
The Pacific Grove High School

NEWSBREAKER

NEWSBREAKER GOES PRINT!

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Hello, World — We've Gone Print



by Oscar Scholin

NOW I know what you're thinking: why on Earth would the *NewsBreaker* stop using its website and go through the arduous process of designing and printing a physical paper in the Information Age where newspapers are sooner kept as historical relics than used as primary sources of news dissemination? And, how old is the *NewsBreaker* anyway? Well, like most things in life, the answers are complex, but here's a brief explanation of why we went paperful and some additional relevant historical information.

Bonnie Gartshore, the *NewsBreaker* editor in 1943, reported that the *NewsBreaker* originated as the *Knockout*, which was founded in 1921 by John Down, son of Robert H. Down. This fact may make the *NewsBreaker* one of the longest-running school newspapers in California at about 98 years of age. After some sleuthing by English and Drama teacher Mrs. Selfridge, we discovered that the *NewsBreaker* took a 6 year hiatus starting in 2008 before Camden Smithro restarted the paper online (pgnewsbreaker.com) in 2014.

Okay, so the *NewsBreaker* has had a life longer than you might expect from a school newspaper, but why did we just stop using the website? Well, last year, the District was sued by a company because of copyright infringement: apparently, someone had attempted to use a copyrighted picture without permission for an article they were writing. After the editors that year published said article with said picture, this company — whose sole purpose in existence is to locate and report instances of copyright infringement — filed a lawsuit. The District ended up taking the blow, and we were allowed to retain the *NewsBreaker* as a viable club. However, the District had one condition: we were disallowed from continuing to use the website. Thus, the *NewsBreakers* faced a great challenge: attempt to defy the District and continue publishing, quietly lie down and accept defeat, or go print. Obviously, we chose the latter option.

Today, we face a hidden threat: no, I'm not talking about a world war or climate change. I'm talking about fake news. The advent of the World Wide Web sparked many revolutions with global implications — the immediate dissemination of information from a single source to millions upon millions of people all over the globe went from science fiction to a taken-for-granted reality. While many use this power to spread knowledge, share their works of art, or connect with long lost friends and make new ones, others see this wonderful tool as a decisive weapon — one that is both extremely effective and deceiving. The 2016 U.S. Presidential election is a case in point. Targeted political ads on social media platforms and other news sources published fake information regarding the two candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. This issue is a very sticky one because, by the First Amendment, every U.S. citizen may voice his or her opinion without fear of persecution, unless the speech presents an immediate danger. While I can't offer a direct solution to the problem of fake news, I do believe that the more well-read and educated we are, the more likely we are to spot blatant fallacies and instances of biased news. I believe that while print news will never replace online news, a physical newspaper helps to ensure accountability as there is an identified company, publisher, or journalist whom you can write to in order to voice concerns over facts or interpretations of evidence. There's also a wonderful feeling when you are able to hold the paper in your hands and touch it — much the same as it feels holding and reading a physical book as opposed to an online version. There's just something better about a print version over an online version: a paper version enables you to have a more intimate conversation with the author without the glaring brightness of a screen or the annoying — and sometimes misleading or inappropriate — ads popping up over the content you're trying to read. So, in a way, by going print, the *NewsBreaker* is bringing those elements and enjoyments of reading the news back to the students, parents, and teachers at PGHS all in the name of our greater goal of bringing the PGHS community their news in a fun and approachable way while generating an interconnected and inspired student body. So keep a look out for future *NewsBreaker* editions such as this one, and may we all benefit as a result.

These Past Months at PGHS...

The Difficult Yet Exciting Next Step

By Will Coen

On Wednesday, October 30, Pacific Grove High School hosted a College Fair in the school library. Representatives from numerous colleges set up tables in the library and students were able to speak with the representatives to learn more about various colleges. The fair was an educational and interesting process. Every college is different, and different colleges attract different students. Come senior year, most PGHS students will apply to college, and eventually find a match. While this process of college applications seems daunting, it represents an important next step in life that many high schoolers will take.

The PGHS seniors of the class of 2020 have been working on their college applications for some time now. It seems that completing the applications has been stressful for many seniors. Furthermore, once the applications have been submitted, these students will eventually have the difficult choice of which school to attend — and it may not have been their top choice. Many factors will influence the decisions of different students. A few factors seniors must consider include cost, location, surroundings, areas of study, people, and reputation. While completing college applications is very difficult, choosing which school to attend also poses a challenge. In the spring, many seniors will have made the decision on which college to attend. The seniors will all have different motives behind their choices, whether the decision was made because of surrounding nature, nearness to a city, or main areas of study. Each year, PGHS students face the college application process and then wait patiently for the college decision process. The college application process will prove to be a difficult yet growing experience for all students, and it represents the start of the next step in every high school senior's life as an independent individual.

An Autumnal Concert

By Caroline Coen

The Breaker Choir and Orchestra collaborated on Wednesday, November 13th for the first formal concert of the year. Instrumental music director Mrs. Theresa Hruby and vocal music director Mrs. Michelle Boulware put on a fantastic show. Parents and students alike enjoyed the awe-inspiring performances.

The choir performed multiple group numbers and additionally featured performances by two "Breakershop Girls" Quartets. Senior choir member Seth Knoop (who also acted as Lord Voldemort in the recent "A Very Potter Musical") felt satisfied with the choir's performance Wednesday night. As he told the NewsBreaker, "the performance went better than our practices." He attributes this success to the energy of the audience. Knoop also noted that this choir concert differed from previous ones in that there was a greater emphasis placed on the two "Breakershop Girls" Quartets, because "there's usually just one." Junior Reilly Deegan sang in one of these barbershop quartets. Although live performances naturally create stress in performers, Deegan explained that the welcoming audience improved the experience. "We worked really hard for this performance, and despite a couple of hiccups, we got to perform," she told the NewsBreaker. "I am very proud of all the girls in our barbershop."

The audience returned after intermission to listen to the instrumental half of the show. The orchestra class played two pieces alone, and select Breaker Band members joined on their wind instruments for three additional symphonic pieces. The piece "Soldier's Joy," a highlight from the strings-only portion of the concert, featured intricate, fiddling patterns. As senior cellist Grace Hardin explained, "the fast and complicated measures" proved a challenge to the orchestra, but "it all came together for a wonderful performance!" The strings, winds, and percussion came together beautifully as well in the symphonic full orchestra, which included all instruments but the saxophone. The group played pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky. An arrangement of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony featured two excellent soloists: freshman Samantha Barragan on the clarinet and senior Oscar Scholin on the french horn. According to freshman trombonist Alexis Rodas-Mendoza, even though the band members did not rehearse many times with the string players, "the [full] orchestra played better than I expected it to play." The success of the Fall Concert bodes well for future concerts this year. The jazz ensembles debut at their concert set for December, and the concert band will join the string orchestra and the full orchestra at the Winter Concert in February. Meanwhile, the choir aims to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Both the instrumental and vocal music programs will send many musicians to regional honor groups in January and February as well. The Breaker music department looks forward to a year of artistic achievement! Stay tuned for updates!

The BreakerBots Bring Mad Robot Skills to MadTown ThrowDown

By Mitali Chowdhury

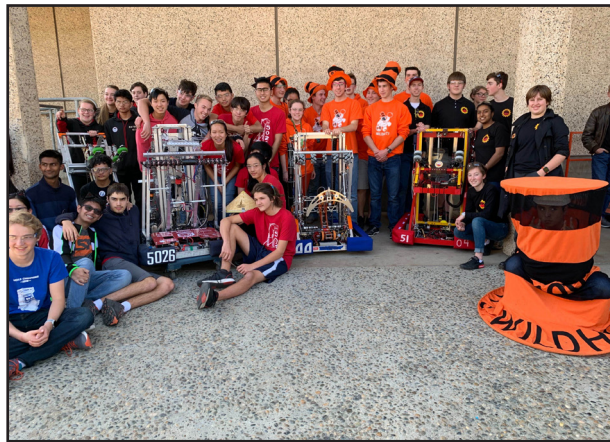
For its final competition of the 2019 FIRST Robotics Competition, with the theme of "Destination: Deep Space", the BreakerBots blasted west to Madera. The town is quite well known in the robotics community for housing MadTown Robotics, one of this year's world championship teams. The team is also one of the hosts for what is arguably the most difficult offseason competition, MadTown ThrowDown.

This year, the BreakerBots appeared on the list of 48 teams twice — once with its competition bot, Nebula, and once with a brand new offseason robot, HighTide.

Having two bots for Madtown was great because it gave all our new members a chance to be more involved, something that our team has always struggled to do in the past," shared Anneka Keller. While Nebula was the more experienced robot, the team chose to use the drive team to help more people learn about competition. Keller, who drove Nebula at MadTown, described the experience as "super fun as always, but it definitely gets very stressful." She continued, "there's a lot of pressure on your performance and one mislick of the controller could send the team's months of work tumbling into a pile of brokenness." New team member Amelia Rodolf reflected on the team's performance at the previous offseason competition. "I think we have improved a lot since CalGames," she said. "Especially on Nebula's drive team, everyone seemed much more confident and focused."

On HighTide's side, Madtown was the first and only competition for this red and gold elevator robot. The robot was more about learning: "not only were we under a substantial time crunch, we were learning how to use new tools and trying out new concepts at the same time," says Corbin Olney. "The competition was exciting for me as it was when we got to finally see what our months of work on HighTide would result in, and if any of our experimental designs would work." With some technical difficulties and stiff competition, neither BreakerBots robot ranked highly. But team members were optimistic about their performance. Rodolf stated, "Although we didn't win, both robots got to compete in the quarterfinals. I had an amazing time at Madtown and am looking forward to more competitions in 2020." Olney shared a similar sentiment, sharing that "overall, I would consider MadTown Throwdown a success for us. We got to test many new designs and techniques with High Tide, and hopefully gave many of the newer members the competition experience."

The team was recognized for its outstanding work by the Judges at the competition, and was awarded the Judges' Award for "unique efforts, performance, or dynamics [which] warrant recognition." Olney was a little disappointed that "our objective performance was... not as good as many of us probably hoped." But winning the Judges' award "was a great honor for the whole team. To have one of our robots get recognized by the judges at the event was great, and to have it be for the robot full of experimental ideas was quite the surprise. I think the whole team learned a lot from MadTown, and I think it will only help us as we head into our 2020 season." The team is looking forward to finding out what its game for next year will entail as they get ready to charge into "Infinite Recharge."



Teams 100, 5026, and 5104 (the BreakerBots) pose after quarter final placement at MadTown Throwdown.

Mattress Day at PGHS

By Cassidy Novack

On November 17, PGHS held its first annual mattress sale to raise money for the music program. The band, orchestra, and choir all need as much funding as they can obtain to purchase music, equipment, and to participate in competitions. Despite sounding a bit strange, a mattress fundraiser has proven a very effective way to fulfill the financial needs of other school bands on the peninsula.

The basic idea of the sale was that students would hand out flyers with their names on them so that when people looking to buy a mattress walked into the Student Union with one of the flyers, the music program would automatically get a small amount of money. If anyone chose to buy a mattress, that amount would increase proportional to the cost. On the day of the event, students would also volunteer in mattress costumes to advertise and help people with their purchases. This plan was outlined and executed by Sam the Mattress Man, who has organized many mattress fundraisers like this one.

In practice, the sale worked like a charm. Many potential buyers came to the event. Cayden Bloomer, a music student who volunteered, said, "My friend and I were on the corner of Sunset and Forest doing tricks with arrow signs and promoting the school's music program in our mattress costumes. Luckily, we saw the parking lot fill up as people flocked to the cafeteria for those mattresses. Hopefully it paid off!" Mrs. Hruby, the band director, later remarked on how successful the sale was, sending an enthusiastic remind message to the band saying, "The mattress fundraiser was very successful! \$3065! That is amazing for our first time!"

The music program could always use more funding to enrich the experience for the student musicians. Hopefully, the mattress sale will become a successful annual event here at PGHS.

PG Football: Freshmen Build Names, Seniors Build Legacies

By Will Coen

As fall has come upon us, football season has begun at Pacific Grove High School. After a long summer of practice, Pacific Grove's Varsity and Junior Varsity teams have stepped onto the field on Friday nights to face opposing high schools and to make our town proud. The Varsity team this year consists almost entirely of seniors with only a few juniors in the mix. They have started off this season with a 3-3 win-loss record, achieving two of their victories before a home crowd. Head Coach Chris Morgan states that despite "having to overcome some adversities and injuries, the boys are playing hard." Experience has been key to this early season success, especially for Pacific Grove's talented senior leaders. Also, according to Ben Minik, senior and Varsity starting quarterback, "team chemistry has been through the roof." Fellow senior Parker McAnally adds that the team will "work towards improving [its] game" as the season progresses. Along with Minik and McAnally, the team has also benefited greatly from the presence of senior leaders Blake Moore, Anthony Da Silva, and Jacob Murray. These players have helped Pacific Grove remain undefeated in the League, with a 2-0 record. Coach Morgan hopes to improve by "playing as a team," and his goals for the season are to "win League and go to the playoffs."

On the Junior Varsity side of the field, Pacific Grove High has seen inspiring young talent and an undefeated season thus far. With a 6-0 record, the team has shown great promise for future years of football at Pacific Grove High School. The team comprises young freshmen and many experienced sophomores and juniors. According to Coach Morgan, "It's good to see the younger program have good numbers and be successful." Some key players have been freshmen Cameron Johnson, Brandon Crespin, and Montana Wells, along with juniors Zach Armas and Diego Ruiz. Wells, the team's starting quarterback, states that "all the players have really accepted all the new challenges" that come with playing football. He has been impressive so far at the quarterback position. Similar to Varsity, the Junior Varsity team is 2-0 this season in League. Coach Morgan hopes that the team will "get better skill-wise" and "learn to have fun" with the game of football over the course of the season.



Senior Blake Moore runs the ball against Santa Cruz. Photo credits: Sabby Garoutte.

A Triumphant Football Season

By Will Coen

This fall, Pacific Grove High's Varsity and Junior Varsity football teams found great success throughout the season and accomplished many goals. The Varsity team achieved a total win-loss record of 7-4, and were crowned League Champions. The younger Junior Varsity team went undefeated, finishing with a 10-0 record overall. Both teams had much improved records from last season.

On the Varsity side of the field, the team was mostly composed of seniors along with a handful of juniors. Towards the end of the season, more juniors, sophomores, and a couple freshmen were brought up to the Varsity team from Junior Varsity. Along with winning the League title, the team maintained an undefeated League record of 6-0. Additionally, Varsity advanced to the Central Coast Section playoffs, although the team was defeated by Santa Cruz in the quarterfinals. This loss marked the end of the Breakers' long and successful season.

Many talented seniors led the charge for Pacific Grove, including Parker McAnally, Blake Moore, Ben Minik, Jacob Murray, and Anthony Da Silva. Varsity Head Coach Chris Morgan stated that his goals for the season were to "win League and go to the playoffs." The team accomplished both of these objectives. Senior and starting quarterback Ben Minik claimed that "team chemistry [was] through the roof." This chemistry was a leading factor to the team's various triumphs. Of the Varsity squads seven total victories, four were achieved in front of a home crowd, including a 42-0 Homecoming win over Pajaro Valley. The Junior Varsity team showed great potential for future years of Pacific Grove football. Similar to Varsity, the team went undefeated in League, with a 6-0 record. The group was comprised of juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. The team had many talented players including freshmen Montana Wells, Cameron Johnson, and Brandon Crespin, and junior Diego Ruiz. When asked about the team, Wells, the team's starting quarterback, stated that "all the players...really accepted all the new challenges" that come with playing football. Wells was impressive at the quarterback position. The team improved greatly all around over the course of the season, winning their final game over Greenfield. Like Varsity, the Junior Varsity team also won four games with a home crowd watching.

While seniors built legacies and freshmen built names, Pacific Grove's Varsity and Junior Varsity teams capped off a very triumphant football season this fall.

A Promising Season

By Noor Benny

The Breakers Cross Country Team began the season with incredible results in its first few meets. On September 13th, the boys kicked off the season when eight varsity runners traveled north to the annual North Tahoe Kiwanis Mountain Motivational Invitational. On the 3.3 mile course, the boys finished 2nd behind Calaveras, 40-73. Will Stefanou ran the race in 21:38.78, placing 2nd among 111 runners. Luke Stefanou, only four seconds behind his brother, placed sixth in 21:42.50. On Wednesday, September 18th, the Breakers raced in the first league meet of the year in Gilroy on Gavilan College's 3 mile course. The boys placed 2nd to King City in the Gabilan division, 35-51, with the top 5 boys within the top 20 runners. The girls, running in the Mission Division, saw great improvements. Caroline Coen placed 2nd in 20:10, a minute faster than her previous best over that distance. In the JV boys race, Kai Hoadley placed 2nd (17:42.60), Ray Birkett placed 3rd (17:45.10), Jake Santana placed 7th (18:07.00), and Will Coen placed 15th (18:37.60) among 129 competitors. The following Saturday, a few of the runners returned to Gavilan's course for the Gilroy Mustang Invitational. Zane Coutts and Tyler Tra-vaile each earned a medal in the Boys Frosh-Soph race and Caroline Coen earned a medal in the Varsity Girls race.

On Saturday, September 28th, the varsity boys and girls traveled to Sacramento to race in the Capital Cross Challenge on the Haggin Oaks Golf Course. Despite the three hour drive at 3am, the team looks forward to this meet every year because they rarely have the opportunity to race on a course as flat as this one is. In the Unseeded Varsity Boys race, Sam Coutts surprised the team when he completed the race only two seconds behind Will Stefanou who finished 12th among 353 runners. This was an especially noteworthy performance considering Coutts was running with a broken wrist. Luke Stefanou, improving significantly from last year, placed 24th, and Leo Lauritzen placed 45th. In the Unseeded Varsity Girls race, Caroline Coen placed 40th in 20:29.52.

Most recently, the Breakers competed in the second league meet of the year in North Monterey County. The varsity boys competed in the Gabilan Division where they placed second to King City yet again (33-51). However, the boys ran incredible times. Will Stefanou completed the 3 mile course in 15:44. Stefanou was only 13 seconds behind Mario Avila, the first place finisher from King City. Luke Stefanou broke 16:00, completing the race in 15:54. The remaining three scorers, Sam Coutts, Leo Lauritzen, and Thomas Jameson, completed the 3 miles under 17 minutes. The girls raced in the Mission Division where Caroline Coen shattered her previous time and ran the race in 19:25. Alana Henden had an outstanding performance, finishing second on the team in 22:01 and beating her personal record by over a minute.

The cross country coach, Steve Watkins, is very happy with this year's results, even stating that "the boys team is the best one I'll see in my coaching career." With significant improvements in time, the season looks promising for the Breakers.

Upcoming Races for Breakers Cross Country:

Wednesday, October 9th - Aragon Center Meet, Crystal Springs
Saturday, October 12th - Pacific Grove Invitational, Pacific Grove
Wednesday, October 16th - PCAL Center Meet #3, Toro Park
Wednesday, October 30th - PCAL Championship, Toro Park
Saturday, November 16th - CCS Finals, Crystal Springs
Saturday, November 30th - 2019 CIF State Cross Country Championships, Woodward Park

(Results available on athletic.net)

On Saturday, October 12th, the Breakers hosted the annual Pacific Grove Invitational. As expected, the Breaker boys rose to the occasion and took first place. Unlike years prior, the Pacific Grove Invitational is the only home meet of the year. This meant that for many of the Breakers, this race was the last chance to compete on their home course. Not many personal records were broken, but there were quite a few outstanding performances. In the freshman boys race, Chris Fenstermaker finished in first, running the course in only 18:05.59 — over thirty seconds faster than the second place finisher. Will Coen came in sixth, earning himself a medal. Later in the day, Luke Stefanou took first in the sophomore boys race and completed the course in only 17:13.06. The Breakers secured their victory in the senior boys race when Will Stefanou placed 2nd (16:54.75), Thomas Jameson placed 4th (17:21.25), Ray Birkett placed 6th (17:37.25), Leo Lauritzen placed 7th (17:38.00), and Robertson Rice placed 13th (18:07.08). As for the girls, Caroline Coen placed third in the junior girls race and ran within seconds of the first and second place finishers. Alana Henden and Noor Benny each earned a medal in the senior girls race.

On Wednesday, October 16th, the team traveled to Toro Park to race in the third league meet of the year. Although the meet was in the middle of fall break, the Breakers refused to rest. The course appears to be flat at first, but the hills make themselves known in the final half of the race. In the varsity boys race, Will Stefanou snatched first place from King City's Mario Avila by only a fraction of a second. Thomas Jameson surprised the team when he ran only three seconds behind Luke Stefanou (16:24). However, the boys placed second to King City yet again (34-41). Regardless of the girls' last place finish as a team, each individual broke a previous personal record.

As the season winds down for most of Breakers, the runners continue to make great strides in their times. The season looks especially promising for the varsity boys who will go on to compete against the top schools in the Central Coast Section.

On Saturday, November 16th, Caroline Coen and the varsity boys traveled all the way to Belmont, California to race in the Central Coast Section meet at Crystal Springs. The varsity boys team included Will Stefanou, Sam Coutts, Luke Stefanou, Chris Fenstermaker, Ray Birkett, Leo Lauritzen, and Thomas Jameson. They had been training hard all season for this very race. Unfortunately, star freshman Chris Fenstermaker was sick the day of the race, so senior Kai Hoadley came to the rescue. The CCS startlines were not nearly as crowded as the PCAL league meet's startline, with only 100 runners in the division 4 boys race.

As soon as the starting gun was shot, the boys and Coen fought for a spot at the California state meet. To qualify, the team must place first, second, or third in their division. PG and Menlo, a school in the lower bay area, competed head to head the entire race, but the Breakers

placed fourth to Menlo by only seven points (109-102).

However, team raced incredibly well. Will Stefanou ran the course in 16:09.20 placing 10th, Sam Coutts in 16:21.46 (12th), and Luke Stefanou in 16:39.03 (17th). But there was still hope that a few of the boys would continue their season. If an individual places in the top section of their race, their time alone will qualify them for the state meet. Not surprisingly, Will Stefanou and Sam Coutts did just that.

Caroline Coen also had an outstanding performance on the 2.95 mile course. Caroline completed the course in 20:15.16, placing 13th. Thinking that this was her final race of the season, she was surprised when she found out that she also qualified as an individual for the California State meet with her time alone. Coen, Stefanou, and Coutts will go on to race in the California State meet on November 30 in Woodward Park, California.

Water Solo: The Story of the Individual Water Polo Player

By Emmitt Withrow

Students, we have a new activity today. It's called Water Polo. It is a sport that is primarily based in the water. I know what you're thinking: "It's called WATER Polo, so shouldn't it all be in the water?" To that I say, not if you want to be good. As a member of the team, I personally know what the everyday water polo player does everyday to be good at the sport. Let me share.

The very first practice was the first Friday of the school year and was two and a half hours of intense practice for a sport most of the team members had never played. Then next meeting was the following week, Monday, at 6:00 in the morning, in the weight room. A workout of intense weight lifting, followed by ab workouts (ex. Push-ups, sit-ups, more I don't really know the name of, etc.), followed by running up stairs with 10 lbs or more medicine balls — all that in the span of about an hour. Then after that, 30 minutes of swimming laps. First about 200-300 yards of freestyle as a warm-up, then another 300 of mixed swimming styles. And that's just the first morning.

Then in the afternoon that same day, another two and a half hours in the pool. For the first few days, it was mostly swimming about 20 to 100 yards to get each person stronger in the pool. In simple terms, it's about 80 laps over a mile of swimming. Think of the mile for PE, but swimming it.

For the first month and a half, we had those morning practices three days a week — Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We had afternoon practices everyday after school. Approaching the month of September, the team was in supreme training mode to prepare for the first game of the season. The coaches worked each player like never before. Then, on September 9th, 2019, we made history. The Pacific Grove High School Water Polo team hosted its first Water Polo game in history: PGHS vs York. For the team's first game, we did relatively well. Unfortunately, we lost 5-16. But as it was the first game ever, we felt that it was an accomplishment nonetheless.

The final week was approaching. Monday was the final practice of the year. One last practice to prepare for our last two games. The 2nd to last game, the team pulled off what we had spent so long training to accomplish, we won a game. Pacific Grove Vs. Everett Alvarez, Tuesday, October 28th, 4:00, at the PG High School swimming pool. All our work had paid off, and we won a game. The final score was 19-7. We all were very happy and went into the next game with our heads up high. The next game, dubbed Senior Night to say goodbye to our seniors, went more like our other games. It was our rematch against York, and unfortunately we lost again. But the worst part was that we had to say farewell to our Seniors.

As the first season comes to a close, many players are already preparing for next year. We encourage you to come to a game next year. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for students and seniors. They are fun to watch. I implore you to come support your team and the students who put in hours of work to make the sport enjoyable. If you have seen a game, you should get back into the swim of things and see another one (last pun, sorry). But all dry humor aside (one more), the matches are very entertaining. The players and coaches urge people to attend next year's games.



Water Polo Boys' Coach Casey Lyon (front) runs drills during one of the many after-school practices.

Senior Night and Marching Band Season

By Mitali Chowdhury

For all of the fall, Friday nights have meant football games. Football players, supportive fans, cheerleaders, the band, the Breaker Girls, and the robotics team with Riptide have been down at the field for every home game. Now that the final home game has passed, however, things are winding down for the season. This last game was special for many of the seniors, who were recognized for their hard work and dedication to their groups throughout high school. With the cheerleaders decked out in sparkly sashes and roses for every football player's family, these seniors were announced and applauded before the varsity game began.

The final home football game marked the end of the season for

marching band as well. Playing pep tunes in the stands, putting together different themed shows for every week, and busting out PG will shine with every touchdown, the season has been action-packed for the Breaker Band. "It was definitely challenging preparing new shows for every game, but looking back it was a great experience experimenting with different music themes and field shows," says Drum Major Alana Henden. Assistant Drum Major Caroline Coen took responsibility to plan the senior night for the band. It "was my pleasure," explained Coen. "The seniors this year are a wonderful group of students, and I've looked up to them throughout my years at PG High. I felt they deserved a very special Breaker Band send off."

Coen led the junior class to create personalized posters for each senior to use during the game, which they could also take home as a token of appreciation for their commitment to the band. To let them know that they shined, the seniors were also decked out in Christmas lights (typically used during the Parade of Lights). "Mrs. Hruby kindly... also bought glow sticks that all the band members wore to make senior night a little more significant. Overall, I thought Senior Night was a huge success," continued Coen. "The Seniors were very creative with their Senior Salutes, and they looked spectacular all lit up. Every junior contributed effort into creating their assigned poster, and I appreciated the teamwork... I think an elaborate Senior Night really helps to promote band unity and to model feelings of band pride to our freshmen and sophomore band members."

Henden and other seniors were excited and proud to end the season in this manner. After the game, she voiced her appreciation: "Thank you to everyone in band for making this an amazing senior marching season!"



Senior Breaker Band members decked out in festive gear for their last football game of their high school careers. From left to right: Drum Major Alana Henden, Joely Kaatz, Jaye Flores, Oscar Scholin, Yuri Suzuki, Ray Birkett, Angel Soto, Milo Borer, Mitali Chowdhury, Bogdan Grots, and Elijah Taurke.

A Heroic Homecoming

By Caroline Coen

This year's Homecoming brought great successes for many Pacific Grove High School groups, from the leadership class to the football team to the Breaker Band. Homecoming activities took place Tuesday, October 22nd through Saturday, October 26th.

The leadership class selected this year's Homecoming theme by polling the student body with a survey in mid-September. Ultimately, the students voted for the theme of Superheroes, an unsurprising choice in the wake of the recent popularity of the Marvel franchise. Each class represented a different superhero: Superman (seniors), Spiderman (juniors), Batman (sophomores), and Aquaman (freshmen).

In the days leading up to the Homecoming game, Breakers participated in the traditional Homecoming week spirit days. This year, students honored the superhero theme on Tuesday by donning capes for "Superhero Day," and wore western attire for Wednesday, "Western Day." Thursday was "Mathletes vs. Athletes Day," slightly controversial because many students and teachers believe people can be both athletes and mathletes, not exclusively one or the other. Friday finished off the week with the traditional "Red and Gold Day."

The rally on Friday kicked off with the traditional Homecoming video, culminating this year in a Homecoming proposal from senior football captain Anthony DaSilva to classmate Noor Benny. The rally additionally featured the Breaker Band playing the national anthem and the theme from "The Avengers," the cheer squad performing a special Halloween routine, and the Breaker Girls dancing with select Breaker boys as special guests. Then, the various Hall of Fame inductees spoke to the student body, as per tradition. Robert Down alumni were particularly delighted to see former Kindergarten teacher Gary Williams inducted. Other Hall of Fame inductees were John Tyndall, Tom Marchese, and Todd Bliss. Leadership teacher Dr. Haggquist explained to the NewsBreaker that the leadership class puts tremendous effort into the Homecoming Rally, "which involves a process that goes several months back...reviewing Hall of Fame nominations and selecting this year's Hall of Fame." He also commented that "After our rally we have a luncheon in the library that is hosted by Grove Market honoring the Hall of Fame inductees."

Both Breaker Football Teams snagged Homecoming victories Friday night at the Homecoming Game, with Varsity handily defeating Pajaro Valley 42-0. As senior Daniel Rosas told the NewsBreaker, "It was perfect. It was a great way to close off my senior homecoming week."

The junior class won the class float competition with their Spiderman float, designed by Lyndsey Llantero, Gaby Giraldo, and Reilly Deegan. The seniors' Superman float took second, the freshmen's Aquaman float took third, and the sophomores' Batman float took fourth. Freshman class president Melody Roach said of her first Homecoming float-build experience, "It was pretty good. I thought that we could've used more help. We can only go up from where we are [now]."

Various organizations at the game also showed their support for the fight against breast cancer by wearing October pink. The Breaker Band rocked pink bandanas, the cheerleaders waved their pink pom poms, and even the football team added a splash of pink to their uniforms. The Relay for Life Club sold water bottle stickers by the concessions stand as part of their cancer research fundraising efforts.

The leadership class sold over half the student body tickets to the Homecoming Dance, and as such, the dance was very well attended. Saturday, October 26th, the dance attendees greatly enjoyed the music selection of the DJ, which ranged from country songs such as Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats" to rap songs such as Juice WRLD's "Lucid Dreams." The freshmen class enjoyed their very first high school formal, and according to Issy Lima, "It's better than the middle school dances for sure." The leadership class provided a wide array of sweet snacks. "I like the decorations and I love that they put out gummy

bears!” exclaimed senior Emily Roper when asked her opinion on the dance.

The success of Homecoming fully relies every year on the leadership class. Dr. Haggquist claims that he feels very proud of all the hard work of the leadership students because “There are a lot of different moving pieces when it comes to Homecoming Week.” Homecoming is an effort to bring the student population together in a celebration of Pacific Grove High School and the individuals who comprise it. Dr. Haggquist reminded the NewsBreaker of the intentions at the core of the leadership class’ Homecoming efforts. “Our moto in our leadership class is to lead with heart. We know that transforming the culture at Pacific Grove High School requires self-transformation within each individual leadership student. So as we work to improve ourselves constantly, we hope the student body will take notice and join in our efforts. We hope that everybody someday will embrace the challenging role of being leaders.”

What Did PGHS Students Do During Break?

By Cassidy Novack

After the first quarter of the 2019-2020 school year ended, Pacific Grove High School students got to enjoy their much anticipated week-long break from school. Besides catching up on their sleep schedules, students enjoyed the break in a variety of different ways. A small poll that was taken from students revealed how everyone spent their break. Surprisingly, the majority of students stayed home for the week. However, these results make sense considering that living in Pacific Grove is like living in paradise — when it’s not foggy, of course! Luckily, the weather during the break was usually in the mid-70s with little to no fog. Many students were excited to just spend time with their friends and to enjoy the sunny weather and the beach. Although, one senior was staying home for a different reason, saying that she had to work on college applications the whole week. Sophomores who stayed home reportedly spent some time studying for the PSATs that are being held the second week after break. Hopefully, everyone who spent their time working still enjoyed their rest.

Those who went out of town traveled to a variety of destinations. Multiple people went to Disneyland or Universal Studios, as well as other popular destinations in California such as Lake Tahoe, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. A few people traveled out of state to Hawaii, Wisconsin, and New York, where students saw Broadway shows. Some students also went on college tours all around the country. A sophomore who went to Hawaii reflected on her vacation, saying that she had an exciting time with her family trying a lot of cool cuisines and exploring different activities across the island, including swimming with the turtles. However, the break is now over and everyone must return from vacation. Hopefully, all students are rested and ready to start school again.

BreakerBots Don’t Break Their Bot!

By Mitali Chowdhury

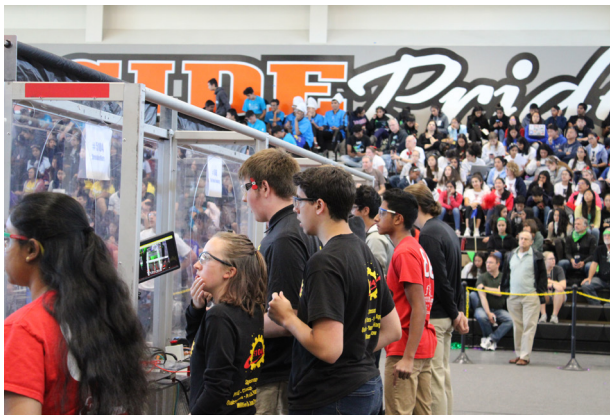
Although the BreakerBots already competed with their robot Nebula in the 2019 Competition Season in the winter, they are still getting their share of off-season fun! In addition to their summer project, Riptide, and some other robot projects, the team is focusing on growing the team and preparing for the upcoming build season. This focus means that they are spending a lot of time training their newest team members and showing them what robotics is all about.

One of the newer members, Joe Chamberlain, shared that he is most excited about “learning how to code and about enjoying the experience with friends.” Specialized training programs for students interested in specific skills, such as coding, are essential to help new members find what they are passionate about and make personal connections with others. Additionally, all new members work on a long-term project, mini-bots. These adorable little bots are less than a third of the size of the BreakerBot’s regular robots, but many of the mechanisms used to build the ankle biters are reflective of the larger robots’ designs. However, the off-season competitions are some of the most exciting opportunities for new and old members alike. Those who are new to the team get their first taste of robotics competitions, while the team’s veterans get another chance to practice and compete. “Off-season competitions are important because they allow us to train newcomers on what to expect from future competitions, such as drive team positions and pit management,” explains team captain Tyler Smithtro. At the team’s first off-season competition of this year, CalGames, the BreakerBots went to Woodside High School for three days with Nebula.

The tournament began with practice matches to help teams get back into the swing of things, followed by a day and a half of qualification matches. Even though many members of the drive team were relatively inexperienced, everyone learned quickly and the team experienced some smooth sailing. Minor technical difficulties plagued not just the BreakerBots but the entire competition, but PG’s team did not have any major breakdowns. “CalGames showed me what a competition looks and acts like,” says Chamberlain, reflecting on his experience at the competition. “[It] was different from a normal meeting...competitive but fun the entire time.”



BreakerBots team members Olivia Pearman (far left), Anneka Keller, Mitali Chowdhury and Amelia Rodolf after a match at CalGames.



Amelia Rodolf (left), Walid Baghdadi, and Corbin Olney pilot the BreakerBot’s new competition robot Hightide.

Breaker Band Takes Flight with Epic Butterfly Parade Performance

By Caroline Coen

As far as Pacific Grove traditions go, few are as iconic as the Butterfly Parade. Countless Breakers fondly remember marching in the parade as highlight of their elementary school years. Many Forest Grove patriots and “Down’s Clowns” expect their fifth grade parade to be their last. However, future Breaker Band, Breaker Girls’ Dance Team, and Breaker Cheer Squad members prove an exception to this rule. Pacific Grove High School students who participate in these performing arts ensembles have the opportunity to once again march for all the city to see. For the Breaker Band in particular, this year’s October 5th Butterfly Parade represented the culmination of the first quarter’s hard work. Dedicated band members had spent the fall braving the chilly mornings to practice Monday through Friday in preparation for football games and the Butterfly Parade. It is safe to say that under the direction of Mrs. Theresa Hruby and Drum Major Alana Henden the Breaker Band’s effort paid off. The musicians brought great joy to the community and added to the air of festivity with their performance. On the morning of October 5th, the Breaker Band provided the conclusion to the Butterfly Parade, following the elementary schoolers through downtown Pacific Grove. They marched to John Philip Sousa’s “The Thunderer” and drumline cadences “X-1,” “Booga-da-Beek,” and “Techno Groove.” After the parade, the band performed a couple of pop songs at the Butterfly Bazaar on the Robert Down field before heading down to City Hall. There, the Breaker Band helped celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beloved Bookmark Music store by playing a myriad of tunes. Highlights included popular song “Hooked on a Feeling” and an epic trumpet solo performance by sophomore Kenji Penniman in “Birdland.”

Much rested on the shoulders of senior Alana Henden during the Butterfly Day events. As Drum Major, Henden was fully responsible for maintaining the tempo of the Breaker Band in the parade, while also twirling her military baton. Henden told the NewsBreaker that prior to the parade, “I was definitely nervous because I was taking on a new role.” However, she took comfort in the knowledge that both she and the band had prepared as much as possible. In the aftermath of the day’s events, Henden explained that she felt happy with the performances. “The band was awesome, and everyone in the community had nothing but positive comments,” she said.

The Drumline Co-Captains, juniors Zoe Gleason and Tyra Domalaog, led the vital drumline to success. The drumline is responsible for learning all the pieces the rest of the band performs, and it is additionally held accountable for mastering various cadences, which are used to add diversity to the band’s marching repertoire. The drumline members committed extra time during lunch and after school to ensure that they executed their vast collection of music well. Gleason believes the extra work was worth it. “We put a lot of time and effort into improving the cadences and I think it really showed,” she told the NewsBreaker. Freshman clarinetist Samantha Barragan reflected on her first Butterfly Parade with the NewsBreaker. She described the parade as “absolutely worth the hard work and preparation.” Barragan notes that she did feel nervous beforehand, but she appreciated the encouragement she received from fellow band members who told her to simply enjoy the moment. Barragan says she believes she successfully remained calm and that she is “looking forward to improving” in the future.

This Butterfly Parade was the last for senior trumpeter Angel Soto. Soto, as a member of the class of 2020, is one of the last remaining Breaker Band students at Pacific Grove High School of the late Mr. David Hoffman. He describes October 5th as “an emotional rollercoaster.” He explains that his excitement for the parade devolved into sadness as the band arrived in front of Robert Down and “the fact that this was my last Butterfly Parade started to sink in.” He reminisced that three years ago, Mr. Hoffman had helped Soto through this same parade when, as a freshman, “I [Angel] had no idea what I was doing.” Soto explained that he marched this final Butterfly Parade for Mr. Hoffman, because Mr. Hoffman “taught me pretty much all I know about music.” He remains “the reason why I play music.”

The Breaker Band, in the end, did what it does best on October 5th. It brought the community together one note at a time at the Butterfly Parade, an event that forms an adhesive for the Pagrovia community. The Butterfly Parade makes Pacific Grove Pacific Grove, and the Breaker Band members feel proud to have been a part of the festivities.



Senior and Drum Major Alana Henden fearlessly leads the Breaker Band down Lighthouse Avenue in front of hundreds of spectators for the annual Butterfly Parade.

Breakers Swept Away by Riptide

By Mitali Chowdhury

While you may know the BreakerBots from their competitions, if you have been at a football game or rally this year, you’ve seen the team’s newest robot member — Riptide. At almost 200 pounds, the red and gold robot has been a blast, bringing t-shirts, fun, and loads of school spirit to PGHS events.

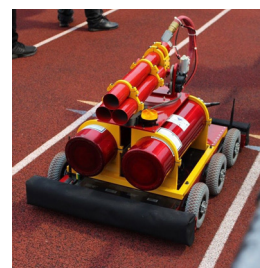
“The inspiration for...Riptide came from our goal to connect with the entirety of PGHS,” begins design lead Corbin Olney. He described how the team built the t-shirt shooting robot over the summer, “with steady progress and the occasional crunch time” despite “the occasional hold-up on parts and infrequency of summer meetings.” Similar to their competition build season, the robot had to go from an idea to a physical robot quickly.

However, there were some major differences between a competition robot and Riptide, as programming lead Liam Snow reflected, such as the team’s focus on “the looks of the robot and ‘show’ factor instead of strictly functionality.” He continued, “designing and building the robot was fairly simple and similar to most robots we build, although some things were drastically different, like using scuba tanks to supply air.” Generally, the team must comply with a multitude of safety rules, which prevent any robots from holding too much air. But Riptide was built outside of the regulations of the BreakerBots’ regular competitions, allowing them a greater degree of freedom to use methods including a two scuba tank system to launch t-shirts into the crowd. One tank is pressurized to about 3000 PSI while the other serves as an expansion tank to hold and release smaller volumes of air into the cannon itself. (For more information on Riptide, visit breakerbots.com)

The project has been a favorite of the team. “When Riptide was fully assembled and we got to fire the first t-shirt, I knew we had something special in this robot,” remarks Olney. Operations lead Anneka Keller agreed that “creating Riptide has been a really fun endeavor for the team... we all put our touch on the robot.” As they hoped, the BreakerBots have really been able to connect with the community through this robot, and they have been able to intrigue students and locals beyond the excitement of possibly grabbing a free t-shirt. “I’m glad the BreakerBots can create something to bring the school together... although I think there is always room for improvement, Riptide is surely the realization of what the team had envisioned,” Olney added.

Snow touched on the impact that this robot has had on the team’s publicity, stating, “I think it works great for recruiting new people onto the team and just promoting our team in general...I was very impressed with the robot we were able to make in the end.” Riptide has been leaving a mark even beyond the school; Keller shares that “by shooting T-shirts at every football game and rally we have launched our name into the community... We’ve gotten tons of news coverage from KSBW and the Cedar Street Times, which has gotten more people aware of the team. Overall it’s just been such a great experience and I’m very proud of the team and the robot we created.”

The BreakerBots have always loved participating in local events like the Good Old Days parade and showcases for various groups of students. Thanks to Riptide, the team has even more opportunities to participate in the community and to share their passion for engineering in a fun and engaging way.



The BreakerBot’s latest creation: the crowd-riling, red and gold T-shirt cannon named Riptide. Some of you may have been lucky enough to see Riptide at football games or other rally events, and others may have been even luckier to catch a free T-shirt.

Breakers Girls Tennis Rounds Off Vigorous Week of Matches

Abdhi Jadeja

The Breakers Tennis Team girls have been working hard throughout their season so far, and this past week they faced off against three opponents in a row. After a grueling week of matches, Pacific Grove emerged with a win against Carmel (6-1) and losses to Salinas (0-7) and Stevenson (1-6). Of the two losses, varsity co-captain and number one doubles player Caroline Coen emphasized that “we [the Breakers] didn’t give Stevenson or Salinas an easy victory. We made them work for it.”

Coen was referencing the fact that multiple individual matches against both Salinas and Stevenson went to nail-biting tiebreakers. Coen and her partner Maite Versavel split sets 0-6 6-2 against Salinas but then lost the tiebreaker 4-7, and Yuri Suzuki and Kira Kitayama, playing number two doubles against Stevenson, split sets 4-6 6-3 and then lost 8-10 in the tiebreaker to conclude the close match. Anneka Keller and Bella Yanez, who played number three doubles against Stevenson, also took their opponents to a very close tiebreaker.

Nevertheless, the Breakers’ terrific sportsmanship and friendliness against other teams was noticed and praised by players from other schools; Salinas number four singles player Isabelle complimented the immense sportsmanship that Pacific Grove’s girls displayed, saying that “it was a fun match no matter what the score was.” The Breakers closed out their intense week with a gratifying and deserved win against Carmel. Currently ranked number four in the county and eligible for playoffs for the second year in a row, the Breaker Girls Tennis Team is ready to take on the last four matches of their regular season.

The team’s last home game was against Monterey on October 22 at 4pm.

The Breaker Girls’ Tennis Team with Coach Mrs. Buller on the courts after a vigorous round of practice matches.



General News

Harriet Tubman: A Heroine “Harriet” Movie Review

By Mariam Esber

Focus Features’ “Harriet” brings to life the story of Harriet Tubman (Cynthia Erivo), an American abolitionist who was born a slave in Dorchester County, South Carolina, and who ran one-hundred miles to freedom in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Cynthia Erivo’s performance transformed the public’s image regarding Tubman from noble old lady to powerful, resilient, and fearless heroine.

Set in 1849, “Harriet” begins when Tubman (Araminta “Minty” Ross at the time) and her freed husband John Tubman (Zachary Momoh) attempt to convince Harriet’s owners that she and her siblings are legally meant to be free. However, her owners (despicable characters) unsurprisingly refuse to let her and her family go, and instead find an opportunity to sell Harriet “down the river.” Unwilling to part with her loved ones in such a horrific fashion and receiving supposed premonitions from God, Harriet decides to make her escape from North Carolina to Philadelphia on foot, relying merely on the following advice given to her by an African American priest: “Follow that North star. If there are no stars, just follow the river. Listen for it. Fear is your enemy.”

Following a suspenseful journey fraught with hounds and slave catchers, during which Tubman uttered the iconic quote “I will be free, or die!”, the heroine makes it North and meets William Still (Leslie Odom Jr.), who later makes Tubman an agent for the Underground Railroad, and Marie Buchanon (Janelle Monáe), who teaches Tubman how to carry herself with pride. A year after her escape, Tubman begins returning South and freeing countless slaves, all on foot and through means of the Underground Railroad. She becomes so successful at freeing slaves that she earns the nickname “Moses” and later becomes the first woman to ever lead an army during the Civil War, after which she raises a family she can truly call her own. Aside from the flawless acting and engaging plot, the “Harriet” set, costuming, and soundtrack leave one fully immersed in the life of an African American woman in the 1800s, truly a work of art.

Downton Abbey: A Weaker Cup of Earl Grey

By Mariam Esber

The beloved PBS series Downton Abbey returned this fall with a film bearing more spectacle than substance. The movie’s watered down plot, in contrast with the enticing story lines of the preceding six seasons, leaves newcomers unable to appreciate the complexity of the characters. So, if you are not familiar with Downton Abbey but fancy the idea of dressing up in your furs and watching the film while sipping a cuppa, I’d caution you against that decision. Nonetheless, for those devoted fans of Downton, the film hits the spot: a truly perfect continuation that leaves viewers reassured as to the future of the great estate and its dear inhabitants.

The film, set in 1927, brings back the cast in preparation for a royal visit to Downton. Much else is the same in the upstairs and downstairs: Lord Grantham (Hugh Bonneville) is calm and collected, appearing to appreciate, according to Jeanette Catsoulis of the New York Times, his dog’s company more than that of his also calm and collected wife (Elizabeth McGovern). Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) experiences an “is this privileged life worth it?” moment of questioning, only to be reassured (by her servant, no less) that “Downton is the heart of the community.” Mary’s sister, Lady Edith, is content enough when her past of familial neglect is taken into account. And the adored Dowager Countess, perhaps one of the two most exciting characters specifically in the context of this film, runs after her cousin’s inheritance that, in the end, is given to a servant that happens to be said cousin’s illegitimate daughter (servants really get perks in the Downton universe).

Downstairs, the Downton staff butts heads with the royal servants. The refined war between the Downton butler, Mr. Carson (Jim Carter), and His Majesty’s Page of the Backstairs (David Haig), leaves nothing to be desired. In addition, the love story between Thomas Barrow (Rob James-Collier) and his beau, the king’s valet (Max Brown), leaves fans shouting “it’s about bloody time!” Daisy (Sophie McShera), the undercook and fiancée to footman Andy (Michael C. Fox), hesitates to set a wedding date until Andy goes into a jealous rage and breaks the boiler “for her” after she makes eyes at a plumber (so romantic). Mrs. Patmore (Lesley Nicol) is tossed aside by the Gordon Ramsey of the royal household, the chef, Monsieur Courbet (Phillipe Spall), until Mr. and Mrs. Bates drug him and lock him in his bedroom so she can cook instead. Thanks to the efforts of the Bateses, the Downton staff end up preparing and serving the king and queen’s feast, which is made clear to their majesty’s by footman Molesley’s (Kevin Doyle) humiliating but unsurprising dinner-time soliloquy.

Lovers of the Downton Abbey series will love the film, mainly because the characters behave exactly as a devoted fan would expect them to (no arc is altered). When director Julian Fellowes was asked whether he anticipated another Downton film, perhaps one encompassing a single character’s storyline, he responded “I don’t know. I don’t know what will happen tomorrow!” Nevertheless, for the devoted fan, the Downton Abbey film leaves watchers smiling and reassured as to the fate of the Downton estate.

An Honest Review of Todd Phillip’s “Joker”

By Faqeha Qureshi

Not to be overdramatic, but “Joker” was probably one of the greatest movies I’ve ever seen. From the cinematography and score to Joaquin Phoenix’s iconic portrayal of the famous villain, “Joker” had me leaving the theater with goosebumps still clinging to my skin. Phoenix should most definitely be nominated for an Academy Award because even if there were some mishaps within the story, he makes up for them with a performance that has you at the edge of your seat.

But let’s first talk about some of the criticism the movie faced. Despite how chilling, bold, and gorgeous the movie was as a whole, there were some things within its two-hour runtime that had me quite upset. Part of my irritation was due to the director’s attempt in showing the overall theme. At times I was wondering if Todd Phillips was supporting or rejecting Arthur’s (the Joker) violent actions because, for a majority of the movie, it seemed as if we were supposed to pity the villain enough to consider him a hero rather than an antagonistic villain. The director puts him in the position of a helpless sheep, with the wolves being the rich, white elites who ran Gotham and hunted him down. As Joaquin goes down the path of grim wickedness and insanity, he began to decipher his victims one by one, and this gave me the feeling that what the antagonist was doing was the right thing.

It’s as if Phillips was showing that those who struggle with mental illness are more likely to commit violent crimes. However, I did some research, and that is not entirely true. According to Psychiatrist Ziv Cohen, “Individuals with mental illness are no more violent than the population as a whole. Persons with mental illness are more likely to be victims of crimes than to commit them.” So what was the director exactly trying to say?

Before we get there, there’s another point worth mentioning: Arthur Fleck was a lower-class, wannabe stand-up comedian who suffered from an uncontrollable laughing condition. Because of this, he represents the equivalence of a human punching bag when out in public, continuously getting beaten up and left to face his injuries alone. It was only after getting fired from his job and shooting the three employees that he slowly became crazy. Randall was Arthur’s co-worker in the clown business. He was the one who gave him the gun that resulted in him losing his job, and he placed all the blame on Fleck. The three drunk men from Wayne Enterprises started to beat Arthur to the core on the subway for laughing at their attempts to swoon a girl. Snapping from all the pent-up anger, he then shoots them. This outburst of violence isn’t a common thing among movies today, but now looking back on these scenes, it appears that Phillips is having Arthur represent a “white-face.” What’s that, you ask?

Arthur’s career was ruined because of rich men. Thomas Wayne, the billionaire running for major, upon hearing of the shooting of his workers, labeled the murderer as a “clown,” despite Arthur being upset that men like them were given better opportunities than him. The riots soon started, and Gotham became what you usually see in the Batman movies: dark, bloody, and dangerous. Arthur, remaining hidden amongst the protestors, started gaining new-found confidence because of this statement. To him, those hundreds of men and women behind the clown masks were fighting for the same cause: equal treatment. This fight symbolizes the term “white-face,” or a man who hides under the mask of demurral and objection. Arthur refuses to believe that whatever he was objecting to was false, and holds onto the belief that lower-class people like him would get onto equal terms with a society that mistreated him in the past. There was a scene near the end — quite a shocking scene, so I won’t go too in-depth with it — in which Randall, the same man who gave Arthur the gun, comes to his apartment door to see the man with a face painted entirely white.

But we’re forgetting someone: Murray Franklin, the talk-show host who insulted Arthur on live television. During their broadcast interview, Arthur admits to the audience that he was responsible for the deaths of the employees, which leaves everyone in shock (Including me, because this was supposed to be live television!) He then asks Murray why he pities the men, despite the cruel things they did to him on the subway. Then comes probably the best line in the entire movie, when Arthur can’t contain his anger any longer he then asks the host, “What do you get when you cross a mentally ill loner with a society that abandons him and treats him like trash?”

Everything goes to chaos after this, but Phoenix’s deliverance of the line left me half gasping, half cheering.

One last thing I’d like to mention is about the movie’s ending. I was nearly in tears when Arthur used the blood from his wound to draw a smile on his face, because this was a man who endured pain throughout most of his life. He always put on a “happy face” to hide his sufferings, and now he doesn’t have to stay in the shadows anymore. Seeing him finally go from Arthur Fleck to the Joker was surely a liberating and mesmerizing experience.

Overall, I liked “Joker.” Sure, there were some faults here and there with a plot, but if you’re someone who can manage watching this type of material, “Joker” is definitely something to check out.



Arthur Fleck, also known as the Joker, shown here wearing his iconic makeup.

Life as a Thespian By Emmitt Withrow

Do you want answers about life as an actor? “I WANT THE TRUTH!” Well guess what buddy, “YOU CAN’T HANDLE THE TRUTH!” (A Few Good Men; this article is about acting, so it’s going to have many quotes). Actors have interesting lives, for a multitude of reasons: they memorize lines, sometimes spend hours doing make-up, work with other hard-to-work-with actors, work with hard-to-work-with directors, just to name a few. Actually, now that I think about it, acting is really a minefield. You need to look before you take another step.

First, you decide if you want a particular role, or your agent decides whether you want the role, then the producers have to find the right person for the role and say, “Round up the usual suspects,” (Casablanca). Next, you have to meet with the producers to see if you are right for the role. The outcome can either make or break your life — and all of these steps can take weeks. On set, it all depends on your co-stars and director(s). When it comes to them, “You’ve got to ask yourself one question: ‘Do I feel lucky?’ Well, do ya, punk?” (Dirty Harry). Many actors and actresses say the base of their experience comes from working with co-stars and directors.

The relationships can make or break a career and make or break an experience. An instance of a hateful relationship between actors can be seen between Tom Hardy and Shia LaBeouf. On the set of the 2012 film Lawless, Hardy was supposedly pushed down a flight of stairs (not according to the script). And I mean, have you seen Shia LaBeouf in anything in the last 2 years? On a brighter side, there can also be good, healthy, trusting relationships. Look at Game of Thrones stars Sophie Turner and Maisie Williams. They met each other at auditions for Game of Thrones, and over the span of the show they became not only Stark sisters, but best friends in real life (which is strange considering the characters don’t interact for most of the show. Spoilers). Williams is even going to a bridesmaid for Turner’s wedding. However, there are also those incidents where co-stars loathe each other, where one actor says to another “What we’ve got here is a failure to communicate.” (Cool Hand Luke). In this case, look at the film Romeo + Juliet. In this extremely ironic instance, the two leads Leonardo DiCaprio (Romeo) and Claire Danes (Juliet) hated working with each other.

Anyway, now we will dive showbiz, stage style. To be clear, this is about stage actors. You know, on stage, in front of a live audience, where there is no second chance, where actors don’t typically get paid (especially in high school). So it’s all for fun and enjoyment. So don’t yell “Show me the MONEY!!” (Jerry Maguire), to any of our directors. All the directors will give you in response is “You talkin’ to ME?” (Taxi Driver), or “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.” (Gone with the Wind). The stage is a dangerous place, my dear (Emmitt Withrow). However, it is also a very rewarding place. As an actor myself, I know about life behind and in front of the curtain. The situation can be very stressful, especially if you don’t perform a show for a few days in a row. And when the show is going on, you must enter or exit at exactly the right time. But if you pull it off, you might be able to shout “Yo Adrian, I DID IT!!” (Rocky II). And you get to use props, and yell “Say ‘Hello’ to my little friend!” (Scarface). Then there is one of the best parts in my opinion — improvisation. For those of you who don’t know, improvisation is when you have to come up with something on the spot. Surprisingly, some of the most famous scenes in film history were 100% improvised. Here are three. We’ve all seen Jaws, right? (If you haven’t, I suggest you do.) Well, you know the scene when Brody first sees the shark and he mutters six of the most famous words in film? You know the ones. “You’re gonna need a bigger boat” (Jaws). Second, after Jack Nickleson breaks down the door of the bathroom in the Overlook Hotel and exclaims, “Hereeeeeeeee’s Johnny!” (The Shining). Completely improvised. Last are the famous words said by Tony Stark at the press conference announcing his identity. “I am Iron Man” (Iron Man). Thank You Robert Downey Jr., thank you.

So, anyway, those are just some of the things actors go through to bring each and every show to their audience. So go check out a show sometime, as there are lots around. And maybe even be in one; they are a lot of fun. So, “Thank you, everyone. We are the Four Horsemen, Good Night” (Now You See Me).



A scene from the recent student-directed and performed musical “A Very Potter Musical,” with senior Seth Knoop (front) playing Lord Voldemort.

Students Lead Global Climate Strike 2019

By Cassidy Novack

On September 20, around 6 million people from all over the world rallied together to protest climate change. Inspired by Greta Thunberg, a young Swedish activist, the Global Climate Strike was largely supported by teens and young adults, many of whom skipped school or work to march for the cause. Pictures of the event show streets flooded with people, letting the world know that they care about our planet's future.

However, Earth's future is coming faster and faster due to the effects of industrialization. Many scientists estimate that we have just over a decade before climate change becomes irreversible. These estimations are causing a widespread panic that is largely due to the nations of the world having trouble coming up with and committing to a climate plan. In America, the government's lack of enthusiasm for climate change is scaring the young people who will be living with the consequences of climate change. With the government failing to take action, the September Climate Strikes were born.

Here in Monterey, the Carmel High School Environmental Club gathered a group of students at Colton Hall from almost every school in Monterey Bay, including Pacific Grove, York, Monterey, Stevenson, MPC, and Carmel. The large group marched through downtown Monterey carrying creative signs and singing an array of chants, including "Strike or Swim," "I don't know what I've been told, but climate change is getting old," and "Our house is on fire." Many pedestrians and drivers showed their support for the strike by honking their horns, clapping, cheering, and even joining in the march. By the time the group had reached Monterey Bay Park, there were about 70 students and 10 adults who joined in. From there, they lined up on the road and protested for a couple of hours. It was remarkable that an originally small gathering turned into a large event where like-minded individuals came together for their common interest to preserve Mother Earth, even if they are normally competitors in sports and other rankings. Their cooperation despite personal differences suggests hope that the younger generations will catalyze environmental change even while their governments do nothing.



Students protest on campus (not PGHS in picture) during the Global Climate Strike.

An Overview of the General Motors Strike

By Nathan Binder

Beginning September 15, 2019, now 40,000 members of the United Auto Workers Union (UAW) and employees of the General Motors (GM) car manufacturer have been on strike. The workers demand better pay, health care, and job security, and GM's failure to satisfy these demands contributed to the start of the strike. Additionally, GM announced the closure of the Detroit-Hamtramck Plant and three other U.S. plants, as well as two factories in the U.S. and Canada. GM offered about \$7 billion to eight U.S. plants, which would create over 5,000 jobs, but the company did not consider the union workers' demands.

The UAW sought to increase rates for entry-level employees, in order to create better futures for the middle-class. GM offered to invest in factories to gain employees and to begin the production of vehicles again. They also offered the production of other vehicles to be built in only UAW plants. GM additionally offered workers the union's demands and an additional \$8,000 if they approve the deal.

On October 16, the UAW and GM came to an agreement. GM offered higher wages for the workers and a plan for temporary employees to become permanent employees. GM's proposal also offered workers a pay of \$32 per hour and the abolition of an economic hierarchy, or a two tier system, in which one set of employees receives a lower pay than another group. The end to the two-tier system applies only to employees hired at GM plants after 2007. Union members voted throughout the following week to accept or decline GM's proposal.

As a follow up to the vote, union workers celebrated the end of their 40-day strike. Most of the workers voted for GM's proposal, which officially ended the strike. As a result, workers gained wage increases, factory investments, the ability for temporary workers to become permanent employees.

However, there were negative impacts. Health-care costs remain the same, but more importantly, a factory in Ohio (Lordstown, Ohio Plant), which once produced compact cars, was unable to re-open. In addition, the strike affected employees of GM plants in Mexico, as there were talks of moving production from Mexican plants to the Lordstown plant in Ohio. Furthermore, as GM awaits the production of parts, they closed five American and Canadian plants. After the closure of the Lordstown plant, GM promised the opening of a factory near the Lordstown plant, which would produce electric-car batteries. This plan is unsupported by union workers as it would oppose promised wage increases.

The aftermath of the strike hurt many employees and the General Motors company. Closed factories and delayed production contribute to the workers' dissatisfaction. The question is whether the GM strike benefitted the workers more than it harmed them.



United Auto Workers Union members protest outside a General Motors factory.

Highlights from BTS's World Tour

By Faqeha Qureshi

Selling out stadium venues with capacities of up to 120 thousand people within 48 hours, the seven members (RM, Jin, Suga, J-hope, Jimin, V, and Jungkook) of the South Korean group BTS put on a wide variety of iconic performances, bringing both old and new concepts to their "Love Yourself: Speak Yourself" world tour that had audiences singing, laughing, screaming, and crying.

Some of the highlights include their electrifying opening with "Dionysus," where the group and back-up dancers showcased their exhilarating choreography and high ranging vocals under the eyes of two massive jaguar statues. Along with this introduction was Jungkook's (lead vocalist) aerial performance of his solo, "Euphoria," which left fans in awe at his angelic vocals and ethereal beauty. RM (leader and main rapper) performed a holographic version of "Trivia: Love," with floating hearts that followed him across the stage. As a gift to fans in Saudi Arabia, he had the hearts spell out "I love Riyadh" in Arabic. Jin (sub-vocalist) holds the highest praise of all the solos with his piano-accompaniment to "Epiphany." Audience members from every country had at least one thing to say about the "sad piano guy," and it was only to laud how gorgeous his voice was. Some people admit that they were sobbing tears by the end.

BTS in DIOR was another memorable moment, with the members performing their hip-hop section of the concert in fits made by fashion designer Kim Jones. J-hope (sub-rapper and vocalist) was the eye-grabber during "Outro: TEAR" and "MIC Drop," with a black camo fit that had people swooning. And we can't forget how the group brought out massive inflatables for their "Anpanman" performance. It's funny how these men, well in their 20s, weren't ashamed of showing off their more childish sides in front of thousands of strangers. They sing the song of self-confidence while chasing each other up slides, through superhero cutouts, and across the stage.

As they were close to finishing their tours, they always had a few words to give to their fans. Usually taking around fifteen minutes, each member (with the help of a native translator) gives their thoughts on the concert experience, followed by wishes and grateful thank yous in their native Korean tongue.

"Dreams came true at this place that we've always wanted to set foot," Suga (lead-rapper) says during their second night at Wembley.

V (sub-vocalist) adds to Suga's comment, saying, "It's truly a dream come true. We will never forget this moment that we created together." Marking the end of their performance was "Make It Right" and "Mikrokosmos," during which the fans began to cry (probably for the 100th time). Wembley surprised BTS with a karaoke of one of their classics "Young Forever" as a departing gift, while Seoul, during the final three showings, witnesses a display of 300 drones flying above the stadium. The group closes with an elaborate display of fireworks under the instrumentals of "Mikrokosmos."

The world tour generated a staggering \$117 million, as well as a worldwide handful of new fans. Despite the "Love Yourself" era coming to a close, RM tells the fans that the journey only continues.

"Where there is a beginning there is an ending and where there is a meeting, there is also a farewell. The final concert came to an end, but I think it is also another beginning. It is because of you that we are here today. I hope even one word or one line in our lyrics can help you to love yourselves."

He ends their final moments with, "I am not sure if there is a better word of love, but I love you all very much. We thank you for making all this glory, and are excited for what the future holds."



Lead vocalists of BTS sing behind a dramatic backdrop of fire during their world tour.

History in the Making: The Impeachment Inquiry

By Nathan Binder

Ever since Donald Trump was elected into office, there were talks of impeaching him by those who felt he should have been removed for his actions in the early days of his presidency. However, within the past month, formal impeachment inquiries by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi have been launched. Trump is being investigated by the House as a result of a whistleblower's complaint stemming from a recorded phone call the president made with the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky. In the call, Trump and Zelensky discussed military aid between the two nations. The United States was intending to provide up to \$400 million of military aid to the Ukrainian government to fight the Russian invasion, which started in 2014. However, Trump said he would withhold the aid until Zelensky provided 'political dirt' on Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. The military aid was eventually provided to the Ukrainian military.

During the call with Zelensky, Trump insisted that the Ukrainian president investigate Hunter Biden for serving on the executive board of a Ukrainian oil and gas company. Trump's goal in collecting information from Zelensky was to make the Bidens look corrupt in the election and thus to weaken Joe Biden's bid for the 2020 election. However, Trump's claim is alleged, as there is no evidence to support Trump's claim that the Bidens performed illegal actions. The Democratic-led House of Representatives is currently conducting a series of closed and open interviews and depositions from individuals with firsthand knowledge of the president's call with the Ukrainian government to fight the Russian invasion, which started in 2014. However, Trump said he would withhold the aid until Zelensky provided 'political dirt' on Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. The military aid was eventually provided to the Ukrainian military.

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Following the house's closed door depositions regarding the impeachment inquiry, public hearings began on November 13. Two diplomats, William Bill Taylor and George Kent have testified their concerns of U.S. policies and security interests in Ukraine. According to Taylor, Trump is more concerned with pushing forward with the Biden investigation than the security figures in Ukraine. Kent's testimony was focused on and American officials such as Rudy Giuliani, Trump's lawyer and Gordon Sondland, a U.S. ambassador to the European Union allegedly allying with corrupt officials in Ukraine, who's work involved undermining a U.S. diplomat named Marie Yovanovitch. Furthermore, the removal of Yovanovitch, aligned with Kent's previous claims about U.S. officials siding with Ukraine. On Friday, Yovanovitch gave her testimony, claiming that she has been the target of a smear campaign by Ukrainians and Giuliani. She claimed that Trump has intimidated her from his recent tweets. As new hearings continue to be released, the public will have greater knowledge on the direction of the impeachment.

Reflecting on the impeachment inquiry, I believe that Trump has committed a variety of corrupt actions including, but not limited to, withholding pre-approved military aid from Ukraine, openly asking a foreign government to intervene in our democratic process, using the office of the presidency to financially benefit members of his family and his own business, obstructing justice by refusing to turn over documents to Congress, and lying to and firing the head investigators. The House impeachment inquiry should continue to move ahead and gather further evidence to support the possible removal of Trump from office, requiring Senate action. As the impeachment inquiry now enters the public phase, we shall be able to review the facts for ourselves and make our own judgements about the president's actions.

College Apps: My Life Now

By Oscar Scholin

Ah, November. It's the awkward period after fall break but before finals (and Winter Break) characterized by chilly mornings, rain, and turkey-based family reunions. It's also the month many seniors submit their early applications or their UC and CSU applications and continue to crank out supplemental essays for those applications due at the beginning of January. But what is the college application process anyways, and how does it feel to be caught in the middle of that process right now as a senior?

Let's first begin with a discussion of the process itself. It starts with taking the SAT and ACT standardized tests as a sophomore, junior, or senior and taking college visits in person or online, but that's a whole separate process within itself. So I'll start by assuming you've taken the SAT or ACT and have a list of colleges you are interested in. Most colleges accept the Common Application (or Common App for short), but some require the Coalition Application or even have their own independent application, such as the UCs or the Cal States or MIT.

As many seniors will tell you, having to manually enter every single class you have ever taken at high school along with your grades for the UCs means hours of tedious, debilitating drudgery. Luckily, the Common App allows counselors to submit students' transcripts directly, thereby obviating the need for the student to manually input data. While I can't speak about the Coalition App, the Common App is a relatively streamlined experience: you fill out lots of background information about you and your family, write a personal statement, fill out your APs, enter your SAT/ACT scores and SAT-II subject tests if you have those, and somehow condense the entirety of your extracurriculars into 10, 50 word blurbs. Okay, so it may still be a little convoluted, but at least you only have to do all that once and then just add your supplemental writing pieces for each individual school. You can easily search for colleges and add them to your homepage, which helps you to organize yourself and see which apps are due when. Each college has its own supplements which vary in length due to the college requirements.

I'd now like to discuss the bigger picture: the college application system itself. Currently, there are up to four ways of applying "early." Early Action (EA), Restrictive Early Action (REA), Early Decision (ED) I, and even Early Decision II for some colleges. Colleges, like us, seek certainty. They seek to build their classes and know the numbers and types of students they'll have attending, and hence ED. In ED, not only do students submit early and are not allowed to apply anywhere else during the early period, but they also are bound by their decision to automatically accept if they are accepted. REA is similar in that it is restrictive like ED, but it is non-binding. In both cases, colleges are pushing the dates for submission earlier and earlier, robbing us of later dates for taking the SAT and ACT tests and forcing us to apply some serious strategy to the whole "game" of the college admissions process — applying early can bring benefits for the student, but most colleges only let you pick one place to apply to early, which means you have to carefully choose which school for which you want to use that early decision slot. If you apply ED, you don't have the luxury of comparing what financial aid packages other colleges might be offering you; you just have to apply and hope that you did your research and chose the right college. As you may see, the current system favors the colleges instead of the students while it should do the reverse. I believe that colleges should all have one individual due date or at least only offer EA in order to remove the whole element of strategy and unfair advantages in terms of where and when you apply; all applicants should be considered equally and not be given preference depending on when they submit their application.

In short, the college application process elicits a spectrum of emotions from all of us, from excitement and curiosity to frustration and anxiety. Regardless of where you apply and what your opinions may be about the whole process, you will get to know yourself much better as you continually answer the question "tell us something unique about you" — I know that I certainly did. We are fortunate to be PGHS students, where, if we have the desire to go on, we have access to resources to try and make our dreams a reality.

Bios

Matthew Mendez Co-editor and Journalist



Matthew Mendez is a senior at Pacific Grove High School and co-editor of the PGHS NewsBreaker. Born and raised on the Monterey Peninsula, he has attended Pacific Grove schools since preschool. Matthew has been a part of the Pacific Grove Pops Orchestra since its inception and currently holds the position of principal cellist. He also holds the title of Monterey County's Poetry Out Loud Champion and competed as a state finalist in last year's Poetry Out Loud recitation. Matthew has also received awards from the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in both his sophomore and junior years for original works of poetry. In terms of interests, he has a deep love for Pre-Columbian and Latin American history, music composition, art, sustainable architecture, and global politics. He looks forward to a fun and exciting year.

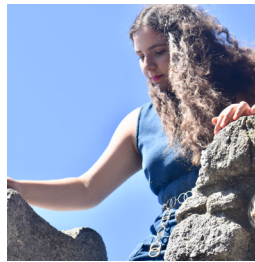
Oscar Scholin Co-editor and Journalist



Oscar Scholin is a senior this year at Pacific Grove High School, a co-editor of the NewsBreaker, and a fourth year returning member. A lover of both the humanities and the sciences, Oscar enjoys spending his time reading about the Roman Empire, writing poetry, and studying multivariable calculus. Outside of the NewsBreaker, he is a member of Breaker-Science, Young Writers' Club, the BreakerBots Operations Team, and Mr. Grate's thrilling War Games Club. Outside of school, he plays the French Horn in the community Pacific Grove Pops orchestra and in Mrs. Hruby's PGHS Philharmonic. He looks forward to a rewarding and delightful final year with the NewsBreaker!

Mariam Esber Journalist

Mariam Esber was born in Damascus and lived there until the age of ten before the Syrian Civil War forced her to flee. Prior to attending PGHS, Mariam lived in both Madrid and Chicago, where she acquired a deep respect for literature, poetry, and music. She enjoys acting, playing the piano, and writing movie reviews.



Mitali Chowdhury Journalist

Mitali Chowdhury is a senior who has been writing for the NewsBreakers since she first moved to PG from New Jersey. In addition to news articles, she writes poetry and code — Mitali loves engineering and computer science, and spends a lot of time building and programming robots as a member of the BreakerBots, designing and developing websites, and working on various other coding projects. She is an ardent musician as well, and enjoys playing bassoon, flute, and piano. Other than programming and playing instruments, Mitali also enjoys science and math and is a member of Breaker Science, Go Green Club, and the PGHS Math Club. She looks forward to another year of fun with the NewsBreakers!



Noor Benny Journalist



Noor Benny is a junior at Pacific Grove High School. A lover of sports, she participates in the girls' basketball team, cross country team, and track and field team. Noor is also a member of Pacific High School's mock trial team and National Honor Society. As the daughter of two immigrants, Noor is bilingual and speaks Arabic and English. She is excited to join the NewsBreaker for the first time.

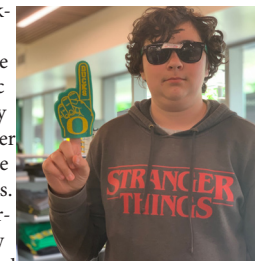
Anneka Keller Photographer



Anneka Keller, a sophomore, has grown up in PG for her whole life. She is actively involved in various extracurriculars, such as varsity tennis and varsity swimming, various clubs on campus, and the high school's robotics team, the BreakerBots. Anneka is also very passionate about conversation and can commonly be found volunteering at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, typically helping out with the sleepovers. Whenever she gets a break, you can find Anneka cooking, reading, relaxing with her pets, or hanging out with friends. This year she is very excited to be a photographer for the NewsBreaker.

Emmitt Withrow Journalist

Emmitt Withrow, a 15-year-old PGHS student, is happy to continue working for the NewsBreaker. He was born on December 6th, 2003 in Santa Cruz. For the first two years of his life, he lived in an RV on the south side of Big Sur. Then, he lived across the street from Caledonia Park in Pacific Grove, California. One year later, his landlords kicked him and his family out. Now, he lives six blocks away from his local scholastic education center for teenagers. He is currently a Pacific Grove High School Sophomore. He likes hanging out with his friends, listening to music, traveling, and turtles. He hopes to interview, take pictures, and write articles of events that interest him. He wishes to graduate from a four year college and travel to new and exotic places, such as Greece, Costa Rica, and Aruba. He is very excited about continuing to write for the NewsBreaker.



Caroline Coen Journalist

Caroline Coen, a junior, returns to the NewsBreaker staff for a third year in 2019-2020. In addition to writing for the NewsBreaker, Caroline remains involved in a variety of school activities. Caroline marches in the BreakerBand with her flute and enjoys participating in cross country, track and field, tennis, and soccer. This summer, Caroline relished interacting with fellow Pacific Grove citizens and bringing joy to the community during her reign as Queen Topaz 2019. She previously served two summers as Princess Emerald 2017 and Princess Amethyst 2018. Because of her love of books, Caroline volunteers weekly at the Pacific Grove Public Library. She enthusiastically looks forward to continuing to write for the NewsBreaker this year.



Cassidy Novack Journalist



Cassidy Novack is a sophomore at Pacific Grove High School. She participates in the school band, orchestra, and Youth Music Monterey on the French horn. Aside from music, Cassidy is interested in writing and science, particularly astronomy and psychology. She is also a Senior Girl Scout and frequently volunteers in the Monterey community. Cassidy is excited for her first year with the PGHS NewsBreaker.

Faqeha Qureshi Journalist and Cartoonist



Faqeha Qureshi is a current sophomore at PGHS. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, and was raised with a passion to protect animals and the environment. She enjoys sketching and writing in her spare time, and loves to teach children at both the local museum and the county SPCA about handling creatures and the natural world with care. In addition, Faqeha plays basketball and enjoys mountain biking. Just recently, she has also started horseback riding, and is in the process of writing her first novel. She is thrilled to join NewsBreaker as a Journalist and Cartoonist.

Nathan Binder Journalist

Nathan Binder is 15 years old and was born in Monterey, California. He has lived in Monterey his whole life. He has attended Pacific Grove schools since second grade. Nathan attended Forest Grove Elementary School, Pacific Grove Middle School, and is currently a sophomore at Pacific Grove High School. He plays trumpet in the school's Breaker Band. Nathan's favorite hobbies are playing his trumpet, mountain biking, and doing karate. He regularly volunteers to serve breakfast to the hungry on Sunday mornings. He also sometimes volunteers and helps the Pacific Grove Middle School jazz bands.



William Coen Journalist

Freshman William Coen joins the NewsBreaker this fall as a journalist and photographer. He looks forward to his first year as a member of the staff. Outside of the NewsBreaker, William enjoys athletics at Pacific Grove High School. He is running cross country this fall and plans to participate in soccer, track and field, and tennis later in the year. William pursues music as a trumpet player in the BreakerBand and also plays jazz music outside of school. He is a member of the Math Club and often competes in math competitions, as this is his favorite subject in school. William additionally is a member of the Spanish and Yearbook Clubs. He looks forward to this year and to many future years of writing articles for the NewsBreaker.



Abdhi Jadeja Journalist and Photographer



Abdhi Jadeja is a sophomore this year who is honored to be a part of the NewsBreaker staff. Born at CHOMP, she has lived in the Monterey County her whole life, moving to Pacific Grove right before she started kindergarten at Forest Grove. She plays clarinet in the Breaker Band during both marching and concert season. In addition, she plays tennis for the PGHS Girls' Tennis Team. She has been a martial artist for most of her life and when she's not training, you can find her relaxing on her sofa at home with a good book... or, more commonly, taking seemingly endless amounts of notes for her classes. This past summer, Abdhi had the pleasure of serving on the Feast of Lanterns 2019 Royal Court as Princess Amethyst. She enjoys writing about sports events and school life and is thrilled to be a part of the 2019-2020 NewsBreaker staff!