Trump becomes President-elect
By Sean Teng and Ashilana Rodriguez

J ust before midnight on Tues., Nov. 8, Donald J. Trump won the 2016 presidential elections in a turnout that shook Americans all across the nation. The result elicited emotions from heartbeat to ebullion, but perhaps the most immediate reaction was surprise.

Leading up to Election Day, renowned polling a tiny The New York Times’ Upshot.com had projected an 85% chance of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton winning. With the media all but calling the election days before, one could easily have felt blindsided when the electoral votes for Trump broke through the majority threshold of 270.

While many factors likely contributed to the shocking result, political pundits have already begun zeroing in on what exactly led to Trump’s victory. NPR lists several reasons, one of which being Clinton’s failure to obtain the amount of votes President Barack Obama had four years ago. The Los Angeles Times also points to the state of the economy. According to reporter Brad Schiller, if the economy is healthy, voters are likely to support the party currently in office. However, if voters find the economy unsatisfactory, they tend to vote in the opposing party for a change in political pace.

“This is a new curriculum emphasizing construction,” states Mr. Fredericks. While Mr. Fredericks doesn’t know exactly what his students are likely to do with the tiny houses, he believes they could be used to finish the first house, while the two-story set, which spun in a counterclockwise circle, and displayed the second house used to finish the first house, while the second house is still depending on pre-assembled parts, such as windows, before starting construction. The students learn about construction on a small scale that’s complete in a school year. They have to craft the purchased materials into usable parts, put together the house and add the essentials of plumbing and electricity.

“This tiny house is part of a new housing trend demonstrated by the show Tiny House Nation. It conveys how people limit their environmental footprint by minimizing their house sizes. Tiny houses could also serve a no-so-tiny role in combating California’s prevalent housing crisis. While Mr. Fredericks doesn’t know where the houses are going right now, he predicts it will end up either sold or donated. Whatever their fate, the tiny houses are likely to make a big difference for the students working on them and all of California in general.”

As these protests play out across the nation, they are also occurring much closer to home. The controversial outcome sparked volatile emotions, and the East Side district has felt firsthand some of its effects. Students at Milpitas High School led a walk-out on Thurs., Nov. 10 to protest Trump’s victory. According to The Mercury News, the protest gave a chance for students to share their frustrations and many spoke of their fears as minorities or members of the LGBTQ community. Their principal also spoke out, though he was consequently put on administrative leave for using profanity in a closing comment about Trump. During his leave, students took it upon themselves to create a petition via Change.org calling for his return. He was allowed to return to campus last Tuesday. On the same day of the walkout, Superintendent Chris Funk sent out an email to reassure families of the district’s goal of inclusiveness and safety for all students.

“The President of the United States has no authority over our schools and how we run them,” he writes in the email, emphasizing the core values of the district. He also calls for students and families to find common ground as the transition of presidential power takes place.

Undoubtedly, as the election continues to drive people toward opposite ends of extremes, this election will go down as one of the most divisive and disconcerting in American history. In its aftermath, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo has issued a statement via Medium.com to quell the fear in many diverse neighborhoods and reinforce the city’s commitment to protecting its residents.

“I have sought...to convey a simple message to our wonderfully diverse community,” he expresses to those in fear or distress. “We’ve got your back.”

Carpentry builds tiny houses
By Trevor Glassey

PHHS Construction Technology Class (Carpentry) is currently building a tiny house in the fenced area behind the K-Building and plans to work on a second house. According to Construction Technology teacher David Fredericks, who is also the leader among other five teachers in the project, this is part of a new curriculum emphasizing construction.

“We redesigned the curriculum to be construction-based because that’s where the need is in the industry,” asserts Mr. Fredericks. “The skills these guys are learning, coming out of high school, will yield $50 an hour in a union apprenticeship.”

Starting back in September, this change to the curriculum is quite significant since the project regularly pulls in many students after school everyday to work on it. The house is expected to take most of the school year to finish. According to senior Andrew Giluso, students often stay until six or seven in the evening working on it. Most of the time is used to finish the first house, while the second house is still depending on pre-assembled parts, such as windows, before starting construction. The students learn about construction on a small scale that’s complete in a school year. They have to craft the purchased materials into usable parts, put together the house and add the essentials of plumbing and electricity.

This project is part of the CTE (Career and Technical Education) program, which aims to teach students applicable skills. The four main departments of social science, English, math and science are respectively represented by history teacher Joshua Berry, English teacher Ryan Lundell, math teacher Richard De La Rosa and science teacher Jonathan Montoya, who all believe in the project’s goal to foster many opportunities for students while encouraging them to do well in their other classes. In fact, most students in the program even end up with better grades after joining the program.

“This program opened my eyes to different opportunities,” explains senior Rafael Rodriguez. “I have more options.”

In today’s world, the idea of having to go to a four-year college is becoming increasingly prevalent. However, the CTE program tries to show that there are other perfectly valid ways of success in life.

The monetary cost of construction is lowered due to funding from Economy lumber, the main source of the department’s tools and supplies. As it turns out, this project was suggested by Director Tom Nguyen to PHHS and Independence High School.

“We expressed interest, and we have a buddy over at Independence, Jeremiah Ellison, building one (house) as well,” answers Mr. Fredericks when asked about the start of the sponsorship.

Noises Off is one of the most complicated farces ever written,” in- forms drama teacher Anna Woods. “It’s a play within a play. The actors aren’t just playing one role, they’re playing two.”

Students act as the characters in a play titled “Nothing On.” Through- out the storyline, problems occur ev- erywhere, beginning from wardrobe malfunctions to relationship issues. Written as a farce, the comedic play puts actors in improbable situations and portrays the ongoing duel of pursuing a perfect performance.

“There’s a lot of action going on. We have characters falling down stairs and getting bloody noses,” laughs sophomore and actress Rachel Geer.

The drama cast hopes to bring laughter to everyone with this light-hearted piece. “We’re just trying to crack a smile,” expresses actor and senior Rahul Negi.

Because student actors played as themselves, preparation for this show was much different than that of past plays. This is also the first time drama department introduced a two-story set, which spin in a counter- clockwise circle, and displayed the backstage scene of “Nothing On.”

“The set was probably one of the best sets the drama department has ever built,” claims Stage Manager Anitha Nyako.

The show was double casted, each show alternating between different two groups of actors. The two casts were labeled “Oxfam” and “Sardines.”

“It’s a very rewarding experi- ence,” claims junior and actor Jaydin Geer. “You’ll learn to appreciate the theater for what it truly is.”
Red Cross holds fall blood drive
By Anthony Ta
Red Cross held its fall blood drive this past Friday in the library. Members and officers alike participated in donating blood and running the event through Blood Centers of the Pacific. Donors were required to be at least 16 years old, fill out a waiver if they’re under 18, and pass the screening process before being able to participate in the blood donation.

“I think the obvious thing is you are giving to hopefully help to create the blood banks that will make it better for people who need blood transfusions,” says Mr. Vasques. “It also makes students aware of what they can do to help others.”

Students who signed up for the event were pulled from their selected classes and brought over to the library. The donated blood was then delivered to local hospitals in the area by the Blood Centers of the Pacific at the end of the drive.

“I was really nervous because I really don’t like needles, but when you are doing (it) to save someone else’s life, it encourages you to go through with it,” says senior Ryan Phong. “I would definitely do this again.”

“About 37% of people are eligible to perform a blood transfusion, but only about 10% of people do,” states Red Cross Board Member Annemarie Gali.

According to the Red Cross website, the club pushes towards preventing and alleviating human suffering “in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.”

“One pint of blood can save up to three lives,” explains Red Cross President Nancy Le, “these pints of blood will go to local Bay Area hospitals, so it will make a direct impact on the community.”

The club hopes to be able to get students to continue to spread the word about the importance of donating blood and to do so, if eligible, for as many years as possible.

“It is nice to know that I am helping people. At the end of the day, you end up feeling better about yourself knowing that you were able to help save three lives,” beams two-time donor Jeffrey Chang.

Holding a blood drive is nothing new to the Piedmont Hills club. In the past, Red Cross has worked with the Blood Centers of the Pacific to run six successful high school blood drives.

Pirate of the Issue
Tyler Seawright

Oct. 26, senior Tyler Seawright received his pilot’s license after only one year of taking lessons. “It’s different from driving,” explains Tyler. “My dad flies, and it’s inspiring.”

Tyler began flying at the Reid Hill View Airport of Santa Clara County after taking lessons with the company Nice Air: Professional Pilot Training. Before even getting into the air, however, he was required to take three months of ground training to study piloting.

“My first pilot training was a little bit scary, and it took some practice and coordination to start the plane,” confesses Tyler. “Landing was a skill I really had to develop over time.”

After a total of 55 flights with a teacher beside him, Tyler endeavored 11 solo flights. Some memorable trips include flying to Sacramento, Calif. with his flight instructor, going solo around the airport for the first time, and traveling to Madera, Calif., which proved to be his longest solo flight thus far.

Tyler flies a Cessna 152 Single Engine and Land plane. Over the summer, he spent quite a bit of time practicing his flying; at the beginning of the semester, however, he flew two to three times per week.

“Any time I get, I try to fly,” admits Tyler. “Usually I fly two or three times a week.”

Through piloting, Tyler has learned persistence and patience in whatever he does. To him, flying is truly full of excitement.

ON CLOUD NINE Tyler poses with his pilot’s license.

By Arthur Hoang

Legend Staff
All articles reflect the opinions of Piedmont Hills’ A-Team—editorial writers and students featured in this edition of PAPER. Students, faculty, staff and the Piedmont Hills Union High School District do not necessarily endorse this viewpoint. The Legend encourages all students to share their thoughts, opinions or beliefs; however, we will not attempt to alter meaning.
Why you should consider journalism

By Emile Chau

Two years ago, The Legend faced the possibility of being ended due to too few students showing interest in the class. Since then, the class has grown significantly, currently having 30 students on the 2016-2017 The Legend staff. Students may consider journalism Unappealing due to its requirements, such as spending time after school on the newspaper or interviews for people you may have never met before. However, the skills and experiences gained by being a part of The Legend are invaluable to any student.

A misconception many have about the class is that members must be good writers. While editors appreciate above average writing, basic writing skills are the only requirement for producing a successful article, as well as time and effort.

"As long as you do your job and meet your deadlines, it's really not a hard class," explains copy editor Xia Xie. News writing is also vastly different from the typical corporate or academic writing many students are used to in their English class. Most stories are written in the inverted pyramid format, organizing the most important elements of the story at the very beginning instead of at the end in a conclusion. The contents of most articles are essentially facts and quotes that the writer gathers through interviews. This allows the new personal insight question format is just another addition to your first full draft to be used. Since the first ones to use it, we really don't have samples to look at."

Now that applicants submit responses to four of the eight prompts provided on the UC website, some students are scrambling to figure out what college will be a good fit.

Some assume that the old samples which used to be available on your near-empty page: UC Personal Insight Questions were the key points you should focus on. Don't forget to cover the entire scope of your topic. As a final filter, ask people professionally to read it critically. Edit at least three times, being concise, and make sure the tone of your writing reflects why you wrote it, not just what you learned, how you grew. Describe the impact an event had on you. Edit, edit, edit. After you finish the first draft, let it sit for a day or two. Detach yourself, get your mind off the essay so that when you go back to edit it, you can see it through fresh eyes. Read it critically. Edit at least three times.

"Talk about YOU. Too often, personal statements read like a summary of a book. The actual significant insight might come only fleetingly in the last couple of paragraphs. Don't forget that this essay must show who you are. Colleges want to engage with people who are themselves and character on their campus. Don't shortchange the personal introspection on a laundry list of what you've accomplished. Finish your essay. Talk about what you've learned, how you've grown. Describe the impact an event had on you."

After you submit your first draft, let it sit for a day or two. Detach yourself, get your mind off the essay so that when you go back to edit it, you can see it through fresh eyes. Read it critically. Edit at least three times. Check once for technical errors like spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Then go through for the content. Make sure everything you want to say is there. Lastly, edit for stylistic details. Try to make your writing concise, and make sure the tone of your writing fits your topic. As a final filter, ask people proficient in writing to read over your work. Tell them to read it as an admissions officer might, and when they finish, ask them if they came to the conclusions you wanted them to.

At the end of the day, comparing your essay to someone else's or trying to sound like someone you are not will not be helpful. Silence your phone. Take a break from your social media accounts! If notifications are buzzing from your phone every few seconds, you can imagine it will be extremely difficult to concentrate on your studies without getting distracted.

The importance of being a part of The Legend is that members must respond to at least one advisor, assigned meeting space for meetings—at least twice a month—yet officials are only looking for a shiny title to adorn the center spread or taking pictures of different events. Although everyone in the class has to write at least one article for each issue, students have the freedom to choose which story they want to write and how they want to approach the topic.

"My favorite part about this class is being able to cater my stories to any aspect of journalism, whether it would be the graphics, layout or the different kinds of writing," expresses artist Anthony Ta.

Late minute UC essay tips

By Scan Tang

The second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" you ask yourself as the second hand moves far too fast. Time slips away with every blink, and your hands hover, trembling, over the keyboard. "How many words can I use?" ...
By Anthony Ta, Emily Zhao, Emilie Chau

Bendon Tran.
The Legend

Holiday dinner etiquette

Thanksgiving, with all its customs and traditions, is a tough holiday to shoot with. It is very different, and each family has their own unique way of doing things. Navigating the maze (pun intended) of etiquette for this festive meal can be tough to wrap one’s head around. Luckily, here’s a guide to your, courtesy of the Piedmont Hills student body.

1. Do not mention how much you love your mother until you have been “complimentary.”
2. “What’s happening?” is what you should say instead of “what’s up?” People say this all the time, but it’s really just another way of asking someone what’s going on with them.
3. You should never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, even...
**Ask Polly!**

**Q** What's the difference between AP Lang and AP Lit?

Dear anonycranberry,

Both classes utilize the same skill set: essentially you're analyzing writing and connecting it to a central message. The purpose in AP Lang is synonymous with the theme in AP Lit. However, AP Lang focuses mainly on non-fiction writing, whereas AP Lit primarily revolves around fiction pieces of work. Speaking from experience, AP Lit substantially has more homework than AP Lang but you have more freedom in terms of your interpretations. But overall, both are amazing classes because they expand your insight into society and hone your critical analysis skills.

**Q** Should I take a non A-G class?

Dear anonydinnerbun,

I wonder what made you ask that... Well, you must meet specific eligibility requirements: be 18 years old or older, have proof that you can speak one of Canada's official languages (English or French) and declare that you plan to live there after you become a citizen. For more details, visit the official Canadian immigration website: www.cic.com.

**Q** How do I survive Black Friday shopping?

Dear anonyturkey,

There is really no fool-proof way to avoid the crowds since there will always be crazed and frantic people no matter where you go. Try to go as early as possible, preferably on Thanksgiving night. When you shop, make sure to have a set plan of what you want to buy, where you want to go, and how long you will spend at stores. Whatever you do, stay focused and don't get sidetracked. Score some deals out there!

**Q** How do I apply for citizenship in Canada?

Dear anonycornucopia, 

There is really no fool-proof way to avoid the crowds since there will always be crazed and frantic people no matter where you go. Try to go as early as possible, preferably on Thanksgiving night. When you shop, make sure to have a set plan of what you want to buy, where you want to go, and how long you will spend at stores. Whatever you do, stay focused and don't get sidetracked. Score some deals out there!

**Q** A bio teacher’s bio

By Sagar Tomar

“I was pretty nerdy in high school,” says science teacher Jason Dries when talking about his teenage years. Now, Mr. Dries teaches biology and Forensics Science here at Piedmont Hills. Before going into teaching, Mr. Dries went to Saint Joseph’s High School and then to South Dakota State University.

“I want to make people smarter,” responds Mr. Dries, explaining just why he chose teaching as a profession. Besides learning new things, Mr. Dries enjoys playing video games and taking photos.

Photography has always been something very important in his life. “Capturing a moment in time and preserving it forever. As someone with a terrible memory, it’s heartwarming to review pictures and stroll down memory lane of the events of our lives, big and small,” wistfully expresses Mr. Dries.

“As a parent, you think you’ll remember every little detail, but you don’t. Pictures really help (in reliving) these moments.”

Mr. Dries also has his own website called Legacy Photography, in which he occasionally blogs and posts photos. For him photography is only a casual hobby, but he enjoys it immensely. As for his love for video games like Fallout 4 and Borderlands, Mr. Dries comments, “I've been gaming since the first Magnavox Odyssey 2, since the first Atari 2600, since the first ColecoVision. It’s a part of my history and I can’t stop now.”

Mr. Dries had a normal childhood. As a child, he was never involved in any sports. “I suppose chess counts. I was in the high school chess club,” laughs Mr. Dries.

**Comics!**

Hey girl!

Yo wanna go grab a bite of Moos cheese later?

Sorry, but I think he needs some space.

**The Secret Life of Staff**

By Sagar Tomar

“T” was pretty nerdy in high school,” says science teacher Jason Dries when talking about his teenage years. Now, Mr. Dries teaches biology and Forensics Science here at Piedmont Hills. Before going into teaching, Mr. Dries went to Saint Joseph’s High School and then to South Dakota State University.

“I want to make people smarter,” responds Mr. Dries, explaining just why he chose teaching as a profession. Besides learning new things, Mr. Dries enjoys playing video games and taking photos.

Photography has always been something very important in his life. “Capturing a moment in time and preserving it forever. As someone with a terrible memory, it’s heartwarming to review pictures and stroll down memory lane of the events of our lives, big and small,” wistfully expresses Mr. Dries.

“As a parent, you think you’ll remember every little detail, but you don’t. Pictures really help (in reliving) these moments.”

Mr. Dries also has his own website called Legacy Photography, in which he occasionally blogs and posts photos. For him photography is only a casual hobby, but he enjoys it immensely. As for his love for video games like Fallout 4 and Borderlands, Mr. Dries comments, “I've been gaming since the first Magnavox Odyssey 2, since the first Atari 2600, since the first ColecoVision. It’s a part of my history and I can’t stop now.”

Mr. Dries had a normal childhood. As a child, he was never involved in any sports. “I suppose chess counts. I was in the high school chess club,” laughs Mr. Dries.

**Favorite Thanksgiving Foods Poll:**

Compiled by Andrew Huynh

This survey was conducted through Google Forms and advertised on Schoolloop. The poll was open from November 4 to November 15, and a delicious number of over 150 responses were recorded. Mashed potatoes received the most votes with 50, while dinner rolls and turkey pot pie got zero votes.

**Today in History:**

- The American Civil War battle at Griswoldville, Georgia ended with 650 casualties in 1864.
- Franklin Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt got engaged in 1903.
- Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated American President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas in 1963.
- The first interracial TV kiss happened in 1968 in Star Trek.

**Math Master Academy**

After School Program

- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus I & II, Physics, Computer Core Math, and SAT

Monday - Friday: 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm / 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday - Sunday: Math, English, SAT

Email: mathmasteracademy@yahoo.com

#MODELSTATUS Mr. Dries poses for the camera.

His favorite moment as a adolescent is getting his driver’s license. Now, he spends time with his eight year old son doing activities such as riding his bike, playing Fallout 4 and playing Star Wars Battlefront on his old Xbox 1. While doing all these activities, Mr. Dries also enjoys slurping up raw oysters.

**Fun Page**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016
Football ends with a bang
By Tyler Vu

The Varsity Football team ended the regular season on Nov. 4 with a record of 6-4, an improvement from last year's record. With not a second to rest, the team plunged into playoffs on Thursday, Nov. 11. During the gap week, the team prepared against its upcoming opponent Bellarmine.

The team did not get the chance to progress through playoffs. PHHS lost to Bellarmine with a score of 42-12.

"Offensively, we played very well," says Quarterback Michael Bird. "Defensively, we were lacking, well," says Coach Kiecke. "The kids were focused, dedicated and fun. It makes me look forward to the next one.

"It's bittersweet, but I had a great time," says Bird.

Cross country finishes the season strong
By Vivian Lin

PHHS Cross Country coach Jon Tippett has been training the team intensely for the big day by adding several weeks more to the cross country season just for its practice sessions.

CCS practices were also handled differently than normal seasonal training, with longer runs and harder sets. Because the number of runners was cut down to 15, training became a lot more personal as well.

"CCS training is a little different because Mr. Tippett focuses on us more than the whole group itself, so we get more individual coaching," explained sophomore Samantha Tran.

Running for the Varsity team proved to be a challenge for some, but runners overcame their obstacles through hard work and determination.

"I'm a JV (Junior Varsity) girl that went up to Varsity. (The Varsity runners) ran faster than I do during practice so I'm running faster during practice and it's pretty hard," revealed junior Cindy Hoang.

"Last year I didn't race on Var - sity. I liked racing on varsity (this year) and racing with other people. They pushed me to be faster, so it was a good experience," commented sophomore Henry Zheng.

The Varsity team also had many bonding events, like getting dinner together after runs and having rap battles with other team members during Team Night which was on the eve of CCS.

"(CCS) was kind of sad because it was the last race of my high school career. What I'll miss the most is the environment, the good attitudes, reminisced Varsity Boy Captain Austin Rabanalca.

Volleyball aces its season
By Jen Lau

T he PHHS Varsity Volleyball team had its CCS (Central Coast Section) game for quarter-finalists on Nov. 6 at home against Los Altos. PHHS lost with a score of 7-3. The team placed second in League with a score of 11-3 and ended its season with a score of 21-10. The players faced some difficulty against their opponent in the first and second set.

"We had trouble with the serve receive, which is what starts off the game," conveyed Varsity player Taylor Garvey.

However, the momentum changed in the third set. The Varsity Volleyball team regained its energy and refined its focus.

"We started to score more points, which made us really pretty ex - cited," claimed Varsity player Cynthia Tran. "We ended up winning that set.

In the face of these challenges, the Varsity players were able to maintain their composure and strength to fight back as much as possible. De - spite the loss, the Varsity team con - tinued to persist until the very end of the game with the durability they had.

"Our team's greatest strength was probably defense," reveals Trave - ry.

Although the season ended with a loss, that is not to say the team's ef - forts were fruitless. Given the obsta - cles of synchronizing with new team - mates at the beginning of the season, solidifying the teamwork was a dif - ficult issue at first, however, the play - ers eventually found cohesiveness in their cooperation. From a cumulative standpoint, the Varsity team was able to persevere and move forward.

"The season overall was really good. We just wanted to stay in the A-League and make it to CCS, and that's what we did," reveals Tran.

Meanwhile, the JV volleyball team concluded its season on Oct. 27 with an away game against Evergreen Valley. The JV team lost to Ev - ergreen Valley with a score of 25-21 in the first set and 25-22 in the second set.

"I feel like we could have done better," recalls JV player Elisha Vilma - rie.

The JV Volleyball team had a slightly rocky beginning as well.

"We faced trouble (because) it was a new team, and some of us knew each other and others didn't really know each other," explains JV player Lauren Lin. "So we had a hard time with (our) team bonding."

Despite these problems, the JV Volleyball team was able to over - come its rough start.

As the season progressed, mem - bers were able to strengthen their co - operation on the court as they gained more experience.

"We had really good chemistry at the end. We could work together and we had really good communica - tion," reveals Lin. "There was a time (in one of our other games) when we were down by ten points and we re - ally wanted to win, so we decided that we would stop making errors to fight back harder. We worked on our defense and offense, and we ended up winning the game."

Regardless of the loss, JV Vol - leyball members still remained hope - ful and optimistic.

"Of course losing is not always fun, but learning from my mistakes during that next practice gave me insight on what I had to work on," reflects Lin.

Cross Country
Girls'
#15 (L) 356 pts.*
Boys'
#16 (L) 405 pts.*

*CCS Playoffs
VSA competes in cultural competition

By Melody Li

On Nov. 6, VSA (Vietnamese Student Association) competed in the annual MAYs (Mid-Autumn Youth Summit) competition at Yerba Buena High School to celebrate Vietnamese culture and raise funds for the club.

At this event, VSA clubs from San Jose high schools meet together to compete in multiple categories: skin, speech, cultural Jeopardy, olympics, danse and singing.

“There’s a financial prize for the competition but it’s honestly more about the fun and getting to know other VSA clubs from different schools,” exclaimed Secretary Annie Nguyen. “It’s a huge bonding experience because everyone comes together through one culture and cheers each other on like a family.”

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three schools in each category. Ranging from $575 for first place to $500 for first place, each category receives different amounts. PHHS placed second in skin, third in cultural Jeopardy, third in olympics and third in dance.

Activities Coordinator and junior Daniel Johnson and senior Tina Tran took home first and second place in speech, respectively. In total, VSA won $475 from this year’s competition.

As PHHS was unable to receive an award for speech last year, Daniel was surprised to find out he won first place.

“Finding out I won first made me feel so elated and almost euphoric after waiting anxiously for hours and going through (numerous) rounds,”

FAN FAVORITE! VSA wows their fans with their traditional fan dance.

One Way Christian Club brings joy to children

By Bernice Guo-Yang

Since Oct. 29, One Way Christian Club has placed many boxes inside classrooms throughout the school for OCC (Operation Christmas Child). OCC was brought up to the club by their former advisor. By donating toys, educational utensils and personal hygiene products, the students of PHHS are donating to help the needy children around the world.

“We put (the donated items) in shoe boxes, and then we give them to nearby churches that are doing the same thing to ship the boxes,” says Vice President Jeremiah Porda.

The organization in charge of the OCC has its own shoe boxes. The club had ordered many of those boxes, hoping to fill each shoe box. They then drop them off at a participating church, who ships those boxes to a processing center where volunteers inspect and prepare the boxes for international inspection. Those boxes are shipped to different countries where community leaders and pastors distribute them to the children there.

“This year, we have decided to try to involve the entire school, in hopes that we can collect more donations,” states Co-President Gah Ng. In the previous years, the club’s OCC didn’t involve the entire school. The officers and members wanted everyone in the school to be able to participate, hoping that this will also get more donations to pack into boxes for those children.

“I hope to see many children smiling from these gifts and hope that many of PHHS students participated too,” wishes Jeremiah. The officers and the members of the club all wish and hope that these donations will help make those children happy and show them that there are people in this world that care about them.

Martin Luther King Jr. writing contest returns

By Phuong Nguyen

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. contest returns with the chance for students to win up to $250.

Every year, students respond to Martin Luther King, Jr. through a poem, essay, drawing or multimedia (animation, stills, live action, etc.).

This year, they had to submit their entries to an English class, art class or the English teacher by Nov. 10. The rewards for winners are the district Grand Prize of $250, first place of $100 for first place and another school prize of $75 for second place.

“I wrote an essay about Martin Luther King, Jr. It’s ideals and how it applies today,” remembers senior Sean Tuang, who won last year’s Grand Prize. “I was really excited when I won because I wasn’t sure how my entry would do (since) it was the first time I entered a school contest.”

By Andrew Huynh

NHS (National Honor Society) members are giving back to their local community by tutoring young kids three times a week at Ruskin Elementary School.

“NHS brings so many people together. Every member has an opportunity to tutor after school every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.”

“NHS is exciting because we get to help children in need. We want to help out those kids in our community,” states President Brandon Dimapasoc.

“Everyone is so committed to helping these children. We want to be there for them every single week.”

NHS tutors at Ruskin Elementary School

Members of the club are not just limited to the weekly tutoring sessions at Ruskin. Each member is also responsible for finding and committing to their own personal community service projects.

“Personal community project is tutoring kids at Sunshine School,” explains general member Javia Fang.

Aside from helping in the local community, NHS also helps internationally. This year, the club is working alongside Save the Children, an international non-governmental organization that promotes children’s rights and provides relief and support to them in developing countries.

“NHS brings so many people from different clubs together to work on different and amazing things,” says Brandon.