PHHS Drama Department to bring
‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ to life on stage

By Rosa Lin

F or this year’s fall play, the Piedmont Hills Drama Department is taking on ‘To Kill a Mockingbird.’ The play is based on the novel, written by Harper Lee, and follows the story of Scout, Jem and Dill, three children who mature from their various experiences in the city of Maycomb.

For the last few years, the Piedmont Hills Drama Department has performed many comedic plays such as ‘Southern Hospitality’ and ‘Spy School.’ However, ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ belongs to a completely different kind of genre compared to past productions, as it addresses many serious topics such as discrimination and rape. A few cast members have expressed their hardships in shifting from comedy to bildungsroman, the genre deals with a young protagonist’s growth and maturation.

“A definite hardship is the emotional aspect for sure,” explains senior cast member MiHeka Valenzo, who plays the role of Calpurnia. “Since I am playing an African American in the show, I have to get in the mindset that I am not an equal to other characters given the time period.”

Other cast members also expressed their worries over their execution of the play. “It’s a classic novel, and to do it justice and not ruin it is a big thing,” expresses senior cast member Uyen Ngo, who plays the role of Miss Maudie Atkinson.

Preparation wise, some of the cast members have been discussing their characters with the English teachers to get their perspective on the characters and their relationships with each other,” explains Uyen. “It is really interesting to see how each interpret the story differently. It’s tough trying to put our own spin on these really classic characters because we want to make them ours while also doing them justice and keeping them true to their roots.”

Aside from getting into character, she also has to worry about playing a character of the opposite gender. Overall, despite the numerous hurdles and obstacles present in the production process of this play, the cast and crew alike are prepared to blow the audience out of the water. According to the cast, every rough patch in every production is worth it in the end. “It’s truly rewarding when you have put a lot of time and effort into a show just to see the audience cry or feel with the characters,” expresses Student Director Winston Liew. “It’s my last fall play. It is where I started—someone’s last was my beginning.”

PHHS swimming pool to undergo renovations

By Michelle Lin

S cheduled to begin this winter, the PHHS swimming pool will undergo renovations costing approximately $3 million, according to Principal Traci Williams.

For years, the school has had several problems with its swimming pool. Such issues range from chipped tiles on the floor to the shallowness of the swimming pool. “I think the pool renovation is a much-needed project,” claims Ms. Williams. “The pool area will be converted from having two individual pools to one large supersize pool that will have a deep end and a shallow end.”

According to the district website, the East Side Union High School District currently has plans to renovate the pools of seven schools in the district. For all seven schools, the cost to remodel is about $21.6 million, which is approximately $3 million for each of the schools. “It’s a lot of money because (they have) to do some extra constructions to make the area the right size for the renovation. It’s going to be very, very expensive, and it’s going to take a little over a year. It’s scheduled to start in December,” asserts PHHS sports director Peter Simon.

Because the renovation will take such a long time to complete, it will conflict with not only the swim team’s season this year, but also with the swimming units for the freshmen PE classes. “We won’t have a swimming as a (PE) course until probably spring of 2017. Where it’s really going to affect is our swim team this year, and we’re going to be practicing at Independence (High School),” states Mr. Simon.

“Practicing at Independence will affect practice schedules, and it’s just really hectic,” anticipates swimmer Maxine Gutierrez. “Pool renovations are definitely worth it, since compared to the other schools where we have meets, they all have better pools than us.”

Despite the several unfortunate events, the swimming pool’s renovation does carry many positive aspects that will help improve the school. “The swimming pool will be able to accommodate diving and all the PE classrooms, so it’s just going to be a new and exciting addition to the school,” mentions Ms. Williams. “Once we have the pool, we’re going to have a safer facility,” acknowledges Mr. Simon. “It’s just going to be a better facility for both PE and athletics.”

Artery beautifies science halls

By Michelle Lin

A rtery has been painting the science hallways since last month, decorating the blank walls with the faces of famous scientists. The project began when AP Biology and Forensics teacher Jason Dries commissioned Artery to beautify the halls.

“We’ve had really boring halls for 50 years. The time is done,” Mr. Dries declares. “It was also a way to showcase student artists (and) have them do something that everyone can see.”

To start off the project, Mr. Dries presented Artery with a list of ideas for the mural, ranging from pictures of scientists to random chemistry and physics equations. Then, the time-consuming process of sketching and painting began.

“We mostly spend time during art class or Wednesday afternoons to work on the mural,” notes Treasurer Sharon Lee.

The first part of the mural, which can be seen on the wall outside of chemistry teacher Lope Macasaet’s classroom, is a portrait of Charles Darwin, who is known for his theory of natural selection. Other possible portraits include Bill Nye and Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Artery has decided to take it one step at a time and focus on one part of the mural before starting another.

Many students and staff appreciate the ongoing mural project. “It’s neat that we’re giving some artistic expression to science,” physics teacher Lance Abele remarks.

Others are excited to view the final product. “I really can’t wait for it to be finished,” exclains junior Evan Sum. “Hopefully there are some physics puns so that when I feel down and I go through the physics halls, it can cheer me up!”

The length of the project depends on how much funding Artery will receive from the Science Department.

“We hope that the mural can be finished by the end of the school year,” expresses Sharon. •
Red Cross to host biannual blood drive

By Kyle Nathan Sumida

Red Cross is hosting its biannual blood drive next Friday in the school library from 9am to 2pm. Rumors have been circulating that the Red Cross is in need of blood transfusions.

During this time of the year, accidents are more prone to occur, meaning that more patients are in need of blood transfusions.

By Elaine Zhang

In a little over a month, finals shall all descend upon the students in order to survive with your grade intact, incorporate the following tips into your studying regime.

Start reviewing at least two weeks before finals. Start studying now and enough to ensure that you can cover everything in all your subjects. Also, if you want to stay from staying up until 4am the day of the final frantically cramming.

When you are studying, turn off and put away all electronic devices. If you wish to study with music in the background, find music without words. Study in 25 minute sections, taking a five minute break between each study session. After three sessions, take a longer 15 minute break. Set up a reward system for your studying. For example, you can give yourself a small snack every time you finish a page. See if you can find out what type of test your final will be. Studying for an essay is different than studying for a multiple choice test. This can also ensure that you will not be surprised on the day of the test.

Take the notes you took during the semester and condense each chapter to half a page long. This helps ensure you understand the main ideas, while letting you review all your notes. Study from the condensed notes.

If a teacher offers a study guide, be sure to study the questions carefully; the teacher would know what’s going to be on the test. Understand all the topics mentioned in the study guide.

Find the old tests and quizzes you took throughout the semester if your teacher returned them. Teachers often use similar questions and cover similar topics on their finals, so these are great review guides. Make sure you review the questions you got wrong and understand why you missed them.

When the day before the test comes around, make sure you get a good night sleep, at least eight hours. If you started studying earlier this will be doable. Otherwise, you might end up falling asleep during a test, or blanking out.

Pirate of the Issue

Jeremiah Loree

Jeremiah can hardly recall a day where I wasn’t rereasin’ verses, convinced that my purpose / was to inspire with lyrics, and even open the curtains for a younger kid with similar dreams as my own / reveal to him his importance through the words in the song / cuz I know how good the music sounds when you’re alone,” senior Jeremiah Loree passionately raps in his album Moflornone.

Jeremiah began to develop an interest in rapping when he was ten. The movies Nontious and 8 Mile sparked his interest in rap culture, and he began to learn how to write his own raps.

“My main goal in music has always been to help people through whatever struggles they’re going through and inspire them to find their passion,” emphasizes Jeremiah.

He also has a passion for bodybuilding. Similar to rapping, he treats bodybuilding as a way to relieve stress.

“I started off as (wanting to get big), but then the more I got into it, it became another form of expression and another passion,” Jeremiah elaborates. “Once you see results, it’s just addicting.”

He is also the treasurer for Elements and part of the wrestling team.

More information about his music can be found on his website: jloree-music.com.

Study smarter, not harder

By Diane Tran

California School Foundation (CSF) club gave an opportunity for fellow pirates to attend a self-planned workshop on stress management by Mr. Tran. He explains that he wanted students to not only become advocates so they may better represent their interests, but also become their own self advocates, “I wanted students to not only talk about myself,” Mr. Tran states.

In order to become a blood donor, one has to be at least 16 years old. Male students are required to be at least 5’7” in height and weigh 110 pounds; the requirements for female students vary upon each added inch. Female students who weigh at least 110 pounds but are shorter than 5’6” must be at a minimum weight to qualify: 4’10” and 146 pounds; 5’1” and 138 pounds; 5’2” and 133 pounds; 5’3” and 129 pounds; 5’4” and 124 pounds; 5’5” and 119 pounds.

Those who are seeking to become blood donors should start consuming more iron-rich foods, such as seafood, poultry, meat, beans, dried fruit, spinach and other green leafy vegetables. A lack of iron in one’s blood system may postpone one’s donation. To encourage healthier eating habits, the Red Cross will be hosting a feast today from 5pm to 7pm at the Senior Glen.

A blood drive representative from the Blood Centers of the Pacific will be assisting the officers and members of the club during the event. Other Red Cross clubs in our district will also be having their own blood drives, but not through the Blood Centers of the Pacific. During the event, free refreshments and complimentary T-shirts will be provided for the participants.

In the October issue, “Another concert, another autumn amazement” misnamed wind ensemble as wood ensemble.

Jeremiah has also competed in various rap contests, namely the Teambackpack Cypher in sophomore year and the Kato’s No Sucka MC’s contest in senior year. Although he has had his music featured on the radio, Spotify and iTunes, his proudest achievement to date is a simple message to him about his positive influence on others.

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Teen independence: fabrication or reality?
By Justice Alafia

On a cold chilly autumn night in November, the idea of college always lingers in the minds of both students and parents. This is not surprising, considering the number of college preparatory courses, tedious financial expenses and dreadful thoughts of independence. One thing is clear: students may apply to our current and future generation students, nor will it apply to select parents, but there will always be a time in students’ lives where children age and subtly crave independence and adventure. Now, not all parents will be able to afford to have their children suffer or feel bad about themselves, but their constant questioning about whether their children’s success relies on their own live students to doubt their ideals and dreams about independence (or maybe spark an interest). It is known that students cross their mind, but that is not the same case. In reality, students have to consider that they pass judgment on their peers and young aspiring students. Overall, both students and parents should come to a mutual understanding and establishment of trust in order to move forward in life. It is good to keep a positive mindset when our children accept the fact that their peers have raised is capable of caring for him or herself and vice versa young aspiring students.

It’s spring. The blossoming flowers spray their perfume and joy across the campus; the sun is now no longer setting by the time Homework Center closes up and friends are breaking. It’s the most wonderful season, filled with lots of laughter and excitement for all the seniors of the school year. This is especially the case for the seniors. “OMG guys I got into MIT,” enthuses Britney after her phone call. She puts her phone on the pristine desk and talks to every single one of her friends. I’m sure you’re feeling the same now too. This is perfectly how Felicia feels. “OMG! I’m so grateful,” Felicia says. Don’t believe me? Ask Natalie Pernice. This is exactly what Natalie Portman felt when she received her letter from Harvard University. She thought she wasn’t smart or very creative but be amongst America’s finest and more, and after tiring herself out with seri- ous Hebrew literature and other upper level courses, she eventually rekindled her love for acting during her four years anyway. It’s that little girl who went by Felicia and wasn’t an insinued adjective enough for insin- iant top school name that perfectly illustrates what’s wrong with our society, more teenagers and parents at Senior Honor Night who clap only for the kids who are heading to prestigious and— well, for the most part, nearly all the officers have exalted Christina, her head turned down with buming emotions because of Britney’s joy. I think it’s unfair to blame ourselves for insti- guishing this kind of behavior. I think it’s mainly nurture, some nature. We grow up in a world where our par- ents tell us to work hard to get straight A’s and the per- fect SAT score in order to get pre-med at Stanford, at least for most of us. That rubs off on us subconsciously. It’s still completely unfair to compare the girl who got into Harvard to the girl who got into San Jose State. The girl who got Harvard accepted isn’t a god and will tell you such random wording is bogus. The girl who got into Harvard is still roomies with the senior Honor Night. We don’t have to start wars over something that has such a trivial impact on our lives. No one really wants to end high school, or the school year, on a negative note. Save your energy for the next four or ten years of your lives.

Disagree with an opinion here? Have you one to share? Contact an editor or send your article to phlegend@gmail.com

Pretty little jealousy: the Britneys and the Felicias
By Jacqueline Nguyen

“The college I go to does not define my mental ability, my future jobs and most importantly—my worth.”

The academic elitism given by four years of finding new ways to hide alcohol is truly priceless.

By Tiffany Lee

A companyed by a six-digit price tag and constant parental nagging, under-

graduate education must be important.

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Which AP classes should I take?

By Wall Leung

With the early admission deadline for many top schools and the arrival of AP exams this spring, many students are looking closely at their college application. With 12 AP classes while others are applying with nine. For seniors, the dilemma of choosing classes is over; for freshmen, sophomore and junior, it has just begun. Here are some AP classes you should take? Which subjects should you take?

First off, the quantity. For many, we can schedule at AP classes to get accepted into college. However, it is nearly advisable to do a little research to see which subjects hold the high GPA over a greater workload. Applying to Harvard University with multiple AP classes, a student who took 2.5 to 2.85 will have a better chance than a student who took 3.0 to 3.05. Grade first, courses second. With that being said, colleges will also look at your AP classes. An AP class is not as important if your AP course is weak, and only AP classes. Also, applying with eight AP classes this year is four more than last year. It has just begun. How many AP classes will you be taking? A senior, it is not your last year yet.

By Wall Leung

The SAT or ACT? A few years ago, this question would have predominately centered on the same question: an SAT or ACT? It’s a new experience, but there’s something to it. In addition, the ACT is often our first experience of test taking, which could be more stressful for our students, not to mention the average score on the ACT is around 18. It’s a much different test, but one in which our students are more than capable to succeed.

Furthermore, the ACT covers some advanced topics in mathematics, even going up to trigonometry, while the SAT stops at Algebra II. The ACT also has a science section that the SAT lacks. Some states have a science score on a scale of 1 to 5, with each section having a composite score that is added up.

The difference between these exams is enormous, and together, they measure students’ skills in four distinct areas. Structurally, the SAT and ACT are completely different. The SAT is organized into small chunks, not tests per standardization of reading, writing, and math at a time.

Furthermore, the other test material contains topics from some AP classes. Even if your SAT score is lower, you don’t have to take AP classes to succeed in the exam. How to prepare for AP classes?

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Another difference is the nature of the exam. The ACT is more about reasoning, where students must figure out the answers, whereas the SAT is more about retrieving knowledge, where students must recall the correct answer. The ACT is also more about making decisions, where students must weigh the possibilities of each answer, whereas the SAT is more about recalling information, where students must remember what they learned.

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**Ask Polly!**

Q: What goes into being a decent candidate for UCs? I can’t help but feel like a product trying to sell myself for college.

Dear anonyfilet mignon,

The sad truth is that we all have to sell ourselves to college, but in order to do so, you must advertise yourself as being somehow different from the thousands of others with similar statistics (GPA and test scores). The students that apply each year to the same schools don’t actually differ that much, so you have to make sure you stand out by writing meaningful personal statements. This means you should write more than one draft, and not just rush on Nov. 30. To attract UCs, you don’t have to start a company by the age of 13, or rescue a dozen children in Africa, or be the president of five clubs. Finally, you need to take into consideration which colleges you want to apply to; some colleges require at least one year of Calculus. However, also remember that many colleges will not offer credit for Calculus AB; you must take Calculus BC, too.

Q: Should I take AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics?

Dear anonypastrami,

First, how is your algebra? A large majority of mistakes in higher level math, especially Calculus, come from algebraic errors. If you fall at algebra, you will also fail at Calculus. Statistics would be a better choice, as it uses less algebra.

Second, Calculus is much more math heavy than Statistics. In Statistics, analyzing the approach and the answers plays a bigger role in the course than solving for the solution. There is a lot of writing; so if you don’t wish to write, avoid this class.

Finally, you need to think about which colleges you want to apply to; some colleges require at least one year of Calculus. However, also remember that many colleges will not offer credit for Calculus AB; you must take Calculus BC, too.

Q: Polly, what is true love?

Dear anonyprosciutto,

True love is when you squawk at all the journalists while they’re trying to do their work and shed feathers all over their keyboards and they still feed you lots of yummy crackers every day. It’s also when you buy journalists food.

Polly, what is true love?

Dear anonymeat lover,

Mhmmm baaacoooonnn. Well, it depends on what the bacon is on. Chocolate-covered bacon sounds gross. Chocolate is perfectly fine by itself; it doesn’t need bacon. Bacon-flavored grapes sound funny. Is it a grape or is it bacon?

Q: What do you think about bacon-covered/bacon-flavored foods?

Dear anonypastrami,

First, how is your algebra? A large majority of mistakes in higher level math, especially Calculus, come from algebraic errors. If you fail at algebra, you will also fail at Calculus. Statistics would be a better choice, as it uses less algebra.

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**Which teachers are Piedmont Hills students most thankful for?**

Compiled by Walt Leung

This survey was conducted through Google Forms and advertised on Schoolloop. The poll was open from last Monday to last Wednesday, and 390 responses were recorded. Of these, Mr. Kuang received an overwhelming majority of 267 votes, while the closest contender was Mr. Macasaet, who received 15 votes.

Have a poll you want to share? Email phlegend@gmail.com with your suggestion and it may be featured in next month’s issue of The Legend.

**Funky Holidays**

Compiled by Kylie Cheng

**NOVEMBER**

- 15 National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day
- 16 International Day For Tolerance
- 17 National Take A Hike Day
- 18 National Education Support Professionals Day
- 19 National Play Monopoly Day
- 20 National Absurdity Day
- 21 National Adoption Day
- 22 National Cranberry Relish Day
- 23 National Espresso Day
- 24 Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day
- 25 National Parfait Day
- 26 National Cake Day
- 27 You’re Welcomegiving Day
- 28 National French Toast Day

**DECEMBER**

- 6 National Microwave Oven Day
- 7 National Cotton Candy Day
- 8 Pretend To Be A Time Traveler Day
- 9 National Pastry Day
- 10 Dewey Decimal System Day
- 11 International Mountain Dew Day
- 12 Gingerbread House Day
Girls Volleyball ended their season with a 3-0 victory against Evergreen Valley High. The team currently has a 13 game win-streak. The players stress the importance of being a single unit team in order to keep their win-ning streak alive. “I think that we have really good team chemistry,” comments varsity player Allison Pereira. The team is always looking to improve and perfect, so they’re “still working on (their) communication” reveals Floyd.

Coach Beth Nham has pushed the girls through training and led them to success using careful strategy. “The coaches are our biggest cheerleaders and are there to watch us succeed throughout our season,” remarks Varsity player Ivy Johnson.

Many players are returning from last sea-son, making it easy to predict the team’s skill early in the season. “It was a well prepared sea-son,” acknowledges Floyd.

“We already knew from the start what our season was going to look like. We only lost about three seniors,” explains Pereira.

The girls are currently gearing toward CCS, hoping to take the title. They now face the challenge of getting into the CCS mind-set after spending a season focused on league championships. “We want to win CCS for sure,” says Pereira. The first goal is to win the first round and “see what happens from there.”

The team is not taking training for CCS lightly. In addition to regular practice, the girls “watch our opponents’ films to see how they play so we know how to play stronger against them” reveals Vinson.

Individual players also have some goals of their own which they wish to accomplish. Floyd is hoping to “end (her) season very well. (She) re-ally wants to get her name on that banner in the gym.”

CCS began this past Wednesday in the PHS gym at 7pm. ♦

Girls Tennis smashes into CCS

By Emitele Chau

The PHS Varsity Girls Tennis team made it to CCS (Central Coast Section) Championships after winning against West-wood High School on Thursday, Oct. 29. They won with a score of 5-1, ensuring Piedmont Hills a place in CCS this year. The first game for CCS was this past Tuesday at Santa Clara Bay Club against Archbishop Mitty with a loss of 7-0.

The team had to play against other schools in the BV AL (Blossom Valley Athletic League) Team Tournament in order to qualify for CCS. First and second place get automatically seated while third place is required to win two more matches against other teams in the BV AL in order to qualify for CCS.

In order to prepare for CCS, the team has worked extra hard with more drills and prac-tices. Training included various warm ups such as down the line shots (where the player hits the ball straight down the line of the tennis court to the other side).

The team held strong throughout the sea-son and lost only one game at the beginning of the season to Del Mar. The girls faced Del Mar again and gained victory, never losing a game since. The team currently has a 13 game win-streak.

“Every since then we’ve been strolling along through the season,” explains varsity player Kaitlyn Floyd. “Coming back and beating them was a big confidence boost.”

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Coach Beth Nham has pushed the girls through training and led them to success using careful strategy. “The coaches are our biggest cheerleaders and are there to watch us succeed throughout our season,” remarks Varsity player Ivy Johnson.

Many players are returning from last sea-son, making it easy to predict the team’s skill early in the season. “It was a well prepared sea-son,” acknowledges Floyd.

“We already knew from the start what our season was going to look like. We only lost about three seniors,” explains Pereira.

The girls are currently gearing toward CCS, hoping to take the title. They now face the challenge of getting into the CCS mind-set after spending a season focused on league championships. “We want to win CCS for sure,” says Pereira. The first goal is to win the first round and “see what happens from there.”

The team is not taking training for CCS lightly. In addition to regular practice, the girls “watch our opponents’ films to see how they play so we know how to play stronger against them” reveals Vinson.

Individual players also have some goals of their own which they wish to accomplish. Floyd is hoping to “end (her) season very well. (She) re-ally wants to get her name on that banner in the gym.”

CCS began this past Wednesday in the PHS gym at 7pm. ♦

Girls Tennis smashes into CCS

By Emitele Chau

The PHS Varsity Girls Tennis team made it to CCS (Central Coast Section) Championships after winning against Westwood High School on Thursday, Oct. 29. They won with a score of 5-1, ensuring Piedmont Hills a place in CCS this year. The first game for CCS was this past Tuesday at Santa Clara Bay Club against Archbishop Mitty with a loss of 7-0.

The team had to play against other schools in the BV AL (Blossom Valley Athletic League) Team Tournament in order to qualify for CCS. First and second place get automatically seated while third place is required to win two more matches against other teams in the BV AL in order to qualify for CCS.

In order to prepare for CCS, the team has worked extra hard with more drills and prac-tices. Training included various warm ups such as down the line shots (where the player hits the ball straight down the line of the tennis court to the other side).

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UPCOMING DATES

NOVEMBER
11/25 - 11/27 Thanksgiving Break
11/30 UC & CSU Application due

DECEMBER
12/5 SAT test date
12/11 Winter Ball
12/12 ACT test date
12/6 - 12/14 Hanukkah
12/16 - 12/18 Finals
12/21 - 1/4/16 Winter Break
12/25 Christmas Day
12/26 - 1/1/16 Kwanzaa
12/31 New Year’s Eve

JANUARY
1/1/16 New Year’s Day
1/18/16 MLK Jr. Day

VISIT OUR WEBSITE phhsthelegend.org

VSA competes in community competition

By Kyle Nathan Sumida

VSA (Vietnamese Student Association) competed in the annual MAYS (Mid Autumn Youth Summit) at Yerba Buena High School on Sun., Nov. 1. to raise funds for their club and to showcase their talent.

At this event, VSA clubs around San Jose meet together to compete in dance, cultural jeopardy, skits, olympics, singing and speech.

“It’s overall a really great event for VSA’s Vietnamese community because students, parents and organization leaders all contribute to making the event successful and fun,” explains President Rose Hoang. “I love watching the other schools and seeing what other VSA clubs are doing when they perform.”

Cash rewards are given out as prizes to the top three schools in each category, with each one ranging from around $50 to $200. PHHS’s VSA club placed third in the cultural jeopardy category and earned $50; second in skit and earned $100; and first in singing and earned $75. Although the school did not receive a reward for the speech category, senior Rich-ard Nguyen successfully landed in fourth place.

Spencer Nguyen, member of the club and first place winner for the speech category, was surprised to hear the great news.

“There were some good singers there,” comments Spencer. “I was surprised for most of the day because I had to switch songs the night before at lunch.”

The club encountered rigorous planning and preparation for all of the categories. Practices for the different categories began right after Homecoming week, but both Rose and sophomore board member Cindy Nguyen agreed that it was difficult for members to all come on the same day to practice.

“Our skit people were busy on different days, so no one was at the practices,” explains Cindy.

Treasurer Tina Tran states that the funds raised from this event will be saved for the club’s annual PIHS VSA show.

ACS helps out Ruskin Elementary School students

By Valerie Nguyen

S tartaing Oct. 12, Piedmont Hills NHS’s (National Honor Society) competed at Ruskin Elementary School with younger kids after school.

Each day, NHS members of the club switch between shifts to tutor these students that choose to stay afterschool at the SI (Supplemen-tary Instruction) tutoring program, which specializes in giving extra help on their schoolwork.

The NHS members help out in many subjects ranging anywhere from science and reading to history and math.

“I first helped with them when not-ing out math problems that involved adding groups of animals together,” stated senior Linda Xiao.

This year, NHS had previously voted that their annual charity would be on education. Helping out at Ruskin with the younger generation follows their educational mission statement.

As these devoted high school students help out, talking with the younglings has caused them to take a trip down memory lane to when they themselves were elementary students.

“When you’re with them, you realize that you once didn’t know what to use ‘was’ versus ‘were’, or had to remind yourself when to capitalize letters,” reminded Linda.

Teachers really appreciate NHS’s help because they get chance to walk around and check on others at the high school level and give certain students extra help.

Because this afterschool pro-gram is completely optional and non-mandatory, students come out and stay after school based on their own choice and preference. NHS mem-bers are enlightened by how motivated these kids are about learning and education. In return, the kids appreciate all the help they get from the older students.

“A lot of the kids have begun to build bonds with the NHS members,” informed President of NHS Jocelyn Su. “It’s kind of like a sib-l-ling thing.”

Coming out to help these young-er ones shows the circle of education, as high school students give back by helping elementary students succeed in the future.

ACS to host movie night

By Valerie Nguyen

T onight, ACS (American Cancer Society) is hosting a movie night from 7:30pm to 9pm at the Senior Glen to fundraise for cancer research. In honor of cancer awareness, the club is presenting The Fault in Our Stars, which follows two teenagers coping with cancer.

“We chose to play The Fault in Our Stars because it tells the story of how cancer can change someone’s life dramatically whether they are suffering or they know someone who has it,” comments Vice President of Activities Martin Ruiz.

The goal of the movie night is to raise money for the club’s Relay for Life team. The club will participate in Relay for Life this summer. This year, their target is to earn $2,500 to donate to the American Cancer Society organization.

Relay for Life is a 24-hour event, where not only ACS comes to support, but also other clubs and people of the community. Participants are asked to walk for bids and aware-ness of cancer research. The event provides activities such as zumba, karaoke and lantern-making in memory of those that have passed and donated away due to cancer.

“Relay for Life is utterly amazing. It’s an event where you really realize how many people are actually affected by cancer and how many different experiences everyone has,” expresses President Eden Conghuyen. “I’ve met some of the most genuine people here and it’s my favorite day of the entire year. Ev-ery time I bring new members, they are amazed by the community network that is created. Helping out want to come back next year.”

ACS invites everyone on their journey to fight cancer and strive for more cancer-less birthdays for those suffering. The club is in-sponsored in cancer walks, card making for cancer patients and hospice visits to give back to the community.

ACS is presenting The Fault In Our Stars tonight, ACS invites everyone to come and enjoy the movie. Cash rewards are given out as prizes to the top three schools in each category, with each one ranging from around $50 to $200. PHHS’s VSA club placed third in the cultural jeopardy category and earned $50; second in skit and earned $100; and first in singing and earned $75. Although the school did not receive a reward

Annual MLK Jr. contest Returns

By Angelo Pakimono

A s the yearly Martin Luther King contest comes around again, students are surprised at what they are capable of. “(Science teacher Matthew) Trask had his science class do the hula for second place for the school,” expresses English teacher Nancy Kenser.

Every year the contest will accept an essay, poem, drawing or a short performance (stills, animation, live action music). Last year Mr. Trask made the students help out in the contest by having the students write essays that related to science.

“I wanted to inspire my students to be better sci-ence writers, and better communica-tors, and they were very posi-tive...they know how to write an essay and worked hard, and they also spent a lot of time in the computer labs,” jokes Mr. Trask towards his participation last year. Last year’s winner for Piedmont Hills was senior Tran from Mr. Trask’s third pe-riod.

“I’m grateful I was able to share my appreciation for Martin Luther King, meet talented people from other schools at the awarding ceremony and see their amazing work,” states Jube Tran.

“Even though this year is more challenging, I’m still going to do it,” replies Mr. Trask.

“It’s been a tradition in the district for over 30 years,” exclaims arts teacher Sonnen Bray. “It’s nice to have some applications from students who aren’t in your art class, and that most students act anxious when they turn it in, but they are surprised when they win.”

“Most stu-dents act anxious, happy when they win,” states art teacher Van Nguyen. “The Art Department receives somewhere around 12 through 15 applications (every year).”

This contest will have a district prize of $250 and a school prize of $100 for first and $75 for second place. The submission due date is next Monday and first place winners will be submitted to the District’s Office Mon., Nov. 23.