



A Magical Homecoming

By Claire Qasem

Homecoming 2021 was like a fairy tale! There were five wonderful spirit days to excite the student body during Homecoming week. Monday was Adam Sandler Day, and the freshman class earned 20 points (in the competition between classes) for having the most students dressed up. Tuesday was Country vs. Country Club Day and did not feature a class count. Wednesday was Iconic Duos Day, and the sophomores emerged victorious in the class count, earning 20 points. Thursday was Red and Gold Day and did not include a class count. Finally, Friday was Class Colors Day, which the senior class won with 24 points. The rally on Thursday featured performances by the Breaker Band, the Breaker Girls with partners, and the Cheer Team with members of the football team. At the rally, the legendary spirit board was awarded to the senior class, which ended up with 59 spirit points. The freshman class came in second with 50 points, the sophomores in third with 43 points, and the juniors in last place with 36 points. The Homecoming Court was announced at the rally as well. The freshman prince and princess were Cedar Peterson and Charlotte Chenoweth, the sophomores selected Evan Conneau and Dayci Dishny, and the juniors selected Tanner Downing-McAdams and Chloe Coe. The senior class featured two pairs of princes and princesses: Kaleb Kuska with Alyson Shoemaker and Jack Hansen with Alexi Martin. Seniors Malakai Peterson and Leah Tullius were crowned king and queen at the Homecoming football game. At the rare Thursday night game, the junior varsity team fell by a score of 8-24 against King City, while the varsity team took home an epic 27-25 upset win. Despite this win, the varsity team failed to qualify for the CCS playoffs. Besides football, the game showcased the Homecoming floats of each class. The Homecoming theme was Into the Woods and each class was assigned a different fairy tale for their float. Little Red Riding Hood was assigned to the freshmen, Cinderella to the sophomores, Hansel and Gretel to the juniors, and Rapunzel to the seniors. The seniors' float earned first place, although the juniors' float was voted the fans' favorite. For the Homecoming Dance on Saturday night, the breezeway was decorated according to the theme of Into the Woods. The dance featured a photo booth, lots of loud music, and a small incident with a mannequin. What a memorable and magical Homecoming week!

Right: Seniors Summer Sebok, Gabi Gaona, and Lexi Martin work on the senior Homecoming float, depicting the Grimm Fairy Tale story of Rapunzel.

Far right: Cayden Bloomer (12), the drum major of the Breaker Band, conducts during a football game.

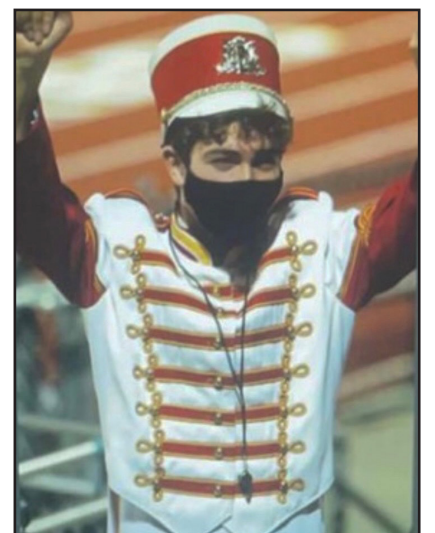
Cayden Bloomer: The Breaker Band's Drum Major

By Maryam Baryal

Pacific Grove High School has a reputation for its pre-eminent music program, which includes the Breaker Band. The band plays at football games, rallies, parades, and competitions.

Cayden Bloomer, a PGHS senior, is the Breaker Band's drum major. He has been a part of school bands for the past eight years, as he started music in the fifth grade. Over the years, he has developed impressive musical abilities and currently can play nine instruments! He has achieved so much in music through determination and hours of practice every day. He was initially motivated to join band because his mom was in band in high school, and he chose to play the clarinet because he had seen Squidward play it in the cartoon Spongebob Squarepants. He says that his favorite part of being in the school band is "...going to competitions. Adventuring to different places and representing PG's music department while making memories with your friends is always so much fun."

As drum major this year, he has enjoyed working with and leading his peers through the marching season. Bloomer is most proud of the band's formation of a "P" and a "G" while playing Dancing Queen at their last field show of the year during the Homecoming game. However, he also thinks that the band can improve on their vocal capabilities. "I will admit, we are a shy band when it comes to shouting or making any loud noise with our voices." He hopes that with practice, the band will become more confident. When asked what he would like to say to future students who may want to join the school band, Bloomer responded, "I would tell them that music allows you to forge friendships in an extremely unique way you cannot find anywhere else. Whether it's hyping up the crowd at football games, proudly marching down Lighthouse Avenue in a parade, or jamming out with your friends at lunch, participating in band is what provides you with such opportunities."



MadTown Throwdown

By Thomas Coen

MadTown Throwdown is an off-season robotics competition that happens in November. The competition occurs over a two day period. It’s a great way for teams to gain experience and train new members for the regular season competitions later in the school year. Our PGHS BreakerBots will be participating in this competition on November 13 and 14. The specific competition is called Rapid Recharge. The objective is to drive your robot to pick up dodgeballs from a loading station or the ground. The robot then must drive and shoot the power cells (dodgeballs) through one of three hoops. The smallest hoop is worth 3 points, the second smallest is 2 points, and the largest hoop is 1 point. During the final 30 seconds of the 2.5 minute match, the team’s robot must hang on a bar a few feet off the ground to earn anywhere from 15 points to 100 points. The BreakerBots will need to perform well at the competition, as an anonymous source states that “You won’t get out of that competition with a robot! You’ll just have pieces of one!” I guess that’s why they call it MadTown!

Varsity Football Upsets King City in Homecoming Game

By Brayden Schmidt

On November 4, the PGHS junior varsity and varsity teams faced off against King City for what was both the Homecoming game and the final game of the season. The Pacific Grove JV team lost to King City by a score of 8-24. Meanwhile, the Pacific Grove varsity team defeated King City by a score of 27-25 in a thrilling game that came down to the final minutes. The varsity team ended their season with a home win rate of 80% and an away win rate of 50%, finishing second in their league. The Pacific Grove High School Breaker Band, led by drum major Cayden Bloomer, performed in the stands and during halftime. At halftime, the Breaker Band performed the songs Feel It Still, Dancing Queen, and Forget You with the Breaker Girls. The band’s field show even featured the formation of the letters “PG.” The seniors in the band were recognized at the game, along with the senior Breaker Girls, the senior members of the Cheer Team, and the senior members of the robotics team.

The Show Must Go On... Again!

By Emmitt Withrow

The performing arts. It has been a form of art for a very long time. Whether it is a group performing a ritual, or an old English guy writing and directing a show in front of hundreds of British people (we’ll get back to him later), the performing arts have attracted crowds of people for thousands of years. And the modern day is no different, as we now have multiple ways to watch people perform. Movies, TV shows, live streams, etc. are all options for viewers today. But the drama department of PGHS is bringing the performing arts back on stage. In case you didn’t know, everyone has been trapped in their homes for the past year (maybe you heard). Everything was shut down, including theaters. The pandemic led production studios to come up with creative solutions. Our school is no exception, as the drama department created SeaWing Studios, a subsidiary of SeaWing Productions, which deals with the task of making a movie rather than a play. The drama dep-

artment used multiple online platforms to create short films, which were distributed to the public. And this year, the drama department has finally returned to in-person plays. The unofficial theme of the drama department this year is “Remembering the Past.” Back to the old English guy. The Pacific Grove High drama class has worked tirelessly (seriously, every class day for 2 months, and outside of class) to bring the viewer a William Shakespeare Crash Course, featuring a smorgasbord of scenes from multiple Shakespeare shows. The viewer follows William Shakespeare’s career with many genres and situations, from star-crossed lovers (Romeo and Juliet) to two people who love each other but can’t be together (Hamlet). The show premieres on Friday, November 19, at 7 PM in the SeaWing Theater. However, Shakespeare is not the only element of the past being honored by the SeaWing Theater this fall and winter. In February 2020, a group of seniors in a small town on the coast of California banded together to put on The Hollow, a play based on a novel by the famous mystery author Agatha Christie. The play portrays a gripping tale of murder, deception, and betrayal. The Hollow was meant to premiere at PGHS in March 2020, but we know why that failed to happen. In 2020, the students of the drama department were not even able to finish building the set. Now, almost two years later, the drama department is honoring those students by producing The Hollow. Directed by Spanish teacher Señora Desma Johnson, the play’s opening performance will be on December 3rd. So prepare students, teachers, and anyone with eyes and ears for the debut of not one, but two shows by our magnificent drama department which should definitely give you an eventful night. The drama department can’t wait to see you there....

The Migrant Crisis in Belarus

By Nathan Jennings

Political tensions and humanitarian concerns have emerged this month amid the surge of immigrants seeking passage into the European Union (EU). The countries and supranational organizations involved in these concerns are Belarus, the EU, Poland, and even Russia. Thousands of immigrants, mostly from Syria and Iraq, have gathered along the Belarusian side of the border between Belarus and Poland in hopes of entering the EU. The crisis clearly represents a humanitarian issue, as it involves the seeking of asylum by Middle Eastern immigrants attempting to escape their wartorn homelands. The immigrants were reported to be freezing in cold temperatures, ill-treated, and poorly fed and sheltered by the border forces. Furthermore, Poland has been accused by both Belarus and the EU of pushing immigrants who entered Poland back into Belarus through razor wire fencing. Eight immigrants have been found dead on the Polish side of the border. According to Sky News, “On 9 November Poland reinforced its border by deploying more than 12,000 soldiers to help protect check points after a group tried to storm a barbed wire fence” (Sky News). Moreover, the migrant crisis displays a geopolitical issue. President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, who is considered the “last dictator of Europe,” has “hinted” at the possibility of cutting off gas supplies to the European Union from a Russian-operated gas pipeline. The threat of cutting off the supply of gas from Russia, which supplies Europe with roughly one third of its gas, has caused President Vladimir Putin of Russia to announce on Saturday, November 13 that “This would mean a breach of our gas transit contract and I hope

this will not happen.... There’s nothing good in this, and I will, of course, talk to [Lukashenko] about this subject.” A British Broadcasting Corporation report suggests that EU sanctions on Belarus could come on Monday, November 15 if Belarus does not properly resolve the immigrant border situation.

Sky News even goes as far as to say that, “Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko is accused of giving migrants tourist visas and helping them enter the bloc illegally as a way of taking revenge on the EU for sanctions imposed after he won a disputed election last year” (Sky News). Lukashenko helped 4,100 asylum seekers from West Asia enter Lithuania illegally earlier in 2021. Russia, which has strong military and diplomatic ties with Belarus, has blamed Poland for the migrant crisis. The alliance between Russia and Belarus is strong enough that last Thursday, Russia flew two Tu-160 Russian bombers carrying missiles over Belarus’s borders in flight with the Belarusian Air Force’s Su-30SM escort fighters (according to The National Interest). With Russian military activity on the rise in Belarus, rising hypothermia and hunger along the border, and a growing number of 2,000-10,000 people trapped between Poland and Belarus (according to The Daily Caller), we could see potential issues escalate in the coming weeks.

Ford’s New Electric F-150 Lightning: Will it Revolutionize the Automobile Industry?

By Nathan Binder

Pickup trucks are considered one of the most popular and desirable automobile body styles, due to their practicality and capabilities. Despite the rise of electric vehicles within the past decade, there are currently no electric pickup trucks available for the general public. However, various manufacturers such as Tesla, Rivian, General Motors (GM), and Ford have been developing concepts and prototypes for soon-to-be-released electric pickup trucks.

The Tesla Cybertruck, Rivian R1T, and Hummer EV (GM’s electric truck) all boast their own unique and in some cases extraordinary and futuristic styling, which may sway some buyers looking for a more contemporary look, but still wishing to have the latest technology and luxury amenities. The Ford F-150 Lightning’s styling is similar to the internal combustion engine (ICE) F-150, which is the best-selling and most popular full-size pickup truck. The Lightning packs the latest technology and new, mind-blowing amenities, all with familiar, reputable styling. The new Lightning has two battery packs available: the base battery offers an EPA-estimated range of 230 miles on a full charge, but a larger, extended range battery is available, which increases the range to 300 miles on a full charge. 0-60 acceleration times are estimated to be around 4.5 seconds. However, the most notable, stunning feature available on the Lightning is “Ford Intelligent Backup Power,” in which the truck acts as a backup home generator in the event of power losses, provided the truck is plugged in. The Lightning is estimated to power a typical, modern house for up to 3 days, but if the owner rations their electricity use, the truck can power the house for up to 10 days.

The Ford F-150 Lightning boasts the latest technology, contemporary styling, and an environmentally conscious powertrain. Ordering the Lightning became available on October 26, 2021. As manufacturing begins and the trucks start to appear on today’s roads, we shall see if the Lightning revolutionizes the automobile industry toward greener, more environmentally friendly forms of transportation.

For more information on the Ford F-150 Lightning, check out Ford’s website at the following URL: <https://www.ford.com/trucks/f150/f150-lightning/2022/>

BREAKER OF THE WEEK!



Get to Know a Fellow Student: Meet Emmitt Withrow

By Yasser Alkhalaf

Emmitt Withrow is a PGHS senior and an editor of *The NewsBreaker*. Emmitt is currently taking five PGHS classes: Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC), Culinary 2, AP Government and Economics, Advanced Drama (his second year doing so), and Intro to Computer Science. He is also taking Elementary Statistics at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC).

Emmit is very active in extracurricular activities. He is a member of PGHS Mock Trial and the school drama department, for which he has been in numerous plays. Emmitt was in the school choir during his sophomore year. He commits many hours of his time to editing *The NewsBreaker*.

With regard to his path after graduation. Emmitt is intent on going to a four-year college, and is awaiting admission responses to multiple colleges.

Emmitt spends his free time listening to music or enjoying other media. He also loves traveling and researching possible travel destinations.

Schedule of Events (November 15, 2021 to December 5, 2021)

Academics:

November 24 - Minimum Day

November 25 - 26 - Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

Music:

November 17 - Jazz Concert at 6 p.m. at Pride Place

December 2 - Parade of Lights

Drama:

November 19 - 20 - *The Best of Shakespeare* at 7 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday at SeaWing Theater

December 3 - 12 - *The Hollow* at SeaWing Theater

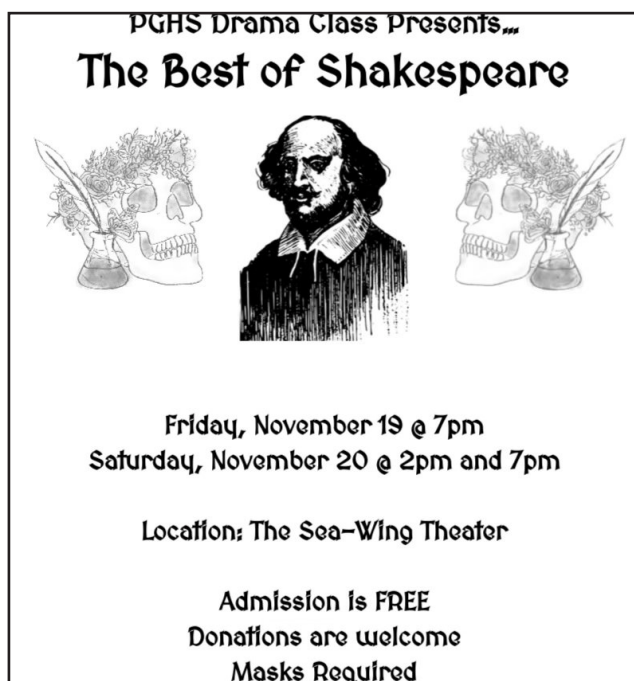


the EGGPLANT

Pacific Grove's Fakest News Source

Student Expelled after Defeating Principal in Dance Contest

Pacific Grove High School, Pacific Grove - At the Homecoming Dance on Saturday, November 6, Principal Garcia shocked the student body by breaking out some impressive dance moves in the middle of a large circle of students. Principal Garcia danced for approximately one minute and received much cheering from his students. Encouraged and exhilarated by this vocal support, Mr. Garcia's confidence increased. He challenged all of the members of the student body to a dance contest. However, senior Booker Catlin was the only student to rise to the challenge. It was decided that the loudness of cheering from the students would determine the victor. Catlin and Principal Garcia took turns dancing in the middle of the circle of students. After two rounds, both Catlin and Principal Garcia had received equally loud cheering. However, in the third round, it became clear to the audience that Catlin's dance skills were superior to those of Principal Garcia. Catlin received a much louder cheer than Principal Garcia did, so he was proclaimed the winner. Oddly, Catlin did not appear at school on the Monday after the dance. A rumor began to spread on campus that Catlin had been expelled. Principal Garcia confirmed this rumor in an announcement to the student body the next day, stating that Catlin had been "expelled for blatantly disrespecting the authority and status of many teachers and administrators on campus." However, in an awkward hot mic moment at a school board meeting on Wednesday, November 10, Principal Garcia was heard saying, "I had to remove that kid from campus. He embarrassed me and hurt my reputation in front of my student body." When *The NewsBreaker* approached Principal Garcia regarding this statement, he declined to comment. Catlin has yet to return to school, and a #FreeBooker movement has gained ground on campus. Catlin's family has allegedly filed a lawsuit against Principal Garcia and PGUSD for "unwarranted expulsion."



An advertisement for the drama department's production, *The Best of Shakespeare*.



Juniors Elle Moore (left), Emma Font (center), and Anastasia Gabrik (right) dressed up for Adam Sandler Day during Homecoming Week.



GO BREAKERS!

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.

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*.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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....