



Holidays Bring End of Semester

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Breakers Review Distance Learning After a Full Semester on Screens



By Maryam Baryal, Class of 2024

The first semester of distance learning is almost over, and PGHS students have now had plenty of time to form their opinions on virtual education.

In a survey of 133 Breakers by *The Newsbreaker*, seventy percent of students said they like in-person learning much more than distance learning. The reasons for this majority preference include technical difficulties, inability to see friends and classmates, distractions, and lack of motivation. A large number of students said they weren't big fans of how the classes were scheduled. More specifically, PGHS students disliked the thirty-minute-long breaks between classes, viewing them as pointless and unnecessary because it is nearly impossible to be productive in that time. Many students proposed the more efficient idea of having ten-minute-long breaks between classes, which would allow school to end earlier and give them more time to complete homework. For many students, workloads were particularly intense this semester, a byproduct of the distance learning schedule. Instead of the traditional seven class semester schedule, Breakers immersed themselves in three or four classes each quarter, squeezing a semester's worth of content into a nine-week "quarmerster."

The heavy workload is not the only factor contributing to the fact that for many students, the learning aspect of distance learning has been more challenging than they expected. As sophomore Shayla Francisco shares, "I can't remember anything I learned because it felt more like just turning in assignments rather than learning." Another sophomore student, Ivan Maximoff, expresses that "it is a lot harder to be motivated in distance learning. You aren't in a class with a teacher in front of you. A lot of your success in distance learning is based on your own self-drive."

Even though many students prefer in-person learning, they're certainly not taking all the positives (aside from staying safe and protecting themselves from coronavirus) for granted. For example, a large number of students said their favorite part of online school was getting to sleep in until 10:30 am if they didn't have a first period class. Other students enjoyed the freedom and flexibility that their schedule gave them. PGHS senior Sophie Lueken shares, "I really like having the ability to structure my time (mostly) how I want." Asynchronous days have also been a student favorite because it feels like "an extra weekend day." Additionally, the style of online learning works for some kids. For shier students who feel unenthusiastic about verbally answering questions in class, virtual school is ideal. Sophomore Aidan Ayala appreciates that "I get called on less during [online] class."

Despite the trials and tribulations of distance learning, PGHS as a whole understands and appreciates that no matter how tough the times have gotten, students and staff have continued to stay resilient.

Right: Freshman Oliver Page has his work spread out on his bed.



PGHS QUARTER 2 BELL SCHEDULE 2020.21

DAY OF THE WEEK	BELL SCHEDULE	TYPE OF LEARNING
MONDAY	*Period 1 9:00 - 10:00 Period 3 10:30 - 11:30 Period 5 12:30 - 1:30 Period 7 2:00 - 3:00	Online SYNCHRONOUS PERIOD 3 10:30 TO 11:00 ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS
TUESDAY	*Period 1 9:00 - 10:00 Period 3 10:30 - 11:30 Period 5 12:30 - 1:30 Period 7 2:00 - 3:00	ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS
WEDNESDAY	*Period 1 9:00 - 10:00 Period 3 10:30 - 11:30 Period 5 12:30 - 1:30 Period 7 2:00 - 3:00	ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS
THURSDAY	*Period 1 9:00 - 10:00 Period 3 10:30 - 11:30 Period 5 12:30 - 1:30 Period 7 2:00 - 3:00	ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS
FRIDAY	*Period 1 9:00 - 10:00 Period 3 10:30 - 11:30 Period 5 12:30 - 1:30 Period 7 2:00 - 3:00	ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS

On synchronous days, Breakers gathered on Zoom for classes. On asynchronous Mondays, teachers gave students assignments to complete on their own time.



Left: Junior Bella Green schools from her bed.

Right: Sophomore Hazen Montgomery logs into Zoom for class.



Holy Smokes! Potential Cannabis Dispensary in Pacific Grove



By Zoe Gleason, Class of 2021

In 2016, seven out of ten Pacific Grove residents voted “yes” on Proposition 64, which legalized recreational cannabis use. Ever since 2016, the number of cannabis dispensaries in Monterey County has grown. So, it was only a matter of time before the city of Pacific Grove became interested in the potential tax revenue a dispensary in town would bring. In early September of this year, the City Council voted on an ordinance, written by City Manager Ben Harvey, that would have overturned the city ban on dispensaries and would have allowed two dispensaries in Pacific Grove. The final vote at the City Council was close and they approved a compromise on only one dispensary. However, subsequent to that vote, realtor and PG resident Debby Beck turned in a petition with more than 1,100 signatures, demanding that the issue be decided by the public.

Members of the community also spoke out regarding their opinions on the possible addition of a dispensary in Pacific Grove. City Council member Jenny McAdams believes “a topic like cannabis should not be up to the city council to solely decide.” McAdams feels this decision is for the community, and that residents should be given the opportunity to participate. McAdams originally voted against the ordinance, having claimed it was rushed, poorly written, and had several areas that needed improvement. McAdams acknowledges a dispensary would have some benefits for the city, such as increased city funding from the sales tax revenue. The dispensary would also become an “anchor” for surrounding businesses. When asked about potential underage access to dispensaries, McAdams did not have any concerns regarding minors entering or purchasing from regulated dispensaries. She states that “access to drugs and alcohol to minors is prevalent in cities with or without a dispensary.” However, McAdams realizes that many residents live in Pacific Grove specifically because it is a great place to raise a family.

Resident Holly Gutfeld is excited about the prospective cannabis dispensary, as it would both benefit her personally and increase tax revenue. For Gutfeld, cannabis has changed her life by allowing her to be more present for her family and aiding with her mental health. Since cannabis is a part of her everyday life, a dispensary in Pacific Grove would be extremely convenient, as the one she currently uses is located in Carmel. Gutfeld believes dispensaries are “less of a risk than the local liquor store for the underage” since they are under extreme regulations against selling to minors.

Mayor Bill Peake also commented on the matter of the dispensary. Mayor Peake agrees with McAdams: that the decision of the cannabis dispensary should be up to the citizens of Pacific Grove. While Mayor Peake is not personally in favor of the dispensary, he “respects the views of residents who are in favor” and supports the issue being added to the ballot for the next general election. Mayor Peake does see such benefits as increased tax revenue and increased convenience for Pacific Grove residents that a dispensary would bring. However, Mayor Peake’s two main concerns are the impacts on tourism and the possible increase of cannabis possession by minors. Currently, tourism is Pacific Grove’s largest revenue source, and Mayor Peake believes a dispensary might alter the family-friendly and wholesome image of Pacific Grove. Mayor Peake also realizes that while precautions are put in place to prevent minors from purchasing cannabis, a dispensary in Pacific Grove would potentially increase the access of cannabis to underage youth.

It is clear the issue of a cannabis dispensary in Pacific Grove is controversial and it appears that it will be up to the citizens to decide at the next election.



Social Media in Our Student Body: A Gift or a Curse?



By Chloe Austria, Class of 2022

Social media is a huge part of today’s world. It brings people together, tears others apart, spreads news, and keeps almost everyone entertained. Teens are just as much a part of the social media world as adults (if not even more so), and Breakers are no exception.

In fact, forty-one percent of 126 Breakers surveyed admitted to spending between three and five hours a day on social media. Most of that time is spent on Tiktok (a relatively new platform that allows users to share short videos), which ranked as the most popular social media in the Pacific Grove High School student body. Instagram came in a very close second, while Snapchat came in third. The vast majority of PGHS students are involved in social media; only seven percent of surveyed Breakers claimed not to use any social media at all.

Most survey respondents agreed that a major benefit of social media is that they can stay connected to others. Some spoke about family that they do not get to often see, claiming that they communicate with them through pictures and comments on Instagram. In the words of one Breaker, “it is a certain way to feel connected to the outside world, especially right now during the pandemic.” Social media is a good way to see what everyone is doing during the pandemic, and to relate to other people’s pandemic experiences. On the flipside, one negative aspect students mentioned was the spread of false information, especially in 2020. The spreading of false information has become a political issue this year, and social media allows individuals to scroll through feeds that only promote perspectives and opinions they already have. Another negative aspect of social media, according to Breakers, is the distracting nature of social media. Breakers voted Tiktok as the most distracting social media app.

When asked about their interactions on social media, Breakers were divided in half on whether their interactions were heavily negative or positive. About fifty percent of students said that they have either had negative interactions themselves or were witness to negative interactions. One student comments, “Yeah some people are rude, but you can always block them.” The other half of surveyed students said that they have had frequent positive interactions. Many students spoke about being lifted up by their online community. During shelter-in-place, one student talked about making friends on Tiktok that live all over the US and feeling less alone because of these connections. Another student talked about creating and sharing art online and being encouraged to continue with it. When Breakers were asked to take a stance on whether social media was negative or positive overall, most students remained neutral in their opinions. Thirty-seven percent of students said that social media was more positive, and thirteen percent said it was more negative. The remaining fifty percent felt that social media is neither positive nor negative. Regardless of the merits and drawbacks of social media, it’s here to stay. So, Breakers and other community members, remember to be kind when you log into any social media. Individual efforts can make it a more positive place for everyone.

Left: The proposed location of the cannabis dispensary in Pacific Grove.

COVID-19 Has Impacted PGHS' Community Service Requirements, but Breakers Remain Involved in the Community

By Will Coen, Class of 2023



As the COVID-19 pandemic progresses, it continues to limit community service opportunities for Pacific Grove High School students. Because significantly fewer community service opportunities exist currently, it is much more difficult for PGHS students to accumulate the required community service hours for graduation. In normal times, each student would be required to complete a minimum of forty-eight hours of community service (twelve hours per year on average) to graduate from PGHS. However, the school has decided to alter the community service requirements for the classes of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

The class of 2021 (current seniors) will not be required to complete forty-eight hours of community service. Members of the class who have not completed forty-eight hours will still be allowed to graduate. The classes of 2022 (current juniors), 2023 (current sophomores), and 2024 (current freshmen) will only be required to complete thirty-six hours of community service to graduate. Although community service requirements have decreased, Ms. Janet Light of the PGHS Career Center “will continue to track hours accrued by [the school’s] students,” according to a recent notice. Furthermore, students can reach out to Ms. Light to learn about community service opportunities that still are possible during the pandemic.

According to a recent survey, sixty-five percent of PGHS students have not completed any community service since the beginning of quarantine in mid-March. Conversely, thirty-five percent of PGHS students have found ways to help out in the community. Of these students, thirty-eight percent have completed more than ten hours since mid-March. Some forms of community service completed by students include volunteering at the SPCA, volunteering at the AFRP, and volunteering at election polls. Additionally, some students have volunteered with our school’s Interact Club.

The NewsBreaker collected a few specific examples of students completing community service during the pandemic. Senior Thalia Hubbard formed an organization called Masks for Monterey County. Hubbard states that “the goal of [the organization is] to provide high-risk individuals, healthcare professionals, and essential workers with masks.” Hubbard has spent hundreds of hours volunteering with Masks for Monterey County and also volunteering through the National Charity League. Senior Zach Armas comments that he has “volunteered with a few friends to care for horses affected by the California fires.” Also, senior Sophia Ripke shares that she “volunteered with World Central Kitchen helping victims of the Santa Cruz wildfires.” Finally, junior Caitlin Silveira “made many cards for essential [workers] with the We Day Club.” Although community service opportunities have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that many students still have found ways to volunteer and positively represent Pacific Grove High School at a time when supporting the community is more important than ever.



Senior Ana Hunt volunteers at the AFRP Treasure Shop.



Left: Junior Riley Crosby volunteers with the American Legion on Thanksgiving to provide food for those in need.



Right: Freshman Cody Yanez prepares supplies for wildfire evacuees.



Right: Junior Nathan Binder makes muffins to feed the homeless.

“Check” it Out!



By Emmitt Withrow, Class of 2022

Calling all members of the Pacific Grove community and beyond...come “check” it out! Ha! “Check” it out, that’s funny. Oh, I made a pun that will make sense later. What? I like comedy. Funny story, actually—comedy is our next topic. Because Pacific Grove High School students are defying the odds of 2020 and are putting on a comedic theatrical performance. Sort of.

As you know, the pandemic has caused many of our favorite things in life to be canceled. Drama students were particularly disappointed to lose the opportunity to perform live shows. So the new drama advisor, Spanish teacher Ms. Desma Johnson, joined forces with both veteran and new drama students to figure out how to bring drama virtually to the masses. After two weeks of discussion, they came up with a plan.

The drama team found a show that has been specifically designed to be performed with Zoom. Its title? *Check, Please*. (Ehh, *Check, Please*. “Check” it out? You know you liked it.)

This year is one of many firsts. For Ms. Johnson, it is her first year as faculty advisor of the PGHS drama department. She has previously worked on shows (such as playing live music for last year’s production of *A Very Potter Musical*), but this is her first time managing a PGHS play production. She has handed directorial duties to seniors Laurel Bowen and Karis Myers, and directing a play is a first for them, too.

Ms. Johnson would like all members of the community to take advantage of the opportunity to watch *Check, Please*. She encourages you to “please join us in January for our premiere of *Check, Please!* It’s a really fun, light-hearted show about dating and communicating online in general, so there’s something for everybody to relate to. Also, many students and staff members will be featured. Anyone who loves a good rom-com will get a kick out of this show.”

So please, join the drama department in viewing this student-directed and -produced show in January 2021. Be on the lookout for more details!



Cobra Kai: Now Available on Netflix



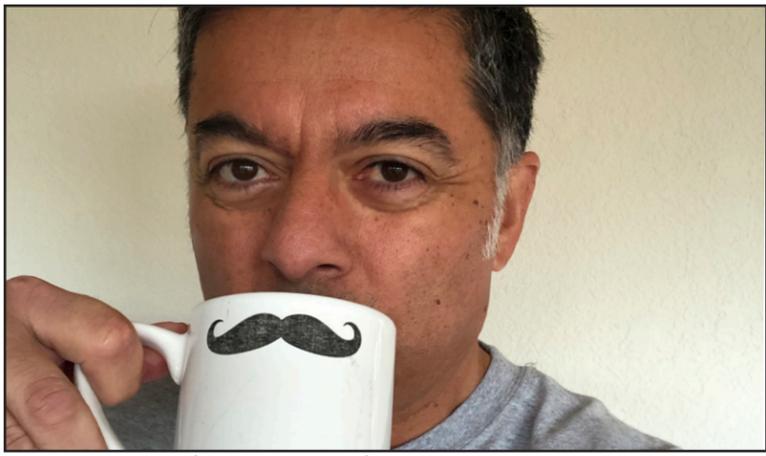
By Nathan Binder, Class of 2022

Ever since Netflix acquired the TV series *Cobra Kai* in June of 2020, the show has regained its popularity as one of the Top Ten trending series on Netflix. *Cobra Kai* Season 1 was first released in May of 2018 as a YouTube Red show, and the second season was released in April of 2019.

Following the events of the original 1984 film, *The Karate Kid*, *Cobra Kai* is set 34 years later. The show begins by closely following the depressed, downhearted character of Johnny Lawrence (played by William Zabka), the main bully in *The Karate Kid*. He meets his shy, teenage neighbor, Miguel Diaz. After opening up his dojo called “Cobra Kai,” Johnny begins teaching Miguel karate, often acting as a father figure to his protege. The opening of *Cobra Kai* reignites the old rivalry between Johnny Lawrence and Daniel LaRusso (played by Ralph Macchio), the “karate kid” whom Johnny once bullied and who now runs a successful car dealership. Daniel is instigated to open up his own dojo called “Miyagi-Do Karate” and find ways to overpower Johnny. The rivalry between the adults trickles down to individual rivalries amongst the kids. Miguel Diaz and Robby Keene (later revealed to be Johnny’s son) are the prominent young rivals, due in part to their enrollment in opposite dojos, but primarily because they are competing for the love of Samantha “Sam” LaRusso, Daniel’s teenage daughter. These rivalries become more prominent throughout Season 2, adding to the tension and suspense.

While watching *Cobra Kai*, you will find yourself choosing sides, aligning with one of the dojos, and rooting for certain characters. Throughout the show, I found myself favoring Johnny and Miguel, who in my opinion, make the best teacher-student combo in the entire show. The friendship of the pair goes beyond karate class to shared ideas and interests (such as 80s music). Johnny inspires Miguel greatly and teaches him valuable life lessons such as overcoming bullies and gaining the confidence to go on dates. I also found myself rooting for the *Cobra Kai* dojo in general. Even though I do not agree one-hundred percent with all of Johnny’s teachings, I found that he is still a strong character because he inspires multiple students to stand up for themselves, especially kids who have been bullied. I believe that Daniel opened Miyagi-Do for the wrong reasons (mainly to try to shut down any advancement of Johnny and his dojo) due to his jealousy and competitiveness. However, I do not stay aligned with the *Cobra Kai* dojo for the entirety of the show. For instance, I disapproved of when John Kreese, Johnny’s former sensei, returned and corrupted the enrolled students through his harsh, cold hearted teachings.

Cobra Kai has become one of the most popular TV shows, and for good reasons. It is full of character development, suspense, and inspiration. Within the first season, kids with low self-esteem become tough kids; some even (unfortunately) become bullies themselves. Johnny, once a depressed man, finds relief after the opening of *Cobra Kai* and, through his friendship with Miguel, learns lessons about mercy and how to love. Tensions between characters and the fighting scenes, which feature a great use of choreographed karate moves, add to the suspense. With Season 3 scheduled to be released in January of 2021, we shall see both how the plot develops and how character relationships change for better or for worse. If you haven’t yet seen Seasons 1 and 2, hop to it!



Left: Our new principal Mr. Garcia shows off his Movember pride!

Mustaches and Money: A Wrap-Up of Movember Fundraising Efforts



By Caroline Coen, Class of 2021

November has come to a close, and with it ends Pacific Grove High School's mustache-growing hoopla. The leadership class spent November encouraging Breakers to participate in Movember by fundraising for men's health in a month-long effort promoted annually by an international charity organization (itself called Movember). To support the movement, all individuals with the ability to grow facial hair pledged to avoid shaving their mustaches for the entirety of November. Others promised to walk or run sixty miles across the course of the month.

Although there were other teachers who participated unofficially, seven Breaker staff members joined PGHS' Movember team on the Movember website: Mr. Garcia, our new principal; Mr. Steinback, our vice principal; Mr. Lackey, both a teacher and the soccer coach; Mr. Buller of the physical education department; Mr. Morrison, our trusty librarian; Mrs. Selfridge, an English teacher and the advisor of *The NewsBreaker*; and Mr. Haggquist, the leadership class teacher.

According to Mr. Haggquist, the Breaker community raised a total of \$220 to contribute to Movember's efforts to reduce premature death in men (by emphasizing mental health and suicide prevention and supporting the fight against prostate and testicular cancer). Mr. Haggquist explains that Mr. Garcia inspired the leadership class to organize the school's participation in Movember. "He had participated in it a few times in the past and thought it would make for a fun activity that supports a good cause," Mr. Haggquist says. Our new principal was correct. Check out these fantastic before and after photos from staff members and see if they don't brighten your day!



Mr. Steinback



Mr. Haggquist



Mr. Buller



Mr. Morrison

Robotics During the Pandemic: BreakerBots Team 5104 Stays Active



By Elliot Powley, Class of 2023

Way back on January 4th, the 2020 FIRST Robotics Competition's "build season" began. Robotics teams from high schools around the world started building robots that would complete the tasks required to win the competition. Our Pacific Grove High School BreakerBots (Team 5104) revealed their robot called "Tsunami," one designed to participate in the competition. But as March rolled around and brought the COVID-19 shutdown with it, FIRST cancelled its traditional competition. Tsunami would not compete. As the pandemic continued, the BreakerBots were forced to adjust to the new normal. So what is the PGHS robotics team up to now?

During the summer, the BreakerBots held programming classes and Computer Aided Design (CAD) courses for students in middle school or high school. They collaborated with larger organizations to produce PPE face shields (plastic face screens that people wear around their foreheads). They also held design challenges and team robot builds over Zoom. Currently, the club meets online. New members are trained to use Java programming and partake in CAD.

As for competitions, the team still plans to participate using "Tsunami." "Current plans indicate that we film a video of the robot performing various tasks, which will be graded by a panel of judges," says Yousif Alkhalaf, a sophomore. As for 2021, the robotics team confirms that they will be participating in the next FIRST Robotics Competition, but its format remains unclear. There is still the possibility that it will take place in person.

The BreakerBots' efforts have not stagnated, despite the virus keeping the team separated and indoors. Team members are still contributing to the community (by producing face shields), training interested students (by holding online coding courses), and preparing for an intense competition season (by learning how to compete virtually). Despite the pandemic, it's business as usual for Team 5104.

Below: The 2019-2020 BreakerBots team poses with Tsunami.



Questions of the Week: The Holidays

Here are the results of a survey that allowed Breakers to share their holiday opinions. (212 students participated.)

Which is your favorite winter holiday? For the holidays, would you rather

Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza: 83.5%

New Year's Eve/Day: 10.4%

Thanksgiving: 6.1%

travel or stay home?

Travel: 34%

Stay home: 66%

Which winter holiday do you celebrate?

Christmas: 90.1%

Hanukkah: 1.4%

Kwanza: 0%

Other: 2.9%

None: 2.8%

Multiple: 2.8%

Which is the best holiday symbol?

Christmas tree: 42.7%

Snowflake: 31.8%

Candy cane: 10%

Santa: 9.5%

Candle: 6.2%

Do you believe in Santa?

Yes: 26%

No: 74%

Which is the best holiday flavor?

Peppermint: 58%

Gingerbread: 25%

Eggnog: 17%

Which relatively modern holiday song is your favorite?

"All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey: 46.7%

"Last Christmas" by Wham: 34.5%

"Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande: 8.6%

"Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber: 7.6%

"Where Are You Christmas?" by Faith Hill: 2.5%

Which is the best wintery beverage?

Hot cocoa: 68.4%

Spiced cider: 18.4%

Eggnog: 13.2%

Do you approve of listening to holiday music before Thanksgiving?

Yes: 43.6%

No: 56.4%

Which classic holiday song is your favorite?

"Let It Snow:" 35%

"Winter Wonderland:" 24.1%

"Frosty the Snowman:" 21.7%

"Silver Bells:" 10.8%

"Sleigh Ride:" 8.4%

What's the best part of the holidays?

Time off school: 31.3%

Time with family: 25.1%

The festive spirit: 25.1%

Gifts: 12.3%

Food: 6.2%

How many items are on your wishlist this year?

0: 16%

1-3: 43.4%

4-6: 24.5%

7-9: 5.2%

10+: 10.8%

Which holiday movie is your favorite?

Elf: 31.3%

How the Grinch Stole Christmas: 23.1%

Home Alone: 20.2%

The Polar Express: 15.4%

A Christmas Carol: 3.8%

Love Actually: 3.4%

It's a Wonderful Life: 1.4%

The Nutcracker: 1.4%

Share one of your holiday traditions!

"Every year we get a new ornament that is based on something that mattered to us the last year or something that we really liked over the year."

-Lexi Sapiro, junior

"One of my favorite holiday traditions is picking out a Christmas tree the morning after Thanksgiving to start the holidays as early as possible."

-Victoria Adint, freshman

"We make a Romanian dessert called cozonac and other European food."

-Ruxandra Baluta-Freitas, senior

"We get new PJ's on Christmas Eve. We eat a *Buche de Noel*. Then we watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Polar Express."

-Elliot Powley, sophomore

"I sprinkle reindeer food outside with my siblings."

-Reilly Deegan, senior

What is your favorite holiday food?

"My fav has to be eggnog. It gives me a warm and safe feeling."

-Dakota Boulware, freshman

"Tamales or 24-hour salad."

-Brooklyn Chavez, freshman

"Latkes and Matzoh Ball Soup."

-Chef Erickson, culinary arts teacher

What do the holidays mean to you?

"The holidays are more than just food and gifts, they are a time of happiness, gratitude, and giving. They are also a time to help out the less fortunate and spend time with family and friends."

-Evan Conneau, freshman

"To me, the holidays mean the birth of Christ and celebrating his birthday, which is why I think everyone is so happy during the Christmas season."

-Andrew Shaver, junior

"Holidays are a time to relax and collect yourself and to spend time with your family."

-Alice Samson, sophomore

Connect with The NewsBreaker!

Dear readers,

Your feedback matters to us! Email our advisor, Mrs. Katie Selfridge, at kselfridge@pgusd.org with "NewsBreaker" in the subject line to:

- Donate to our club so that we can fund more print issues in the future!

- Purchase an advertisement to be published in our May print issue.

- Share your thoughts on our paper. What did you like? Are there any recommendations you have for future issues?

We appreciate your support! *The NewsBreaker* is a bimonthly online publication designed and produced entirely by Pacific Grove High School students.

Sincerely,

Caroline Coen and William Coen

2020-21 Editor and Co-Editor

Paper Snowflake Contest Results!

To increase the festive spirit at PGHS, Breakers were invited to participate in a competition to determine who could create the best paper snowflake! Here are some highlights.



First Place

Maryam Baryal, freshman



Second Place

Emily Keller, freshman



Third Place

Taylor Castellon, junior



Karis Myers, senior



Alexa Sorenson, freshman



Anastacia Hunt, senior



Max Moore, freshman, Eva Moore, senior, Elle Moore, sophomore



John Lucas Rabelo, freshman



Gabi Gaona, junior, and Cali Bautista, senior

Advice from Billy



By Billy the Breaker

Dear Billy,

What is high school like? Are we ever going to go back to school instead of Online school? I am a bit nervous for school because

there are so many new things to learn.

Sincerely,

Concerned Company

Dear Concerned Company,

Some might say high school is like a bag of fast food: it is fun while it lasts, there are things that are really hard to figure out, and everything is kind of an overall mess. Others may say high school is like a really tough workout: it's tiring, hard, and possibly unpleasant, but the things you gain from it are very useful in life. You may not be using derivatives every Thursday, but high school teaches you to meet deadlines, communicate with peers and authority figures, make friends, and deal with the unfortunate curveballs life throws at you. There's a lot of fun things about high school and a lot of not so fun things. It won't always be great, or even good, but it's a roller coaster that we're all on together.

We will return to in-person school. It won't be tomorrow, and it probably won't be for a while longer, but eventually we'll all be able to go outside without a mask and hug our friends without worrying about a global pandemic.

There are so many things to learn in high school, but thankfully we don't have to learn them all at once. Everything in school builds off of each other so it is less daunting than it seems. If you ever do feel like you need more help because there is a lot to learn, reach out to a teacher or even a friend. There will always be a Breaker who would love to help you!

Catch a wave,

Billy

Dear Billy,

Tell us how you do all your sweet moves.

Sincerely,

Curious Choreographer

Dear Curious Choreographer,

"You must unlearn what you have learned." - Master Yoda.

Catch a wave and may the force with you,

Billy

Dear Billy,

How can I manage time with schoolwork and still have time being with my family?

Sincerely,

Priorities Ponderer

Dear Priorities Ponderer,

Finding balance is something difficult for everyone; there is no simple solution. You will have to decide the correct answer for yourself because every situation is different, but I do have a couple of suggestions to help guide you to an answer:

1. Make a schedule - sometimes just planning when you're going to play monopoly with a sibling or when you're going to study the Columbian Exchange will help you focus on the task at hand or motivate you to finish what you need to complete.
2. Assess how you spend your time - similar to making a schedule, figuring out where you spend most of your time can help you decide whether you want to make any changes.
3. Limit procrastination - as hard as this sounds, it is possible. Sort through your priorities so you have enough time for the things you value most in life.

Catch a wave,

Billy

Dear Billy,

How can I write a better English paper?

Sincerely,

Aspiring Author

Dear Aspiring Author,

Listen to Mrs. Selfridge. Delve. Be specific. If you're given the prompt ahead of time, practice. Don't forget that for out of class papers, many teachers are willing to read and edit your drafts if you are brave enough to ask (nicely, of course)!

Catch a wave,

Billy



the EGGPLANT

Pacific Grove's Fakest News Source

Santa Claus replaces Sleigh and Chimney-Scaling with Drone Delivery in Light of Pandemic



Left: One of Santa's drones (not yet fully decorated) in an early stage at his toy factory.

North Pole, North Pole - In his most recent Zoom conference with the associated media, Saint Nicholas announced his delivery plans for the holiday season. "Though it saddens me to say, I cannot enter households this holiday season. It would be irresponsible of me and it'd risk millions of lives." Inspired by the works of Amazon Prime Air and the Rwandan Drone Delivery Service, Saint Nick stated his elves had been working hard over the last few months producing over ten thousand industrial-standard UAVs, equipped with Santa's trademark jingle-jangling sleigh bells and merry and bright LED Christmas lights, to deliver toys to all the good girls and boys this year. For sanitary reasons, the drones have also been equipped with N95 masks over their rear exhaust ports. Despite the unorthodoxy of the situation, Saint Nick remains optimistic that things will be back to normal by the next holiday season, stating he "HO HO HOPes to continue delivering toys by this time next year."