



Class of 2022 Valedictorian, Co-Salutatorians Announced

Volume 3 No. 10

17 March 2022

Rosas Named Valedictorian



Cristopher Rosas



By William Coen, Class of 2023

Congratulations to Cristopher Rosas, valedictorian of PGHS' Class of 2022! Rosas will graduate this spring with the highest grade point average (GPA) of any member of his class and will have the opportunity to address graduates and their families at the commencement ceremony.

Years of hard work have reaped rewards for Rosas. Asked what has motivated him to remain diligent, Rosas replied, "It's just my nature. I think pushing yourself to achieve the very best that you can—and maybe then some—is really the only way to do things."

Rosas' favorite class at PGHS was AP Calculus BC with Mr. D'Amico. This choice is hardly surprising, as Rosas also says math is his favorite subject, "especially any math that involves pi." About Mr. D'Amico's class Rosas recollects, "The material was a lot of fun, but more than anything, it was the environment—the people—that made the course so enjoyable." He adds that Ms. Richmond's AP Computer Science, Mrs. Hall's AP Psychology, Dr. Warren's Orchestra, and Mrs. Selfridge's Honors English 1 deserve Honorable Mentions.

Asked which class at PGHS was the most challenging, Rosas replied with humor, "Freshman year PE, and only because of that dance unit!" On a serious note, he reflected on the challenge of Mr. Afifi's AP Physics, while acknowledging that the class has also been fun-filled and very rewarding.

During his time at PGHS, Rosas has pursued multiple extracurricular activities. He proudly wore Breaker red and

Jadeja, Rodolf Named Co-Salutatorians



Abdhi Jadeja



Amelia Rodolf

By William Coen, Class of 2023

Congratulations to two outstanding members of PGHS' Class of 2022! After four years of hard work, focus, and effort, Abdhi Jadeja and Amelia Rodolf have been named co-salutatorians, having achieved GPAs higher than all other members of their class other than valedictorian Cristopher Rosas.

The NewsBreaker asked Jadeja and Rodolf about their experiences at PGHS. On the topic of what inspired the pursuit of academic excellence, Rodolf identified an inherent love of learning and a desire to explore new subjects. Additionally, Rodolf offered, "I wanted to set myself up for success in the future and ensure that I have the opportunities to pursue whatever paths I choose." Jadeja pointed to her parents, who immigrated from India and have worked exceedingly hard to provide their daughter an education of the caliber offered at PGHS. "Each grade I get is to make sure I don't put that to waste," explained Jadeja.

When asked which classes at PGHS were their favorites, Jadeja answered Mrs. Selfridge's AP Literature. Rodolf identified Mrs. Selfridge's Honors English 1 and Ms. Richmond's Integrated Math 3 Honors.

When asked which classes at PGHS were the most challenging, Jadeja chose Ms. Richmond's Integrated Math 3 Honors, and Rodolf named Mr. Grate's AP World History.

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gold on the soccer, baseball, football, and cross country teams. He is the current president of the math, science, and chess clubs, and he is a member of the National Honor Society. A math aficionado, he has achieved notable success at various countywide math competitions and founded Math M.A.T.E.S., a community service initiative that places high school tutors with elementary school students. A violinist since middle school, he continues to play in the Breaker Orchestra and Philharmonic.

Reflecting on his high school journey, Rosas wishes to express gratitude to his family for being “involved in my journey since its start.” Additionally, he thanks his teachers, PGHS and district staff, and the entire Breaker community “for being so supportive of me these last four years.” He offers a special thank you to Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Ushakoff, the PGHS librarians, “for always being so awesome!”

Rosas’ parting advice to the PGHS community: “You can do anything! Go Breakers!”

Rosas will attend a four-year university in the fall, though he is currently awaiting college admissions decisions. Congrats again to Rosas for his dedication and achievement.

BreakerBots Excel at Port Hueneme



By Thomas Coen, Class of 2025

The Competition

On March 3 PGHS’ robotics team, the BreakerBots, made the five-hour drive south to Port Hueneme for its first competition of the season. The BreakerBots participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition, an international high school robotics competition. Each year, teams of high school students, coaches, and mentors work during a six- to eight-week period to build robots capable of certain tasks. This year’s game is called Rapid React, and you can find a game explanation on YouTube: 2022 FIRST Robotics Competition RAPID REACT Game Animation.

You can watch our matches here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX8yZZp_d3k&list=TLGGpNlJkyGqTyAxN-DAzMjAyMg

If you would like to know more about us, visit our website, Breakerbots.com.

We will attend two competitions this year, Port Hueneme and the Monterey Bay Regional. If a team places first at either of these competitions, the team earns a ticket to the World Championship located in Texas. At Port Hueneme, the BreakerBots were very successful. We tied for 9th with one other team out of the 35 teams there and were the captain of the 6th alliance in the playoffs. This was a great learning experience and hopefully will set us up to earn a ticket to Worlds at the Monterey Bay Regional.

Being on the robotics team this year has been an amazing experience. Not only have I learned a lot but I have really enjoyed the group of people on the team. “This year I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with new members and help them improve skills while improving my own skills,” says Amelia Rodolf, our electrical lead. I would personally like to thank our coaches, mentors, and parent volunteers for making this opportunity possible for the team. Thank you to Mr. Hyde, Ms. Richmond, Mr. Schimpf, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Smith-tro, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Alan. I would like to thank our team captain, Anneka Keller. Leading team meetings, fundraising, and helping out wherever needed make Anneka crucial to our team. Thanks also to Kieler Troy, our mechanical lead; Corbin

(continued from Jadeja and Rodolf, page 1)

Just as Rodolf and Jadeja have excelled academically here at PGHS, so they also have poured tremendous time and energy into extracurriculars. Both have played instruments since their days at PGMS and have participated in the Breaker Band for four years, Rodolf on oboe and percussion and Jadeja on clarinet. Both have also participated in math competitions through Math Club at the middle and high school levels, have advocated for a more diverse curriculum at all grade levels through Diversify Our Narrative, and are members of the National Honor Society.

Rodolf’s biggest time commitment has been PGHS’ robotics team, the BreakerBots. Having joined as a sophomore, Rodolf currently serves as the team’s Electrical Lead and Drive Coach. Rodolf has also danced for the past nine years, volunteers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and tutors elementary school students through MATH M.A.T.E.S.

Jadeja has practiced martial arts for more than 12 years and earned a black belt two years ago. Jadeja is also a force on the tennis court and represented PGHS as a member of the tennis team for three years. Additionally, Jadeja wrote briefly for *The NewsBreaker*.

Our co-salutatorians want to acknowledge and thank those who have helped them on their journeys. Rodolf wishes to thank Ms. Richmond “for helping me learn both in classes and in robotics” and Mrs. Selfridge “for greatly improving my writing skills.” Jadeja says, “There are far too many people I can and would thank given hours of mic time and a couple bottles of water....every single person...I’ve come across and connected with on an academic basis has shaped me into a person capable of achieving what I have....I’d have to thank every teacher and adult in my life for helping to support me.”

Jadeja and Rodolf do not know where they will attend college this fall, as admissions decisions are typically released in April. No matter where life takes them, we’re sure they will take their Breaker pride with them! Congratulations to both of you!

(Port Hueneme continued)

Olney, our CAD Lead; Amelia Rodolf, our electrical lead; and our awesome two-person coding team, Roman Abrahamson and Yousif Alkhalaf, mentored by Mr. Schimpf. One of the best things about our small team is everyone gets to help out everywhere, and we can really bond with each other inside and outside of robotics.

Building the Robot

Our robotics team builds three robots during “build season,” spending 26 hours weekly in a room located across from L and K wings, which we have nicknamed “the Lair.” First we build a robot that just drives, known as Bot A. Then we build Bot B, which is basically our test bot. We build this bot to do everything we plan to do for the game. We then build Bot C, which is our competition bot, making whatever changes we need to make to fix and even improve upon Bot B. This year we decided to call Bot B Scylla and Bot C Charybdis. Many of you might recall from reading *The Odyssey* during freshman year that these are the names of the sea monsters in *The Odyssey*. We build these robots using a multistep process. First, the team models the robot on computers using CAD. Then we build the robot using many power tools such as the CNC mill and the CNC router. Next, we wire and put pneumatics on the robot. Finally, we code the robot.

Thank you for reading this article. As you might imagine, building these bots costs a lot of money! If you would like to contribute financially to our team, you can donate through Breakerbots.com.

PGHS Celebrates Pi Day



By Nathan Binder, Class of 2022

Every year, math enthusiasts celebrate Pi Day, a national celebration that occurs on March 14th, because that particular date resembles the first three digits of the mathematical constant Pi (3.14). The first celebration of Pi Day occurred on March 14, 1988, and was organized by physicist Larry Shaw at the San Francisco Exploratorium. In 2009, the United States House of Representatives passed a non-binding resolution, which recognized Pi Day as a national celebration. March 2014 has been known as Pi Month, since March is the third month and 2014 is the fourteenth year of the century. On March 14, 2015, there was a special celebration of Pi Day because that date and year resemble the first five digits of the constant (3.1415), which only occurs once per century. The city of Princeton, New Jersey celebrates Pi Day and Albert Einstein's birthday annually, because Einstein was born on Pi Day, and he lived in Princeton for about twenty years.

In a questionnaire sent to PGHS students about Pi Day, the following questions were asked:

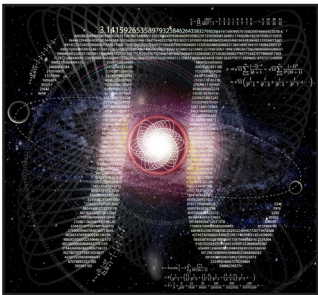
Is math your favorite academic subject?
Yes: 34 respondents
No: 69 respondents

Do you celebrate Pi Day?
Yes: 29 respondents
No: 74 respondents

Do you think that Pi Day should receive more recognition?
Yes: 34 respondents
No: 69 respondents

From these responses, it can be concluded that the number of respondents who stated that math is their favorite academic subject are also enthusiastic about Pi Day, and believe that the celebration should receive more recognition. Some PGHS students expressed their own opinions regarding Pi Day. Senior Cristopher Rosas states, "Pi Day is more than a celebration of mathematics, it is recognition that even the simple, the fundamental, can be sublime. I've always taken the day to appreciate the irrationality of our existence; this, of course, is best celebrated with pie." Junior William Coen says, "I love Pi Day, and it's an important day to me since I love math. My favorite activity is eating pie, although I also enjoy doing math with friends to honor the day. I think Pi Day should receive more attention; the number pi is significant to the entire world."

In addition, some PGHS students elaborated their own ways they celebrate Pi Day. Junior Chase Erickson says "[I] either bake or buy pie, then eat it with my family." Senior Abbey Fitzpatrick says, "I have some Key Lime Pie earrings that I love to wear on Pi Day!" While not the most widely known celebration, Pi Day is very important to math enthusiasts around the world, and is celebrated with a plethora of interesting and traditional activities.



Pi, a simple Greek letter that merits a national holiday.

Softball Season Begins



By Maryam Baryal, Class of 2024

At Pacific Grove High School, softball season has arrived along with spring. *The NewsBreaker* interviewed multiple players from the girls' softball team to find out if the hours of practice have increased their stress during an already stressful school year. PGHS sophomore Erin Shoemaker plays as a catcher for both the junior varsity and varsity teams, due to the low number of students playing softball this year. Shoemaker has been playing softball for the past six years, which is one reason why she plays on varsity. When asked if softball makes her more stressed over her schoolwork, she replied, "On game days it is usually harder to get a lot of my homework done," as she often finds herself "getting to the field at 3:15 PM and not getting home until 9:00 PM." This large of a time commitment in one afternoon certainly makes it challenging to meet teachers' homework expectations. Charlee Sullivan, who plays on the junior varsity team, has a completely different perspective on the game and its hours. She states that she is fine with how long practice hours are and that it "doesn't cause anymore stress; [practice] is a time to feel less stressed actually." Meeting Covid-19 restrictions has been challenging for certain sports at PGHS this year. However, Shoemaker states that the softball team is doing well with regard to Covid-19, partly since softball is an outdoor sport. Shoemaker revealed that her favorite part of softball is "being with a team that is so uplifting to each other and enthusiastic about the sport."

Student Voices Puts PGHS Talent on Display; Renaissance Rally Honors Intellect of Student Body



By Brayden Schmidt, Class of 2022

The PGHS Leadership class put much effort and time into planning Student Voices and the Renaissance Rally, and the outcome was fantastic. At the Student Voices Talent Show, many different acts were performed by students of all grades, while the Renaissance Rally honored intellectual achievement by members of the PGHS student body. The Student Voices Talent Show was performed on the night of Wednesday, March 9, and at a rally on Thursday, March 10. More acts were performed on Wednesday night, because some of the acts had to be cut from Thursday's performance due to time limitations. Still, the students and teachers who attended the rally were enthused by the students' performances. All of the acts from Student Voices received much praise. When I asked fellow students about their favorite performances, it seemed that all of the acts were appreciated. A few memorable acts were senior Emmitt Withrow's Beastie Boys rap and an original song by freshman Frida Vossler and senior Andrew Shaver.

The NewsBreaker Riddles



By John Powley, Class of 2023

Answer to Issue 9 Riddle: The weather at Officer Fields’ home was dense fog, so much that he couldn’t see a few feet in front of him while driving. However, the maid claimed she could SEE the victim and the murderer through the kitchen window from her vantage point in the guest house. If the victim’s home was just down the street from Fields’ home, the dense foggy weather would have remained consistent, meaning that the maid couldn’t have seen anything. So the maid is the most suspicious.

This riddle is extremely difficult. Good luck:

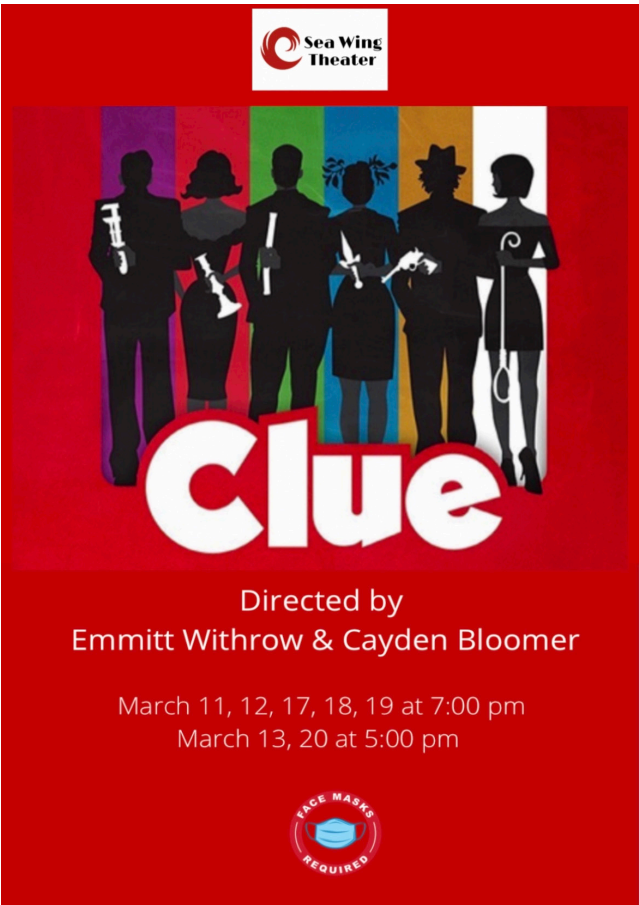
100 prisoners of war are held, individually, in 100 soundproof cells. None of the prisoners have ever communicated with each other at all. The warden, tired of holding the prisoners, has decided to give them a chance to gain their freedom through a diabolical logic game (trust me). If the prisoners win, they will all be escorted out of the prison and be freed. If they lose, they will be executed immediately. The warden describes the game to all the prisoners individually and in the same manner:

All the names of the 100 prisoners are written on slips of paper and placed in a large hat. Each daylight hour, the warden will draw one of the names in the hat. Whoever is drawn will be escorted out of his cell. The name drawn is RETURNED to the hat, meaning that the same prisoner can be drawn multiple times. The prisoner is then taken to a large, empty room with two turned-off lights in the center, one green and one blue. The prisoner will be able to turn these lights on or off in any configuration they please. After 15 minutes, the prisoner will be escorted back to his soundproof cell. The configuration of the lights will remain the same and will NOT be reset after the prisoner leaves. When the next prisoner enters for the next hour, the lights will remain what they were previously.

Now, at any time that a prisoner is in the large room with the lights, he can announce to the warden, “Since this game has started, all 100 prisoners have entered this room.” If this prisoner is correct, all 100 prisoners will be freed. If not, they will all be executed immediately. So, the prisoner must only announce this guess if he is fully certain.

The prisoners are allowed to meet in the prison courtyard for a full week to discuss their plan to beat the warden’s game. After the week, the prisoners are returned to their cells and the game begins the following day.

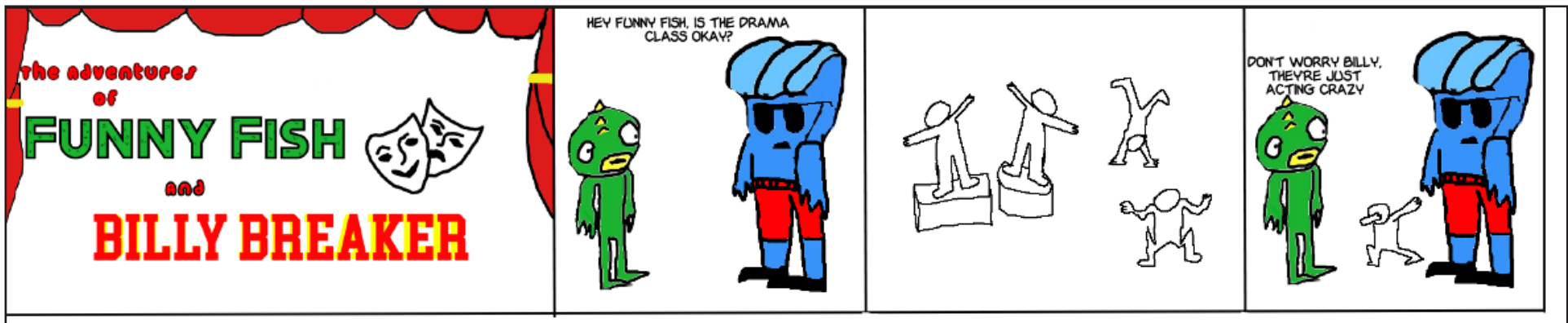
How do the prisoners beat the warden’s logic puzzle to gain their freedom?



Come support your fellow students in the SeaWing Theater by coming to see their production of the play based on the classic Parker Brothers’ board game, Clue. Directors Emmitt Withrow and Cayden Bloomer invite you to experience the hilarious tale of murder, deception, and betrayal. Tickets are \$5 for students.

The NewsBreaker Comics

By Gavin Hunter, Class of 2023 and Zane Coutts, Class of 2023



Teachers Sue District Over Theater Production Controversy

Pacific Grove High School, Pacific Grove - Multiple PGHS teachers are suing PGUSD after they took their young

children to see the PGHS theater production of Clue. The teachers claim that students told them that the play would be age-appropriate for young children. However, the teachers felt that some of the play’s jokes “polluted the minds of their children.” One teacher stated, “I expected a kid-friendly play, but instead found myself feeling like a bad parent for exposing my child to the themes of the production.” In defense of Clue, seniors Cayden Bloomer and Emmitt Withrow, who directed the play, issued a statement saying that they “never officially promised that the play would be kid-friendly.” PGUSD has declined to comment on the lawsuit, but the matter will be addressed at the next board meeting.

Our Staff

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

Will Coen



Class of 2023
William Coen is currently a junior at PGHS. He is in his third year on *The NewsBreaker* staff and first year as an editor. 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.

Chloe Anna Austria



Class of 2022
Chloe Anna Austria is a senior this year. She started writing for *The Newsbreaker* last 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 Baryal



Class of 2024
Maryam Baryal is currently a sophomore at PGHS. This is her second year on staff for *The Newsbreaker*. Outside of school, she likes to listen to music, bake, read, and watch Netflix.

Abbey Fitzpatrick



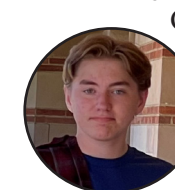
Class of 2022
Abbey Fitzpatrick is a journalist and photographer for *The Newsbreaker*. She is a senior at PGHS and this is her first year on staff for *The Newsbreaker*. Outside of the NewsBreaker, she is the PGHS yearbook editor. Some of her interests are music and politics.

Nathan Jennings



Class of 2023
Nathan Jennings is in his junior year at PGHS. For *The Newsbreaker*, he will be writing about world news that pertains to global affairs. His interests include swimming, fitness, hanging out and/or playing video games with friends or his sister, and drawing. Nathan has been fascinated with writing and journalism ever since he was young. When he was a toddler, he'd develop brilliant creative stories and pieces, and he now takes that creativity to writing articles for *The NewsBreaker*.

Brayden Schmidt



Class of 2022
Brayden Schmidt is currently a senior at PGHS. His hobbies include playing video games and playing instruments for the PGHS Breaker Band. He is enjoying all of his classes and teachers this year.

Nathan Binder



Class of 2022
Nathan Binder is currently in his senior 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.

Thomas Coen



Class of 2025
Thomas Coen is a freshman at PGHS and he joined *The Newsbreaker* because he enjoys writing and hopes to improve his writing skills. He loves running, studying math, and going to the beach. His favorite sport is cross country followed closely by tennis and golf. Outside of school, he enjoys watching *The Office*.

Emmitt Withrow



Class of 2022
Emmitt Withrow is a senior at PGHS and has been writing for *The NewsBreaker* since his freshman year. This year is his first year as an editor of the paper. He enjoys watching movies, learning about history, reading comics, and listening to music.

Claire Qasem



Class of 2025
Claire Qasem is a freshman at PGHS and is in her first year on *The NewsBreaker* staff. Claire plays tennis and basketball at PGHS. She also plays clarinet in the marching band and tenor saxophone in the jazz band. During school, she loves to say hi to everyone and learn about math. Outside of school, she enjoys listening to music, making things, going to Galaxy's Edge at Disney, and occasionally reading comics.

Gavin Hunter



Class of 2023
Gavin Hunter is a junior at PGHS and this is his first year on *The NewsBreaker* staff. He is a member of the PGHS water polo team and enjoys swimming.

John Powley



Class of 2023
John Powley is a junior at PGHS. This is his second year writing for *The NewsBreaker*. He runs on the school cross country team and also enjoys history, math, and science.

Zane Coutts

Class of 2023
Zane Coutts is a junior and a first year staffmember for *The NewsBreaker*. Outside of school, Zane enjoys playing with his dog, bodysurfing at Asilomar Beach, and running for the PGHS varsity cross country and track teams.

Billy the Breaker



Class of ???
Billy is a wave. He likes to occasionally 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....

