

# The NewsBreaker

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## Closest Shoe Game Since 2013

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Sophomore quarterback Nathaniel Wade makes a pass in the Shoe Game.

### Avila's Heroics Not Enough as PG Falls to Carmel in Shoe Game

By William Coen, Class of 2023

The PG football team lost to Carmel by a score of 21-27 in the Shoe Game this year. The game was very close and came down to the final minutes. With this year's victory, Carmel has now won the Shoe Game for eight straight years and has taken home the Shoe in 14 of the last 15 seasons. However, this year's Shoe Game was the closest contest between PG and Carmel since 2013, and the closest PG has come to taking home the Shoe since 2014, the last time that PG won the Shoe.

PG got on the board first when sophomore Will Selfridge blocked a Carmel punt through the back of their end zone, leading to a safety and a 2-0 PG lead. The score remained 2-0 for the rest of the first quarter. In the second quarter, Carmel bounced

back, scoring 20 points. PG responded with 6 points when senior Rey Avila returned a kickoff for a touchdown. Avila also had an interception in the first half. The score was 20-8 going into halftime.

In the third quarter, PG narrowed Carmel's lead to 5 points when sophomore quarterback Nathaniel Wade threw a touchdown pass to Selfridge. But Carmel responded late in the third quarter with a touchdown, making the score 27-15 going into the fourth quarter.

At this point, the game seemed over. But in the final minutes of the game, Avila caught a touchdown pass from Wade, making the score 27-21. With only about two minutes left on the clock, PG needed to regain possession of the ball. Senior Noah Garry executed an onside kick, and PG miraculously recovered the ball. With the ball on the Carmel 48 yard line, PG had a solid chance to win the game. PG needed to drive the ball 48 yards, score a touchdown, and make the extra point. This was a tall task, but still very much possible.

Unfortunately, the limitations on PG's passing offense came back to bite, as the Breakers were unable to get a first down and turned the ball back over to Carmel. Since the Breakers had used up all of their timeouts, the Padres were able to kneel out the clock and win the game.

PG's star player was Avila, who plays wide receiver, defensive back, and kicker, and also returns punt and kickoffs. His kick return touchdown and touchdown catch led to 12 of the Breakers' 21 points. Avila also contributed with his impressive interception and kicked an extra point. Selfridge scored the

Breakers' other 9 points with his blocked punt and touchdown reception. The Breakers also benefited from a stellar performance by junior Justice Booker at running back, and a strong performance by Wade at quarterback. The Breakers' offensive line was anchored by seniors Sebastian Llantero and Kai Hatton.

Although Carmel continued its Shoe Game dominance, the Breakers made the Padres more nervous than they have been since 2014. The gap in the strength of the rival football programs appears to be decreasing. Especially considering that Wade is only a sophomore, it seems possible that the Shoe could return home to PG in 2023.



Junior running back Justice Booker runs the ball against Carmel.



Senior running back Noah Garry carries the ball into a pack of Carmel defenders.



Senior Evan Woods jumps up in an attempt to catch the ball.

## The History of the Shoe Game

By Graham Smith, Class of 2025

On Saturday, August 27, the PG and Carmel football teams competed in the historic Shoe Game. Every year, PG and Carmel meet to battle it out for the coveted Shoe trophy. This year's game was held in Carmel. The PG team put up a strong fight against Carmel, but eventually fell in the final quarter. The final score was 27-21, making this year's contest the closest Shoe Game since 2013, and the closest PG has come to victory since 2014 (the last year PG took home the Shoe).

But why do we have the Shoe Game, and why is it so important? Well, the game has been an annual tradition between both schools since all the way back in 1948 - in other words, a very long time. The Shoe Game is a significant event each year, and it is an opportunity for everyone to support and represent their schools by dressing up for spirit days and

cheering for their team at the game. After all, it's one of the longest-running school traditions in the region.

As the story goes, one lone shoe was left on the field after a game, no owner in sight. So naturally, this shoe was bronzed and turned into a trophy. Since then, the Shoe has traded hands many times between Pacific Grove and Carmel. It has become not only a symbol of the rivalry between the two schools, but a beacon of school spirit and pride for the school that has it.

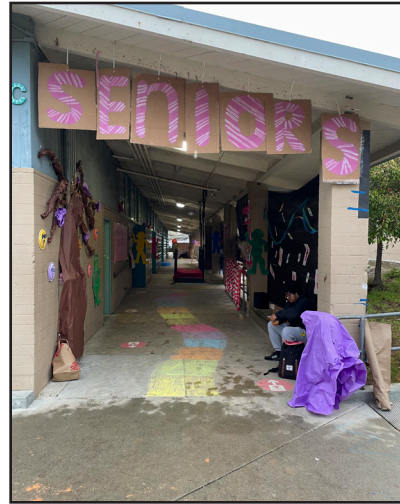
So in the end, the Shoe Game is about playing hard and taking home the Shoe. But it's also about school spirit and community. The Shoe Game is a time for students to rally together and support one another, not just to win a trophy. So congratulations to our football team for putting in their all, and giving everyone a game to remember. With that kind of effort, we're bound to win next year!



# The Excitement of Shoe Week

By Thomas Coen, Class of 2025

Shoe Week was celebrated at PGHS from August 22 through August 27. The theme of this year's Shoe Week was board games. In anticipation of the Shoe Game, the leadership class put on five spirit days, and held lunchtime games on each of these days. On Monday, August 22, PGHS students put Carmel to sleep by dressing up in pajamas. On Tuesday, students dressed as tacky tourists. Students displayed their country club outfits on Wednesday. On Thursday, students wore their class colors or outfits to represent their halls, since that morning some students met at the school at 4 AM to decorate their halls. Each hall had a theme. The freshman hall's theme was *The Game of Life*, the sophomores were *Clue*, the juniors were *Monopoly*, and the seniors were *Candyland*. The seniors won the award for best hall. The freshmen finished in second place, the juniors took third, and the sophomores finished in fourth. On Friday, students dressed up in red and gold to represent PGHS and support the football team. A rally was held before lunch to build up excitement for the Shoe Game. The rally featured performances from the cheer team, Breaker Band, and Breaker Girls.



The entrance to the senior hall.



Amber Hoffman (10) and Gideon Llantero (10) in the sophomore hall.

## PG Stunned by Two Summer Shark Attacks at Lovers Point

By Gavin Hunter, Class of 2023

Over the summer, PG residents have become fearful of nearby beaches. With two shark attacks within two months of each other, we can only hope this is not the beginning of a dangerous trend.

The first attack happened on June 22 at Lovers Point. This was the first shark incident at Lovers Point in 70 years. The victim was a swimmer at the beach named Steve Bruemmer. According to KSBW, he sustained major injuries to his stomach as well as his leg. He was brought to shore on a paddleboard by good samaritans who noticed him struggling in the water. Bruemmer ended up spending three weeks at Natividad Medical Center before being discharged. Luckily, he sustained no major organ or bone damage, although the surgeon who operated on him said



Freshmen pose in their hall.

the bite was millimeters from severing a major artery.

The second shark attack occurred on August 10, when a shark bit a paddleboard multiple times while a man and his dog were aboard. Fortunately, neither of the paddleboard's passengers were hurt. Later, signs were posted at nearby beaches warning swimmers of recent shark sightings.

Many people may be wondering why there has been a sudden increase in the number of local shark attacks. One answer is climate change. With rising ocean temperatures, juvenile shark territory is expanding, leading to an increase in shark encounters, especially on California's Central Coast.

Here are the results from a survey that was sent out to assess how PGHS students reacted to the two local shark attacks:

Have you heard about the Lovers Point shark attacks in June and August? (225 responses)

92.9% of students said yes  
7.1% said no

How did you react to the shark attacks?  
(220 responses)

70.5% said "I didn't care"  
29.5% said "I was afraid"

How often did you swim/surf/kayak at Lovers Point before the shark attacks? (224 responses)

6.7% said "At least once a week"  
17% said "About once a month"  
39.3% said "A few times per year"  
37.1% said "Never"

How will the shark attacks affect how much you swim at Lovers Point? (223 responses)

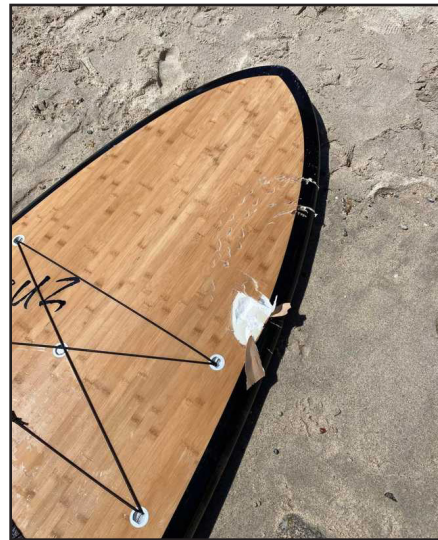
7.2% said "I will never swim at Lovers Point again"  
14.8% said "I will swim much less there"  
20.6% said "I will swim slightly less there"  
45.7% said "I will swim the same amount there"  
11.7% said "I will swim more there"

Rate your fear of sharks on a scale of 1-5.  
(225 responses)

28% selected 1  
27.1% selected 2  
20.9% selected 3  
11.6% selected 4  
12.4% selected 5

Have the shark attacks at Lovers Point made you more afraid of other beaches, such as Asilomar?  
(224 responses)

14.7% said yes  
85.3% said no



Bite marks on a paddleboard from the August 10 shark attack.

## The Fentanyl Epidemic

By Nathan Jennings, Class of 2023

### Introduction

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid with up to 100 times the potency of morphine, according to the CDC. Fentanyl was originally used by professional pharmacists as an immediate pain reliever and was manufactured in small quantities in safe and controlled labs for therapeutic use. Fentanyl is now also the drug of choice for most opioid addicts, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency. Fentanyl is present in most communities in the United States, including the Monterey Bay region and many other communities in California. Fentanyl hits the opioid receptors

in the brain quicker than morphine or heroin, making it more powerful on the mind and body. The lethal dose of fentanyl is 3 milligrams, much lower than that of heroin, which is 30 mg. Fentanyl can be laced into almost any other drug on the streets, including marijuana, MDMA, LSD, methamphetamine, or percocet if bought by an illegal dealer. Many lives in communities near and far have been taken by fentanyl overdoses, and this has led to fentanyl becoming a national issue.

### Effects

Fentanyl is America's deadliest drug, far more potent than any other street drug. Its effect is more euphoric and luring than that of heroin and most other drugs, making it extremely addictive. Yet the "highs" are unpredictable and can cause danger to others. If methamphetamine is described as seven times more dopamine-inducing than sex, and fentanyl is said to be many times more pleasurable than meth, it is not surprising that this drug has caused an epidemic. The lows of fentanyl completely create a dependency to avoid feelings of depression and anxiety in the user after a state of euphoria which tampers/depletes the dopamine system. Since 1999, one million Americans have died due to fentanyl overdoses. Furthermore, in 2020 there were five times as many fentanyl deaths as in 2015, according to the CDC. Sinaloa and Jalisco NG produce the bulk of the fentanyl consumed in the US. One way to reverse the immediate effects of a fentanyl overdose is to use Narcan or Naloxone, an opioid antagonist that combats an overdose.

### Pills

The phenomenon of "blues" or fake oxy pills has developed on the street drug scene. "Blues" is anywhere between 0.2-5.1 mg of fentanyl laced into oxy pills, with 42% (according to the DEA) above the fatal dosage. The pills drug users purchase are not what the buyer often expects and this is the most common way in which people die of fentanyl overdoses. Thus many fentanyl overdoses are through analogs (drugs laced/alterd with other drugs) rather than pure fentanyl. Fentanyl is also cheaper than most lethal drugs, with a kilogram costing roughly \$4,000 according to the DEA. For the same kilogram of heroin, the drug brings a revenue of only \$60,000, while fentanyl brings in \$1.2 million. 78% of over-

dose deaths in New York are a result of fentanyl and a new "rainbow" variant has been made to allure the attention of kids. Child advertisement has often been key to the success of drug trafficking.

### Manufacturing

The fentanyl trade usually begins in Mexico, especially in the northern districts where the Sinaloa cartel is the apex organization for drug trafficking. The drug is made in clandestine labs in worn down homes and forested plantations in the deserts and forests of northern and middle Mexico. The Sinaloa cartel and other competing cartels in Mexico then transport the drug over the border into the United States. This relates to issues of the border crisis and drug smuggling. The ingredients of fentanyl, including N-phenethylpiperidine and 4-anilino-N-phenethylpiperdone, are manufactured primarily in China. The Jalisco New Generation cartel runs the bulk of the ingredient flow from China into Mexico from Mexico's East Coast, where the drug is assembled, stolen from other cartels, and circulated into southern Texas, New Mexico, and bordering states. Although China has pledged to remove these ingredients from manufacturing, labs remain open in Shanghai, Ningxia, and Beijing's outer province of Hebei.

## The NewsBreaker Riddle (Vol. 2 No. 1)

By Elliot Powley, Class of 2023

There once was a club of kids in Russia called The Ghosts. Their rival gang was called The Ghouls. Frequently, these two groups would strategize all throughout the year and then wait until winter to fight in all-out snowball fights, where ammunition (snowballs) and cover (snowbanks) were plentiful.

One quiet winter afternoon, 40 Ghosts were secluded in their base, anticipating an attack from the Ghouls. Their base was a square divided into an imaginary three-by-three grid. The 40 Ghosts organized themselves in the following fashion, where 11 Ghosts defended each side of the fort:



Suddenly, an innumerable number of Ghouls emerged from the trees and let out a shrill battle cry as they charged towards the small Ghost fort. They unforgivingly threw their snowballs at their rival gang. The Ghosts defended themselves with all their might.

Then, the Ghouls retreated into the forests to regroup. The Ghosts discovered that 18 of the 40 boys were extremely injured and could not fight anymore. The 22 able-bodied Ghosts moved their casualties to the middle of the fort to protect them.

"We'll never be able to hold them off!" one Ghost complained. "We'll never organize our forces to hold them off."

But the Ghosts did anyway. Even with only 22 of them, they still defended the fort against future Ghoul attacks, always with 11 Ghosts on each side of the fort.

How was this possible? How were the Ghost defenses arranged?

## Challenges of the New Schedule

By Zane Coutts, Class of 2023

High school students have long suffered sleepless nights, their busy lives and heavy workloads rendering them overbooked and unable to prioritize their sleep. These poor students were still forced to go to school every day, exhausted, unable to learn, kinda bummed. Something had to be done. A plan was made, a great change was to be brought to our noble state, and no student would ever go to school tired again. That would be pretty cool if it was true, but the new schedule brought to California high schools seems to have not accomplished much, and possibly made things worse.

The change is rather small, having the earliest classes be forced to start one hour later. School ends an hour later, and sports end an hour later. Students are going to school one hour later than last year and are getting home one hour later than last year. This change makes students go to sleep one hour later than they did last year and wake up one hour later

than they did last year. This is not just an assumption on my part, as 34% of PGHS students surveyed about the new schedule said that they were getting the same amount of sleep, and 54% said that they were possibly getting less. So if this schedule does not exist to help students sleep more, why does it exist?

Only 5% of those surveyed had a positive opinion about the new schedule, so it can't be doing much. As you may have assumed from that number, a much larger percentage (62%) of the school has a negative opinion about the new schedule. One point of contention is the shortening of both break and lunch. 76% of the students surveyed said that the shortening of both break and lunch is not fair, and I'm willing to bet that our teachers aren't happy about having their breaks shortened either. A frequent complaint among those surveyed was that the later release time made them feel like they had less free time.

Another issue with the new schedule involves food consumption. In the past, breakfast was offered to students during break. However, since break is now too short to offer snacks, if one does not have a chance to eat at home, they must go to school early to get breakfast. This means that they must wake up earlier to get their food, causing them to potentially get less sleep than they would have last year.

In past years, seniors have been able to take the optional first period to free their sixth and seventh periods, allowing them to go home after lunch every day. Now that seventh period is the optional extra class, many seniors can only go home after lunch two days a week. The new schedule has taken this privilege away from our seniors, who were told as freshmen that after gaining enough credits in their previous years they could go home after lunch as seniors. The uneven release times lead to confusing schedules for many students.

Another controversial element of the new schedule is the advisory period. Each Thursday sees 44 minutes dedicated to advisory, and this time is used in various ways. Advisory can be used to have students take baseline assessments like MAP testing. However, many students view all other activities in this period, including various writing projects and reviewing school rules, as a waste of time. It seems that very few students take this period seriously.

Many students complained about advisory in their survey responses.

Although the new schedule is far from ideal, it does allow students to sleep in later, which is something that teenagers enjoy doing. Also, our teachers, staff, and school system are not to be blamed. Our teachers and staff are currently working with a break lower than what should be legal, only being allowed to do so because of a contract they signed. We can only hope that proper adjustments are made so that future years can have a more positive experience despite the mandated later start time.

## Other Photos



The Breaker Band prepares to play the Star Spangled Banner while the football team captains meet the Gonzales captains before their game.

## The NewsBreaker Comic

By Gavin Hunter, Class of 2023



## PG Bounces Back from Shoe Game, Beats Gonzales in Home Thriller

By William Coen, Class of 2023

The PG football team faced Gonzales at home on Friday, September 2. Although the game featured many turnovers, the Breakers had the lead for most of the game. Toward the end of the game, Gonzales managed to tie the score at 20-20. But then sophomore quarterback Nathaniel Wade connected with senior wide receiver Rey Avila for a huge touchdown pass, giving the Breakers a 27-20 lead. Gonzales responded with a touchdown in the final seconds. Instead of trying to tie the game with an extra point, they made a bold win-or-go-home decision by going for a two-point conversion. Senior Evan Woods made the game-winning tackle, preventing Gonzales from scoring on the two-point conversion and cementing a 27-26 PG victory.



The Breaker Girls and Breaker Band prepare for their Michael Jackson-themed field show during halftime of the PG - Gonzales game.