

# The NewsBreaker

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## Get to Know the New Assistant Principal!

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### Exclusive Interview with Dr. Haggquist, New Assistant Principal

By Graham Smith, Class of 2025

As many of you are likely aware, there's a new assistant principal on campus this year, and his name is Haggquist! It's not every day that we see someone new take up the mantle, so we wanted to give you readers an opportunity to get acquainted with PGHS's brand new assistant principal by hearing directly from the man himself. We reached out to the good doctor to ask him some questions about everything from his life to school lunches, and here's what he had to say!

Q: What was your background before working at PGHS?

A: The way I got into teaching was by working at Ventura Unified School District-- I was a water polo coach, substitute teacher, and a waiter at a local restaurant. My first actual teaching job was at Mount Pleasant high school near San Jose. As part of my training, I got to teach at the prison school. I also got to teach at a few group homes. So, I had a lot of experience in settings that are much different than Pacific Grove in terms of discipline.

Q: What was the selection process for you being selected as assistant principal?

A: I actually had interviewed for a number of different positions in the school district after I got my doctorate in organizational leadership. I knew that



I wanted to increase my capacity as a leader within the district, so really I sought any opportunity that came about, and this one was the position that fit the best for me, having been at this site for 25 years and having held several different roles.

Q: What is it like being assistant principal compared to a normal faculty member?

A: It feels a lot different. The main difference is that as a classroom teacher I had an ability to structure my days: it was my lesson plan, I knew what was going to happen. So I would design my units, and my daily lessons, and I was in control. Here as an assistant principal, I can come to work with every intention to work on a project, but there's a lot of unpredictability about how my day will go. I'll find

that I look at my clock at the end of the day and it's already 4 p.m., and I'm thinking "I didn't even get a single thing done!"

Q: What's been the most difficult thing about being assistant principal so far?

A: For me, it's not being in the classroom teaching. I love teaching, I'm a teacher at heart. When I walk into classrooms, I just have this feeling-- I love connecting with students. I really miss the opportunity to have that stage, to have that ability to design with and inspire students through my teaching. That is for sure the hardest thing.

Q: What do you feel is the most important thing for the school right now?

A: To me, student engagement. I've actually been quite impressed; I've been in classrooms and I've seen the level of engagement being strong. We've got great teachers, we've got great students, we've got great people. And when the relationships are strong, it's easier for people to stay engaged. The most important thing is making sure that our school is dynamic and fun, and that students want to stay engaged in their classes-- that they want to learn. Not just about academics, but about extracurriculars: how to become a better athlete on the field, or a better actor in their drama production, or a better singer in their choir, or a better attorney in their mock trial group. It's always about helping people to learn and better themselves.

Q: What are your thoughts on school lunch?

A: I think we've got amazing variety. There's a lot of choice-- When I was younger, there wasn't as much variety, and you had to take the lunch that they served you. "Here's your pizza," "Here's your macaroni and cheese," or whatnot. You couldn't choose a burger if you didn't want the pizza, or get a nice sandwich, or a salad. We even have teachers who go down and get the school lunches themselves, which is really cool. I think it's pretty impressive that we can offer great meals twice a day, every day, with such variety and healthy choices, all for free.

We'd like to give a huge thanks to Dr. Haggquist for taking the time to be interviewed, and we hope he accomplishes great things as assistant principal!

## Students from Young Writers' Club Win Award for Poetry

By Emily Keller, Class of 2024

Recently, two of our students here at PGHS, Hailie Atkinson and Maram Haddad, were awarded with the Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts Monterey County High School Poetry award. We at the NewsBreaker would like to give them a massive congratulations! We also invite you to read Hailie's award-winning poem, "Lunar Voice," as well as some other pieces from the members of the Young Writers' Club.

### Lunar Voice

By: Hailie Atkinson

My voice is the sound of the moon.  
It looms above, with millions of stars beside  
it.

Among obnoxious cries of sirens,  
It sits in silence.

My voice is the sound of a cold winter day,  
The sound of a hollow grave.  
It counters the piercing chirps of birds.  
It says the most through no words.

Your voice, your voice is that of the sun.  
The resumed light after the darkness is gone.  
It calms the sirens and the trees,  
And dances as the birds sing.

Your voice replaces mine when it speaks.  
My voice hides in the comfort of its secrecy.

But for that brief moment,  
When the sky is half yours and half mine,  
I wish my voice was loud enough  
To also bask in the shine.

The Young Writers' Club is also undergoing a revamp this year in order to further strengthen its focus on providing a supportive environment for writers looking to hone their skills and share their work with others. If you have an interest in creative writing, whether that be poems, short stories, or everything in between, then the Young Writers' Club is the place for you!

### Beauty of the Earth

By: Dayci Dishny

My eyes glisten, awakening from the morning breeze  
Feeling so grateful for all that life has given me  
The beautiful air  
The grass that glides  
The birds which sing me lullabies  
The lord has blessed me with so many feats  
Never will i neglect to appreciate all of life's treats  
And when times may get difficult  
Or things may feel tough  
I will forever know, that i am enough  
For life may not always feel pleasant, and dreams  
Take hard work to follow  
I will remain aware, that there will be a tomorrow

### Longing for Something I Can't Have Back.

By: Maram Haddad

There's a longing in me,  
waiting—actually, begging to be fulfilled.

It stretches for miles in front of me  
before abruptly stopping.

And still, I'm unfinished.  
I'm still unraveling.  
I'm too late.

Scouring around for a piece of me  
that I know I can't have anymore.

## School Spirit Comes Alive During Football Game Last Friday

By Meredith Evans, Class of 2025

As many may know, Pacific Grove High School is known not only as a great school with academic opportunities but as a community as well. A perfect example is the student sections on a Friday night football game. Students and families always succeed in coming to support our JV and varsity football teams as they take on schools around the county. Breaker girls, Cheer, and Robotics also help bring the spirit alive with dancing, T-shirt cannons, and exciting chants! Thanks to the support of the students and parents of PGHS, these football games have become the highlights of many people's years. In recent years, leadership has begun to make these student sections known as "Splash Zone" themed. Some include neon, Western, tropical, and our most recent, USA. This themed student section involves music, giveaways (e.g., headbands, beads), signs, chants, and more school spirit! During our big win against Marina this past Friday night, students had many positive comments about these recent themes. These new tactics have helped the leadership to spark the pride of being a Breaker after the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we head into the football season, the leadership team hopes to spark the school spirit at sporting events and throughout the school in all clubs and activities!



The football team squares off against Marina



# Video Bulletin is Back, and Better than Ever!

By William Powley, Class of 2025

A new year at PGHS means a new year of video bulletin! This year we are super excited to bring the new and improved video bulletin back to campus! The video bulletin serves the student body of the high school by spreading news, events, announcements, and positive messages, while encouraging involvement in activities throughout the year.

This year the video bulletin committee is looking forward to making awesome and entertaining videos that will give students something to look forward to each week. The bulletin will cover serious topics, to sporting events, to upcoming activities such as dances, rallies, and spirit days. The video bulletin is a way to convey school wide information in a more meaningful and engaging way so students will want to participate in lots of activities.

Be on the lookout for the video bulletin every Tuesday. Feel free to speak up and voice things you would like to see in the video bulletin as well as revisions you believe should be made. We are open to suggestions and would love to hear what you think. Have a great breaker day and as always, tune in next week.



The Breaker Girls relax together in the bleachers



The Breaker Bots pose with their robot, Riptide



The band lines up for a photo with school mascot, Billy the Breaker



The cheerleading team gets ready to perform