</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-0 (L)</td>
<td>v. Milpitas</td>
<td>v. Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>JV Football</td>
<td>3-0 (W)</td>
<td>2-0 (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-8 (W)</td>
<td>v. Santa Teresa</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
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<td>33-15 (L)</td>
<td>v. Oak Grove</td>
<td>v. Oak Grove</td>
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<td>39-8 (W)</td>
<td>v. Independence</td>
<td>v. Milpitas</td>
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<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
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<td>7-7 (T)</td>
<td>v. Pioneer</td>
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Scoreboard

84-7 (T) | v. Pioneer | v. Mission San Jose | v. Mission San Jose |
| 39-8 (W) | v. Independence | v. Willow Glen | v. Lincoln |
| 42-7 (W) | v. Willow Glen | v. Parkway | v. Mission San Jose |
| 7-7 (T) | v. Pioneer | v. Hill | v. Mission San Jose |

Boys Varsity Football

According to forward Tian Tang, practice for the team is from Monday through Friday, rain or shine. The team is currently focusing on building their teamwork and communication skills. Tang says that, according to the coach, the team has all the skills that are necessary but the team needs more time to understand another one’s style of play, chemistry and dynamics.

Tang also says that last year’s season did not fulfill the team’s hopes, but the team is looking forward to a much better season this year.

“The team also has study sessions every Monday so that everybody can make good and sell coupons to accumulate funds for jerseys and equipment,” adds Tang.

Boys Varsity Football’s first game will be on Wed., Jan. 8 against St. Francis High School. Their second game is on Fri., Jan. 10 against Independence High School and the third game is against Sobrato High School.

Girls Varsity Volleyball

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<tr>
<td>28-27 (W)</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
<td>v. Mt. Pleasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34-33 (L)</td>
<td>v. Pioneer</td>
<td>v. Prospect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-38 (L)</td>
<td>v. Milpitas</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-0 (L)</td>
<td>v. Milpitas</td>
<td>v. Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JV Football</td>
<td>3-0 (W)</td>
<td>2-0 (W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-8 (W)</td>
<td>v. Santa Teresa</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33-15 (L)</td>
<td>v. Oak Grove</td>
<td>v. Oak Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39-8 (W)</td>
<td>v. Independence</td>
<td>v. Milpitas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42-7 (W)</td>
<td>v. Willow Glen</td>
<td>v. Parkway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-7 (T)</td>
<td>v. Pioneer</td>
<td>v. Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scoreboard

84-7 (T) | v. Pioneer | v. Mission San Jose | v. Mission San Jose |
| 39-8 (W) | v. Independence | v. Willow Glen | v. Lincoln |
| 42-7 (W) | v. Willow Glen | v. Parkway | v. Mission San Jose |
| 7-7 (T) | v. Pioneer | v. Hill | v. Mission San Jose |
December
Dec. 7: December SAT
Dec. 18 - 20: Semester finals
Dec. 23: Christmas Break starts
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
Dec. 25: Christmas Day
Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve

January
Jan. 1: New Year’s Day
Jan. 3: Christmas Break ends
Jan. 6: Second semester begins
Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 25: January SAT
Jan. 31: Lunar New Year

February
Feb. 4 - 5: CAHSEE Testing
Feb. 14: End of grading period; Valentine’s Day
Feb. 17 - 21: Winter Break

UPCOMING DATES

ISA Club helps the Philippines rise up after typhoon

By Faith Escalera

After typhoons Haiyan and Yolanda hit the Philippines Nov. 7 and 8, Isa (Tagalog for “one”) Club started to collaborate with VSA (Vietnamese Student Association) to raise relief funds along with jackets, pants, shirts, socks and shoes that will be sent to the victims of the typhoons in their fundraiser named “San at Lao.”

“The Philippines is always in some turmoil but this is probably the biggest storm that has affected the country since President Daniel Lazaro.”

Typhoons Haiyan and Yolanda have taken away a lot of my friends’ family’s livelihood. Hearing about these stories when you know these people, I just want to give back. Their government isn’t really helping them there, so it’s up to us to help.”

To fundraise, Isa passed out coin boxes to other clubs and left clothing donation bins in the main hall. All proceeds go to NAFOCN (National Alliance for Filipino Concerns).

Isa Club is doing a great job by trying to raise money because even though we’re on the other side of the world, they’re still doing the little thing that they can do help those who are suffering,” comments senior Jennifer Moﬃll. “Even though it’s just one club out of millions of schools in the world, little help is better than no help.”

Through the FVC (Filipino Youth Coalition), Filipino clubs from Independence, Fremont, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Evergreen, Silver Creek and Mt. Pleasant are competing in a coin war to see which school can raise the most money.

“The name of the fundraiser, ‘Hello Sunshine’, signifies that we can help the Philippines rise up after the storm,” says Isa Vice President Janis Galindez. “As a community, we can join as one to help the Philippines in this tragic event.”

Debate Team competes in Santa Clara Debate Invitational

By Vy Vinh

PHHS’s Debate Team participated in its second debate tournament at Santa Clara University from Sat., Nov. 23 to Sun., Nov. 24. Both JV and Varsity teams entered the competition.

“I think we’ve been doing pretty well since we’re a relatively new team,” comments junior Andie He. “This tournament really helped us because it’s the best way to learn debate is experience.”

JV Team members Elaine Chen and Daniel Lo, while Varsity members were juniors Alvin Loi and Andie He.

“We had a lot of practice beforehand so when we actually performed we did ﬁne,” claims Alvin. A debate tournament is where different schools gather to compete against one another; the big ones usually last for two days. The ﬁrst day consists of preliminary rounds in which every team goes, but that is power matching and then elimination in which people get kicked out.

“You can’t really prepare for a debate tournament. A mock debate and a tournament debate are completely different,” explains Andie. “The best way to prepare is to read a lot of newspapers, around three to four times a week and be very efﬁcient in researching.”

“It was really busy, it was really hard to get around and ﬁnd your rooms. It was seven in the morning and there were so many people there from other schools. It was the biggest beginning, but throughout the day it got better and became more organized,” comments Annie. “I’m hoping we can compete in future tournaments and more members will join,” continues Annie.

At school, the Debate Team would usually practice speeches or go over basics about fact, value or policy debates.

Piedmont Hills Math Team ‘leagues’ in Calif. Math League

By Winston Lee

After school Tues., Dec. 3, students gathered around a single desk to reﬂect on the following problem:

“After ﬁve integers are paired in all possible ways, the integers in each pair are added. The ten sums obtained are one, four, ﬁve, seven, eight, eleven, twelve, fourteen and ﬁfteen. What are these ﬁve integers?”

This is one of the questions from the third round of the regional state-wide CAML (Central Mathematics League), one of two on-going contests PHHS’s Math Team has been competing in since October. Along with competing in the Redwood regional Mandlebrot Dec. 6, competitors have been honing their skills before proceeding to the regional SCVMA (Santa Clara Valley Math Association) Math Olympiad, which took place this Saturday. There, three selected seniors competed against other seniors in the greater bay area.

“What is the ANSWER? Co-captain Kevin Chang and other math team members crowd around the CAML answer key.”

At each CAML and Mandelbrot round, the team met in Team Advisor Stuart Kasnow’s room in D-3 on the same day as the rest of all competing schools to take the same test. These types of questions unrelated to calculus, according to Co-Team Captain Kevin Chang, involve pattern recognition, critical thinking and other logic strategies not typically found in most high school math courses.

“We’ve been trying to honor logic as much as math,” Kevin explains. “It’s kind of diﬃcult to get our point across that math team isn’t just another math elective or another calculus class.”

In light of the team’s ideology, Co-Team Captain Paul Tran explains “I don’t want people to just obsess over trying to be number one. I just think that people should strive to improve. I think that’s the purpose.”

Regardless of how well the team performs in these competitions, Mr. Kung knows it is a part of the current members’ improvement as a team.

“The sole fact that we are actually able to get kids in here to compete, team and represent Piedmont Hills is good enough,” he says. “So it’s really hard to say what the (team’s) expectations are, like what I want them to be, because they’ve already hit every single one of them; they’re just doing the best that they can.

And that’s the best that we can hope for.”

Guitar and Ukulele Club holds its ﬁrst YouTube Showcase

By Vy Pham

 Guitar and Ukulele Club held its ﬁrst YouTube Showcase last Wednesday from 5pm to 7pm in the library building. The club welcomed many students to attend as a way to relieve the stress of studying semester finals.

“YouTube is a platform for people to express themselves so we have stars like Tim Ahas, Brian Dublin and (PHHS) alumni Andre Nuestro, who’s actually pretty famous,” explains Club President Sabrina Nguyen.

In addition, the performers included Brian Dublin, Andre Nuestro, SXC (Seoul Xtreme Chess) Marcus Atendido and Vivian Li. “I really enjoyed (the show),” says singer Joshua Hawes, who was accompanied by guitarist Jeremy Lachowiez. “I always love being able to interact with other people out there in the community that perform, dance and sing.”

“My favorite performer was Daniel Kim,” shares senior Samantha Giarrido. “He did an acoustic rendition of ‘Let Me Love You,’ which is typically an R&B song, and I thought that was really cool.”

During the second half of the show, audience members were allowed to sit in front of the stage and watch the performances close-up.

At the event, there were also raffles, a photo booth, food stands, autograph photo cards and merchandise tables for local artists to sell their work.

Although this was Guitar and Ukulele Club’s ﬁrst YouTube Showcase, it is not a new event at Piedmont Hills.

“When I was a freshman, I went to see those YouTube shows hosted by other clubs,” states Sabrina. “I thought it was really inspiring for me as a musician to see other talented acts. I thought that could be a good way to inspire others as well.”

“I wish they had this earlier, because I would have went last year or (prior years),” says Samantha.

This is the club’s second fundraiser of the year, their ﬁrst was a Krispy Kreme and hot chocolate fundraiser in November.

Scan the QR code to check out The Legend online or visit phhsatslegend.org!