



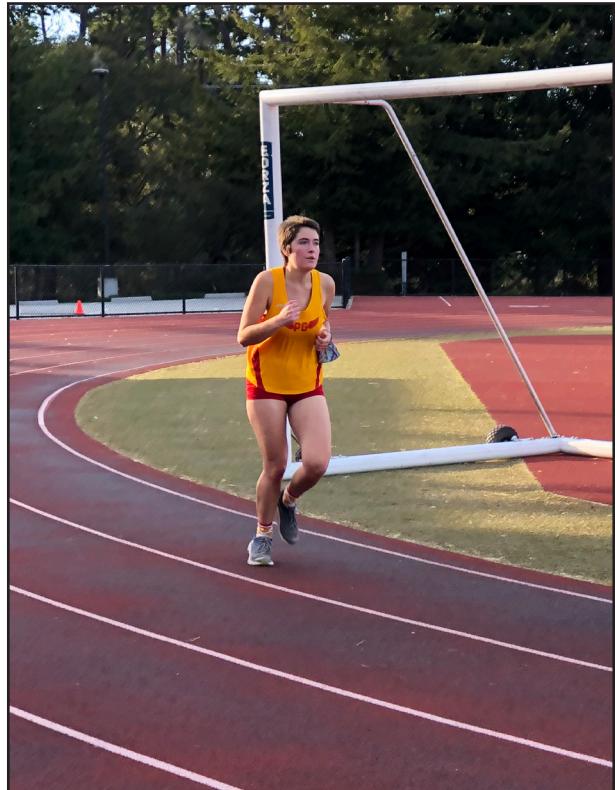
Pacific Grove High School's



Volume 2 No. 11

15 March 2021

First Cross Country Meet Marks a Return to Athletics...Finally



Senior Karis Myers finishes the race.

By Marshall Pearman, Class of 2024

After a year's break from competition, PGHS sports are officially back! On Friday, March 5, 2021, the Breaker Cross Country team kicked off their season with their first meet of the season (and the first Breaker athletic event since March 11, 2020). The event took place on our home course around the PGHS campus (which is 2.2 miles long). Approximately twenty athletes from Hollister journeyed down to the peninsula to face PGHS. All eight Breaker participants (Toby Grief, Rob Englehorn, Devean Batres, Elliot Powely, William Coen, Jack Weyant, Caroline Coen, and Karis Myers) started and successfully finished the race.

Coach RaDonna Johnson leads the PG Cross Country team. Typically, Cross Country's competition season is in the Fall, but due to coronavirus restrictions, team training was delayed until mid-February. Coach Johnson describes her experience leading the first COVID sporting event of the year by stating, "It was very exciting to see them out there being allowed to do what they love: running, being together, and

competing." Coach Johnson was also extremely proud of everyone who participated in the race given the unique and unexpected challenges from this past year. "The team started the season with a lot of unknowns. It was because of individual dedication and discipline that we were able to put this together." Although several high school sports in Monterey county remain on hold, the first cross country meet provides hope for future sports to reopen. Coach Johnson states, "The event demonstrated to the community that there is truly light at the end of the COVID tunnel." Finally, Coach Johnson wants to acknowledge the invaluable volunteers who helped make this event a reality. "I want to thank everyone that had a hand in the event no matter how large or small. I couldn't have done without the help of all of these wonderful supporters."

It's never too late to join cross country. Anyone who enjoys running or simply wishes to get in shape should consider becoming a member of the PGHS Cross Country team.



Senior Devean Batres competes in the team's second meet at Carmel Middle School on March 11, 2021.

Art for the Arts: Announcing a Competition for the Creative

By Emmitt Withrow, Class of 2022

The performing arts—a means through which actors, musicians, and dancers express their creativity—and the visual arts—a means through which painters, sculptors, and photographers bring their thoughts to life—are the same, and yet different. On occasion, they overlap and complement each other, which is exactly what the Sea-Wing Theater wants this spring.

For years, the PGHS Theater Department has been putting on shows in the Sea-Wing Theater for the enjoyment of students and staff, but the Theater has lacked a proper logo akin to the ones most professional production studios have. For example, the logo for Warner Bros is the big frame around the 'WB' and the logo for Disney is a castle. Even Sony has...the word Sony (ok, that one's kind of boring). But all studios should have a logo, and the Sea-Wing Theater is sending out a request for assistance in designing one.

Calling all art students, designers, and people who happen to have a nearby pencil! The Sea-Wing Theater is throwing a logo design contest for the production studio at PGHS. The leaders of the Theater would love to see your design of an original Sea-Wing Theater logo. The deadline for these submissions is March 31st. The winning logo will make its debut before the screening of Sea-Wing Theater's production of *The Stowaway*, the spring play.

Breaker of the Week

Get to Know a Fellow Student: Meet Cris Rosas



Breaker of the Week, junior Cris Rosas

By Will Coen, Class of 2023

This week, meet Christopher Rosas, a member of the Pacific Grove High School Class of 2022. Rosas thrives in both academic and extracurricular pursuits. He kindly completed an interview with *The NewsBreaker* about his interests, goals, and values, along with what his life has been like since the beginning of quarantine in March 2020.

When asked about his academic interests, Rosas replied, "As of recent, I have been really enjoying my AP Computer Science class.... [Computer Science] is an entirely new field of study for me.... I also like the class' focus on critical thinking." He added that "For [him], the most exciting part about any class is seeing its real-world applications."

Rosas' foremost extracurricular interests include playing on the high school soccer and baseball teams, playing chess, reading, playing the violin in the school orchestra, and doing math.

With regard to life during the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rosas stated that "school has been keeping [him] fairly busy." He has started "the selection process in terms of [his] educational focus later on." Rosas added that "With some of [his] extra time, [he] has tried to pick up some new skills and hobbies." He has learned to skateboard, spent a lot of time playing online chess and studying chess theory, and taught himself to solve a Rubik's Cube. Furthermore, Rosas has been doing "much more reading than usual" and has "started jotting down some poetry." In addition, Rosas has founded Math M.A.T.E.S., a "student-led tutoring service here at PGHS." He said that the program is "fully operational" and has started to tutor some Robert Down elementary schoolers.

When questioned about his future plans, Rosas stated that he plans to attend a four-year university but is undecided with

regard to his field of study. Rosas was also asked to describe himself. In response, he proclaimed, "I might be more interested to know how others describe me. I like to think of myself as a hard worker" who is also "charismatic and funny." When asked about his core values, Rosas responded, "I think self-reliance and self-respect are two very important things to try and maintain in one's life," and that "perseverance is admirable." Finally, Rosas stated that he values love, although he acknowledged that this response may seem platitudinous. He values "Love for oneself (like self-respect), one's work, and others." He poignantly exclaimed, "I think love is one of the most beautiful things about being human."

Although *The NewsBreaker* posed many deep questions to Rosas, with his final lines, he pushed the boundaries of introspection. He declared, "Lastly, I strongly believe that people should pour milk after the cereal. Certainly not before."

The NewsBreaker officially declares that it agrees with Rosas on this divisive global issue and appreciates the gracious and evocative responses that he provided in the interview. Make sure to meet this witty student when we return to campus. (It's seeming more and more likely that we actually will do so!)

The History Behind Mid-March Festivities

By Nathan Binder, Class of 2022

In mid-March, there are two significant holidays: Pi Day and St. Patrick's Day. Each bears its own significance—well-thought-out relations to a mathematical constant (Pi Day) or historical and cultural importance (St. Patrick's Day).

Pi Day

Each year on March 14th, math enthusiasts celebrate Pi Day, since that particular date resembles the first three digits of the constant pi (3.14). Pi Day dates to March 14, 1988, when physicist Larry Shaw organized the first official celebration of the mathematical constant at the San Francisco Exploratorium. At the celebration, Shaw organized a staff parade around a circular space in the building followed by the consumption of pies. In 2009, Pi Day officially became a national celebration when a non-binding resolution was passed by the US House of Representatives. The city of Princeton, New Jersey holds a special celebration of Pi Day in concurrence with a celebration of physicist Albert Einstein's birthday (a date particularly special to Princeton because he lived there for about twenty years).

Seven years ago, March 2014 was known as Pi Month (since March is the third month of the fourteenth year of the century). Additionally, a special celebra-

tion of Pi Day occurred on March 14, 2015, since the date of Pi Day that particular year resembled the first five digits of pi (3.1415), an occurrence that happens only once per century.

Common ways in which schools celebrate Pi Day include contests to see who can recite the most digits of pi, instruction on the history of pi, and, of course, the consumption of pie. Due to COVID-19, many of these activities cannot occur in person, but members of the Breaker Math Club have still managed to eat pie from home.

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday in remembrance of the Roman-British Christian missionary and bishop, St. Patrick, and the introduction of Christianity to Ireland. It is alleged that St. Patrick wrote a book known as the Declaration, which explained many of his experiences throughout his life. The Declaration explains that St. Patrick was kidnapped at the age of sixteen and taken to Gaelic Ireland as a slave. In Gaelic Ireland, he claims to have found God.

Following the events in Gaelic Ireland, St. Patrick became a priest and returned to Ireland to share his Christian views with the pagan Irish. St. Patrick allegedly died on March 17th and became one of the most renowned and important saints in Ireland.

Common St. Patrick's Day celebrations include public gatherings, traditional Irish music sessions, and the wearing of green attire. The custom of dressing in green on St. Patrick's Day dates to when, according to lore, St. Patrick used the shamrock as an effort to explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish pagans. While there is no evidence to confirm this tale, some people believe that the green shamrock symbolizes rebirth and nature.



Math Club presidents dropped off mini pi pies at the homes of club members for Pi Day. Kieler Troy enjoys blueberry pie.



Jack Weyant poses with his apple pi pie.

A Chance to Visit France and Spain

By Maryam Baryal, Class of 2024

In a time when most travel plans are canceled, the language department brings hope by continuing to plan the student trip to France and Spain in 2022. The trip was originally designed for Spanish and French students, but other students who wish to join are encouraged to do so. Even current eighth graders are allowed to jump on board.

This prospective adventure is not the first to be undertaken by the PGHS language department. Breakers most recently visited Peru in the summer of 2018. In the past, "trips have been a lot of fun, jam-packed with cultural tours and sight-seeing," says Señora Johnson, one of the travel organizers. This journey will be no different. Prospective adventurers can expect their days to begin with an early breakfast and a sight-seeing tour by foot or by metro with a local guide. These sights will include museums, open air markets, castles, and much more. The tours will be in Spanish or French with translation or in English. After the tours, students will always receive some sort of free time to explore the city in small groups, which will allow them to practice their language skills. After a long day of exploring, everyone will regroup for dinner at a local restaurant.

This time, PGHS students will be traveling to the cities of Paris, Cote d'Azur, Provence, Barcelona, Madrid, and Toledo. The excursion is currently planned for June 7-18 of next summer (2022). The price for such an exciting experience is \$4300 per student.

Advice from Billy



By Billy the Breaker

Dear Billy,

How are others able to manage school work and still have time to spend with family?

Sincerely,
Missing My Family

Dear Missing My Family,

School and extracurriculars can definitely cut into your personal time, and I can see how you could start missing your family. You just need to set boundaries. If you still have a lot to do in the evening, set aside one hour to spend with your family and then go back to your task. Remember, it is important to spend time with the people you love.

Catch a wave,
Billy

Dear Billy,

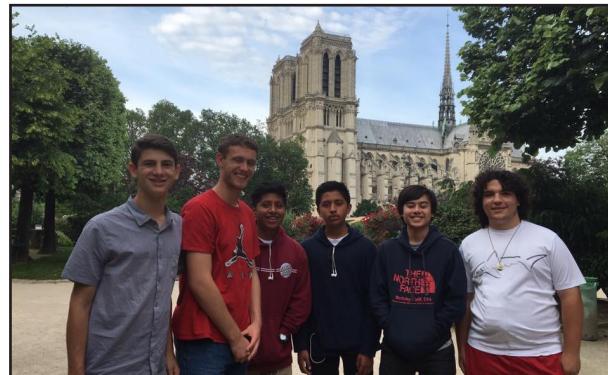
How do I manage my time better?

Sincerely,
Chaotic Calendar

Dear Chaotic Calendar,
Time management is a really good skill to practice. Have you tried using a to-do list? Take a minute in the morning to prioritize your tasks for the day. As you complete them, check them off or cross them out. Then by the end of the day, you will have completed all the important tasks you set out to complete.

Most families decide to break this large payment into smaller installments that they can pay monthly.

Ideally, COVID and its restrictions will not exist by the summer of 2022, but if they do, precautions and protocols will be made to follow guidelines. The company PGHS is working with for this trip says that there will be "adjustments to the traditional way of doing things that allow for a focus on hygiene and social distancing. Examples include protocols for bus loading/unloading, contactless hotel check-ins, and private dining options or boxed/carry-out meals." Señora Johnson also adds that travellers "might have to wear masks inside and I imagine that each tour site will have special protocols to follow." Even with the prospect of COVID, there will not be a limit on the number of students coming on the trip. If you are interested in taking advantage of this incredible opportunity, reach out to Señora Johnson at djohnson@pgusd.org.



Former Breakers travelled to Europe about five years ago.



It will keep you organized and track your productivity.

Catch a wave,
Billy

Dear Billy,

What is the shoe game?

Sincerely,
Must Be New to Town

Dear Must Be New to Town,
The shoe game is a legendary football game between the mighty Breakers and the warring Padres. It all started when one coach found a lone shoe on the high school track. He declared that the winner of the PG vs. Carmel football game that day would take the shoe home as their trophy. Since that fateful day, we have battled against Carmel every year for the shoe. While we don't actually win a sweaty gym shoe (it's a trophy instead), it keeps the rivalry fun. Carmel has won 37 times since 1948, PG has won 33 times, and we have tied twice. Definitely come to the game this fall!

Catch a wave,
Billy

Robots Return Masked

By Abdhi Jadeja, Class of 2022

Although the PGHS Robotics Team had been confined to virtual efforts following the COVID-19 shutdown, it recently resumed meeting in person. The 2021 season has been refocused around activities that can be done "at home." According to Electrical Lead of the Breaker Bots, junior Amelia Rodolf, the project for all robotics teams in California this year is creating "a search and rescue system to monitor beaches." This innovation challenge will be presented to judges in the coming month. The team has had to work together to come up with a robot that meets the standards of the competition.

Additionally, the team is finetuning the code for their robot Tsunami before they film it performing both tele-operated and autonomous tasks for the judges to observe. They have been working in the small gym on the PGHS campus (with safety protocols in place to minimize contact). Mechanical Lead Kieler Troy reflects on how good it is to be back in person with the team, saying that "even though we are really missing our team members who have moved and graduated, we are super grateful to see each other and work on robots again." Rodolf adds to this sentiment, saying that "It's so much fun to be working with our robot and spending time with team members again."

We know that the BreakerBots have much in store this year, and we cannot wait to see it!

Questions of the Week: St. Patrick's Day

Here are the results of a survey that allowed Breakers to share their opinions on all things St. Patrick's Day! (196 students participated.)

Will you wear green this St. Patrick's Day?

Yes: 71.4%

Nope. St. Patrick's Day isn't any fun if there's no one to pinch!: 28.6%

Which is the best color in a rainbow?

Red: 17.3%

Orange: 6.1%

Yellow: 5.6%

Green: 13.3%

Blue: 28.1%

Indigo: 10.2%

Violet: 19.4%

Which St. Patrick's Day symbol is your favorite?

Four-leaf clover: 57.7%

Rainbow: 15.8%

Pot of gold: 15.3%

Leprechaun: 11.2%

Which food would you most enjoy on St. Patrick's Day?

Potatoes and carrots: 31.1%

Corned beef: 24%

Shepherd's pie: 23%

Irish soda bread: 16.3%

Cabbage: 5.6%

If you found a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, what would you do with it?

"I'll sell it all straight away and spend the cash on gas and performance modifications for my car."

-Donovan Dearmin, senior

"I would cash it into a savings account and save up for my future life and my loved ones."

-Jasper Bauer, junior

"I would put it into a safe and watch its value increase overtime, hopefully."

-Ethan Spencer, senior

"I would give it to my parents to help with my dad's company."

-Nevaeh Hutchison, sophomore

"Honestly, I would pay for my education."

-Maia Schlining, junior

If you were a Leprechaun, where would you hide your gold?

"If I were Leprechaun, I would hide my gold in my clothes. Like literally make my clothes out of the gold and paint it green, so nobody knows it's gold and tries to take it."

-Emily Keller, freshman

"Why hide it? I'll bring it with me."

-Angelica Sterwerf, junior

"I'd probably melt it all down and make custom BREAKER PRIDE grillz for everyone at PGHS."

-Anonymous

"I would hide it next to a rainbow because that is the last place robbers would actually go to find some."

-Satory Lynam, sophomore



PGHS Wrestling Team to Compete in Events Digitally



PGHS' hardworking Athletic Director, Mrs. Gaona, presents her solution for socially distanced wrestling to the school board. Such a shame that it's difficult to obtain high resolution images on Zoom. Must be spotty internet, definitely not poor photography on our part.

Gaona's Lair, PGHS - In an unprecedented move from PGHS' sports department, Athletic Director Gaona has announced her plans to get the PGHS wrestling team competing again. "Figuring out how to get the wrestling team back on track while also abiding by social distancing guidelines was quite the pickle," remarked Mrs. Gaona in her exclusive interview with The Eggplant, "but I think we got it in the end." Gaona unveiled her plan at the latest school board meeting, proposing for the team to practice and compete with each other in the wrestling video game WWE 2K20. "This way," Gaona commented, "our team will be able to practice and compete from their homes, in complete compliance with current social distancing standards." She also noted that meeting online would allow athletes to compete in events "without getting all gross and sweaty and stuff" and would save PGHS thousands of dollars on sporting equipment and bus trips. Her proposition is currently under review by the school board.

Our Staff

The NewsBreaker is made possible by the dedication of journalists and editors from the Pacific Grove High School student body.

Chloe Anna Austria



Class of 2022

Chloe Anna Austria is a junior this year. She started writing for *The Newsbreaker* this fall. Chloe Anna is also a barista, and outside of work and school she likes to read, watch tv (*Friends* is her favorite show), and bake.

Maryam Baryl



Class of 2024

Maryam Baryl is currently a freshman at PGHS and this is her first year writing for *The Newsbreaker*. Outside of school, she likes to listen to music, bake, read, and watch Netflix.

Nathan Binder



Class of 2022

Nathan Binder is currently in his junior year at PGHS. He began writing for *The NewsBreaker* in his sophomore year. Outside of school and writing for *The NewsBreaker*, Nathan enjoys mountain biking and practicing karate.

Caroline Coen



Class of 2021

A native Pagrovia, Caroline Coen is a senior at PGHS. She has written for *The NewsBreaker* since her freshman year and is now the editor. When she is not reading or writing, she enjoys playing her flute, running, and baking.

Will Coen



Class of 2023

William Coen is currently a sophomore at PGHS and in his second year on *The NewsBreaker* staff. He enjoys learning math at school and running for the cross country and track teams. Outside of school, Will likes to spend as much time as possible biking and skiing.

Zoe Gleason



Class of 2021

Zoe Gleason is a current senior at PGHS. She began writing for *The Newsbreaker* this year. She is the drum captain of the PGHS Breaker Band and she loves everything vegan.

Abdhi Jadeja



Class of 2022

Abdhi Jadeja is a junior at PGHS and this is her second year writing for *The Newsbreaker*. Outside of school, she is a martial artist and an activist.

Anneka Keller



Class of 2022

Anneka Keller is a junior at PGHS and this is her second year contributing to *The Newsbreaker*. Outside of school, she is the Team Captain for the school's robotics team, volunteers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and likes to read.

Thomas Paff



Class of 2021

Thomas Paff is a senior at PGHS. He doesn't really know what he's doing. He hopes to figure that out someday.

Marshall Pearman



Class of 2024

Marshall Pearman is a freshman at PGHS and started writing for *The Newsbreaker* at the beginning of this past virtual school year. He really enjoys playing the French Horn in the PGHS band and participating in extracurricular sports such as basketball, track, and baseball.

Elliot Powley



Class of 2023

Elliot Powley is a sophomore at PGHS and began writing for *The NewsBreaker* this year. He plays the piano and likes history and math. He is also running cross country.

Emmitt Withrow



Class of 2022

Emmitt Withrow is a junior at PGHS and has been writing for *The NewsBreaker* since his freshman year. He enjoys watching movies, learning about history, reading comics, and listening to music.

Billy the Breaker



Class of ???

Billy is a wave. He likes to give advice, but mostly he takes credit for the advice written by other staff members of *The NewsBreaker*. He isn't exactly a team player....

We love feedback from our readers. If you have any questions, recommendations, or comments, or if you wish to purchase an advertisement in the paper, please feel free to contact our advisor, Mrs. Selfridge, at kselfridge@pgusd.org.