



Back in Person

By Maryam Baryal

Since the return of in-person learning this fall, students at PGHS have had mixed feelings over how distance learning went and how in-person learning is going.

Most students feel online learning was much less stressful than in-person learning because they had more time to complete assignments and work more or less on their own time or schedule. PGHS sophomore Taylor Bruno expressed that her favorite part of online learning “was being able to focus on only three of my classes at a time, which made school a lot less stressful.” With six or seven classes instead of three per quarter, students feel more overwhelmed with homework. Freshmen and sophomores have felt especially overwhelmed because before this fall, they had not attended high school in-person and experienced the average workload given by teachers at PGHS.

However, those who felt unmotivated during distance learning feel differently about in-person learning. These students feel more responsibility because school seems more real and genuine. They feel that more is expected from them. When asked if learning was easier online or in-person, students shared that online learning was easier mainly because they had to focus on only three classes at a time. However, students said that in-person is also great because it is easier to ask questions and contact teachers. The majority of students at PGHS enjoy learning with friends again and seeing their teachers in-person. Many students value these relationships with teachers and learning with and from peers.

Besides school and learning, the risk of a Covid outbreak still makes some students anxious. PGHS sophomore Ophelia Kary shared that she fears another Covid outbreak might reverse all the hard work she has been putting into her school work. In contrast, others say that they are not concerned about another Covid outbreak at PGHS because they believe that students and staff are taking every precaution needed to prevent such an event from occurring.

New Year, New Kitchen

By Gavin Hunter

A lot has changed in the last year, especially the Culinary Kitchen. For the last 18 months Chef Erickson has been hard at work remodeling her Culinary Kitchen! As a Freshman I had first hand experience with the former Culinary Kitchen, several of the ovens in the classroom were no longer properly working, so my cooking experience was limited. The idea for a new kitchen started over three years ago with former vice principal Mr. Keller and Director Kelly. They wanted to “take this program to the next level.” Over the last few years Chef Erickson has had many guest chefs and restaurant owners come in to give their opinions. Mr. Steinback has been saving up grant money from the CTEIG Grant, which incentivised putting money towards career technical education programs, so that the culinary classroom can be a “real true commercial kitchen learning space.” Once they had the money Mr. Erickson drafted blueprints and was able to negotiate good prices with the companies that sell the stoves, sinks, and countertops. After that it went to Director Kelly who was able to get a contractor, and the demo work started June of 2020. Construction has been going on all of last year, and just wrapped up a few weeks ago. Chef Erickson says “even if we were on campus last year... the kitchen would have still been put in.” She even says if we were on campus the kitchen would have finished sooner because they wouldn’t have to worry about worker availability and covid. Chef Erickson says her favorite thing about the kitchen is the openness, she likes how it feels “like a collaborative space not just individual home kitchens.” Although she does miss the familiarity of the old kitchen, and knowing where everything is. Even though all of the big stuff has been done there is still a lot of work to be done with the small things like organization “and that really is the biggest job of them all.” Chef Erickson estimates that everything will be 100% done by January. If you can, I would highly recommend trying one of Chef Erickson’s Culinary classes so you can experience a true commercial kitchen.



Chef Erickson's new kitchen features updated models of many kitchen necessities along with brand new features she did not have in her previous kitchen.



Weekend Homework

By Nathan Binder

When you think of homework, you likely think of additional schoolwork that you complete at home, based on what you learned that day, which needs to be completed for a grade. Homework gets mixed reviews: it can be advantageous to one’s learning if it is reasonably assigned. However, if too much is given, it can become drudgery and a struggle to complete.

In a survey sent out to Pacific Grove High School’s student body, a large portion of students (39.4% of 355 respondents) stated that they typically receive 1-2 hours of homework per night. This is a similar response to the amount of homework that students receive during the weekends (about 45.2% of students responded that they receive 1-2 hours of homework per weekend). However, when asked how many hours of homework they expect to receive, more students selected “less than 1 hour” over the weekends. About 10.4% of students generally receive less than 1 hour of homework over the weekend, but 26.8% of students actually expect to receive that amount, based on their classes and grade level. According to PGHS’s students, the classes that give the most homework over the weekends are mathematics courses (27.5% of 357 respondents selected), followed by science (24.4%), history and social studies (24.1%), English (20.7%), and electives (3.4%). When given the choice as to when during the week they would rather complete their homework, about 87.5% of 359 respondents selected during the week, as opposed to 12.5% who chose during the weekend.

This data indicates that most students believe that they should be receiving less homework, especially over the weekends. The majority of students would also rather not have any homework at all over the weekends and instead believe that the weekend should be time to decompress and relax from a stressful week of school. Freshman Graham Smith says, “I find it much easier to complete homework during weekdays, and greatly prefer to have weekends free for spending time with my friends or simply doing whatever else I want to do.” Sophomore Oliver Page similarly states, “I believe that homework should be kept to the weekdays, so students can decompress over the weekend and hang out with their friends and family.”

However, other students stated additional reasons as to why homework should be kept solely during the week. Senior Robert Englehorn states, “Doing homework on weekday nights is easier because you can get into a routine that is hard to get back into when you are on your weekend break, making homework over the weekends easier to forget about or leave incomplete.” Senior Lexy Sapiro says, “I prefer to finish all of my homework, or at least most of it, during class because then I have more time to spend on college applications, scholarship applications, clubs, and other out of school activities.”

Homework has both advantages and disadvantages to a student’s learning. It can be helpful for students to practice what they learned earlier in the day, or to conceptualize important topics and themes. However, students also need a healthy balance of their own relaxation time as well, and most feel that homework should be limited to the weekdays only so they can utilize the weekends to relax.

The NewsBreaker’s Quote of the Issue

Regarding high school: “But it’s been fun...in an insane way.” -Oscar Scholin, Class of 2020 and former editor of *The NewsBreaker*

Varsity Football Gets Off to a Mediocre Start, JV Continues Winless Season

By Will Coen

The PGHS varsity football team started the season with a loss to Carmel in the Shoe Game. The varsity boys recovered from this opening loss by defeating Gonzales on the road by a score of 34-20 on September 3. Senior running back Jacob Booker, junior running back Luke Vanbrabant, and senior lineman Angelo Hampton led the Breakers in this victory. After defeating Gonzales, the Breakers were set to play Pajaro Valley at home on September 10. However, this game was canceled due to Covid-19 issues. The Breakers then faced Stevenson at home on September 17 and won in a thrilling game by a score of 27-25. Booker again led the team at running back while senior Colin Tavares provided a strong performance at quarterback. On September 25, the Breakers traveled to Salinas to face Rancho San Juan with an opportunity for a third straight win. However, Rancho San Juan defeated the Breakers by a score of 20-14 and handed PG its second loss of the season. Heading into a bye week, the varsity team sits at a 2-2 record. The Breakers’ next game is against North Monterey County on the road on October 9. The PGHS junior varsity football team has struggled so far this season and still has not managed to come away with a win. The junior varsity boys lost by a score of 0-26 in the Sock Game against Carmel to begin their season. The Breakers followed this loss with a road loss against Gonzales and then a 7-42 defeat at home against Stevenson. The junior varsity team then lost again to Rancho San Juan on the road on September 25. The team’s starting quarterback is freshman Nathaniel Wade. Looking for its first win of the season, the team will next play against North Monterey County on October 9.



Star senior running back Jacob Booker is brought down by two Stevenson players near the goal line.



Junior Rey Avila kicks an extra point against Stevenson while senior quarterback Colin Tavares holds the football.



Senior wide receiver Spencer Nelson hauls in a deep pass from Colin Tavares along the sideline while Stevenson players look on.

MAP Testing Mapped Out

By Claire Qasem

MAP assessments are adaptive tests taken three times a year by PGHS students for both English Language Arts and mathematics. Distance learning has created many gaps in learning for students across all grades. This deficiency has created worry among schools and is being addressed at the national, federal, and local levels. According to Dr. Haggquist, hired as a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), “Funding has been made available for mitigation, but to solve the problem schools first need to identify where the gaps are and what the extent of the learning loss is.” Ana Silva, the PGUSD Curriculum Director, says that while researching tests and assessments to do such a job, she landed on MAP testing. “We need the MAP assessment because it identifies exactly what students already know (have learned) and is ready to continue learning in both math and English Language Arts” (Silva). The specified data acquired from the tests can then be used by the teachers to inform their decisions of what to focus more or less on in class. This assessment is also used as a tool to measure a student’s growth from kindergarten to twelfth grade. This year the test was administered to and taken by students from kindergarten to eleventh grade in PGUSD schools.

Cross Country Running

By Zane Coutts

The PGHS cross country team had its first official meet on September 16 at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy. This particular course was extra hilly, dusty, and hot. Pacific Grove was the smallest team there, barely fielding a full girls’ varsity team. The largest team was from Alisal High School and probably had twice as many runners as PGHS. The boys’ varsity race took off at 3:30 pm with over a hundred boys competing. The PGHS varsity team had warmed up together, but had not seen the full course. The most difficult part of the course came not even a mile into the race, as competitors ran up the concrete hill of an outside amphitheater. This hill discouraged many runners. After the first hill, the main section of the course began. This section featured long uphill sections followed by equally long downhills. Dust from the course found its way to the eyes and throats of many runners and eventually built up in the runners’ lungs. At one point, a student with a spray bottle tried to cool down all of the runners. The final stretch of the course was almost a straight mile of downhill, which was helpful for some but difficult for others. Junior Chris Fenstermaker was the first finisher for the PGHS varsity boys’ team while senior Rob Englehorn is the team captain. The PGHS boys’ varsity team finished in 5th place in the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s elite Gabilan Division. After the boys’ varsity team finished, the girls’ varsity team ran. The majority of the PGHS girls seemed to similarly struggle from the course’s hills. The girls’ team was led by junior Grace Lyons, followed by freshman team captain Eleanor Lyons. The girls’ varsity team finished in 5th place in the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Mission Division. The boys’ junior varsity and frosh-soph races were combined into a single race. The resulting race included hundreds of runners. The larger schools had many junior varsity and frosh-soph runners, leading to the course being crammed. A few of our frosh-soph runners were able to compete with the other schools’ junior varsity runners. With almost all new members on the cross country team, this looks to be a promising year.

The Recall Vote

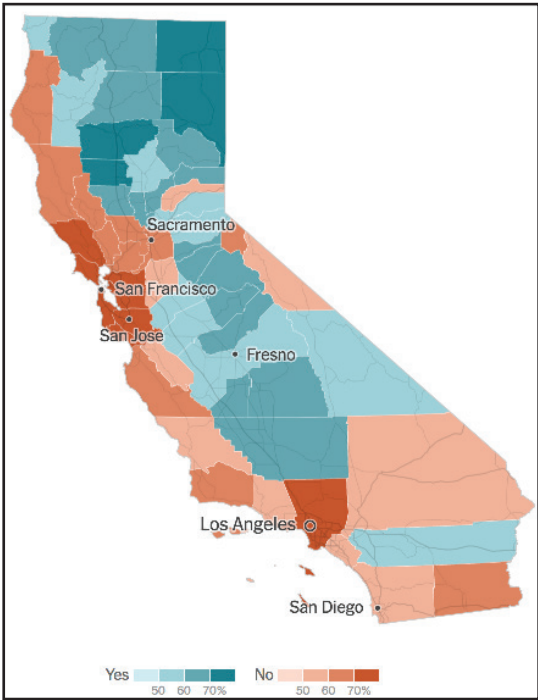
By Abbey Fitzpatrick

On Tuesday, September 14th, students may have noticed a polling station in the PGHS Dance Room. Many students possibly thought it an unusual sight as 2021 is not a presidential election year and the midterms are not until next fall. The atypical election on September 14th was a recall of Governor Gavin Newsom.

A recall is a method of election where voters can remove an elected official prior to the end of their term. California is one of only 19 states that allows for recall elections of elected officials. The only requirement to trigger a recall in California is a certain number of signatures, 12% of voters for the last election of the office. The number of signatures needed was reached in July which resulted in the recall a few weeks ago. Many voters who signed the petition to recall did so because of their disdain for Newsom’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The recall ballots simply asked two questions: Do you want to replace Governor Gavin Newsom, yes or no? And, who do you want as a replacement candidate? If 50% of voters decided to vote ‘yes’ to the first question, then the replacement candidate with the most support, even if it is a small minority, would be elected governor. There were 46 possible replacement candidates for Newsom, including reality TV personality Caitlyn Jenner and radio host Larry Elder. Larry Elder was the front-runner from the slew of different candidates.

Ultimately, the recall effort in California failed as Californians voted overwhelmingly to keep Newsom in office. The final vote tally was 62.2% voting ‘No’ on the recall and a mere 37.8% voting ‘Yes’ to remove Newsom. Of the 37.8% who voted to remove Newsom, Larry Elder received the highest number of votes (27% of Californians who voted ‘Yes’ on the recall). Here in Monterey County 67.9% of voters voted ‘No’ on the recall and 32.1% voted ‘Yes’ to remove Gavin Newsom. 56.7% of registered voters in Monterey County turned out to vote in the recall, a majority by mail-in ballots.



Above: Sign directing people to the polling place located in the Pacific Grove High School Parking Lot.
Left: Map of California counties and how they voted in the recall.



The PGHS cross country team after a meet.

PGHS Boys’ Water Polo Thrives in Third Season

By Will Coen

The PGHS boys’ water polo team, formed in 2019, has come a long way since its inception. In its inaugural season, the team mainly consisted of lower classmen and lost the majority of its games to more experienced schools. During the 2020-2021 school year, the water polo season was shortened due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But this season, athletes who were lower classmen in 2019 are now upperclassmen, and the team has already developed a winning tradition.

In competition within its league, the boys’ varsity team has gone undefeated thus far with a 4-0 record. Led by Head Coach Casey Lyon, the team has defeated its league opponents easily, often by a margin of 10 or more points. A list of key contributors on the varsity team includes junior team captains Hazen Montgomery and Ronan Nardone, along with juniors Christian Cuellar, Weston Eldridge, Gabe Garzaniti, Masao Gonzales, Niko Hubbard, and Forrest Scholin. Garzaniti is the team’s goalie, while the other athletes play various positions and often switch positions during games. When asked about his thoughts on the season, Scholin stated that “everyone is playing really well” and the team is “super excited” that all of their hard work is “paying off.” When Scholin mentions hard work, he means it; the water polo team practices early in the morning before school as well as in the afternoon.

The varsity team’s overall record is 6-2. In mid-September, the team traveled to Morro Bay to compete in a tournament. The team won 2 games and lost 2 games in Morro Bay, eventually finishing in 4th place out of 8 teams in the tournament. Scholin considers one of the Morro Bay victories to be the team’s best win so far. In this game, the team was losing by 4 points toward the end of the competition but ended up being “clutch” and winning by 1 point.

It seems likely that the boys’ varsity team will finish this season as league champions. With each additional victory, the varsity boys are establishing a tradition of success that will benefit the PGHS water polo program in the future.

Upperclassmen Lead Girls’ Water Polo Team

By Will Coen

Similar to the boys’ water polo team, the PGHS girls’ water polo team was established in 2019 and currently is competing in its third season. The girls’ water polo team began its season with a 20-8 preseason win over Monterey. Regarding this win, senior Haley Meyer states that the team “worked hard” for the win and “used what [they] learned in practice.” Soon after this victory over Monterey, the regular season began. At this point in the regular season, the girls’ water polo team has a record of 0-3.

The team is led by senior and team captain Gabi Gaona, who “helps support our team and sets a great example for underclassmen on how to be a good teammate,” according to Meyer. Other leaders and key contributors on the team include seniors Alyson Shoemaker and Maddy Armas, junior Grace Lyons, and Meyer. Armas is the team’s goalkeeper, while Gaona plays the set position. Shoemaker and Lyons play the wings and sprint positions, while Meyer plays on the outside wings. Meyer describes the season as “a fun learning experience for everyone.” As the season continues, the team looks for its first win.

Russia Strengthens her Influence in West Africa

By Nathan Jennings

Within the last several weeks Russia has been actively involved in the economic and diplomatic future of West Africa, following China’s charge to assert economic influence over the region. Russia currently seeks a military entente allowing Russian mercenaries military access to Mali. A military deal between Russia and the state of Mali has been staunchly criticized in recent weeks by the Paris government which condemns Russia’s aggressive foreign measures that some suggest would initiate a “second Cold War.” According to the Reuters News Agency, “A deal is close that would allow Russian mercenaries into Mali, extending Russian influence over security affairs in West Africa and triggering opposition from former colonial power France” (Reuters). Following Russian mercenary activities, French Counter-Terrorism efforts have censured Russian private military contractors like the Wagner Group for operating in the former French colony of Mali. At least 1,000 mercenaries could be involved. In the wake of all these assertions of power by Moscow comes growing concern over Russian influence in West Africa in other states such as Mozambique. According to the New York Times journalists Eric Schmitt and Thomas Gibbons-Neff, “The Kremlin is increasing arms sales, security pacts and training programs as the American defense secretary weighs withdrawing troops from the continent” (Schmitt and Gibbons-Neff). Moscow is taking steps to deploy Russian mercenaries in political leverage and has sent 200 mercenaries to Mozambique to combat emerging concerns over Islamic insurrectionary movements. The international community has called this a distraction from Russia’s true desire in the region, which is to influence the outcome of Russian diplomacy in the world. Others claim that Putin’s ambitions are a psyop (military operations aimed at establishing ideological influence over a country or region through non-belligerent means such as the distribution of party pamphlets or propaganda). According to Schmitt and Gibbons-Neff, “American officials, analyzing what they call great power competition, say they are alarmed by Russia’s growing influence, as well as China’s, as Washington struggles to exert it’s economic and security goals on the continent” (Schmitt and Gibbons-Neff). Russia’s exertion of power in West Africa comes in the context that Mark T. Esper, the former US Secretary of Defense, rumored the possibility of American troop withdrawal from West Africa. Esper rumored the redirection of security efforts to locations such as the South China Sea to monitor Chinese activity regarding Taiwan. US Senator Lindsey Graham has recently weighed in and remarked on Russia’s exertions of influence, stating, “A withdrawal from the continent would also certainly embolden both Russia and China.” The influence of Russia and the Wagner Group in Mozambique and Mali has permitted Russian installation of political advisors within West African political offices. Such is the case in the Central African Republic which is now selling gold and diamonds from West African mines in exchange for firearms and hired trainers from Moscow. Despite the claims of Russia and China that they are selling firearms to “help combat Jihadist groups,” little has been done to restrict their power. According to Schmitt and Gibbons-Neff, “Outside of selling arms for their own economic benefit, China and Russia are not doing much to help counter extremist groups seeking to rob Africans of their future,” Brig. Gen. Gregory Hadfield, Africom’s deputy intelligence director, told reporters this month in a conference call” (Schmitt and Gibbons-Neff). Sino-Russian commercial investments challenge the global influence of the United States and could influence the emergence of a second Cold War, but only history will tell.

Advice from Billy

Dear Billy,
I find that after the isolation of the pandemic, I’m really shy this year, and I am having a hard time putting myself out there. I used to be good at it, but I’m suddenly not sure how to deal with people anymore. Any advice? Thanks in advance!

Sincerely,
Shy Student

Dear Shy Student,
Sometimes it helps to start by hanging out with one friend. Maybe ask them to go on a bike ride or go to get lunch. Then slowly branch out and get in the groove. You can do this! Don’t judge yourself on the number of friends you have. It is more important that your friends make you happy.

Catch a wave,
Billy

Dear Billy,
Are school cookies coming back?

Sincerely,
Sweet-Toothed Scholar

Dear Sweet-Toothed Scholar,
Word is that cookies are already back and Mr. Morgan is smuggling them before they can reach the cafeteria.

Catch a Wave,
Billy

Dear Billy,
How are others able to manage schoolwork and still have time to spend with family?

Sincerely,
Family-Focused Freshman

Dear Family-Focused Freshman,
When doing homework make sure to avoid distraction. Make sure to keep your phone away from you while studying unless you need it. Don’t have YouTube bookmarked. This little thing can save you hours of time. Also, I like to tackle the easy assignments first just to get them off my plate.

Catch a Wave,
Billy

Dear Billy,
What happens to you when the swell dies away?

Sincerely,
Curious Character

Dear Curious Character,
Legend says I am always there lurking beneath the water. I only surface on a wave.

Catch a Wave,
Billy

Dear Billy,
I have so many extracurriculars after school and I don’t have much time for homework. Should I drop a few extra-curriculars?

Sincerely,
Busy Breaker

Dear Busy Breaker,
You got this! Keep on doing those extracurriculars and just make sure to do homework productively when you get home. A good space to do homework is always a good place to start.

Catch a Wave,
Billy

Girls’ Water Polo Photos



The PGHS girls’ water polo team poses after an away game. Senior captain Gabi Gaona is fifth from left.



Senior Haley Meyer follows through after releasing a shot at goal.

Lili Wright prepares to fire a shot at goal.



Schedule of Events (September 27, 2021 to October 17, 2021)

Leadership:

September 27 - 70s Day

September 28 - 80s Day

September 29 - 90s Day

September 30 - Red and Gold Day, Rally

September 31 - 2000s Day, Decades Dance from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in Breaker Breezeway

September 17-31 - Games during lunch at Pride Place

Academics:

October 8 - Last Day of Quarter 1

October 11-15 - Fall Break

Athletics:

September 28 - Girls' Tennis vs. Santa Catalina

September 30 - Girls' Tennis vs. Salinas

September 30 - Cross Country at Monte Vista Christian

October 5 - Volleyball vs. Seaside

October 7 - Volleyball vs. Pajaro Valley

October 9 - Football at North Monterey County

October 14 - Volleyball vs. North Salinas

October 14 - Cross Country at Toro Park

October 15 - Football vs. San Lorenzo Valley

Other Fall Sports: Girls' Golf, Water Polo



Billy's enthusiastic persona also reminds many PGHS students of Mr. Morgan.

Sources: Billy the Breaker is None Other than PGHS's Mr. Morgan in Disguise

Pacific Grove High School, Pacific Grove - Numerous trusted sources have contacted *The NewsBreaker* about the true identity of Billy the Breaker, PGHS's mascot. These sources claim that irrefutable photo evidence has led them to believe that Mr. Morgan, one of our school's history teachers and the former head football coach, actually dons the Billy the Breaker costume at all rallies, football games, and other school functions. *The NewsBreaker* approached Mrs. Selfridge, PGHS's Leadership Advisor, with regard to this topic, but she refused to comment. *The NewsBreaker* also approached Mr. Morgan himself, but he also refused to comment. However, *The NewsBreaker* did not give up its investigation after these minor setbacks. Members of *The NewsBreaker* staff spent days digging through archives of articles and interviews before finding an interview relevant to the investigation. The interview took place on August 6, 2021 with head football coach Jeff Gray. When asked about the former head coach, Gray stated that "although Mr. Morgan is no longer coaching the team, he is contributing to the team's success in other ways." Through this statement, is Coach Gray implying that Mr. Morgan's role as Billy the Breaker provides the football team with needed enthusiasm and spirit? *The NewsBreaker* certainly thinks so. In future issues, *The NewsBreaker* may publish the aforementioned photo evidence.

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.

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 year-book editor. Some of her interests are music and

Yasser Alkhalaf

Class of 2025



Yasser is a freshman at PGHS. He loves math and would enjoy discussing concepts with anyone. He is a member of the robotics team as well as mock trial and choir. He knows python and Java programming languages and is actively learning more about these languages every day.

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*.

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.

Zane Coutts

Class of 2023

Zane Coutts is a PGHS junior and a first year staff-member 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.

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.

Anneka Keller

Class of 2022



Anneka Keller is a senior at PGHS and this is her third 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.

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.

Ishani Chowdhury

Class of 2025



Ishani Chowdhury is currently a freshman at PGHS. This is her first year writing for *The Newsbreaker*. Outside of school, Ishani does robotics and volunteers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She loves to compose/play music, rollerblade, take artistic photos, and write.

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*.

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.

Dakota Boulware

Class of 2024



Dakota Boulware is a sophomore and this is his first year writing for *The NewsBreaker*. Dakota enjoys playing video games, playing football, and hanging out with friends. Dakota also plays the tuba in the PGHS Breaker Band.

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....