Music Dept. warms the hearts of many during annual fall concert

By Jacqueline Nguyen


“I felt that (the performances) were nice. It was nice seeing old friends doing something that they enjoy,” praises PHHS Class of ’14 graduate Lillian Dao.

Members of PHHS’s Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra spent several intensive weeks of training in preparation of the instrumental concert.

“I am very nervous I’m going to mess up because this is my first year playing and I’m the only instrument (player) of (a) particular section,” expresses freshman trombonist Nala Chen.

First-time Treble Maker Ethan Moi felt just the opposite about the choral concert.

“Since this is our first concert, Mr. Ellis assigned us pretty simple songs that also sound nice so I think we’re well prepared,” enthuses Ethan. Symphony Orchestra played “Les Toréadors” from “Carmen Suite no. 1” by Georges Bizet while Wind Ensemble played “If Thou Be Near” by Johann Sebastian Bach. All of the pieces played at the instrumental concert were chosen by music directors Myles Ellis and Emily Ray.

Songs sung by Choir dept. include “The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee” by Jean Berger, “Amen, Amen” by Francis Pilkington and “Love Psalm” by Darmon Meader.

“They were all pieces I had listened to over the summer, and I thought that they would be a good way to start the year,” elaborates Mr. Ellis, who was responsible for the song lineup of Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Combo as well as Treble Makers, Treble Choir and Concert Choir.

“For Mr. Ellis, choosing pieces is a huge challenge.

“You kind of have to look at your group and see what would work,” he explains.

“That’s the reason why co-curricular activities are important in the curriculum.

“We played and after that first piece, everyone was clapping for the music concert. An SSSS

SENSATIONAL Mrs. Ray conducts the Symphony Orchestra performance.

by Elaine Zhang

This school year, staff collaborations have been moved from the first three Thursdays of every month to every Wednesday, enticing different reactions from teachers and students.

When asked what they need to change in the curriculum, according to principal Tracy Williams. Due to the application of Common Core, which is a set of education standards that California adopted in 2010, teachers want to have more time to collaborate. Due to the increase in lesson plans and other things they need to change in the curriculum.

“Wednesdays day was suggested because it’s in the middle of the week,” informs ASB President Jacqueline Ng. “It gives teachers opportunity to do what they need to do at the beginning of the school week and kind of start the school week and then we have our work together in the middle and then try to implement things.”

Some teachers really like this arrangement.

“I love short Wednesdays because it breaks up the week. I feel that students need to be able to sleep in a little bit, get some rest during Wednesday,” confides new teacher Jeffrey Loggins. “There’s also a little more class prep time in the middle of the week.”

However, not everyone in the staff is on board with this idea. “I prefer it on Thursdays only because Independence High School actually changed theirs to Thursday,” says Ms. Ng. “It helps a lot with students coming onto campus when they are released, and it’s also a lot more fun.”

Likewise, there are many students who dislike the change.

“As an upperclassman who had Thursdays as our short days for over ten years of our life, suddenly having them on a Wednesday disrupts our sense of time, since after each short day we wake the next morning thinking that it’s going to be Friday,” says junior Grace Chit.

Music Dept. warms the hearts of many during annual fall concert

By Jacqueline Nguyen

Homcoming week is finally here! (Associated Student Body) has prepared many events, such as decorated hallways, Spirit Week, the Homecoming football game, the Powderpuff games, the Homecoming rally and last but certainly not least, the Homecoming dance.

This year’s theme for the Homecoming dance is Black and White. The dance will be tomorrow from 7 pm to 10 pm in the L-Build. Nominations and voting for Homecoming King and Queen will be revealed at the dance. The current candidates for Homecoming Queen are juniors Denise Nguyen, Kelly Nguyen, seniors Venus Tran, Lilyana Dutra, and the current candidates for Homecoming King are juniors Peter Do, Earl Cantalupo; seniors Isaac Keip, Jacob Pangelina.

The Homecoming rally included Homecoming 2014-2015 Seniors decorate their halls with theme Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

The Homecoming football game occurs today against Leland High.

“I’m not sure how we’ll do, but I think we’ll be able to beat them. I do feel confident that we will win, though,” states cornerstone Sean Ho.

“If we win against Leland, we’ll build up momentum to continue strong throughout the season.” Each class has a unique and fun theme: freshmen have Cindy with a Chance of Moonbeams, sophomores have The Lion King, juniors have Disneyland and California Adventures; and seniors have Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. On certain days throughout the week, each class dressed up according to their theme for Spirit Week: freshmen, Tuesday; sophomores, Monday; juniors, Wednesday; seniors, Thursday. Spirit Week ends today, when all classes wear their class color. It was fairly hectic when it came to decorating the hallways.

“The workload for our class this year is crazy since this is the first year we have a full half to decorate. It’s been crazy. We usually don’t get that many people to come after school so it’s usually just the officers but we do get a lot of people helping us at our weekend Painting Parties,” says junior class VP Spencer Nguyen.

Throughout the week, there was the Powderpuff, or flag football, games between all of the classes. The seniors faced the sophomores on Monday and won 20-0. Senior Nicole Williams made the first point for the seniors, following with senior Venus Tran making the last two points. The juniors faced the freshmen on Tuesday and won 14-2.

HOMECOMING 2014-2015 Seniors decorate their halls with theme Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.
Interviewed by Bella Nguyen

New Staff On Campus

Ms. Nicole Bullock

Why did you take a break from teaching?  I think every professional person should be able to take a break. I have three small children who participate in many activities. I got to be really involved in my kids’ school and I also did a lot of competitive runs such as 5ks, 8ks and 10ks.

Are you happy to be back?  Yeah, it’s been really nice. I went from an eighty percent schedule to sixty so I still have time to exercise and drive my kids all over as that’s what moms with school-age kids have to do. And having a new class, EWGC, is good to teach also.

Interesting fact: Ms. Bullock placed fourth in a race that 49 people participated in.

Ms. Emily Ray

How did you feel when you opened the postition for music?  I was excited because I graduated from Piedmont Hills. I was here when the building first opened and I was in the third graduating class in PHHS.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?  I started out conducting choirs which is a form of teaching and I had a Masters degree so I moved into teaching in collegues. I’ve been teaching piano since I was fourteen. So it was natural for me to teach piano.

Interesting fact: Ms. Ray was a college professor before and has never taught high school.

Ms. Marrika Martin

Why Special Ed?  I just like Special Ed. I enjoy working with the kids. And I feel like this is the area I feel I would best reach the children.

How has your time been so far at PHHS?  It’s been good. It’s been a learning curve. A third graduating (International Business Machines Corporation) because I worked in other districts before I graduated from PHHS, I was missing students. I would miss hearing from students, working with students and so I decided to return to teaching. And what better came available and what I call a blessing, a social studies position here at Piedmont Hills was open. So here I am.

Interesting fact: Ms. Martin is a first-year teacher.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Music Concert

longest time. I felt like it was the loudest and I was so proud,” marvels Wind Ensemble clarinetist Annie Tran.

For Alto Treble Maker Rachel Khuc, the Symphony Orchestra bassist James Do.

For Alto Treble Maker Rachel Khuc, the Symphony Orchestra bassist James Do.

Ms. Carolina Lugo Hernandez

Why Special Ed?  While working as a teaching aide, I became exposed to the special needs of the children which prompted me to teach Special Ed. I really like it here so far because when I got the job, I didn’t know anyone and didn’t know what to expect but when I got to the classroom and began teaching, I loved it and enjoy teaching students with a passion.

Interesting fact: Ms. Hernandez originally wanted to be an academic counselor.

Ms. Lynne Murray

What made you want to teach at PHHS?  Before Piedmont Hills, I was a principal at Foothill High School for eight years. And then I took last year off and I went traveling to Mexico and college to work on my Spanish. And while I was traveling, I just kept missing students. I would miss hearing from students, working with students and so I decided to return to teaching. And what better came available and what I call a blessing, a social studies position here at Piedmont Hills was open. So here I am.

Interesting fact: Ms. Murray worked at IBM (International Business Machines Corporation) for ten years before going into teaching.

Adv. Drama class asks students to choose their own endings

By Ngoc-Han Tran

O n Thurs., Sept. 25, the Advanced Drama class presented a showcase, “The Aftermath,” for the Act Up Against Bullying event. The showcase included a skit, followed by an interactive activity to encourage students to take a stance against bullying.

This year’s showcase began with a short story of a young girl named Hailey, who was bullied constantly. Ignored by her teacher and isolated by her friends, Hailey decided to end her own life to escape the pain, leaving only a video as an explanation for her parents.

“So strong of heart. If we let everything hurt us, we’re going to be in a really big world of hurt...just shake it off,” advises senior Natasha Nguyen, who portrayed Hailey in the showcase.

According to Advanced Drama student Winston Liu, the class voted to do the showcase this year, and four students voluntarily stepped up to take the role of writing the script in their own time and then directing the showcase.

These students were juniors Mikaela Valensos, Elijah Musa and Uyen Ngo, and senior Kaita Castillo.

“I think (they) did a great job in making people more aware of the situation,” comments senior Jenny Quach.

After the short show, the drama students gathered on stage wearing T-shirts displaying names and insults that they have personally been called to raise awareness for the issue, and asked the audience to participate in a discussion about bullying.

“(We want) to send a message that you’re not alone. Everyone has something they are struggling with in their personal lives so we should be more conscious of our actions,” says MiKaela.

“I’m hoping for change. I know a lot of people aren’t going to change immediately — what we’re doing is planting seeds and you know, some seeds might grow,” explains Winston.

Midterm election approaches

By Vy Luu

M embers of Congress are holding their quadrennial midterm elections on Nov. 4, allowing voters to vote for their representatives in the House and the Senate.

All 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and the full terms for 33 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate are open. Midterm elections occur two years after presidential elections (i.e., near the midpoint of the four-year presidential term). States elect other officers such as mayors and local public offices and vote for a wide variety of city initiatives.

This year, incumbent Mike Honda (Democrat) and Ro Khanna (Democrat) will represent California’s District 17, while Jim Costa (Demo- crat) and Johnny Tachan (Republican) will represent District 18.

Most sources, such as The New York Times and Politico, predict that the Republicans will gain seats in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as win majority in both houses.

“Unlike in previous midterm election years, no dominant national theme has emerged for the 2014 campaign, according to public opinion surveys,” states The Washington Post.

Regarding problems that voters take into consideration before elections, FiftyThirtyEight says, “there are currently only four issues listed as ‘most important’ by at least 10 percent of Americans: general dissatisfaction with government, the economy, jobs and immigration.”

“During the 2014 midterm elections Republi- can supporters have waged a negative ‘slash and burn’ campaign, attacking...Democrats in general,” claims The Huffington Post. The article also states “the lat- est generic congressional bal- loon showed Republicans up by 4 points.”

According to the latest polls, voters are fairly split on these issues. The most recent CBS News Poll found that more people thought Republicans would do a better job on the economy, and the most recent ABC News and Washington Post poll asked the same question but found that most people believed Democrats would do a better job.
District 5176 Interact starts year with flair at Fall Leadership Conference
By Christopher Mamud

On Sun., Sept. 28, the Interact District Council hosted the FLC (Fall Leadership Conference) at Independence High School from 6 am to 3:30 pm to reveal this year’s goals for Interact members, teach leadership skills and improve relations among Interact members. The event is called FLC. It is an annual event for Interact members to introduce new members to Interact and build a sense of camaraderie among Interact members in the district. The Interact District Council, which is student run with adult advisors providing financial support and safety regulation, organized the event.

“The feeling of FLC, of being a driving force in putting it together, is just a monumen
tal occasion, because it immediately gives you this great feeling knowing that you are doing countless others put on the largest Interact event in world history, and that you continue to inspire others and that we continue together to break barriers,” says District Council Lt. Governor Oliver Borg of Santa Cruz High School.

During the event, over 4500 Interact members from Alameda to Santa Cruz and Morgan Hill participated in workshops that mainly in
troduced building leadership skills and construct
ing items such as dental-care kits and inspiring name tags to donate to people in need. Member reactions to FLC as a whole were positive.

“It makes me want to do more in the world and our community,” states PHHS freshman Brian Cung.

Students explore Europe for 12 days
By Brinda Saini

Last summer, English teacher Ba
bak Shahrivar and history teacher Jef
grey Loggins took a group of students to travel to various historical sites in Europe.

After a long year of preparations and meet
gs, the students finally visited Italy, Paris and London.

“For as long as I can remember, I always wanted to go to London and it’s my favorite place in the world,” exclaims junior Uyen Ngo. “So we were accepted by only five students from a high school in Tennessee called Independence.

They visited the Vatican, the Colos
eum, St.Peter’s Basilica and the Sistine Chapel in Rome. In Italy they saw the David in the Accad
cam Library, Florence Cathedral, the Tower of London and Mr. Shahrivar also took the students to see the Eiffel tower at night while it was lit up.

“Traveling through Europe was like being on the Siene River, and there were people on the bridg
es waving and cheering for us,” says Mr. Loggins.

In Versailles they went to see World War II museums before taking a bullet train to visit Big Ben and the Tower of London. They concluded their trip by watching Les Miserables in Down
town London.

“Shahrivar and I felt that Europe tends to be very popular with students because we study it in World History and AP World His
tory. I think there seems to be a big interest for Europe specifically Paris, London and Rome,” says Mr. Loggins who had been stationed in downtown London and Paris for 19 years.

The students that took this trip enjoyed the travel experience and encourage others to do the same.

“The was the second day in Rome, and we were traveling up the river by boat on a really sunny day until we saw clouds in the sky three minutes later. There were buckets and buckets of rain and we were soaked and drenched,” explains senior Erin Strickland. She continues to explain that traveling alone meant that they have to take care of themselves and be responsible adults. “They said the bus would arrive at 8:40 in the morning, and that we had to be outside by 8:20. If we were late on time, we would get in serious trouble.”
Artery Club beautifies parking lot

By Tri Noyho

Starting Tues., Sept. 30, Artery Club has begun filling up the faculty parking lot with beautiful artwork. Art teacher and advisor Van Nguyen worked under the hot sun to paint flowers onto the asphalt along with other artwork. The paintings are first sketched by Ms. Nguyen with chalk, then outlined and filled with paint. Each painting takes around an hour and a half to complete, prompting several students to bring umbrellas to shield the painters from the sun.

"The white boundary lines of the parking spot are repainted with white paint as the stem for the flowers," states Co-Presidents and club members.

"I hope they would last as long as they can, because it's our sweat, blood, and tears in this. I really hope that it'll last a long time, not just like a physical thing, but an emotional footprint on people's hearts," says Secretary Iris Chiang.

The club will also be painting murals on the school walls throughout the school year. "Since one of our goals is to inspire people, I hope that this will inspire others to spread their goals out to the community like how we are with the parking lot," says President Linh Hoang.

Students to visit Galapagos Islands

By Nina Washington

Biology teacher Archie Kregear will be taking students on an all-inclusive educational trip to the Galapagos Islands this summer.

"The Galapagos Islands are definitely unique. Going there is one in a lifetime trip," states Mr. Kregear.

Departing in June of 2015, the group will be starting in Ecuador and exploring Quito, Baltra and Olavalo for eight days. During the trip, they will be sightseeing, experiencing the island culture, going to museums and eating exotic food.

"This trip would be fun for Biology-oriented people and for people who just want to travel and see nature," states Mr. Kregear.

The trip will cost about $2500. Everyone, including parents and even graduating seniors, are welcome to attend the trip. Payment plans are also available for those who cannot pay everything upfront.

The Galapagos Islands are famous for the discoveries of Charles Darwin. The islands, which are located in the Pacific Ocean, are also home to exotic creatures, such as the Galapagos penguin and the Galapagos fur seal.

PHHS clubs come together at Light the Night

By Mary Santos

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is hosting a fundraiser titled the Light the Night Walk at Discovery Meadow in downtown San Jose. The walk is scheduled to start at 7 pm, with walkers welcome to arrive starting at 5 pm.

Volunteers will meet at Discovery Meadow in downtown San Jose and walk together as a group through a selected route to raise awareness.

"It's a great bonding experience for all clubs, especially Piedmont Hills, because all of our clubs come together and we do this one massive activity for a really good cause," expressed CSF (California Scholarship Federation) Co-President Tiffany Nguyen.

"It's something that we're taking time out of our day to give back to the less privileged," comments Secretary Abigail Singh.

Funds are raised when volunteers form walking teams. Local businesses then sponsor these teams and in return receive exposure to the general public attending the event itself.

Clubs at Piedmont Hills offer this event as an activity for members annually, but students have come back the following years even if they are no longer part of that club simply because they enjoyed themselves the previous year.

"I went for Interact for one year, and I went last year and I plan on going again this year," stated senior Dianh Dinh.

Piedmont Hills students are encouraged to attend this event not only to raise funds for leukemia research and awareness, but also to have a good time as a school and a community.

"It's fun because you can hang out with friends and have a nice walk at night for a good cause," asserted senior Danh Dinh.

AP Literature class revives

By Randy Chang

This school year, AP Literature and Composition has seen the enrollment size more than triple from last year. While most have brushed off taking the class during middle school, last year only had a single class of about 20 students, this year the number of students skyrocketed.

Part of this increase is the change in whom the class was made available to, as seniors are able to take the class for the first time. This was due to concern over the fact that AP Language and Composition and EBWC (Expository, Reading, Writing and Composition) did not overlap with each other.

The new idea suggested is that students take Literature as a junior and Language as a senior. There are students who wish to take an AP class junior year, which could now be replaced with AP Language instead of AP Language. They then choose whether to take AP Language or EBWC as a senior. This also makes sense thematically, as students study and read fiction their whole school lives, then finally end with non-fiction the last year.

Literature teacher Mr. Brown has expressed happiness that students are stepping up to take the challenge. AP Literature across the board is a much harder class than Language.

"My suspicion is that seniors will start to shine second semester as seniors start to fade due to senioritis," Mr. Brown states candidly.

"As a junior I do not quite have the same confidence that Mr. Brown is expressing. Junior Erika Dunn, one of the first juniors to take AP Literature at this school, expressed some regret at her decision.

"I wish I took Lang instead for preparation becauseLit is a lot of work," she says.

"It might help for students to study another year of English," Mr. Brown finally adds when referring to the juniors taking this class.

Clubs make notebooks for Cambodian children

By Jacqueline Nguyen

Underprivileged Cambodian children who have limited educational tools as Adelante Mujeres, UNICEF, Musicians United, Choir Council and others have beautified notebooks filled with fun trivia and science facts. The club met on Fri., Oct. 3.

Members used found Post-it and printer paper in order to weave together notebooks. Then, they decorated the notebooks using markers.

"If the (kids) don’t have paper right on, how are they going to learn? So, we’re helping them out," asserts Adelante Mujeres Secretary Stephanie Tran.

After the administrations, Adelante Mujeres intends to send the notebooks over to Church Ministries Feife Phong, who met Adelante Mujeres President LeAnne Do at a youth rally. Along with a youth group at one of the churches he works at, Mr. Phong will bring the notebooks along with him as he visits in Cambodia.

"He does the (trip to Cambo-) dia almost every year. He takes about 40 volunteer members (of his church’s youth group). Each of them have about a hundred pounds to bring with them for free, and inside those boxes, they put their belongings for about 25 pounds because they go on a two month trip. The rest has boxes of cereal, stickers, books and pencils for the kids. They come over there and they don’t have a lot of English, so that’s what we’re donating the notebooks for. It kinda promotes education and opportunity," elaborates LeAnne Do.

In more ways than one, the members personalized the handmade notebooks.

"It’s something that we’re taking time out of our own lives, our own privileged lives, to give back to the less privileged," comments Vice President Cindy Bahn.

Adelante Mujeres fulfilled their goal of producing two hundred notebooks.

"It’s a pretty big goal, but I think it’s for a really good cause," explains Cindy.
Cell phone dependence becomes more prominent

Opinion: Climate change: hoax?

By Tris Hauxby

In the past few years, there has been increasing tension between the scientific community and the general American public on whether or not climate change is real. Scientists have consistently warned that if actions are not taken, average global temperatures will rise to dangerous levels within a few decades, but right now, 40% of Americans are in agreement that global warming is a serious issue. According to a poll by 2021, 86% of Americans say they are concerned about climate change, with 48% saying they are very concerned. This is a significant increase from 2018, when only 74% of Americans said they were concerned about climate change.

However, many Americans remain skeptical of the scientific consensus on climate change. A 2020 survey found that 34% of Americans believe that scientific evidence for climate change is fraudulent. This skepticism is fueled by media coverage that often sensationalizes climate change, such as the recent report by the National Science Board, which found that 40% of Americans believe that scientists are trying to profit from climate change research.

Nevertheless, many scientists argue that the evidence for climate change is overwhelming. According to a study published in Nature, global temperatures have increased by 1.1°C since the pre-industrial period, and the rate of warming has accelerated in recent decades. Sea levels have risen by 8 inches since 1900, and the Arctic sea ice has declined by 48% from its peak extent in 1980.

Despite the scientific consensus and the evidence for human-caused climate change, many Americans remain unconvinced. This is particularly true among those who are politically conservative. A 2021 survey found that 80% of Republicans do not believe that human activities are causing climate change, compared to only 45% of Democrats.

However, the scientific community continues to push for action on climate change. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has issued several reports warning that urgent action is needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015 by 196 countries, aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with a goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

Despite these efforts, many Americans remain skeptical of the scientific consensus on climate change. However, the evidence for human-caused climate change is overwhelming, and urgent action is needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
What is ISIS?

By Allan Vannery

I

ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) has been making recent headlines as a terrorist organization in the Middle East. Yet are the true origins of ISIS really understood? The organization, founded by sheikh Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in 2003, split from Al-Qaeda in 2010. Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden denounced the organization, which was subsequently renamed ISIS. However, ISIS is not the same as Al-Qaeda, nor is it the same as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

However, understanding the origins of ISIS is crucial to understanding the threat it poses to the United States and its allies. With the recent news of ISIS's defeat in Syria and Iraq, it is crucial to understand the history and beliefs of this organization.

Opinion: US should intervene in Middle East again!

By Beth Nagy

A

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) recently released videos of beheadings of American journalists and the acts of terrorism the group has committed. According to the United Nations, ISIS has been responsible for thousands of deaths and has been labeled as a terrorist organization.

However, many believe that the United States should intervene in the Middle East to stop the threat that ISIS poses to the world. With the recent news of ISIS's defeat, it is crucial to understand the role that the United States can play in stopping this threat.

Syrian death toll rises

By Alia Duran

D

The Syrian conflict has been raging for over six years, resulting in thousands of deaths and millions of refugees. The United Nations has called for a cease-fire in the region, but the fighting continues.

With the recent news of ISIS's defeat in Syria and Iraq, it is crucial to understand the role that the United States can play in stopping this threat.

Timeline of the Middle East

1989

1999

2003

2013

2014

US, British, ally troops bombard ISIS

By Anq Duong

O

n Sept. 23, 2014, US and British troops led their first strikes against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. The US-led coalition, which includes troops from 60 nations, aimed to eliminate ISIS as an active terrorist organization.

Currently, the US-led coalition is focusing on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which controls large parts of Iraq and Syria. The coalition has carried out more than 6,000 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

Opinion: US fights back: Foreign Policy on ISIS

By Khalid Nguyen

W

ith the defeat of ISIS in 2016, the United States has been focusing on preventing the return of ISIS fighters to their home countries. The US-led coalition, which includes troops from 61 countries, has carried out more than 6,000 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

Syrian refugees are now being resettled in the United States, while others are being resettled in other countries. The United Nations has called for a global effort to resettle refugees from Syria.

Nations divided on ISIS Question

By Lara Moore

S

ince the summer, nations all over the globe have been divided on how to handle the threat that ISIS poses to the world. The United States, United Kingdom, France, and other nations have been working to eliminate the threat that ISIS poses to the world.

US, Iraqi, and Syrian Macedonian troops?

By Nationwide

Macedonian soldiers are participating in the multinational mission to stop ISIS in the Middle East. The mission, which includes troops from 60 nations, has been ongoing since 2014.

Currently, the US-led coalition is focusing on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which controls large parts of Iraq and Syria. The coalition has carried out more than 6,000 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

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Ebola becomes epidemic, spreads to US, Spain
By Leno Tao

The first case of Ebola in the United States was reported on September 20, 2014, when Dr. Craig E. Duncan of New York City was diagnosed with the virus. Duncan did not have any active symptoms at the time of his diagnosis, and he was taken to a hospital for further testing. He remained in isolation until Friday, Sept. 19, when a medical team at the hospital confirmed that he had the virus.

Ebola is a deadly virus that is transmitted through contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is infected with the virus, or through contact with contaminated items or surfaces. The virus can be transmitted through direct contact with infected people, or through contact with contaminated items or surfaces.

Ebola causes severe illness and can be fatal. The virus can cause fever, muscle pain, severe headache, and fatigue. Other symptoms can include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and unexplained hemorrhage.

Ebola has been spreading rapidly in West Africa, with outbreaks in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The virus has killed thousands of people in these countries, and there are concerns that it could spread to other parts of the world.

Scientists are working to develop vaccines and treatments for Ebola, and there are efforts to increase awareness about how to prevent the spread of the virus.

NATIONAL

Ferguson unrest continues after three months
By Margaret Chon

Protests in Ferguson, Miss., after a white police officer’s shooting of African-American teenager Michael Brown continue.

October marked a new wave of protests after a St. Louis police officer shot another black teenager, 15-year-old Vonderrit Myers Jr. last Wednesday. The police said Myers had first shot at the officer three times, though Mr. Myers’s attorney says he was shot. The FBI said it had opened an investigation into the accident, but said it had not ruled out the possibility of a sexual assault.

Scientists believe Ebola comes from infected bats which people come in contact with. The virus is spread through the blood or body fluids of a person who is infected with the virus, or through contact with contaminated items or surfaces.

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INTERNATIONAL

Ebola becomes epidemic, spreads to US, Spain
By Leno Tao

A s of last Friday, there have been a total of 3,793 confirmed cases in Liberia and Sierra Leone, including 2,599 deaths. There have also been 20 cases in Nigeria, one each in Senegal and Spain and two cases in the US.

New cases from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leon have all reported a 21-day follow-up and have reported no further cases of Ebola.

The Ebola epidemic in history, transcending the outbreak in 1976, when the virus was discovered. "Ebola is not spread through casual contact; therefore, the risk of an outbreak in the US is very low," says CDC. Ebola is only contagious if the person affected shows symptoms.

This was the second case of Ebola spread outside of Africa since the Spanish nurse auxiliary Teresa Romero was tested positive for Ebola last Monday. Medical staffs in Spain are now testing against the government and medical officials for lack of medical oversight.

On Thursday, Sept. 5, 2014, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States. Duncan arrived in Dallas, Tex., on Sept. 20, developed symptoms approximately five days after and passed away last Wednesday. Duncan had not had any active symptoms during his flights.

Quick Facts on Ebola

CONTACT
People can only contract Ebola through the blood or body fluids of a person (or animals) infected with Ebola, not through air, water, or food.

PREVENTION
• Wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer
• Avoid contact with blood and bodily fluids
• Stay clear of an infected person’s blood or body fluids

VACCINE
There is currently no Ebola vaccine that is approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

SYMPTOMS
May appear in two to 21 days
• Diarrhea
• Severe headache
• Vomiting
• Muscle pain
• Abdominal pain
• Weakness
• Unexplained hemorrhage

OTHER NEWS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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NATIONAL NEWS

Ferguson unrest continues after three months
By Margaret Chon

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The virus can cause fever, muscle pain, severe headache, and fatigue. Other symptoms can include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and unexplained hemorrhage.

Ebola has been spreading rapidly in West Africa, with outbreaks in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The virus has killed thousands of people in these countries, and there are concerns that it could spread to other parts of the world.

Scientists are working to develop vaccines and treatments for Ebola, and there are efforts to increase awareness about how to prevent the spread of the virus.

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OTHER NEWS


BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

The Better Business Bureau has released its annual report on consumer complaints. The report found that the most common complaints were related to online shopping, travel, and home services.

The report also found that the most common types of fraud were related to identity theft, phishing, and money transfer scams.

The BBB has offered tips for consumers to protect themselves from fraud, including being wary of unsolicited calls or emails, verifying the legitimacy of websites, and never giving out personal information over the phone.

SCHOOL NEWS

The School Board has approved a new policy that requires all students to wear uniforms. The policy was developed in response to concerns about bullying and student behavior.

Under the new policy, students will be required to wear uniforms that are consistent with the school’s dress code. The dress code includes guidelines for the type of clothing that is allowed, as well as rules for hair and makeup.

The School Board has also approved a budget that includes funding for new technology and facilities improvement projects.

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I don’t see the point of joining a big club like Interact or Key just to look good to colleges. There are so many people in Interact/Key, what makes people think that colleges will pick you over the others? Wouldn’t it be more beneficial to join a smaller club and make a bigger impact?

Dear anyonotwix,
When colleges look at your application, they look for leadership. Whether it is in a small club or a big club, the colleges just want to see that you have leadership qualities. However, if it does look better when you have a leadership position in a big club since it shows that you can lead many people, compared to a small club with less people. There may be many people in Interact or Key, but there are only a few with leadership positions. If you like small clubs better, or you feel that you can play a bigger role in a small club, then you should go for it. Always follow your passions. Whatever you choose, you should stick with it and have fun!

What do you suggest for graduating seniors, have fun or study study study? Or both? Please explain.

Dear anyonotmystery, Saving a good balance of both would be the ideal goal. Don’t let seniornitiosity get to you, and focus on studying before you have fun. Finish your work completely and neatly, and then enjoy your free time with friends, family or whatever you do in your free time.

I’m a freshman boy. I am very lonely, and sometimes I wonder if I will ever get to go to a school dance with a pretty girl. I don’t know how to ask a girl to a dance. How do I ask someone creatively and in a way that they cannot say no?

Dear anyonous, First of all, there is no way to guarantee that the girl will say yes. Remember that no means no, and you shouldn’t try to force anything on anyone. That’s a sure way to get your plans to backfire on you.

To address your question just be yourself. I know that sounds cheesy, but it’s true. Befriend the girl beforehand and get to know her; that will make things seem more natural and less awkward when you ask. Also, if you want to ask a girl creatively, you should use pans and food! Don’t be fooled by the old axiom; a sure way to get to a girl’s heart can definitely be through her stomach, too.

How many crackers would it take for you to be my Homecoming date? My father is Howard Ritz, owner of the Ritz cracker factory, and I think you can make me a convincing deal.

Dear anyontwist, Your entire life savings in crackers would be fine, but my team and I in Journalism prefer pepperoni or Hawaiian pizza. Also, lobster is okay.

I have no friends. I want friends. I want friends so badly. I would hug them and bake for them and tell them funny stories. We could share emails and go on scavenger hunts together. How do I find these lifelong partners in adventure and love?

Dear anyonosake, The best way to make friends is to join a small club that reflects your interests; you can make connections with people who will become lifelong friends. However, it depends on you as a person to step outside of your comfort zone. Don’t be afraid to talk to people, but don’t force yourself on them. He himself instead of someone you aren’t, because real friends like you for who you really are.

The sidewalk itself is actually the top of a hollow aqueduct, now covered in graffiti. In addition to being a generally creepy area due to the isolation and desolation, the sidewalk is purported to host the spirit of a hitchhiker who asks for rides, then disappears.

Have a question? Ask Polly at ask.fm/phhslegend

Dear anonycake, How do I ask someone creatively and in a way that they cannot say no?

Dear anonychip, I’m a freshman boy. I am very lonely, and sometimes I wonder if I will ever get to go to a school dance with a pretty girl. I don’t know how to ask a girl to a dance. How do I ask someone creatively and in a way that they cannot say no?

Dear anyonofray, Neatly haunts Marsh Road.

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Bay Area Haunts spoke up Halloween

With Halloween just around the corner, Bay Area thrill-seekers are looking for a fun— and spooky—way to spice up this holiday. Fortunately, the Bay Area isn’t without its own haunts, including the Winchester Mystery House, Secret Sidewalk, and Marsh Road.

Winchester Mystery House

Located in San Jose, the Winchester Mystery House is a mansion built by Sarah Winchester, widow of the firearms manufacturer William Winchester. Shortly after her husband’s death, a medium instructed her to continuously build a home for herself and the victims of her husband’s rifles. The house is documented murder which took place in 1981. Mary Cory condon, then a freshman at Milpitas High School, was brutally raped and murdered by her boyfriend. Her remains were found at the bottom of a ravine on the side of Marsh Road, but not before her murderer showed her body to at least ten other classmates. Her ghost still roams the empty halls of Marsh Road.

Secret Sidewalk

In addition to its architectural oddities, the House is also the reputed home of spirits, including that of Ms. Winchester herself. Inhabitants of the house have reported seeing strange sounds, move- ments, and floating orbs in the house at night.classmates. Her ghost still roams the empty halls of Marsh Road.

Marsh Road

Marsh Road was the site of a real and well-documented murder which took place in 1981. Mary Cory condon, then a freshman at Milpitas High School, was brutally raped and murdered by her boyfriend. Her remains were found at the bottom of a ravine on the side of Marsh Road, but not before her murderer showed her body to at least ten other classmates. Her ghost still roams the empty halls of Marsh Road.

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Two PHHS athletes participate in world championship
By Margaret Chen

Two PHHS athletes participate in world championship
By Khahn Nguyen

An update on the volleyball season
By Nina Washington

Football starts season 1-1
By Mary Santos

Junior Varsity

The Piedmont Hills JV Football team began their regular season against Leland High School on Fri., Sept. 20. The team, led by coach Paul Garcia, had a successful start to their season.

The team struggled against Leland High School, losing with a score of 2-1 for the game against Branham. Despite the loss, the team still had a positive attitude on the rest of the season.

An update on the volleyball season
By Nina Washington

The season started for the Girls Volleyball team in September. So far, they have won 3 games and lost 4 games. The team lost 3-1 on Tues., Sept. 30 against Evergreen Valley.

Despite the loss, the team still has a positive attitude on the rest of the season. They said they are looking forward to the game against Notre Dame on Sat., Sept. 28 and Branham on Thurs., Sept. 25. The team played Notre Dame, with the score being 2-1 for the game against Notre Dame and 3-2 for the game against Branham.

The highlight of Notre Dame was winning against them, exclaimed Floyd. The game against Branham was described as “exhilarating" by Floyd as well.

“Everybody was so anxious on the bench. But it turned out well and we won by a serve,” she explains. “Our biggest accomplishment for the season so far would either be beating Branham or Notre Dame,” junior Lynn Ngo states.

When asked what the team’s goal was for the season, she said, “We hope to win the league title and make it to CCS.”

The team has been practicing in the gym every weekday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. “Practice is going okay, we have been mostly working on basics such as passing and transitioning,” states senior Kianna Boyette.

PHHS Cheer places second in regional
By Kinh Nguyen

Piedmont Hills cheerleaders placed second in a regional competition on Sat., Sept. 28 on the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

There were a lot of teams and it was a little intimidating, says JV Cheer Captain Heather L. “But there was a relaxing vibe because it was on the beach.”

Around 50 teams participated in the regional competition, which was in preparation for nationals. Piedmont Hills placed second, after Soquel High School.

“I was really scared because it was our first competition together as a team,” confesses Varsity Cheerleader Kimberly Licea. “We never really performed together before. But our routine went well.”

A competition routine usually consists of a music portion and a cheer portion. To impress the judges, the routines incorporate stunts, jumps and jumps. The cheer chanted is longer than the cheer from football games; among other things, it informs the judges and the audience of the school name and colors.

“We are judged on spirit, sharpness and cleanliness,” Licea explains. “(Judges) look at how together we are, how high our jumps are and how solid our stunts are.”

In preparation for the competition, the cheerleaders had two-hour practices twice a week in order to perfect their routines. Occasionally, they had extra practices on Sundays. The team will be training even harder now that they are heading to nationals, which usually take place in late February.

“I’m really confident that we’ll do well,” comments L. “We have a good team this year. We’re all very close.”

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Girls Tennis conquer windy Sobrato
By Allan Nguyen

Piedmont Hills Girls Tennis team won its match against Sobrato on Tues., Oct. 7 with a score of 7-0. "The girls played really well even with the outrageous wind. They played effectively and won with no complications given our away game disadvantage," commented Girls’ Tennis captain Jessica Nguyen. The heavy wind certainly played a factor in distracting some of the team members.

"At the beginning, I was in frustration since the wind would blow my shots out but we all carried through and prevailed," retold singles three Lina Nguyen.

This was their seventh game in the season with five wins and two losses for the season. Although it is still early in the tennis season, the team holds optimism and confidence in upcoming games, especially for CCS (Central Coast Section) Championships.

"We’ve constantly aimed for CCS and we’ve succeeded in the past so my confidence is up high," L. Nguyen comments.

PHHS’s Girls Tennis team definitely keeps its eye on the ball along with the CCS tournament in near future but is also enjoying the presence of the team itself.

"I’m looking forward to games in general and especially our bond ing… we have a great bond among the team," doubles four Joanna Wong expresses. In focus of the games themselves, Wong also briefly reflects on the past losses the girls had faced in the start of the season.

"We lost a few, but of course we learn from our mistakes and are ready to play again," Wong reflects. The PHHS Girls Tennis team still has quite a few games left to determine its position in CCS but still is going one match at a time. ♦

Girls Varsity Volleyball
3-0 (L) v. Leland Away 6-1 (L) v. Evergreen Home
3-2 (W) v. Leigh Away 7-0 (W) v. Silver Creek Home
3-1 (L) v. Westmont Away 7-0 (W) v. Santa Teresa Away
6-1 (L) v. Evergreen Away

Girls JV Volleyball
3-0 (L) v. Leland Away 4-3 (L) v. Leland Home
6-1 (L) v. Evergreen Home

Wrestling team prepares for upcoming season
By Devin Nguyen

The Varsity wrestling team is working hard to secure victory in their upcoming winter season. Although practice has just begun, the PHHS wrestlers have been preparing for much longer.


"The team goes to the wrestling room and we’d do warm-ups, we’d learn techniques and we’d just learn how to win," Gardner states. The wrestling team is trying to live up to their record of 7-1 against other schools at last season’s BVAL (Blossom Valley Athletic League) tournament.

"We did really good last year," Gardner adds. "(In the season), we won 19 out of the 21 matches. We just didn’t have enough weight classes so we had to forfeit a bunch of them, which was the reason we lost those matches."

"With last year’s performance, the wrestling team hopes to continue their success going into this year’s season."

"I think Overall is doing really well, but you know, we did really well last season, and we’re only getting better. But we have to expect that the other teams are getting better, too," Gardner adds.

Matches with other schools will take place in the winter season. Official schedules for matches have not yet been slated. Until the season begins, the PHHS wrestling team will practice daily in the wrestling room after school. ♦

Girls Cross Country starts season with a bang
By Dalena Nguyen

Both JV and Varsity Cross Country have been training since summer and raced on Sat., Sept. 27 at Westmoor High School in Daly City. Varsity runner Stephanie Bustos placed 22nd.

The students have trained since summer and have been practicing ever since. The average distance of practice varies from 4 to 7 miles per day. While training in the summer, the mileage can go up to 50 miles a week," says Girls Varsity Captain Iris Wu.

"With the Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity having to be fit and energized, they’ve been avoiding certain foods. "I try to stay away from junk food in general; especially chips, cookies, soda and anything like that because I can tell and I can feel the difference when I run after eating junk food and it does not feel good!" exclaims Girls Junior Varsity reserved runner Jody Wong.

According to Bustos, she was actually surprised that she placed 22nd place out of all the girl contestants at the Ram Invitational.

"It felt good, I didn’t know I’d beat everyone from Piedmont Hills Girls Cross Country," claims Bustos. "I never wanted to become a professional. I just joined cross country to stay in shape but through it, I got to meet a lot of new people and run more miles than I probably would’ve run in my lifetime," states Girls Varsity Captain Melissa Yang.

Cross Country runners will be striving for the best since Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity Mr. Tippetts has been training them strenuously to make a strong push in the CCS. ♦

Boys JV Football
17-7 (W) v. Pioneer Home
35-28 (L) v. Leigh Away

Boys Varsity Football
55-28 (L) v. Pioneer Home
42-21 (W) v. Leigh Away

Boys Varsity Cross Country
3-0 (L) v. Leland Away
4-3 (L) v. Leland Home
6-1 (L) v. Evergreen Home

Girls Varsity/JV Tennis
6-1 (L) v. Leland Away
6-1 (L) v. Evergreen Home
6-1 (L) v. Leigh Away
7-0 (W) v. Silver Creek Home
7-0 (W) v. Santa Teresa Away
6-1 (W) v. Westmont Away
6-1 (W) v. Sacramento Away
7-0 (W) v. Sobrato Away
7-0 (W) v. Sobrato Away
4-3 (L) v. Leland Home
6-1 (L) v. Evergreen Home

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Art Scene Sells Ribbons

In the last two weeks of October, the Art Scene club will be selling cancer awareness ribbons in the main hall. They will be 50 cents to purchase, and all proceeds will go to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Art Scene club expresses their creativity through the ribbons and also hopes that these handcrafted, student-designed ribbons will raise breast cancer awareness.

Pasta Fundraiser

The Culinary Arts Club and International Cuisine class has been hosting a pasta fundraiser this past month starting Sat., Sept. 6 to sponsor their food piri piri activities. All throughout last month, participants were free to pick up pasta order forms in B-2. 

Class of ‘16 Fundraiser

On Sept. 26 and Oct. 6, a Krispy Kreme Donut Donut Fundraiser for the Class of ’16 took place after school in the Poly Hills parking lot. When the fundraiser began, the freshly-baked donuts sold out within the first thirty minutes.

Class of ‘18 Game Booth

The Class of ’18 is holding a fundraising booth, Sat., Oct. 25 at the Berryessa Chinese School Fall Festival to sell treats as well as run a game booth where all the proceeds are going to towards the class.