PHHS History Team makes history in DC

By Emitlee Chau

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PHHS History Team competed in the national history competition in Washington DC from April 20 to 23 after making it past regional rounds at Saratoga High School and state at UC Berkeley. The history team had to get at least an even number of wins and losses at regionals. At state, the history team did better than they did at regionals despite the increasing difficulty of the questions and thus qualified for nationals.

At the competitions, the teams are split into different groups consisting of one to four players. During the different rounds, one group goes into a classroom and faces off another group from another school. The moderator will ask questions and each group has to buzz in their answer. Once the round is finished, the moderator will ask questions and the players that went made their families really know what a rare opportunity this was.

Currently, the History Team is aiming to compete in the International History Olympiad next summer in Berlin, Germany. The team qualified for this competition by finishing in the top half of the schools who competed at nationals in Washington DC.

“I’ve been a part of history team since my freshman year and meetings have always been my favorite time of the week,” smiles club president Nala Chen. “It’s super satisfying to get recognized for our hard work.”

CRESCENDO Violinist Darian Nguyen (12) plays passionately in his solo.

Seniors tell a “Tale as Old as Time”

By Erica Xie

Senior Ball, Tale as Old as Time, Beauty and the Beast themed prom, is tomorrow at the Glass House Downtown San Jose from 7pm to 11pm.

“We chose this venue because it was so close to home and it’s easy to get there without paying extra for buses,” clarifies Senior Class President Jennifer Lai. “The venue gave us two dates and one of them was during AP exams, so we chose to have a later prom.”

Although the venue is so close, it’s not a bad location.

“I love the location of senior prom—so it’s conveniently next to a lot of restaurants downtown,” comments senior Angela Du. Even though Piedmont Hills’ senior prom is so late, there is a lot to look forward to. There will be a flip book, a photobooth, a fortune teller and a chocolate fountain, providing a variety of activities to enjoy at prom.

“The fortune teller tells your fortune using mahjong,” explains Jennifer. “We wanted another activity that was just taking photos and we found a fortune teller.”

Alongside these amenities, there are also delicious hors d’oeuvres, a better known as appetizers, which include roasted filet mignon bernaise with arugula, samosa-curry potatoes and teriyaki glazed salmon skewers.

The decorations are nothing to pass over lightly either.

“The decorations for Beauty and the Beast are old fashioned, and I think it contrasts the modernness of the Glass House well,” says Jennifer. In line for Prom King and Queen we have Krysten Salas and Destine Lamonia, Leon Hsich and Elyse Nguyen and Ryan Nguyen and Jordan Nguyen.

Alongside preparing for prom, there has also been a prom ask contest where people post videos of their prom asks and the best one get free tickets to prom with their partner.

This years winners are seniors Darian Nguyen and Lily Do. Darian asked his girlfriend by playing a violin song for her that was a favorite of them both and a bouquet of flowers.

“(On advice for a promposal) No one’s ever done anything great by expecting it to be great,” reveals Darian. “My tip would be, just focus on the presentation of gratitude towards Mr. Ellis and Ms. Ray. Roses were distributed out to all of the seniors during the last week, and gifts were presented to the teachers after each finished conducting their final groups.

On top of having a solo during Orchestra’s set of pieces, Darian delivered a heartwarming speech dedicating his drive to perform and do well as a violinist to his mother. He described how his mother took initiative in buying her own violin and following him through the highs and lows of learning to play. The audience was in awe once he finished the speech and the set when his mother went up to the stage and gave her son a bouquet of flowers, a kiss, and a hug.

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Spring Concert

PHHS Music Department celebrates arrival of spring

By Anthony Ta

Art Faire exhibit talents

By Tyler Vu

SCENIC Senior Albert Cerezo appreciates all the hard work that the students put into creating their pieces.

The Legend

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Spring Concert

Art Faire
Live life with spontaneity
By Michelle Lin

Eighth grade. As I mapped out my courses for my four years in high school, complete with AP classes ranging from AP Biology to Calculus, not once did I ever consider taking journalism. Why settle for such a small, non-Academic club when I needed all the science and math classes I could get—how else could I hope to one day receive an acceptance from a prestigious, top-tiered university such as Stanford? Of course, that was the ignorant and unrealistic thinking of my tween self.

As the years swept by, that barrier holding me back from taking such ridiculous electives slowly began to break down. A seed of doubt germinated in my mind, forcing me to question whether STEM was truly the right path for me. Sure, Gym 3-A was an incredible, minds- blowing show and all, but becoming a doctor required an insurmountable amount of sacrifice that I did not believe I possessed.

But I realized absolutely nothing about me has changed. I’ve still got no desire to make myself the center of attention now. I’ve still got no desire to restrict myself solely to the boundaries of college grades. Admissions and college acceptances do not miraculously reflect one’s self-worth. Personally, I hope to leave high school with the best memories of my heart that can cherish years, surrounded by my closest friends, involved in activities I never once even thought I would join.

Signing up for journalism in junior year is my beginning of an end.

Gaining admittance out of my college bubble. By senior year, I had also joined Indian Community Project, an opportunity that expanded my horizons. These experiences have made my senior year that much more special, and it made me realize the importance of my old kinds of schedules, I wouldn’t have done it any other way.

And in the final hours, the comfort zone. Take electives you wanted to take but didn’t think would benefit you on your high school transcript. Leap at every possible opportunity because you’ll never know what could have happened if you don’t try. Become the person you want to be.

So, to all the seniors graduating and planning for the future, life your life, because as a feared Calculus teacher once told me, college is “four years of your life.” To all of them and to Piedmont Hills: grades don’t define you. Make your high school experience memorable, and infuse spontaneity into your life. Don’t graduate with any regrets because before you know it, time will catch up to you just as quickly as it did for me.

The beginning of an end
By Jon Lau

High school was one long bildungsroman novel, a significant portion of my life. Looking back on who I was, I am glad to cringe and shudder. All the imperfects, all the mistakes—are what drive a story after all.

For a long time, my highest priority was academic. Most of my energy to making comprehensive study guides that I would forget soon after a test. I pushed a lot of people away, thinking I was doing myself a favor by focusing solely on my. I remember when my middle school science teacher once told me. “If you’re not putting in the work now, someone else is.”

As a result, paranoia motivated me daily. I saw life in a black-and-white perspective, and that was my biggest detriment.

Ingrained with the belief that grades decided my future, I could see my success and my future, I missed a lot of opportunities to foster my personal growth. It wasn’t until second semester, when the stress of college applications was over and the rest was up to fate, that I started to let go of my self-inflicted pressure and the unhealthy perception of the world that came along with it.

On one school night, I decided to ditch studying for a test and opted to go on an impromptu late-night outing with my friends. While that wasn’t the climax point, it was when my outlook started to gradually change. I indulged in something that I had deprived myself of for so long: joy. I do not believe it’s superior than what I had originally thought. Though opening up and reaching out to new people can do wonders for me, I am immensely grateful for those who welcomed me with warmth and kindness despite my initial distance.

I try to stop worrying about next test or calculating what percentage I needed to get, I started to appreciate the interactions I had with people. It’s in these pocket moments that I began to treasure the present.

It took me this long to realize how much color there is around me, how much insight each person has to offer and how much better my life is with every possible opportunity because eyes unclouded by negativity.

Of course, life isn’t always sunshine and rainbows; it’s sloppy and messy. The unpredictable and unimaginable still happen even when I’ve mapped out every inch of tomorrow, but at least now I know the good that can arise from it.

To the seniors: it’s strange to think that we’re going to college, following the structures of college admissions. Take electives you wanted to take but didn’t think would benefit you on your high school transcript. Leap at every possible opportunity because you’ll never know what could have happened if you don’t try. Become the person you want to be.

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Farewell to PHHS staff

By Daniel Kokoski

For most of his teaching career, Mr. Reyes has been the English teacher at Piedmont Hills. In his 22 years here, he has taught thousands of students, many of whom have become successful in life.

Mr. Reyes plans to travel to places such as Colorado, South America and Idaho. A fun fact about him is that the license plate of his car has the phrase “to fish” in Spanish.

When fishing, you’re out in nature and it’s very interactive,” said Mr. Reyes. “It takes intelligence and skill to fish, so it can be very challenging.

Then he will make his departure soon. Mr. Reyes will miss the time he spent at Piedmont Hills.

It’s been a really nice experience. I’ve really enjoyed being here,” said Mr. Reyes.

Alfredo Barajas

Mr. Barajas has been a teacher for about 40 years throughout his teaching career. Mr. Barajas believes that Piedmont Hills is the best school he has taught at.

Mr. Reyes first plan on his to-do list is to travel back to Mexico to visit his family and friends. Before he started teaching at our campus, Mr. Reyes taught most of his career in Mexico. Mr. Reyes is retired from Piedmont Hills for 22 years, after teaching at Piedmont Hills.

In his retirement, Mr. Barajas plans to do more traveling, both domestic and international. He is also looking forward to spending more time with his family and friends.

“Education is not just a way to a goal, but is also a rewarding experience. Learning is about enjoying the actual process, and I think that a person who discovers that is a very lucky person,” said Mr. Barajas.

After having taught at Piedmont Hills for 22 years, Mr. Barajas believes that Piedmont Hills is the best school he has taught at.

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**Insane Ink fosters family fun**

By Mae Castellano

The activities at the event are similar to those stated senior Susan Sanchez. In fact, many of Piedmont Hills High School students' prom was created to provide more flexible and enjoyed. As a result, the special-ed event allowed special education students to participate.

**PROM READY!**

Prom ready! Students and staff of the special education department pose before going to prom.

**Special Ed. hosts its own prom**

By Jen Lau

In May 5, the Special Education Prom was held at the Unify Event Center from 10 am to 2 pm. The purpose of the event allowed special education students to engage in similar high school dance activities. It’s to give our students the experience of going to a prom, expressed special education teacher Rowena Vocal.

Most special education students do not attend the typical Junior or Senior proms held at school namely because they’re held at night and they’re costly. As a result, the special-ed prom was created to provide more flexible and accommodating circumstances.

Participants include the special-ed students themselves, as well as the specialized academic instruction program of the different school districts. Meaning, this event is not limited to only Piedmont Hills High School students.

“There was dancing and socializing,” stated senior Susan Sanchez. In fact, many of the activities at the event are similar to those of the traditional prom such as dressing up formally. There is not a theme for the prom, but the decorations will align with the school colors.

The concept of a special education prom is not new; it was actually started over a decade ago. This year, the head coordinator of the special-ed prom is special education teacher Coy Garrett at Yerba Buena High School.

“I think it started in 2003,” recalled special education teacher Maria Casiano. What began as a thought eventually got executed. Indeed, it soon became established as a tradition.

“It was an idea brought about by one of the old teachers. In terms of who started it, it was basically a brainstorm of different special-ed teachers,” said Ms. Vocal.

Similar to traditional proms, the location varies each year. In one year, it was held at the Fairmont Hotel; the location mainly depends on the decisions of the teachers.

**East Side schools remodel pools**

By Emily Zhao

After a year and a half of construction, the remodeling of Piedmont Hills’ pool was completed on May 13. Across the East Side Union school district, seven schools, including Piedmont Hills, James Lick, Mt. Pleasant, Santa Teresa, Silver Creek, W. Tasman, and Buena Vista high schools, are all currently remolding their pools. All seven school’s pool complexes originally comprised of two smaller pools but the modernization project features the fusing of both pools to create a single “super pool.”

“The new pool will provide a deep water area for competition programs separated by a peninsula walkway from the shallow area for physical education, shallow water prac- tice and recreational swim programs,” accord- ing to facilities,ens.hsd.org. Additionally, it will feature new “energy efficient equipment including water circulation pumps/motors, improved water filtration and disinfection systems.”

Construction first began in the winter of 2015. Since then, construction workers have dismantled the outdated pool and rebuilt a new and improved version of it.

Following the completion of the pool, a school water polo team, competitive swim- ming team and a diving team could all potentially practice at Pied- mont Hills. Since school’s pool has been out of commission for the past two swim seasons, PILHS swimmers practiced at Independence High School, sharing the pool with Independence, James Lick High and Mt. Pleasant, making it a very crowded pool. Water polo would have to get two quali- fied consistent coaches to restart the program, but it is possible for (the 2018-2019 school year), disclosed Physical Education Chair Peter Simos.

The district-wide budget for remodeling all seven pools was 21.6 million dollars.

“I’m so excited to be able to host our own meets,” exclaimed Vanity swimmer Chloe Nguyen.

**ART FAIRE**

By Michelle Lin

Senior Daniel Phan placed first in the 2017 CADD (Computer Aided Design) Architectural Competition, winning cash prize and place in Nationals to compete against students from all over the country.

Even though this was the local-level competition, I really didn’t think I would win, so you can probably imagine how sur- prised I was,” explained Daniel.

Daniel designed a neighborhood dental office, constructing a floor plan, exterior elevation and proper placement of struct- ure. According to the CAD competition website, entries were “evaluated for detail, accuracy and originality of work.”

“I thought about what I wanted to see in a dental office and also took some inspiration from my own dentist’s office,” described Daniel. “When I drew the plans, I tried to imagine what I would like to walk through the office, and I made adjust- ments as necessary.”

All students in CADD (Computer-Added Drafting and Design) teacher Catherine Cromer’s class were required to complete this project as one of the main assignments of the school year. Students were encour- aged and given pointed by Ms. Cromer on how to improve their designs.

For weeks, Daniel worked tirelessly on his project.

“I started somewhere in September and spent most of my time in sixth period since then working on my design,” com-
PHSHS participates in Photography Exhibition
By Sophia Xiao
Students from all over the district came together on May 3 for the 58th annual Eastside 51 Photography Exhibition and Competition. Piedmont Hills seniors Natasha Matax, Kole Cahagan and Natasha Antonio won the Diffusion award, Senior School Award, and Natasha also won Best Traditional Print, Best Action Print, Best Landscape and Portrait. The best pieces often had their own meanings and themes called concentrations, behind them. “I chose masks (for my concentration). I wanted to show people how they really are, how they really feel,” said Rebecca about her piece which won Best in School. “I took a picture that I had taken of my friend Austin and projected that image onto my (other) friend, who was holding a piece of paper in front of her eyes.” (Thats), I leveled off the projection so that his eyes were over the piece of paper. ”

Club Day brings food to campus
By Phuong Nguyen
Club Day was held on April 26 and 27 in the Recital Hall for the Big Gym, where swarms of student and staff were exposed to dozens of clubs. food made by a variety of clubs. “It went way better than I expected. There was also a bunch of cool food there that was so good,” elaborated LEO (Leadership Experience Officer) President Nala Chen. “I loved the Tacos and the Cajun fries the most! They were both awesome and I was so glad to get our Cat trying them (throughout) all the days leading up to Club Day!” The venue was crowded with hundreds of students and some staff. “I liked how fairly it always is (but) I disliked the long lines to popular booths,” commented Psychology Vice President Sharon Ly. “I loved the Totchos and the Kogi’s, and garlic noodles!”

Students sweep teachers at History Competition
By Daniel Koskowski
At Tuesday’s annual Student versus Faculty History Bowl, the ASB last minute team won the JV (junior varsity) and Varsity trivia teams competed against each other in a battle of history trivia. History teachers Mr. Holly, Ms. Lighty, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Rome- ro made up the varsity squad. Non-history teachers Mr. Shahriar, Mr. Clough and Mr. Vasquez comprised the JV team. Questions covered topics ranging from Ancient Mesopotamian kingdoms to Revolutionary War battles. In a never before played seg- ment, Mr. Clough and Mr. Shahriar competed against juniors Sugar To- mar and Syed Rahim in a Sports and Entertainment competition. This seg- ment tested participants on pop cul- ture and sports trivia.

“I’ve been waiting to play this game for a while now,” exclaimed Nela. “I felt really confident about my pop culture knowledge from our Thursday practices in P-15.”

The experience overall was exciting. Our team really grew this past year and the audio- visual aspect wasılır, beamed History Club President Nala Chen. “All in all, it was a great way to end the year.”

Seniors by day, honorees by night
By Melody Li
On Wed., April 26, the PHSHS counseling staff held Senior Day, an annual night in the L-budding to celebrate the academic achieve- ments of graduating seniors. Before the event started, a meet and greet was hosted in the library for teachers and students to celebrate. As Principal Traci Williams de- scribed in her opening speech, Senior Honor Night is a more intimate ver- sion of graduation. Each senior is called up and introduced individually with details about their major, career plans and awards, which ranged from department awards to GPA and AP awards.

Before awards were given, se- nior Cleo Lugnilla started the night with a solo vocal performance, ac- companied by music teacher Myles Ellis on the piano. To make the event even more personal, each student was introduced by their valedictorian classmates. “Reading the names and achievements of my classmates was nerve wracking because I was scared to mess up and I didn’t want to ruin their special moment,” admits senior Jennifer Lai. At the end of the night, each se- nior was given a white carnation to give to someone who was influential to them throughout high school.

“I gave my carnation to my mom because she’s always inspired me to do my best,” comments senior Nancy Le. Over 120 students were qualified to attend the honor night and around 100 students showed up. Many were unable to attend the event due to schedule conflicts, especially since Club Day occurred on the same day. “Even though I had finals the next day, I’m glad I attended honor night because I was able to celebrate my friends and all that they’ve accom- plished in their four years,” re- veals senior Ronaldo Legrama.

ASB President Sydni Tanuiya closed the night with a congratulatory speech and encouraged seniors to fin- ish their high school career strong.

Piano students perform at recital
By Bernice Du-Yang
The piano recital was held in the L-Building on Monday, May 15. All three piano class- es, with a total of approximately 80 students, participated in this recital. “We were allowed to choose our own pieces,” reveals senior Khoanam Nguyen. “I chose my music from the games I played and an- imists have watched. I had practiced it for like a few weeks.”

Most of the students had been practicing these pieces for (blank time). Each piece was chosen by the students themselves and were ap- proved by piano teacher Emily Ray. “Basically, the beginner piano students didn’t choose the same songs since it would be hard for them to find a good song to play on their own,” says Khoanam. “Because of this, Ms. Ray has to separate the stu- dents from (the beginning classes) during the recital.”

The (piano recital) is basically our finals,” comments senior Ver- enica Roy. “(Ms. Ray) grades us a bit leniently since it’s pretty intimidating to play in front of a crowd.

“The weight of the World” because it has that vibe of corruption,” explained Kole. Senior Portfolio, unlike the other six categories, required particip- ants to submit a total of five pieces. “I wanted to show people how they really are, how they really feel,” said Rebecca about her piece which won Best in School. “I took a picture that I had taken of my friend Austin and projected that image onto my (other) friend, who was holding a piece of paper in front of her eyes…” (Thats), I leveled off the projection so that his eyes were over the piece of paper.

“When I entered my history class today, I was surprised to see a girl reading a book,” said Kristy Nguyen. “I was pretty please don’t ruin the consequences. As I exit, I ret- er only one thing: say stay, my friends.”

PHSHS students eat food from a variety of clubs. The venue was crowded with hundreds of students and some staff. “I liked how fairly it always is (but) I disliked the long lines to popular booths,” commented Psychology Vice President Sharon Ly. “I loved the Totchos and the Kogi’s, and garlic noodles!”

Most clubs sold out because of the popularity of the food, such as Choir Cones which sold out and LEO’s baked potatoes. Because of this, some people, including the hard working officers, did not have a chance to purchase the food that they wanted. “ Sadly, I didn’t get to try much (food) but I think of all the things I did get to try, overall, I wasn’t disap- pointed,” thought Cat. Besides food being served, there was also a marriage photo booth hosted by the Photography Club. Without the cost of one ticket per person, students and teachers had the chance to get mar- riage photos taken with signs and props and even wearing fake rings. “I like the idea of a marriage photo booth because it’s just a fun way to take pictures with your friends,” exclaimed ASB Historian Kristy Nguyen.
**AVID has sweet success**

By Leilana Bauta

On May 4 at 6:30 pm, the seniors in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program had a recognition event. It was called AVID's Sweet Success, which mimicked Senior Honor Night. “AVID is an amazing program, so we wanted the senior recognition to be just as amazing but to be a lot more formal,” stated AVID and Business teacher Diane Pereira.

This celebration honored the seniors and all their successes in graduating. Each and every senior was recognized for their consistency in working hard and putting in effort, along with their relentless commitment of being an AVID scholar.

There were awards given to some of the students. The Most Improved Individual award was given to J’Tayo McDowell. The Model AVID Student award was given to Destine Lanai and Gregory Tran. The AVID Scholar Athlete awards was given to Miranda Cabanayan, Richard Fedelin, Alex Garcia, Cynthia Reyes and Austin Ruhbcala. Lastly, the Honor AVID Students award was given to Miranda Cabanayan, Larisa Gomez, Isaiah Gonzalez, Elisandra Ruiz Alvaredo and Yenny Vu.

“I was excited for this night because of all the hard work and years I have been with the AVID family. It finally turned out to be something good,” said Yenny.

Unlike the prior years, this was the first time ever AVID celebrated its recognition event in the evening. Before it, was an AVID recognition lunch during sixth period.

“This year, it was during the evening so teachers, family and friends could come and support,” revealed senior Yenny Vu. “None of the parents were there during the other year.” The majority of the people were students from the freshman, sophomore and junior AVID class.

To feed the supporting guests, the students and teachers served a wide range of desserts with some coffee.

“I knew that I was going to need guidance in prepping for college. I knew that I would be completely lost if I didn’t take AVID because it has given me so many pointers,” mentioned senior Analyn Nguyen. “AVID wasn’t difficult at all, and having the commitment to stay in AVID was easy because I really wanted to go to college.”

**Treblemakers wrap up the end of the year**

By Arthur Moah

The Treblemakers wrapped up the end of the year with a concert in Reno on April 28, their spring concert on Wednesday and their annual concert “Jazz in my Pants” today.

The Treblemakers departed from school on April 27 and performed at the University of Nevada in Reno.

“We had a blast of a time on the trip, and overall, I think we did a fantastic job,” said vocalist William Chung.

In preparation for Reno, the Treblemakers had rehearsals every day during lunch, as well as Wednesday morning.

“After the Santa Cruz, we learned that we needed to be fixed and improved on. I knew I needed practice on some of the songs, especially in terms of vocals shapes,” said William.

Volunteer drivers for the Treblemakers drove four hours to Reno, stopping once in Davis for lunch and then the rest of the way to the hotel they stayed at.

At 3 pm, The Treblemakers performed the pieces that they’ve performed at the jazz festival in Santa Cruz, which included Moon Dance, Jody Grind and Waters of March for a panel of accomplished judges. One of them actually turned out to be a composer of Moon Dance and Jody Grind from the United States.

The Treblemakers scored a 2-2-2 rating (a score of 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest). After their performance there was a clinic, in which a judge talked with the group and gave feedback and commentary.

“It was both shocking and interesting at the same time to have the composer for the piece performed come tell us that she thought we were great and give us some advice,” said William.

The Treblemakers set out to finish off strong with their last annual concert of the year, “Jazz in my Pants.” The concert is being held today and features the Treblemakers singing all the songs that they performed during the year.

**New AASB officers elected for 2018**

By Hannah Tong

A s the new year approaches the final weeks of school, the cycle of the student’s AASB career begins anew for the upcoming year. The new AASB Executives are President Jamie Ly, Vice President Eileen Vu, Secretary Shrina Desai and Treasurer Trisha Dang.

Throughout the month of April, students who wanted to be involved in next year’s AASB ran for positions of all sorts, ranging from class officers all the way to student executives.

“I wanted to run so that I could continue being a part of making sure the student body has opportunities to enjoy their time in high school,” states Jamie.

There were different campaigning requirements depending on which positions the students ran for.

For AASB President and Vice President, students were required to study in AASB for at least a year before running. For AASB Secretary and Treasurer, that was not required.

However, all executive positions were required to undergo a series of interviews. Then, the campaigning of convincing the student body was the final step.

“I made a poster in the shape of a genie lamp since I wanted to make the student’s wishes come true,” explained Trisha.

The hallways were filled with campaign posters all during the month of April to grab the attention of the rest of the school to come out and vote.

Commissioners are chosen through election, as long as they were not failing a class. Supreme Court members were chosen after several interviews.

“They think in all they are going to do well for sure,” exposed current AASB President Sydnee Tanjuyu.

The new year means new responsibilities and new things to look forward to. AASB members of AASB hope to bring the best out of PHHS for the upcoming year.

**CHEESE!**

By Emily Zhao

E very year, April 25 marks the day for National DNA Day, where students and teachers can learn about genetics and genomes. To commemorate the day, the SCCREP (Santa Clara County Biotechnology Education Partnership) held their 14th annual DNA Day art contest, showcasing the artwork and videos that high school students created.

This year’s DNA Day art contest featured three winners in the art category and two winners in the video category. For the video section of the contest, Piedmont Hills High School senior Benjamin Gonzales took first place. First place winners were awarded $100. The students’ artworks highlighted DNA in a variety of creative fashions.

“(My) video is about a kid at a typical lemonade stand, but instead of selling lemonade, he’s selling DNA!” When the Hunter Jigger grab a drink, (the DNA) forms his hands into a sphere. “I didn’t try to convey any certain message, I thought it’d be cool to have the character’s head turn into a dog after drinking the mysterious DNA.”

Benjamin originally created the video because biology and biotechnology teacher Ar- chie Kregur assigned the project to the biotech- nology class.

“Don’t get me wrong, I loved making it!” said Benjamin.

The entire video recording and editing process took him almost eight hours to complete, with the vast majority of the time spent editing.

“I was shocked when I found I wasn’t ex- plained Benjamin. “I usually don’t win many contests.”

**Tiny House Project wins awards**

By Wivan Lin

Six students from Piedmont Hills compet- ed in the The Santa Clara County Con- struction Careers Association (SC4CA) competition on April 13. The students’ group, called “Dogs,” worked all school year for awards for their tiny house project.

The theme for this year’s competition was “The Built Environment: Smart, Safe, Resilient,” where projects included aspects like environ- mental responsibility and safety. On the day of the competition, the group members gathered and set up their booth to display their project.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

A Special Concert

Emotions continued to flow after his solo as seniors, Alina Doan and Jena Mue Prado, delivered their speech of gratitude to Ms. Ray. As the 11 seniors in the Wind Ensemble and they were all 4-year students with me. They had a really nice year. The band played excellently well. We went on a great trip to Anaheim. I think it was a nice summing up of whole years’ experience on Friday. The seniors were a great contribution to our sound all year long and leadership too. They will definitely be missed. It was a great way to end the year,” remembers Mr. Ellis.

Performing for the school is nothing new to the three groups. “They’ve performed in the past with our winter and spring concerts as well as performing at festivals, Disneyland and competitions. “Next year I expect band and choir to be different than this year, because there will be new classmates to play with and meet. I plan to roll along with it and see how it all goes,” says sophomore Andrew Dao.
Describing high school in one word

- **Bittersweet**
- **Tiring**
- **Regret**
- **Exhilarating**
- **Fickle**

**MEMES**
- **Dank**
- **Slow**
- **Bored**
- **Joyful**
- **Crazy**
- **Rad**
- **Fleeting**
- **Rewarding**
- **Unpredictable**
- **Fantastic(s)**

**When did senioritis hit?**

- A. Freshman year
- B. Sophomore year
- C. Junior year
- D. Senior year
- E. Never

**Seniors’ favorite memories**

**Average hours of sleep seniors get**
Where is C/O 2017 going?

**In-State Public Schools**

**California State University**
- CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO
  - Christine Do
  - Lily Do
  - Hallie Huynh
  - Vivian Le
  - Darian Nguyen
- CAL POLY POMONA
  - Matthew Hoang
- CSU DOMINGUEZ HILLS
  - Miranda Cahanayan
- CSU EAST BAY
  - Destine Lamonia
  - Alondra Loneli
- CSU FULLERTON
  - Nikki Llorbrera
- CSU LONG BEACH
  - Ryan Phong
- SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
  - Matthew Arquero
  - Alina Doan
  - Javier Espinola
- SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
  - Jasmine Nguy
  - Dannah Peralta
  - Gretchen Tran
- SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
  - Micayla Carvalho
  - Emily Cheng
  - William Chung
  - Robert Dinh
  - Nancy Do
  - Trevor Doan
  - Shayanah Gatchalian
  - Jason Gibson
  - Trevor Glassay
  - Arthur Hoang
  - Ronaldo LeGrampa
  - Ralph Lumaug
  - Derik Ly
  - Jasmit Mahajan
  - Natasha Maxin
  - Albert Mendoza
  - Athena Nguyen
  - Danny Nguyen
  - Jenny Nguyen
  - Kristy Nguyen
  - Angel Palomino
  - Brandon Palomino
  - Jack Pham
  - Jonathan Phan
  - Jerico Rabago
  - Alex Rodriguez
  - Jessica Sobrepena
  - Hallie Wen
  - Sofia Wright
  - Tuyen Tong
  - Tina Tran
  - Lauren Young

**University of California**
- UC BERKELEY
  - Zoe Adams
  - Albert Duong
  - Cindy Ke
  - Hannah Lim
  - Dorothy Pham
  - Evan Sun
  - Sean Tseng
  - Teemu Virtanen
- UC DAVIS
  - Brandon Dimapasoc
  - Megan Ng
  - Jillian Nguyen
  - Samantha Nguyen
  - Daniel Phan
- UC IRVINE
  - Anh Hoang
  - Spencer Lee
  - Vinny Ton
  - Sammy Truong
  - Krysti Yamashita
- UC LOS ANGELES
  - Anne Tran
  - Jason Vu
  - Erica Xie
- UC MERCED
  - Lyann Bui
  - Vincent Mac
  - Anietie Ndon
- UC RIVERSIDE
  - Diane Andres
  - Priya Bhattachar
  - Katelynn Grajeda
  - Tam Le
  - Kelliane Thach
  - Danielle Su
- UC SAN DIEGO
  - Michelle Lin
  - Aaron Nguyen
  - Brian Wang
- UC SANTA BARBARA
  - Angela Du
  - Jennifer Lai
- UC SANTA CRUZ
  - Emilie Chau
  - Taylor Garvey
  - Catherine Tran

**Community College**

**DE ANZA**
- Alisa Acia
- Angel Basilio
- Marvin Britton
- Mandep Chahal
- Noah dela Cruz
- Anthony Flores
- Kayla Freitas
- Alex Garcia
- Breana Gregorio
- Sarah Lynn Hudson
- Andrew Kuo
- Van Le
- Andrew Morillo
- Gabi Ng
- Brandon Nguyen
- Justin Nguyen
- Calvin Pham
- Rhoniel Raymundo
- Janice Saturnino
- Johnny Tran
- Ryan L. Tran
- Sabrina Tran
- Tri Tran

**EVERGREEN VALLEY**
- Melissa Alvarez
- Hannajhane Arellano
- Jeremy Atkins
- Joanna Cabrera
- Justin Contreras
- Alan Huynh
- Jaria Juag
- Elaine Luong
- Danny Ly
- Vivian Mai
- Duyen Nguyen
- Edgar Ochoa
- Jhunior Pintor
- Sean Place
- Aaron Ramirez
- Eric Reyes
- Carmela Sanchez
- Alvinie Tescos
- Luis Toledo
- Dean Urbanski
- Luz Valenzuela

**FOOTHILL**
- Vanessa Bevers
- Michael Bird
- Taylor Duarte
- Alec Galbo
- Julia Krowicki
- Diana Luu
- Andre Martins
- Alexander Mena
- Phuong Phan
- Alicia Salazar

**LOS POSITAS**
- Allan Balancio

**Private Schools**

**CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**
- Tanya Kooplicat

**CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATE UNIVERSITY**
- Nancy Le

**COGSWELL COLLEGE**
- Rebecca Rossini

**DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**
- Kathryn Pham

**MISSION**
- Concetta Angelillo
- Mirelle Cabangbang
- Ivy Chan
- Marydette De Guzman
- Genesis Espinal
- Rianna Gallardo
- Adrien Lara
- Analyn Nguyen
- Steven Nguyen
- Frederick Pantrana
- Savannah Regalado
- Vy Tran
- Hajra Usman
- Baiqiang Zhao

**OHLONE**
- Vince Nguyen

**SAN JOSE CITY**
- Anabella Anguiano
- Shaheed Brown
- Richard Fedelin
- Jenah Hermosillo
- Manuel Lizarraza
- J’Tayo McDowell
- Davis Nguyen
- Toure Oliver
- Maya Palomo
- Amanda Romeo
- Steven Torres

**WEST VALLEY**
- Justin Farria
- Hieu Hoang
- Tatiana Jaramillo
- Camaria Kelley
- Elisa Martinez
- Flor Mendoza
- Mickey Nguy
- Jordan Nguyen
- Anthea Ohene-Nyako
- Cynthia Reyes
- Justin Robertson
- Aylin Rualcaaba
NOTE: The data on this section was compiled from a self-reported survey posted on Schoolloop and Facebook during the months of April and May.

What is C/O 2017 majoring in?

Nutrition Veterinary Technology Criminal Justice BIOLOGY Managerial Economics Communications Aviation Foreign Language BUSINESS Graphic Design Health Software Engineering Law Enforcement MUSIC criminology Nursing History Computer Science Accounting Psychology Journalism Human Biology Business Management Finance Fitness Biochemistry PHARMACY Architecture Kinesiology English Fine Arts MEDICINE GAME DESIGN Cinema Audio Engineering Immunology Human Resources Business Administration Digital Media Genetics Marketing Electrical Engineering Childhood Development POLITICAL SCIENCE Undeclared Anthropology Biotechnology Applied Mathematics Education Art History Interior Design RADIOLoGY Information Systems Environmental Toxicology Sociology Interactive Media International Relations Physiology Industrial Design Computer Engineering

Advanced Art Kaylee Gomez Adriana Gonzalez Vy Nguyen
AVID Miranda Cabanayan Larissa Gomez Isaiah Gonzalez Elisandra Ruiz Yensi Vu
Business Bix Asato Micayla Carvalho-Le Shuyanna Gatchalian Hallie Huyah Tanya Kooplicat
CADD Eric Andres Gwendolyn Hua Daniel Phan Kenny Quach
Consumer Science Tayler Duarte Minh Nguyen Denise Tablas Diane Tablas Luz Valenzuela
Drama Sydney Brown Cilo Laguilla Jillian Nguyen Timothy Oliver
ELD (English Language Development) Tr Nguyen Tu Pham Phan Vong Heilam Wu
English Zoe Adamas Brandon Dimapasoc Albert Duong Sean Tseng Jason Vu
Industrial Education Armando Brillon Keith Cabacungan Andrew Giluso Rafael Rodriguez Jashanjit Singh
Journalism Michelle Lin Sean Tseng
Leadership Lyam Bui Brandon Dimapasoc Roselyn Mai

Sydnie Tanujaya Tina Tran
Mathematics Sarah Dao Aaron Nguyen Jonathan Nguyen Dorothy Rossini Teemu Virtanen
Music Nicolas Alainz Ryan Cheng Sarah Dao James Do James Hoang Jenna Mae Prado Catherine Tran
Photography Kevin Balacaoc Khanh Dao Natasha Maxin Rebecca Rossini Jeremy Silveira
Physics Cindy Ke
Science Trevor Glassey Tam Le Erica Xie Gabrielle Ng Teemu Virtanen
Social Science Brandon Dimapasoc Taylor Garvey Matthew Hoang Tyler Seawright Jason Vu Sofia Wright
Visual Arts Lily Do Eldridge Espanol
World Languages Gabrielle Ng (Chinese) Danielle Su (Chinese) Brian Wang (Chinese) Lauren Young (Chinese) Benjamin Gonzalez (French) Thuycan Nguyen (Spanish) Jay Tat (Spanish) Jason Vu (Spanish) Nancy Do (Vietnamese) Anh Hoang (Vietnamese) Anne Tran (Vietnamese) Ryan Tran (Vietnamese) Naomi Nguyen (Vietnamese)
Yearbook Jaria Jaug
Compiled by Emilie Chau and Melody Li

Note: AP Gov and Econ counted as two classes

**Teemu Virtanen**

College: UC Berkeley
Major: Physics
AP classes: 11
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: AP Lang, AP Lit, AP Stats
Hardest class: WHAP or AP Flow
Class you wish you took: AP Computer Science
Advice: Realistic advice: don’t take the useless AP classes. My advice: take all the AP classes.
What helped you get through high school: My textbooks.
Future plans: Become a physicist and hopefully earn a living
Fun fact: I’m not a fun person

**Sarah Dao**

Major: Civil Engineering
AP classes: 6
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: AP Calculus AB and ERWC
Hardest class: ERWC
Class you wish you took: Art and Computer Science
Advice: Find extracurriculars that relate to your major or what you like to do. Also, keep in mind that it’s not trying your best if it ruins your health or makes you unhappy. Always surround yourself with people who love you and things you enjoy. What you will miss about high school: My friends, teachers, and clubs
Future plans: Maybe minor in architecture, do something on the side with art, and own a beautiful garden
Childhood dream: Astronaut

**Daniel Phan**

College: UC Davis
Major: Computer Science
AP classes: 7
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: WHAP and APUSH
Hardest class: WHAP
Regret in class choice: No regrets
Class you wish you took: Chemistry
Advice: Don’t procrastinate
Favorite part of senior year: Second semester

**Jennifer Lai**

College: UC Santa Barbara
Major: Computer Science
AP classes: 9
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: WHAP
Hardest class: AP Calculus BC
Advice: To be able to do a kickflip in high kick highs
Fun fact: I can do a backside 180, pop above it, kickflip, and inverted nose dive
Childhood dream: Be taller
Favorite part of senior year: Winning FANTASTICS

**Sara tseng**

College: UC Berkeley (because Stanford rejected me lol)
Major: English
AP classes: 7
All-nighters: Some days I sleep half an hour
Near-B experience: Every semester in math
Hardest class: AP Calculus BC
Class you wish you took: AP Psychology
Advice: Don’t be afraid to sacrifice your grade for learning
What helped you get through high school: Knowing that there’s an end
Future plans: Not fail
Fun fact: I’m rooming with Zoe!
Favorite part of senior year: It ending and FANTASTICS

**Dorothy Pham**

College: UC Berkeley
Major: Undecided
AP Classes: 7
All-nighters: A lot, but none for school
Near-B experience: WHAP and AP Calculus BC
Hardest class: P.E
Regret in class choice: ERWC
Advice: Only do things that you care about; do things for yourself because it’s your life
Future plans: I want to move to Alaska and open a flower shop, move to Washington DC and work in the government, intern at a fashion magazine in Europe, write a book someday and join the army
Fun fact: My favorite color is pink and I plan to have everything I own be pink

**Ryan Tran**

College: De Anza College
Major: Computer Science
AP classes: 6
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: Math Analysis with Mr. Zhu
Hardest class: Math Analysis with Mr. Zhu
Class you wish you took: AP Lang
Advice: It’s not a big deal if you do get valedictorian and it’s ok if you don’t
Future plans: Work in software engineering, hopefully at Google
Favorite part of senior year: Second semester

**Zoe Adams**

College: UC Berkeley
Major: Molecular and Cell Biology
AP classes: 9
All-nighters: 0, because one hour of sleep still counts
Near-B experience: Math Analysis and AP Calculus BC
Hardest class: AP Chemistry
Class you wish you took: Drama
Advice: You’re gonna procrastinate, so procrastinate well. What you will miss about high school: Everything! People, getting to live in a place where I don’t have to pay $20,000
Fun fact: I’m rooming with Sean!
Favorite part of senior year: My classes and getting to actually hang out with my friends

**Jennifer Nguyen**

College: Brown University
Major: Public Health
AP Classes: 9
All-nighters: None for school
Near-B experience: AP Calculus AB with Mr. Kuang
Hardest class: AP Calculus AB
Advice: Have fun in high school, make sure you take care of yourself, and good luck with everything!
What helped you get through high school: Family and my extracurriculars
What you will miss about high school: Being in Interact, tennis and hanging out with my best friends
Future plans: I definitely want to explore different studies so I know where I want to go in the future. I really want to study abroad

**Aaron Nguyen**

College: UC San Diego
Major: Computer Science
AP classes: 5
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: English 1
Hardest class: Math Analysis with Mr. Zhu
Class you wish you took: AP Physics 2
Advice: You should work on your own pace and pursue your own interests
What helped you get through high school: League of Legends and meeting people that care for me
What you will miss about high school: I’ll miss my friends, bike crew, and freeloading off my parents
Fun fact: I have a boxing channel. Check it out
Childhood dream: I wanted to be the strongest dude in school
Favorite part of senior year: Getting boba and going to the beach with homies

**Anne Tran**

College: UC Los Angeles
Major: Pre-Human Biology and Society
AP classes: 10
All-nighters: Refer to the major I got accepted to
Near-B experience: I put that B in Band and B.C.
Regret in Class Choice: No regrets
Advice: If you need to tell a believable lie, include an embarrassing detail. Nobody will doubt a story that makes you look like an idiot
What helped you get through high school: Fear of heights never allowed that. Don’t do a B C
What you will miss about high school: The pre-loved, questionable condition, hardcover, $12.99 books I bought for summer reading assignments that I’ll be selling at discounted prices. Hmu on FB or IG @annetran
Fun fact: I’m valedictorian
Favorite part of senior year: Ask me again around May 21

**Jennifer La**

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Major: Pre-Human Biology and Society
AP classes: 10
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**Jennifer Lai**

College: UC Santa Barbara
Major: Computer Science
AP classes: 9
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: WHAP
Hardest class: AP Calculus BC
Advice: Hard work never pays off! School doesn’t matter!
What helped you get through high school: Being in ASB
Future plans: To be able to do a kickflip in thigh highs boot
Fun fact: I can do a backside 180, pop above it, kickflip, and inverted nose dive
Childhood dream: Be taller
Favorite part of senior year: Winning FANTASTICS

**JENOVA LIE**

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AP classes: 9
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: Math Analysis and AP Calculus BC
Hardest class: AP Chemistry
Class you wish you took: Drama
Advice: You’re gonna procrastinate, so procrastinate well. What you will miss about high school: Everything! People, getting to live in a place where I don’t have to pay $20,000
Fun fact: I’m rooming with Sean!
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**Tiffany Nguyen**

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Major: Molecular and Cell Biology
AP classes: 9
All-nighters: 0
Near-B experience: AP Calculus AB with Mr. Kuang
Hardest class: AP Calculus AB
Advice: Have fun in high school, make sure you take care of yourself, and good luck with everything!
What helped you get through high school: Family and my extracurriculars
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Future plans: I definitely want to explore different studies so I know where I want to go in the future. I really want to study abroad

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Fun fact: I’m valedictorian
Favorite part of senior year: Ask me again around May 21
COURTESY OF ASB

PHHS C/O 2017
Will Graduate From Piedmont Hills
May 20

Petey shared his event to the group: PHHS C/O 2017.
May 19 at 12:00pm
Senior Ball is tomorrow, so excited!!!

PHHS 2017 Senior Ball: Tale as Old as Tim
Set 7 PM - The Glass-house - San Jose

Polly We ended freshman year with Beauty and the Beast as the spring musical and now we're ending senior year with it as our prom theme~
Like Reply 17 May 19 at 12:00pm

Polly shared a memory.
May 19 at 11:40
2014 Fantastics~

Hey! What were your biggest regrets from high school?

Not getting involved in extracurricular activities soon...
Procrastinating on my schoolwork until the last minute!
I should have tried harder in high school too.

Like Reply 41 May 19 at 2:37pm
Piedmont Hills teachers give advice to seniors

Compiled by Syed Rahim

“I think sometimes it feels like this moment whatever problem you have, whatever you think is plaguing you, is the biggest thing in the world and you feel like you must decide your life. With age and time, you’ll realize that even in the painful moments, you’ll laugh at them. So just know that with patience, time really does heal all wounds and you’ll have perspective." At that moment, I can understand when you’re younger you think it’s everything, but it isn’t.”

Jeffrey Loggins

It’s okay to ask for help, it’s okay to not be the smartest kid in your class, it’s okay to not be the most successful person in your family. It’s better to ask for help early on than try to do damage control later on. Instead of being confrontational with people who I think are wrong I try to figure out (their arguments) because nobody thinks they’re in the wrong. So rather than accusing someone of using racism or sexism or bigotry, I ask them why they think that, where did they hear that, and questioning a behavior that upsets me opens up the dialogue and is a lot more productive than making accusatory statements, and I still end up being right most of the time.

Peggy Lee

Amanda James

Jeffrey Bui (c/o 2014)

I think my perspective about the importance of school has changed a lot since I left. While I was in high school I was never really THAT motivated and I just brushed off the idea that school was important, but now after entering college and getting multiple years of school and work I definitely value the education that I got. Now I’m proud of the education I get at UC Berkeley and I will never take the benefits of school for granted ever again.

What is the key to your success?

Indy Dang (c/o 2014)

I think a key to success for me, especially as an artist, is to be open to criticism. You have to be flexible to changing your ideas. If somebody doesn’t agree with something you do, try to find out why they’re seeing things that way instead of writing them off. Another key to success is to never make excuses. It’s never a good look. The most important advice I can give to any seniors out there is to keep it professional. Small things, like being on time and listening to what your peers have to say are what make you stand out as an individual from everybody else.

What is the most important lesson you have learned so far?

Baljinder Dheri (c/o 2015)

People shouldn’t stress out that much about grades. You should care, and definitely try your best in the class, but don’t have a mental breakdown once you get one or two bad grades. Some about standardized testing. Study hard, but spending 100+ hours studying for the SAT/ACT is a bit much. It’s better to spend your time wisely, instead of blindly taking practice test after practice test. After each practice test you take, consider what you got wrong and learn from your mistakes. It’ll be better to spend your time on other things, like furthering extracurricular activities.

Don’t be afraid of disappointment. Learning is fun. People shouldn’t stress out that much about grades. You should care, and definitely try your best in the class, but don’t have a mental breakdown once you get one or two bad grades. Some about standardized testing. Study hard, but spending 100+ hours studying for the SAT/ACT is a bit much. It’s better to spend your time wisely, instead of blindly taking practice test after practice test. After each practice test you take, consider what you got wrong and learn from your mistakes. It’ll be better to spend your time on other things, like furthering extracurricular activities.

Elaine Zhang (c/o 2016)

The most important lesson I have learned so far is just to do you. Do whatever makes you happy. That’s my advice. Don’t do what other people want you to do, do what you want to do. If you want to put glitter on your face for the day, you do that. Also, you don’t have to be a science major to get into med school. Major in whatever you are interested in. Enjoy school. Learning is fun.

What are grades?

Don’t be afraid of disappointment. Learning is fun. People shouldn’t stress out that much about grades. You should care, and definitely try your best in the class, but don’t have a mental breakdown once you get one or two bad grades. Some about standardized testing. Study hard, but spending 100+ hours studying for the SAT/ACT is a bit much. It’s better to spend your time wisely, instead of blindly taking practice test after practice test. After each practice test you take, consider what you got wrong and learn from your mistakes. It’ll be better to spend your time on other things, like furthering extracurricular activities.

Elaine Zhang (c/o 2016)

The most important lesson I have learned so far is just to do you. Do whatever makes you happy. That’s my advice. Don’t do what other people want you to do, do what you want to do. If you want to put glitter on your face for the day, you do that. Also, you don’t have to be a science major to get into med school. Major in whatever you are interested in. Enjoy school. Learning is fun.

How important are grades?

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Elaine Zhang (c/o 2016)

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What to bring to college?
Compiled by Bernice Ou-Yang

Dorm
- Bed sheets
- Pillows
- Pillowcases
- Alarm clock
- Lamp/desktop light
- Personal decorations

School Supplies
- Notebook
- Backpack
- Writing supplies
- Laptop
- Binders and folders
- USB flash drives
- Binder paper
- Calculator
- Dictionary
- Sticky notes
- Flash cards

Kitchen/Bath
- Utensils
- Towels
- Toiletries
- Blow dryer
- Wet wipes

Clothing
- Umbrella/raincoat
- Slippers/flip flops (shower and in-door use)
- Appropriate clothing for the weather
- Athletic sneakers
- Bathing suits
- Undergarments
- Formal outfits and shoes for interviews, internships, presentations, formals

Laundry
- Garment bag
- Hangers
- Stain remover

Food
- Cup noodles
- Snacks
- Bulk snacks (Granola bars, dried fruits, etc.)
- Water
- Coffee
- Tea
- Frozen meals
- Cereal

Miscellaneous
- Sewing kits
- Extension cords
- Detergent/bleach
- Ethernet cable
- Medication
- Important paperwork (insurance card, driver’s license)
- First Aid Kit

Pre-college bucket list
Compiled by Vivian Lin

Dorm decoration ideas
Compiled by Emily Zhao

Ask First
- Mini fridge
- Toasters or oven
- Pets
- Halogen lamp

- Tapestry
- Bulletin board
- Posters
- Polaroids
- Fairy lights
- College pennants
- Plants
- Pets (Ask first)
“Take it till you make it.” — Alan Huynh

“I might look like a banh bao, but at least I’m a cute one.” — Lyann Bul

“Spam musubi $2” — Ryan Doan

“C6H12O6 is important for cell respiration to occur.” — Catherine Tran

“I’m a good girl, I am!” — Teenu Vralten

“ohayo gozaimasu!!!!!” — Jennifer Lai

“Don’t be sad because sad spelled backward is das and das not gude.” — Steven Nguyen

“You just might be stronger than you know, so don’t give up.” — Camaria Kelley

“Still single” — Vy Tran

“Its okay to be a snake.” — Erin Conghuyen

“HIGH school is like In N Out, first you go in and wait in line for a while, and then you’re out before you know it.” — Paul Alexander Garcia

“DOBBY IS FREE” — Tyler Vu

“Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.” — Mc Kevin Balacaoc

“If stress burned calories, I’d be a supermodel.” — Aleisha Lew

“According to all known laws of aviation, there is no way a bee should be able to fly. Its wings are too small to get its fat little body off the ground. The bee, of course, flies anyway because bees don’t care what humans think is impossible.” — Vivian Mai
Sun Protection

By Vivian Lin

Summer is coming. Although the weather is already balmy, the first day of summer doesn’t begin until well after the last day of school. However, just because the arrival of summer is a while from now, it does not lessen the importance of sunscreen. It’s messy, sticky, leaves your skin a chalky white color and often smells weird. So why should anyone wear sunscreen?

A Brief History

Sunscreen was invented in the twentieth century by a Swiss chemistry student named Franz Greiter. Greiter got sunburnt while hiking and decided that he wanted to invent an effective sunscreen. His final product was Glacier Cream or Gletscher Crème, which can still be found in stores today.

What’s in sunscreen?

To start off, there are two types of sunscreen: physical and chemical. Physical sunscreen, also known as sunblock, is true to its name in that it contains minerals like zinc oxide and titanium oxide to physically block the sun’s UV rays. On the other hand, chemical sunscreen has man made materials like oxybenzone, avobenzone and a plethora of other unpronounceable chemicals. Chemical sunscreens are slightly more complicated in the way they work. The ingredients in the sunscreen create a chemical reaction that changes UV rays into heat and then releases the heat from the skin.

What is SPF?

If you’ve ever looked at a bottle of sunscreen you’ve probably noticed a label that read “SPF” and a number. SPF means Sun Protection Factor, which according to consumerreports.com “is a relative measure of how long a sunscreen will protect you from UV (ultraviolet) rays.” In short, the higher the SPF, the longer your sunscreen will protect your skin.

What if I don’t want to wear sunscreen?

No one’s really stopping you, but some of these statistics might give you a scare. According to consumerreports.com, “The chief cause of reddening and sunburn, UVB rays tend to damage the epidermis, skin’s outer layers, where the most common (and least dangerous) forms of skin cancer occur.” Researchers at the American Cancer Society have agreed that “most skin cancers are a direct result of exposure to the UV rays in sunlight. Both basal cell and squamous cell cancers (the most common types of skin cancer) tend to be found on sun-exposed parts of the body, and their occurrence is typically related to lifetime sun exposure.”

Road Trip Survival

By Justin Nguyen

Going on vacation is always a fun experience. However, if one is not ready for the trip itself, the excitement can dissipate in a matter of hours from just sitting in a car with the parents.

There are various ways to keep yourself entertained. If you are not interested in interacting with your parents or vice versa, the best plan of action would be to pack some time killers like books or video games. A long road trip is the perfect occasion to catch up on a novel you have been wanting to read or to finally breeze through a game’s story mode. If you are not in the mood for stimulating your mind might be to blankly stare outside the window and watch cars pass by. After a busy day of sightseeing, the trip still has not ended, the first thing that comes to mind might be to blankly stare outside the window and watch cars pass by. Turn this into your advantage by playing the classic license plate game: identify the states on the license plates of cars passing by. Alternatively, you can expand this into nearby landmarks in general, like count the number of interstate signs you pass.

The saying goes, “It’s about the journey, not the destination.” While the opposite is typically more applicable for vacations, the trip to wherever you are headed will still be a long one, so it is best to do something fun to pass the time until then.
By Amir Mortazavi, Head of Marketing at Trendage

The rise of price of textbooks

I t’s not a job market, it’s no secret that pro-
in the employing world, looking for work and to find a far better chance with a degree under their name. This emphasis on educational achieve-

ment is a driving force behind the rise in prices of textbooks. According to a study by Student Monitor, a student

research group, 48% of college students are unhappy with the price they’re paying for text-

books. If education is supposed to be our na-
tional treasure, why are college students not satisfied with the quality of education they're getting for the price they're paying?

Publishers have responded to these criti-
cisms by explaining the efforts in writing the textbooks. “What faculty are looking for are calculus books that have interactive com-
ponents and have applications,” says Erik Dziczek, executive director of higher education at the Association of Ameri-

can Publishers. Publishers also like to push our current e-books every couple of years. This is done in order to stay relevant and encourage professors to pick their books over their competitors. Because continuously printing and shipping newer versions of textbooks is expensive, most publishers have been on the lookout for new ways to cut costs. 

One factor that does not get much media attention is the role of the publishing house in controlling the price of textbooks. For example, a textbook on calculus that is published by a major publisher can sell for hundreds of dollars, while an e-book version of the same textbook can sell for just a few dollars. The difference in price is due to the fact that e-books are not bound by the same regulations as print textbooks.

Another factor that affects the price of textbooks is the printing and distribution process. These costs are passed on to the student, who ultimately pays for them. In addition, the cost of materials, such as paper and ink, can also affect the price of a textbook.

The rising price of textbooks is a trend that is unlikely to change in the near future. As long as universities continue to use textbooks as a primary source of instruction, the price of textbooks will remain high. However, there are some steps that can be taken to help reduce the cost of textbooks. For example, students can consider purchasing used textbooks or e-books, which can be significantly cheaper than new textbooks. In addition, some universities are experimenting with open-source textbooks, which are freely available online and can be used for free.

To help students and professors find affordable textbooks, there are a number of online resources available. For example, the Open Textbook Library (OTL) is a free online library of textbooks that are open for anyone to use, modify, and share. In addition, the Textbook Altar is a website that allows students to search for textbooks by subject and author, and provides information about the cost and availability of each textbook.
History teacher Jeffrey Loggins started working at Piedmont Hills High School back in 2012. When he’s not teaching, Mr. Loggins enjoys outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking, and running. “While I’m not a marathon runner like DeRoos, I have run a 12K,” explains Mr. Loggins.

Originally from Dover, New Hampshire, Mr. Loggins grew up in Livermore, California. Afterwards, he served as a member of the Marines, earned a degree in history at UCSD (University of California, San Diego) and worked in intellectual property before he finally became a Pirate. “It made sense economically. I wanted to do something productive, and I wanted to serve and protect the country,” elaborated Mr. Loggins on why he chose to join the marines. “The uniform is cool too.”

Mr. Loggins worked in the marines for four years, visiting many places. However, the two main places he spent time in were London, and after Sept. 11, 2001, Afghanistan, where he underwent active duty. By the time he left the marines, he was a corporal. “Very stressful, but very rewarding,” mentioned Mr. Loggins when he described the four years in the military.

Luckily, the time in the military was quite valuable. After he got out, Mr. Loggins believed it made his college application much more attractive. “It opened so many doors. I’m pretty sure it got me into UCSD, and it helped get me into Piedmont as it came up during the job interview,” brought up Mr. Loggins.

After getting his history degree from UCSD, the friends he found at his intellectual property job ended up pointing him to Piedmont Hills, where he applied and got a job right before the school year started. “I wanted to inspire and help society,” expresses Mr. Loggins on his reasons for becoming a teacher. “I feel like my life has gone well and I wanted to give back.”

Today in History:
- Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England’s King Henry VIII, was beheaded after she was convicted of adultery in 1536
- The Soviet Union ratified a treaty with the United States and Britain that banned nuclear weapons from outer space, in 1967.
- Erno Rubik invented the puzzle what would later become known as the Rubik’s Cube, in 1974.
- The Empire State Building was designated a New York City Landmark, 1981.
- “Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace” was released in the U.S. It set a new record for opening day sales at 28.5 million, in 1999.
- “Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith” brought in 50.0 million in its opening day, in 2005.
- In 1853, Dutch prince married princess Mary Amalia of Saxony.
- John Hopkins, founder of John Hopkins University, was born in 1795.
- Marilyn Monroe performed for President John F. Kennedy with a rendition of “Happy Birthday” at Madison Square Garden.
- In 1919, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk lands at Samsun on the Black Sea coast, starting the Turkish War of Independence.

A history teacher’s history

By Trevor Glassy

Poll: What are your plans for summer?

This survey was conducted over SchoolLoop from May 5 to May 17. There were a total of 226 responses. From the survey, relax and chill was deemed to be the most popular of what the students plans for summer are while study/school came in second.

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FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017
FUN PAGE 9
Badminton clears competition at CCS

By Sean Tseng

The CCS (Central Coast Section) tournament for the badminton team took place last Friday. Five players represented Piedmont Hills in the matches after making the cut at league finals. The five team members included junior and singles player Tim Hoang, who ended up placing twelfth in the tournament.

“CCS was hard,” admitted Hoang. “I lost pretty terribly, but it was a good experience. I will strive to do better next year.”

The tournament results turned out more favorably for partners Hoang Nguyen and Judy Wong and partners Anthony Qiu and Sonya Chiang, who competed in the CCS mixed match. They placed fifth and eighth place respectively. This means the two mixed pairs will be able to advance to the state tournament taking place tomorrow.

“Going to states makes me really happy,” said Chiang. “I actually didn’t expect to get this far. I guess the fact of getting into states (hasn’t) hit me yet.”

The five athletes qualified for CCS out of a pool of roughly 50 badminton players by Piedmont Hills’s pool.

“I actually dread the upcoming day, especially with a record of 10-13. Though the teachers made an effort in a little more next year,” said World History teacher Hallee Lusk. “I listen to Broccoli.”

For SEGAR TOBAR

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Sports Awards
Senior Scholar
Athlete Finalists
Alex Garcia
Cindy Ke
Class Athletes
Freshman
Minhthe Trinh & Melissa Castaneda
Sophomore
Brandon Lowe & Katie Yamashita
Junior
Jimmy Botelho & Jessica Te
Senior
André Martins & Allison Pereira

Fall Sports Awards
Varsity Football
Most Valuable Player
Richard Fedelin
Coaches Award
Michael Bird
Fresh/Soph Football
Most Valuable Player
Gabriel Reclusado
Varsity Volleyball
Most Valuable Player
Allison Pereira
Coaches Award
Emily Pereira
JV Volleyball
Most Valuable Player
Katie Yamashita
Varsity Boys Country
Most Valuable Runner
Durac Martinez
Coaches Award
Henry Zheng
JV Boys Country
Most Valuable Runner
Jason Damasco
Varsity Girls Country Cross
Most Valuable Runner
Samantha Tran
Coaches Award
Alexa Heung
JV Girls Country Cross
Most Valuable Runner
Anna Haasimoto
Coaches Award
Samantha Tran
Winter Sports Awards
Varsity Girls Basketball
Most Valuable Player
Wyatt “Goose” Persin & Demarri Floyd
Coaches Award
Tyler Kawata
Fresh/Soph Boys Basketball
Most Valuable Player
Alyah Davis
Varsity Girls Basketball
Most Valuable Player
Ibeanna Paredes
Coaches Award
Katie Yamashita
Varsity Wrestling
Most Valuable Player
Caleb Espinal
Coaches Award
Alexis Bustos
JV Wrestling
Most Valuable Player
Ayda Tu
Varsity Girls Soccer
Most Valuable Player
Charity Cummings
JV Girls Soccer
Most Valuable Player
Garrett Bertich
Varsity Boys Soccer
Most Valuable Player
Marco Torres
Coaches Award
Oscar Rodriguez
Fresh/Soph Boys Soccer
Most Valuable Player
Isaac Padilla
Spring Sports Awards
Varsity Baseball
Most Valuable Player
Collin McEvans
Coaches Award
Josh Beck
JV Baseball
Most Valuable Player
Marcus Martinez
Varsity Softball
Most Valuable Player
Miranda Cabanayan
Coaches Award
Aleah Gutierrez
JV Softball
Most Valuable Player
JaNiya McDowell & Amanda Moreno
Varsity Boys Track & Field
Most Valuable Player
Toure Oliver
Coaches Award
Andres Martin
Fresh/Soph Boys Track & Field
Most Valuable Runner
Ishiau McCain & Clement Leba
Varsity Girls Track & Field
Most Valuable Runner
Krysten Salas
Coaches Award
Stephanie Bustos
Varsity Boys Swimming
Most Valuable Swimmer
Loren Hsieh
Coaches Award
Jason Tang
JV Boys Swimming
Most Valuable Swimmer
Michael Knowicki
Varsity Girls Swimming
Most Valuable Swimmer
Janet Tran
Coaches Award
Diane Tablias
JV Girls Swimming
Most Valuable Swimmer
Natalie Hua
Varsity Boys Badminton
Most Valuable Player
Anthony Qiu
Coaches Award
Brian Liu
Varsity Girls Badminton
Most Valuable Player
Nicki Nguyen
Coaches Award
Jody Wong
Varsity Boys Tennis
Most Valuable Player
Ryan Tran
Coaches Award
Ryan Nhin
Varsity Golf
Most Valuable Player
Justin Zieska
Coaches Award
Jaime Mahajan

Field team loses at BVAL while Track makes CCS
By Angel Palomino
A s the Track and Field’s regular sea- son comes to an end, only a selected few of the team advance to League Finals. While the Field team only made it to BVAL (Blossom Valley Athletic League), the Track team qualified for CCS (Central Coast Section).

With only junior throwers John Sanders, Angel Toledo and senior Andre Martins for the Boys Field team, and senior thrower Krysten Salas for the Girl’s Field team, the coaches were able to help them practice their forms.

“It was alright, just out there and throw (the discus). It was a fun experience, was a change of face,” expresses thrower Sanders about League Finals.

During the first meet of League Finals against Lincoln, the Boys team won the event but they did not make it into BVAL, due to not being top five overall. However, thrower Salas was second place in the event and made it to BVAL.

“I felt really accomplished,” remarks thrower Salas who has made BVAL last year as well.

Although Salas made west Mt. BVAL meet, she did not place at CCS.

“Our coaches for track and field are very inspirational. They teach us new styles and help us push ourselves, and make practice real fun,” remarks throwers Angel Toledo and Wil- bert Villanueva on the coaches’ relationship with the team during the season.

With the Track team doing warm-up laps, stretching out and weightlifting after school at the track area every day from 3:30-5:30 pm, the Track team is pushing themselves more than ever to win CCS, and qualify to State.

“A little bit unbelievable, and I didn’t know I could do this,” reveals senior sprinter Seattle Brown about his feelings for CCS. “I used to limit myself for the last three years, and I really started to try this year.”

Baseball strives for success
By Ashlanone Rodriguez
P C C C
TOSS Senior Luis Herrera tosses the baseball to a fellow teammate.

BHS Baseball has been playing games since February, and the Varsity team has played 14 league games and eight non-league games. JV played eight league games and seven non-league games this entire season. While Varsity had a record of 12-9 overall and 9-3 in league games, JV had a record of 8-8 overall and 4-4 in league games.

Varsity Baseball team played a league game on April 28 against Prospect High School. They won with 5-4, with 7 innings, and a walk-off hit, which is a Home run that ends the game, by Jacob Soto. They also had another win against Live Oak High School with the score of 8-7, on Mon., May 1. The JV team had lost two games against Prospect High School, 4-2, and Live Oak High School, 11-1. With those losses, the JV team’s current record is overall 7-7 and League record is 3-3.

The Varsity team continued to get to CCS (Central Coast Section) League. The CCS League is a governing body that focuses on both public and private high school sports in the Bay Area and Northern California. They were holding first until their game on Wed., May 3. They lost against Live Oak High School with the score of 17-6. They are tied with Live Oak after the loss.

“We’re both really great teams,” explained Josh Beck, “I truly believe we will take first in our league.”

Varsity’s second to last game against Independence High School was held on May 10, that was the Senior Night game. The Senior Night game is the seniors’ last home game of the season; the seniors are called out onto the field with their families before the game. This years seniors that were playing their last home game were Danny Bobias, Anthony Flores, Da- vid Mendido, Armando Brillion, Alex Galbo and Anthony Sanchez.

“Senior Night was memorable,” said Dan- ny Bobias. “My last season went better than I expected it to be.”

With the end of the season, the baseball team did not disappoint with their overall re- cords.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11 Golf
helped,” explained Mahajan.

He looks forward to going into CCS and trying to win that as well. Mahajan had placed 51 overall just making it into the BVAL while Zieska was in the top 10.

Other players on the team look to improve for next season so they can hopefully make it to CCS in the coming year.

TOSS Senior Luis Herrera tosses the baseball to a fellow teammate.