School-wide safety program introduced

By STEPHANIE CHAI
News editor

Panthers on Patrol, a new safety program at Poly, is intended to unite students of all ages with the goal of making campus, especially the parking garage, safer. Created by Laurianne Williams, David Yamaoka, Lower School Director Paula Martin and Lower School Grade Parent Stacy Berger, the entire student body, from kindergarten to twelfth grade, will be encouraged to remind their parents and peers to drive safely. Families have received communication regarding new traffic patterns around campus and will receive more information explaining the Panthers on Patrol program. Parents have been encouraged to demonstrate safe driving as well.

After noticing speeding and distracted driving in the parking structure and around campus, the safety committee wanted to develop a new system that would directly give students the power to enforce safety around the school.

In addition to the bright green figures around the parking structure and crosswalks, students will receive wristbands as a reminder that they and their peers are always Panthers on Patrol.

On the first day of school for Lower and Middle School students, a number of Upper School students and the Panther Mascot, visited the North Campus to help greet students and help them out of their cars.

The idea of Panthers on Patrol was introduced to the entire school at the first all-school assembly of the school year.

Senior Carolyn Shanks commented, “Panthers on Patrol is really a great idea. It puts upper school students in a position of leadership and responsibility, and it gives lower school students an opportunity to see the importance of safety.”

The boys varsity football team kicked off their season with a 38-7 win against Mark Keppel High School at the fall tailgate.

Partnership for Success! enjoys successful summer

By JULIANNA LAI
News Editor

While the north campus was abuzz with PolySummer, high school classrooms hosted Partnership for Success! students as part of a unique collaboration between the Pasadena Unified School District and local independent schools.

Founded in 1990, Partnership for Success! (PFS!) aims to provide the resources and individual attention for PUSD students to realize their full potential as important members of the community—luxuries that Poly students take for granted.

Fourth graders in participating public schools who have demonstrated strong academic potential, have limited access to financial resources and have shown interest in being challenged are chosen to take part in PFS! Many are first-generation children to immigrant parents and have little idea of the college system in the U.S.

Senior Co-captain Brenda Chen expresses her pride in the team and said, “I hope we continue this spirit and commitment for the rest of the school year.”

Dance Team wins coveted Unity award

By BEVERLY SHEN
Assistant News Editor

Poly's 2015-16 Panther Dance Team and Mascots recently completed their annual summer training at the United Spirit Association's four-day song and mascot camp held at the University of California, Santa Barbara and won the coveted Unity Award.

The other teams at the camp voted unanimously to present Poly with the award, recognizing their cooperation, spirit, compassion and sportsmanship. The Panthers have held the title every year for the past decade.

During the retreat, which mainly focused on mastering new choreography, the team partook in various classes and workshops that concentrated on in technical and character-building. With a fast-paced schedule, the dancers faced immense pressure to learn and perfect the material quickly.

The team's dedication and hard work paid off, as they earned superior ratings in all of their group routines and received high personal evaluations as well. The mascots performed equally well, earning superior marks in their respective category.

With half of the dance team comprised of new dancers, Dance Team coaches Tina Cocumelli and Cynthia Crass praise the team for working tirelessly throughout the summer and for their outstanding performance at UCSB.

“We’re really thrilled to have such a devoted and talented group of students to provide spirit and support for the school,” said Cocumelli.

Prior to camp, the new dancers learned more than 20 signature routines, which have been passed down throughout the years of the Poly Dance Team. With the help of veteran dancers, Cocumelli and Crass, the team has successfully mastered the dances.

S Y N D I C A T E O P I N I O N

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SYA and AFS students. See pages 8-9.

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New teachers. See pages 3-5.

Cross country shows potential. See page 14.

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Navigating the Clubs of 2015-2016

The Upper School Club Fair featured over thirty club booths hoping to spark interest in classmates. On September 8th, students in Arden Lawn were tempted with ice cream, candy, and promises of an eventful year. Club foci ranged from liberty in North Korea to superhero movies to culture and cuisine.

The fair saw the return of several popular and well-represented clubs such as Supporting Poly Advocating Random Kindness (SPARK), MD Junior, Soccer without Borders, Union Station, and FEMED. It also ushered in the birth of many new ones, including Girls Who Code, Young Life, TAP @ Poly and the Breakfast Club.

Pastries with Patel (formerly Baking with Bayly)

An old favorite, Poly’s resident baking club finds a new cause.

“This year Pastries with Patel will be donating 100% of profits to Smile Train, which provides free cleft lip and palate repair surgery to children in developing countries. We are planning to hold bake sales during lunch every month to raise the money. Hopefully, we can get the support of the students and staff on campus, as we feel very strongly about this cause.”

- Co-presidents Brenda Chen and Stephanie Chai, ’16

QSA

The Queer Straight Alliance comes back stronger than ever.

“In the upcoming year, the QSA will be making some significant changes. We would like to have a bigger impact on our community in regards to creating a safe space for queer students to talk about issues that come up in their lives and in the community at Poly.

By holding educational meetings where different identities are discussed, we are hoping to open up the QSA to more cisgender/straight students. We also want to continue with the Queer Affinity Group (QAG), which is open to queer or questioning students only, to help them feel comfortable in the community.

We look forward to welcoming new members!”

- Co-presidents Lukas Zmuidinas, ’18, Emma Bradforth, ’18 and Sam Collins, ’16

Girls Who Code

New arrival, Girls Who Code, hopes to shatter stereotypes.

“Girls Who Code aims to introduce Poly students to computer science and hopefully reduce the gender gap in certain STEM fields. We hope to expose more students to programming and plan on inviting an instructor from the organization ‘Girls Who Code’ to come in and teach us to code in Python.”

- President Shirali Shah, ’16

SPARK

Supporting Poly Advocating Kindness invites you to help spread kindness and appreciation.

“SPARK is a club dedicated to spreading kindness around Poly and showing appreciation to the seldom recognized members of our community. [The club] is about the little things too. A small random act of kindness can make someone’s day, so if you’re having a busy week and you can’t help out, you can still do something small like compliment someone you never talk to.”

- President Kelly Liu, ’16

Superhero Movie Club

The beloved SMC returns to the south campus and local theaters.

“The Superhero Movie Club serves as a place to relax from the rigors of Poly academics. Our sole purpose is to have fun and watch superhero movies. This year, we are looking at adding new movies to our film repertoire as well as taking trips to see the latest superhero installments in theaters.”

- Co-presidents Austin Yu and Dylan Magarali, ’16

The Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club makes life on campus infinitely better with free breakfast on most Friday mornings.

“Join us at 7:15am on Fridays to cook or just come by and grab a free (but not necessarily healthy) breakfast. We run on donations so food items (e.g., pancake mix, syrup, etc.) or some spare change is always appreciated. Get to know fellow members and hang out with food!”

- President Ally Annick, ’16
Rachel Countryman

Rachel Countryman is the newest face in the Haaga House’s front office. After serving as the academic dean at Miss Porter’s School in Hartford, Connecticut for 17 years, Ms. Countryman is thrilled to be able to call Pasadena home. A native of Connecticut, Countryman grew up in Philadelphia and has spent most of her adult life in New England. Although she began her career as a math teacher in Massachusetts, Countryman has extensive experience in the administrative aspect of academics due to her work as both college counselor and director of studies at Miss Porter’s. Countryman and her husband, Head of School John Bracker, had been looking for a change in scenery when they received news of Poly’s search for a new Head of School back in 2014. “We somewhat purposefully chose to move to the opposite corner of the country,” says Countryman. “We didn’t really know what it was going to be like being so far away from our family on the East Coast, but Pasadena is actually quite similar to Hartford.” Countryman is particularly fond of Pasadena’s walkability and the scenic backdrop the San Gabriel Mountains give to the city. When she is not on the South Campus, Countryman enjoys spending time with the kindergarten classes in the Lower School. “It’s interesting to see how five and six-year-olds think,” she says. In the short amount of time that Countryman has spent among Upper School students, Countryman has especially noticed students’ humility. “The students here do extraordinarily impressive things, but you never get the sense that people are boasting about that—it’s just part of the fabric.”

Rachel Pringle

Rachel Pringle joins the Poly community from Mayfield Senior School to teach the English I and AP English Language courses in the Upper School. Born and raised in Glendale, Pringle attended UC Berkeley upon graduating from Mayfield. She went on to earn her Master’s degree from Columbia University. Following graduate school, Pringle worked for the National Writing Project, a professional development program for teachers that allowed her to become immersed in the teaching world without being a teacher herself. After working for the National Writing Project, Pringle taught at her alma mater, Mayfield. While teaching at Mayfield, she especially enjoyed serving as the faculty adviser to the student newspaper and collaborating with kids and other teachers. Pringle spoke highly of Poly’s English department’s reputation. “One reason why I was really attracted to Poly was the strong English department,” said Pringle. “I was looking more for a collaborative working environment and have made it a goal to learn from the teachers here to become a better teacher myself.” Pringle hopes to be involved with athletics at Poly in the future but has decided to focus on teaching her first year. Outside of teaching, Pringle likes to run, play the piano, do yoga and travel.

Lawrence Zellner

Lawrence Zellner is one of many new faces this year in the English department. He will be teaching freshman and senior English courses. Zellner took a rather unconventional path to teaching. After attending the College of William and Mary in the state of Virginia, he decided to become a rowing coach in Seattle. After realizing that his true calling was in the classroom, Zellner decided to go back to school and received Master’s degrees in both English and history from Claremont College. He received a PhD from New York University and went on to teach at a private school near Salt Lake City, Utah. As he embarks on a new chapter of teaching, Zellner looks forward to getting to know both students and faculty here at Poly. “Poly has just been a really warm, welcoming place,” said Zellner. Zellner hopes that his students will find his classes “intellectually stimulating” and help them mature as they learn. In addition, Zellner is serving as an assistant cross country coach this year and enjoys being part of student life outside of the classroom. “I’m excited to get to know people and to get to know the community, and it’s been a lot of fun so far,” Zellner remarked.

Kvit Lim

Kvit Lim joins Poly Upper School’s Math Department, teaching both the freshman and senior classes. Born in Bangkok, Thailand, Lim moved to California at the age of 6. Although he was always talented at math, Lim didn’t realize his passion for the subject until his college roommate suggested that he pursue a career in teaching. He went on to attend the University of California, Irvine, where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in math. Before coming to Poly, Lim taught at Milken Community School, a private school in Los Angeles. Aside from his work in the classroom, he was also heavily involved with community service at Milken. Lim says that community service has pushed him to continue teaching and see different sides of his students. He is a strong believer of community service as a stress-reliever for students and likes that it helps balance kids’ academic lives. If he had to choose, Lim says his favorite subject would be Calculus BC. He loves the abstract, yet hands-on nature of the subject. In the upcoming year, Lim hopes to continue to share his knowledge with the community. “It’s a good feeling to know as a teacher that I’ve shown my students something practical,” he says. “It’s great when they can connect the dots for themselves to piece together an ‘Aha!’ moment.”

Beverly Shen and Angela Liu
Mimi Chiu

Mandarin teacher Mimi Chiu is excited to return to the South Campus. She is currently teaching Mandarin to grades six through eight on the North Campus and Mandarin I at the Upper School.

Having taught in both the Middle and Upper School, Chiu is amazed at the progress and development of students. She admires their conscientiousness and interest in not only the language but also the culture.

Chiu also states that Poly students are diligent and put in immense effort to do well in everything. “I want to encourage the students to keep a positive attitude. Learning a language can be challenging at times, but with the right attitude, you have a path ahead,” advises Chiu. “It makes learning much more enjoyable and less stressful.”

When she is not in the classroom, Chiu is usually either competing in a triathlon or training for one. She most recently completed the Vineman in July, which is 70.3 miles of swimming, biking and running. Chiu hopes that in the future she will be able to complete the full Iron Man, which is twice as long as the Vineman at a whopping 140.6 miles.

Currently in her fifth year at Poly, Chiu is eager to be working with Upper School students again.

Serra Leroy

Serra Leroy has joined the Poly faculty this year as an English teacher for the tenth and eleventh grades.

Leroy was born in Arkansas but has lived in California since she was five years old. She stayed in California until she graduated from UC Berkeley and then moved to Vermont, where she attended Middlebury College for her master’s degree. Leroy most recently taught at Greenwich Country Day School, a private school in Connecticut where she ran one of the school’s publications and coached various sports.

“I think being involved in students’ activities is an important role that teachers have at a private school,” said Leroy. “I’m always open to any sort of faculty roles that students need.”

Leroy’s involvement in the Upper School begins as the faculty adviser of the Superhero Movie Club.

An active traveler, Leroy completed an eight-day, solo backpacking trip across Scotland last summer. Leroy said, “It was pretty random and spontaneous, but I have a lot of good memories from that trip.”

Looking forward to her first year as part of the Poly community, Leroy says, “I am excited to come to school every day and learn and think about literature with teenagers.”

Cynthia Garcia-Dehbozorgi

Cynthia Garcia-Dehbozorgi joins the Poly community as the new Spanish II and III teacher in the Upper School.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Garcia-Dehbozorgi attended a private school similar in size to Poly before moving to the United States during her senior year of high school. She attended Pitzer College on a full scholarship and earned another full ride to Claremont Graduate University, where she acquired her master’s degree in Spanish Literature and Linguistics.

Garcia-Dehbozorgi says she has always wanted to be a teacher and has fond childhood memories of transforming her room into a classroom and “teaching” her younger siblings. If she were not a teacher, Garcia-Dehbozorgi imagines that she might have been a geographer.

“The students, faculty and staff have been extremely supportive—beyond my expectations,” says an appreciative Garcia-Dehbozorgi. “I believe the community here at Poly has an open heart and an open mind and does a great job of embracing individuality and creativity.”

In addition to teaching Spanish, Garcia-Dehbozorgi has spent only a couple weeks on campus, she says she already feels right at home.

Amy Stout

Amy Stout joins the Poly community as a new teacher for tenth and eleventh grade math.

She originally studied politics and women’s studies at New York University and then began working at a law firm. However, Stout always wished she knew more physics and decided to return to school to study physics and math.

Once she took classes beyond calculus, Stout fell in love with math.

She switched to a major in mathematics and earned her second bachelor’s degree. During graduate school, Stout taught several classes and realized how much she loved teaching.

She attributes her love of the profession to the enjoyment she feels when interacting with students.

Stout taught at the University of San Diego for three years before moving back to Pasadena with her husband. Stout’s husband always told her what a great place Poly is because he is an alumnus himself.

Stout commented, “I want my students to get excited about math, and hopefully I can present it in a way so that it is not just doing exercise after exercise in math. I hope to teach the big picture of math.”

Mike Franke

Mike Franke, class of ’89, returns to Poly to teach ninth grade World Cultures and tenth grade Western Civilizations.

After his a career as an attorney, Franke decided he was not happy and wanted to pursue a profession that was more community-oriented.

In high school and college, Franke worked with students with learning disabilities and found great enjoyment in helping them.

Franke decided to leave his law firm and return to school to start teaching.

Franke began his teaching career at Pacific Hills School in West Hollywood where he taught junior high and high school history for 11 years.

Though Franke first viewed teaching as an experimental endeavor, he later realized his love for working with students and decided to continue with the profession.

Franke commented, “I love teaching history because it is simultaneously broad but also very relatable. It is all about people and their struggles and triumphs. It is amazing to watch as students realize that studying history teaches them as much about themselves and the present as it does about the past.”

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-Andrew Mecum

-Stephanie Chai and Angela Liu

-Angela Liu
Kristen Osborne-Bartucca

Kristen Osborne-Bartucca joins the history department to teach junior United States History and freshman World Cultures: Africa.

Osborne-Bartucca always appreciated history, but she truly fell in love with the subject after taking AP United States History her junior year of high school. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History at the University of California, Riverside and her Master of Arts in American Studies at Columbia University.

After debating over pursuing a PhD, Osborne-Bartucca ultimately decided to move back to California to look for teaching positions. She wanted to use her love of history to teach others and stay fresh in her discipline. After working in Orange County, Osborne-Bartucca was eager to move to Los Angeles to experience the big city life.

Osborne-Bartucca initially felt an attraction to Poly because of its prestige and loves that she has the opportunity to teach students who are eager to learn. She commented, “I hope my students pursue what intrigues or confuses them on their own. I want to inspire them and have them feel a sense of wonder and curiosity about history. And I hope my passion for teaching history comes across.”

She is looking forward to sharing her knowledge of history with Poly students. Osborne-Bartucca added, “Life is short, and we live in the most incredible world. We have access to so much information at our fingertips. Learning the history in the past will help us think about the future of our world.”

Laura Rodriguez-Duran

Laura Rodriguez-Duran is a new addition to Poly’s World Language Department and will be teaching Spanish I and IV classes in the Upper School.

Originally from Spain, Rodriguez-Duran earned her bachelor’s degree from the Universidad de Valladolid and her master’s degree in Spanish Literature from West Virginia University.

Rodriguez-Duran has always had a passion for languages. She has studied both French and Italian in addition to Spanish. Although she initially wanted to be a translator, Rodriguez-Duran fell in love with the teaching profession after receiving an opportunity to teach at Sacramento State University with an assistantship. Since moving to United States eight years ago, she has also taught at Indiana University, Purdue University and Chandler School.

Outside of the classroom Rodriguez-Duran enjoys cooking and being outdoors with her husband and son. For the upcoming school year, Rodriguez-Duran is looking forward to working with the students and faculty. She believes that Poly is a place that is both challenging and inspiring and a great environment in which students can flourish.

Rodriguez-Duran admires the relationship between the faculty and student body, and is amazed at how kind and helpful the community has been. She hopes that her students will not only learn the Spanish language but the culture as well. “I want to inspire and encourage students to have an open mind and help them realize that we are the citizens of a world with immense diversity and culture.”

Megan Foley

Megan Foley joins the Poly faculty as the new instrumental music director for both the Middle and Upper School. Before coming to Poly, she was the director of instrumental music for 12 years at La Salle High School. Under her guidance, La Salle’s advanced band earned multiple impressive accolades.

Foley earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Plymouth State College and holds a Master of Arts degree in commercial music from California State University. She is also currently completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education from Boston University.

Foley’s passion and talent for music piqued at a young age. Although her first instrument was the flute, Foley was quickly drawn to percussion. As a performing musician, she and her band have toured all over the world, including Japan and a few European countries.

Although Foley admires many musicians, she especially draws inspiration from Russian composer Igor Stravinsky, jazz drummer Jeff Hamilton and jazz arranger Maria Schneider.

When she is not playing music, Foley spends her time learning how to play soccer. She is also an avid Yankees fan and loves to cook.

Foley is looking forward to developing the music program at Poly, as well as working with Poly’s aspiring musicians. “I hope the music program will challenge the students as well as provide an opportunity for them to play various instruments and create great music.”

Partnership

Continued from page 1

Over the course of eight consecutive summers, teachers and program leaders from Chandler, Mayfield Junior School, Westridge and Polytechnic commit themselves to over 400 students. Jose Melgoza, site director for Poly’s chapter, stresses the importance of the collaborative aspect of PFS!

“For many of the kids, PFS! opens up a bunch of doors,” says Melgoza, who has been a part of PFS! for over eleven years. “We’ve got alums who were B students when they started with us and finished as valedictorians.”

For those who struggle in school, PFS! aims to support students in any way they can. “You also have the other side of the spectrum where kids are struggling just to meet their credits,” adds Melgoza. “The important thing is that we stick with them no matter what.”

Chemistry teacher Gillian Bush currently serves as the Executive Director of PFS!, and Upper School faculty members Arnon Bliedtner and Eric Strom are dedicated teachers in PFS!. Retired Spanish teacher Laura Pendorf and Middle School history teacher Robert Farrar are also among the roughly forty educators that make up PFS! faculty.

PFS! kids are going to grow up to be members of our community, and even if they don’t end up going to college, we want them to know that there are opportunities out there for them,” says Melgoza.

Hopefully, they’ll get something out of our program that is going to expand their worldview and bring them to the realization that they have something to contribute.

In the upcoming year, PFS! will focus on expanding its tutoring program for kids who are especially invested in their individual development as well as strengthening the PFS! alumni network. As PFS! grows, the program will continue to devote itself to preparing Pasadena’s future citizens to be resourceful, engaged and driven.

Upper school student leaders gather for two-day retreat

By ISABELLE PHINNEY

Student leaders from ninth through twelfth grade participated in a two-day leadership retreat on the South Campus.

The retreat, which took place in late August, focused on planning, addressed school-wide issues and discussed the character of a leader.

The ASB addressed the role of leaders in the Upper School, especially in relation to its personal goals of community and kindness for this year.

Guest speaker Catharine Grier-Carlson, former Chaplain at Claremont University Consortium, also gave a motivational speech on the qualities of leadership found uniquely at Poly.

Chubs and student government took turns sharing plans for the 2015-2016 school year and received feedback from all members of the retreat.

The ASB addressed the role of leaders in the Upper School, especially in relation to its personal goals of community and kindness for this year.

The leadership retreat has over twenty years of history in the upper school and is funded by the Heinz Ethics Fund.
Dear Freshmen,

Welcome to the South Campus! You’ve made it through those horribly awkward three years of middle school—congratulations! Now you’ve got four more slightly-less-awkward, slightly-more-stressful years to come.

I’m going to assume the role of the overhearing senior and, in this letter, offer you some advice on how to get through the next four years of high school. My experience is that of an individual, so take what I say with a grain of salt, and come to your own conclusions, even if it’s via the hard way.

Given the ridiculously high temperatures of mid-September, you should know there is a water-cooler on the second floor of the Haaga House with infinitely more refreshing water than at the drinking fountain. Just learn to change the bottle before you fill your bottle with the last few drops.

Learn to write a professional email. Teachers do not want to receive emails rampant with typos and colloquialisms, but you also don’t need to write as if you were addressing the Queen of England. If in doubt, ask Mrs. Holmgren. She probably has a packet that explains it all.

Stay informed. You don’t need to subscribe to the New York Times or read every page of The Economist, but don’t just read the flashy titles on your Facebook feeds. Take the time to click ‘read more’ on the reliable news sources and actually read the articles—real them with a skeptical eye and take every supposed fact with a grain of salt. Don’t just follow trends. Don’t jump to conclusions. Remember, innocent until proven guilty.

High school is not a step in the road to college despite what well-meaning parents and stressed upperclassmen may tell you. “Real life” is not awaiting you after graduation. This is real life. Just because you don’t have your license yet, or your mom still washes your clothes, does not invalidate your existence. You are a high school student, a soccer player, a little brother, a daughter, and a person living a legitimate life. Don’t spend the next four years waiting for something bigger.


Following in that vein, take time to figure out what makes you tick. Adults love to say, “You just need to find your passion,” as if that passion is some magical key that will open the door to a glorious adulthood. What they say is half true: when you find something or someone you love, it can be revolutionary.

But life also isn’t black-and-white, and this isn’t a fairytale. Your purpose in life isn’t going to come riding up to your locker on a white horse and carry you away to a “happily ever after.” Sometimes, you’re going to hate the things you love, and sometimes you’ll love the things you hate. Just because you might have found your one, true calling doesn’t mean you won’t have to work unimaginably hard to succeed. You might not even be naturally talented at whatever it is, but as long as you love it and are willing to put in the work, that’s all that matters.

Also, realize that not everyone has one purpose in life—you might have three, or four, or a hundred. Just because colleges and parents like to compartmentalize things doesn’t mean you need to fit yourself into the name of a major or job description.

I will not lie and say test scores and grades don’t matter. They do. But your happiness—short-term and long-term—matters more. Is blowing off a best friend’s birthday dinner worth getting an extra five points on your history essay? Maybe not. But neither is playing video games every night instead of doing homework. Remember, long-term happiness, as distant as it may seem, counts as happiness too.

Poly has a plethora of opportunities available to you, but everyone has too much on his, her, or their own plates to take on the task of reading your mind too. Want a baby-sitting job? Help with your history essay? A summer internship? Chances are, someone at Poly has a plethora of connections and will be more than willing to help you. So figure out what you want and then ask for it—nicely, of course.

Students, especially upperclassmen, like to complain. If you have siblings or older teammates, I’m sure you’ve heard the mantra: we don’t sleep enough, we have too many tests, we hate SAT prep, we are being eaten alive by the Common App, etcetera. But the truth is, we are extremely lucky to be in the position to complain about such things. So work hard, challenge yourself, find a willing ear to vent to, and never, ever let self-pity get in your way.

Watch out for your friends. Sometimes “I’m just tired” really means “I got four hours of sleep last night.” But sometimes it means something else, and you are responsible for decoding that message. And if you hear someone crying in the bathroom, don’t just walk away. Even if he, she or they are a scary upperclassman, just take the time to inquire, “Are you okay?” It might mean the world to someone.

Grown-ups like to tell you that freshman year is a chance to reinvent yourself. That’s not true. You have always had, and will always have, that choice—every single day of your life. Ninth grade isn’t some special, magical time that comes only once in your life. You can get a piece-cut in the middle of junior year, and I promise the universe won’t implode upon itself. And don’t worry about what others think—more than likely, they don’t care. We’re all too wrapped up in our own issues to have the mental energy to judge others, so wear a three-piece suit to school if it makes you feel confident, or take a dance class even if you’ve never danced a step in your life.

Finally, you might notice that the high school has a lot of free food lying around, especially on advisory days. It’s free, it’s convenient, it’s yummy and it’s usually pretty unhealthy. Before you take that third doughnut, remember, moderation is key in all aspects of life.

Once again, welcome to high school.

Sincerely,

A Senior
Poetry Review: The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart

I stumbled upon Gabrielle Calvocoressi’s work purely by chance. A link sent through a Facebook message from a friend: “Check this poem out—I think you’d like it.” The poem, titled “Graves We Filled Before the Fire,” conveyed in ten lines an urgency of breathtaking tragedy, the death of two children in an ice skating accident, like no poem I had ever read before. Upon exploring more of Calvocoressi’s poetry, I realized why my friend recommended her work to me. In succinct, striking poems, Calvocoressi recounts stories for which we all have an unspoken fascination: freak accidents, unexplained phenomena, small-town tragedy.

Throughout The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart, the collection in which “Graves We Filled Before the Fire” appears, Calvocoressi weaves several overarching storylines detailing different aspects of small-town tragedy in twentieth century America. The opening of factories and their troubling role in American life. The addictive, dark nature of adult drive-ins in towns scattered across the country. The twisted rise of wrestling as a form of entertainment. The pervasive sense of discomfort with the rapid industrialization. A circus fire, Amelia Earhart’s disappearance, factory deaths.

At the heart of these pieces, Calvocoressi stimulates the haunting of the past and the legacy that it has left on Americans today. She urges her readers to consider a major facet of this nation’s society—small towns—and indelibly recounts tales of loss that often become forgotten. And perhaps most importantly, each of the poems in her collection reveals hidden truths about loss, corruption and compassion and digs at the fascination in all of us that compels us to drive by murder sites, to look tragedy square in the face and be fearful to believe in it.

The collection draws its name from the first series of poems, which, in ten parts, explores the views of various individuals intertwined with Amelia Earhart’s unexplained disappearance on her 1937 world flight. Calvocoressi assumes the perspectives of bystanders, the flight mechanic, teachers and Earhart’s husband, among others, to illustrate the intense fascination the public took with the accident.

Another storyline, “Circus Fire, 1944,” cycles through the story of the Hartford circus fire in Connecticut. Several poems hauntingly recount the incident, in which a circus tent was set on fire by a suspected arsonist, and 168 people, mostly women and children, were killed. Calvocoressi again writes from the perspectives of bystanders, the nurse, a coroner, a pair of Siamese twins belonging to the circus—to convey the pervasive feelings of panic and sorrow. She explores the way the community pulled together to collect the bodies, to recover. She captures the harrowing nature of the fire through vivid, jarring images, such as those of “XIII. Nurse McCabe Finds Solace in Religion”: “Blessed are the burning bodies, the broken / backs and heads / stacked like sea-wall beneath the smoking alder. / And where there were eyes, parched wells. / And where the tiny toes curled, crushed cinnamon. / We carry the bodies to the make-shift morgue. / A miracle, how they cling to their sad king-
dom.”

Still other poems describe hauntings that affected the entire nation. In “The Death of Towns,” the narrator describes the destruction of her father’s world by machinery and the factory he worked in. Calvocoressi writes that “when I was young I thought the factory / was a church because it rose / from the hills and breathed.” She continues to compare her father’s behavior to that of an outsider leaning on religion for will to continue: “But mostly because my father left home, / walked / and prayed there and was cast out, / bleary eyed, huddled and wheezing.”

Simply put, The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart is one of the most astonishing debut collections I have ever read. In each poem, Calvocoressi captures an intensity and a creeping horror through her depictions of unfathomable loss. Several of these poems have the ability to leave a reader physically breathless after a last line. Each story Calvocoressi recounts rings with unflinching honesty in a daring collection that gives voice to the voiceless and understanding to heartbreak. An untouched American identity rests in the history of tragedy—Calvocoressi dares us to explore it, for we are human, for we must.

- Maddie Kim

“Self-Portrait in Versailles”: A Poem

Walking down the halls of Versailles
In December
or February
or May
or July
Shivers run up my spine,
Down the hairs on my arms,
Not the kind of shivering
That comes from breathing
On the back of your neck,
No—
The kind of shivering
of an empty house:
When everything is so still
it is almost inanimate.

Golden frames
And red velvet walls;
Bedframes too tall
For any one person to climb;
Crystal chandeliers
With no candles to light:

I cannot imagine
Anyone felt at home here.

Standing in front of a wall made of mirror
In France
Or California
Or Spain
Or Mexico,
I suck in my stomach
To make my ribs
Like chandeliers
I suck in my stomach
And stop breathing
My body as cold as a museum.

And then, I dare to inhale—
Inflate my belly like a gorged balloon,
Dare to look at every hair
that stands out of place:
Hairs with split ends
like tassles on tapestries;

Bleeding nail beds
Meant to be bitten;
Sunburned skin
Like golden frames;
Remember—
My blood is redder
Than any velvet.

- Julia Rocha
Hello, AFS student! Goodbye, SYA students!

Paulina Gavrilov joins Poly from Finland

Paulina Gavrilov joins the Class of 2017 this year from Finland. For years, Poly has been sponsoring students from around the world to experience American schooling through the AFS program.

This year the Terrile family has opened their home to Paulina. Sophia Terrile is her guide around campus. They spend time together playing tennis on the JV team and exploring the Los Angeles area. The two share a love for dogs and trying new things. The Terrile family recently spent a week with Gavrilov taking surfing lessons.

“She never gave up [when surfing], she always kept at it and had a positive attitude,” said Sophia Terrile.

With her Poly friends and family, Paulina has been able to try all kinds of new foods. Although she has already fallen in love with food both different from and similar to her native cuisine, her craving for something new is never satisfied. She especially enjoyed trying swordfish at the restaurant Redbird in the heart of downtown L.A.

“Desserts are something you can’t find easily in Finland. I hope to be able to try as many different sweets as possible while I am here,” she remarked.

Paulina’s family in America extends beyond Poly; her AFS family has organized team building exercises throughout the program. From hikes in the San Gabriel Mountains to scavenger hunts in Chinatown, Paulina enjoys being able to take advantage of the vivid L.A. city life.

She hopes to be able to explore more of Southern California this year by taking rides on the Metro through all the cities and to the beach. She is still getting used to the crazy L.A. traffic, however.

A native Finnish and Swedish speaker, she shares her love of language by showcasing her talents in Spanish as well. Paulina has found her favorite spot at Poly: the science room where she delves into psychology with Dr. Kim.

Although Paulina greatly misses her family and friends back home, she looks forward to a new chapter at Poly, wearing our vibrant orange and white colors around campus in the SoCal sun.
Salutations from Spain: Nicole Larios and Charlie Molz

Nicole Larios is spending her junior year in the vibrant city of Zaragoza, Spain, hoping to deeply immerse herself in the Spanish language and widen her cultural spectrum. Larios is attending school at SYA Spain and taking all of her courses in Spanish, exploring subject areas ranging from AP Spanish Literature to European politics, as well as other core classes.

In her first week in Zaragoza, Larios expressed that speaking Spanish comfortably and confidently has been the most relieving transition thus far. In addition, she has adjusted to living with her host family and learned to navigate Spain’s expansive public transportation system.

Larios immediately noticed that Americans were perceived positively and treated with a sense of respect and kindness. She attributes their hospitality to the optimistic attitudes of the Spanish locals, who have gladly helped her practice speaking and thinking more coherently.

Larios encourages anyone considering SYA to pursue the opportunity, which she describes as a much needed “fresh start.” She believes that her brief experience has had immense payoff and looks forward to the rest of her time in Spain.

Charlie Molz has immersed himself into the rich culture of Zaragoza, Spain, a city known for its ornate architecture and diverse cultures. As he pursues his junior year abroad, he hopes to enrich his Spanish to a level of fluency and acquire a greater sense of independence. Molz was drawn to the program by his older sister’s participation in SYA.

Molz’s homestay parents, Ernesto and Teresa, have been a great comfort to him in alleviating the bittersweet nature of his departure from his family and dogs. In addition, Molz has frequently seen Nicole Larios, a fellow junior who is also studying in Zaragoza.

After his arrival, Molz visited Alquezar, a town embedded in a cliff that overlooks an expansive waterfall, a memorable highlight after his first week in Zaragoza.

Upon his arrival, Molz noted several cultural patterns unknown to Pasadena, the most surprising of which were the late eating schedule and the challenge of understanding Aragonese Spanish, a dialect specific to the region in which he resides. Molz also finds the food in Spain to be rather different.

Although Molz has enjoyed his brief yet eventful time in Spain, he misses California’s warm weather and the comforting sight of fellow Poly students. But most importantly, In-n-Out will be his first stop when he returns home.

- Sarah Ohta

Au revoir, Shae Caragher

Shae Caragher has immersed herself during her first eventful week as an exchange student in France.

Caragher will stay in Rennes, a city just south of the Brittany Coast in Northern France, for a year, hoping to improve her French and attain a better grasp of French culture.

Caragher studied French at Poly for four years and is grateful for her proficiency in the language. In June, she traveled to France on Poly’s GIP trip, a full-circle experience as she explored regions similar to where she now resides.

Despite her obvious interest in French culture, Caragher cannot exactly identify how she was drawn to the idea of studying in France.

“I honestly don’t know how I came up with the idea of studying abroad. It was out of the blue, I thought that it would be a great idea to expand my horizons, practice using the language, learn about the culture, and have a unique experience during my junior year!”

Caragher exuberantly describes her fascination with late French dinners, the efficiency of European transportation, and visiting boulangeries and patisseries in the city Centre as she pursues her junior year abroad in the charming and leisurely culture of Rennes.

Although she is more than sixty-six hundred miles from Pasadena, Caragher feels at home while cooking dinner with her host family, exploring the many creperies and cafes nearby, and walking to the lycée, her French high school. In Rennes, Caragher is staying with la famille Rombaut. She is particularly close with the youngest daughter, Donitrille, and enjoys playing with their dog, Cachou, in the garden.

- Sarah Ohta

Busy in Beijing: Jennifer Lu

Jennifer Lu is spending her junior year in Beijing, attending school at SYA China. Her course load, taught entirely in Chinese, consists of standard American studies in Math and English as well as classes in Chinese history and political science.

Lu explained that the most apparent cultural difference between the United States and Beijing is evident in the rushed, unpredictable traffic. When walking or biking to school, Lu recounts, “I regularly encounter multiple near-hits from cars or e-bikes. This is considered normal in China.”

She also noted the lack of ethnic diversity, as the majority of the country’s population is Han Chinese. Recently, Lu visited Tiananmen Square with a group of SYA students, and noticed that the locals treated them like visiting tourists, asking to take photographs of the group.

Despite these cultural adjustments, Lu is grateful for the efficient and extensive subway system in Beijing, which she and the SYA students use to explore the city to the fullest extent. She lives with an incredibly accommodating and supportive host family and quickly bonded with her host sister of the same age.

When asked what she misses most, Lu noted the diversity present in American food, especially Chipotle.

Lu’s ultimate goal is to connect with the surrounding SYA community and establish lasting relations with those she meets. She is happy to answer further questions about the SYA program, and couldn’t be more thrilled to spend the next nine months in Beijing.

- Sarah Ohta

- Sarah Ohta and Alex Patzakis

- Alex Patzakis
Santa Anita Park hosts last summer 626 Night Market

During the months of July, August and September, Santa Anita Park hosted the 626 Night Market, an outdoor conglomeration of vendors, musical acts and visitors modeled after bazaars in Asia. Several Poly students attended the last night market of the year, held on Labor Day weekend, and shared their experiences and photos from one of the largest Asian markets in Los Angeles.

626 Night Market was a magical experience that can be enjoyed by anyone, from the individual to the family. The whole market has an energetic atmosphere that almost makes you forget you’ve been waiting in line for an hour to eat the expensive, but delicious ramen burgers. One of the most delicious vendors was Main Squeeze, which sells lemonade in large glass jars with rainbow lights on the bottom. I also enjoyed listening to the live music, with its upbeat tunes and fun lyrics. I loved the 626 Night Market!

-Mateo Ortiz Ambrosio

This huge Asian-themed night market held at the Santa Anita Park in Arcadia has an incredible mix of amazing food, unique merchandise vendors, great music, and fascinating art. Some of the renowned foods sold at 626 include stir-frying sodas in mason jars and crispy potato slices on a long stick. At the center of the market was a huge stage where various artists would perform, and towards the end of the night techno music would blast from the stage, ringing throughout the entire market. The art at the market varied greatly from colorful abstract art with animals riding on bright blue waves to large black and white paintings of Darth Vader. The 626 Night Market was an exciting, immersive experience into Asian culture that I can’t wait to visit again.

-Tanya Jain

Film Review: The End of the Tour

In James Ponsoldt’s The End of the Tour, Ponsoldt, Jesse Eisenberg and Jason Segel have rediscovered something magical that has long been lost among the superhero sequels and the countless fantasies and unfortunate realities of Michael Bay that plague our over-priced theatres. Through The End of the Tour, these three have resurrected intimate conversation and reflection, which serves as both a battle and a loveable reunion between two strangers lost in longing.

The film recounts Rolling Stone’s journalist David Lipsky’s five-day interview with writer David Foster Wallace (Jason Segel) shortly after the release of Wallace’s renowned novel, Infinite Jest. These two writers use a mid-size sedan as their set, where they pick apart every minute aspect of American culture.

They analyze fame, happiness, addiction and Die Hard in contentious, fast-paced dialogue. Lipsky, feeling inferior, fights to prove himself in a field of jealousy of Wallace’s esteem. Wallace, meanwhile, acts as a modest chameleon, attempting to blend in with the populous of his small town in Illinois. This tension finds a home in the claustrophobic sets.

As a viewer, it is remarkable to watch these two intellectual minds interact through their conversations. They spill out with each existential possibilities and skepticisms that belong in the roundtables of the Enlightenment thinkers.

Segel’s performance catapults him above any stigma he may have developed from his past roles. As Wallace, he expertly exists as a man out of place, a man who is best left to himself and his two dogs yet is thrust into fame because of his ingenuity. At one point in the film, the man with more literary prowess than anyone else in the country even becomes jealous of the way Lipsky can schmooze women. Segel perfectly embodies Wallace’s longing for the life of a regular guy.

Eisenberg has a much less loveable task. His character’s jealousies are overt and often malicious. In one scene, we see him pace angrily around his hotel room, yelling at his girlfriend for just talking on the phone with Wallace. Lipsky is not afraid to push Wallace for reasons that transcend his intentions for the interview and article. At the same time, Lipsky worries about what Wallace thinks of him. However, any potential friendship between the two men is hampered by Lipsky’s tape recorder and note pad, ever-present reminders of Lipsky’s odious task.

In a scene towards the end of the film, Wallace and Lipsky step out into a vast clearing covered in snow. Though the film has taken place mostly in cramped sedans, tiny apartments, and overcrowded local bookstores, this one moment between the two in the snow allows them to be truly open and vulnerable. The success of this film lies in that in-between space. For within that wide-open clearing, the two men are no longer the subjects. They revert to their correct roles as appreciators, observers, writers.

It is rare to find contemporary movies like this one. Movies that are willing to step back and let the characters think and grow and fight in their own world, however cramped or expansive it may be. The performances of Segel and Eisenberg warrant the honor of creating conversations that deserve to be heard and understood. Drive home from the theatre and try to do just that.

-Lucas Bohlinger

Greek it up!

Amidst the chaotic frenzy of late September, following the sudden end of summer, Pasadena hosts its annual Greek Fest, an extensive celebration of Greek culture. The 56th Annual Pasadena Greek Fest, Southern California’s preeminent Greek festival, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 19-20th.

Set on the grounds of St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church, the festival offers people the opportunity to enjoy traditional Greek foods, listen to live Greek music and participate in unending dancing, cultural lectures and culinary demonstrations, and maybe learn a little Greek language along the way.

Holding annual Greek festivals is an acclaimed tradition in the tightly-woven community of Greek Orthodox churches, as these festivals provide opportunities for others to experience the vibrant culture of Greece in multiple dimensions. One can watch St. Anthony’s traditional Greek folk dance ensembles and feel inspired to dance the kalamatiano, a simple form of circular Greek dance, to the unusual sound of the bouzouki. For those less inclined to dance, the nave of the church offers prime exploring ground. The expansive dome of the church is lined with ornate Byzantine iconography.

But one simply cannot avoid the surrounding presence of Greek food, including a personal favorite, loukoumades, the Greek interpretation of a traditional donut, quickly fried and generously coated in honey, cinnamon, and nuts. For a more unusual culinary endeavor, one can try octopathi, Greek for “octopus,” charred on the grill and then soaked in ouzo, a Greek alcohol known for its licorice-like bite. Sagani, a fried Greek cheese called Kasseri, is set albale in an extravagant show. A good evening always ends with a Greek coffee and an assortment of traditional Greek pastries—baldava, kouranbithres, galaktoboureko, kai koulourakia.

Ta se tho ekei! See you there!

Held at St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church:

778 S. Rosemead Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107

-Alex Patrakis
By CELINE VENDLER
Editor-in-chief

Donald Trump, billionaire, reality TV star, Miss Universe owner and GOP frontrunner (by far), is not funny anymore. In the past, Donald Trump has often toyed with the idea of running for president but never committed to running, making the threat of his potential presidency a sort of running joke. We have laughed at his comb-over, comb-under, comb-from-behind hair. We have laughed at his Kanye-West-esque referring to himself in the third person. We have laughed at his grammatically- ungrammatical, “Poly is no longer a place where xenophobia is encouraged and overt racism is acceptable.” Indeed, even Trump—after publicly making it clear that he is not a racist—admits to being a racist, as the term is considered an insult.

Thus, most racists will—at least publicly—keep the flames of their racism burning low except when perpetuating institutional racism, America's racist loophole.

However, Trump threatens to pour gasoline on the fire, encouraging and vindicating racism with his extreme, incendiary and unapologetic racist rhetoric.

He is an extremely powerful and influential figure—by virtue of his wealth, business connections, constant media presence and now his presidential candidacy—and subsequent- ly has a certain authority that we get to support the values in which we believe. We are only in high school for four years, and we must embrace every chance we get to reexamine and reevaluate our strategic tactics to find ways—no matter how unpleasant—to be around me because all I did was denigrate Poly. My pride was bruised and I, indignant.

Then, the first week of school rolled around. I was incredibly surprised to find that I felt a quiet excitement, something I hadn’t felt since graduating from eighth grade. There were stirrings of change.

The ASB is approaching this school year with a mindset that is uncharacteristically revolutionary. They plan to establish a student-faculty liaison commission in which they will have a structured place to work closely with faculty. They are ready and able to make our school a more sensitive, contemporary and moral place.

What many have interpreted as a disregard for tradition is actually the ASB hypothesis. Nik Angelou’s tradition is about delib- erately upholding the same important core values that Poly still does have.

Poly still does have its flaws, its biggest one being the environment that has devolved from one famous for its academic caliber into one lacking a spiritual support system for its students. We have strayed from the path of nutritional support and nurturing the longstanding scholastic tradition of risk-taking. We are less thoughtful and more strategic. We also have some of the best teachers in the country. As students, we are receiving one of the best educations America can offer. At the very least, we will always have great conversation starting with empathy. In order for any movement to succeed, they could shape America’s future back into the past, and that’s not funny.
Polytechnic School starts 150 million dollar donation campaign to refurnish the sophomore patio

By TOWNSEND WALTERS-MCDONALD
Student contributor

The parking garage, the North Campus, the science building, all massive recent projects, but the ambitious minds at Poly aren’t going to stop there. The board of trustees has presented with plans to renovate the area in between the Haaga House and the Fullerton building.

An administrator commented: “The sophomore patio is dated and an eyesore, as it was last renovated all the way back in 2006, in no way up to the standard we here at Poly keep.” This announcement has been met with controversy, some people against it, but many others fully in support.

Student Ferris Yang, who wished to remain anonymous, said, “Sometimes when I have to walk by that patio I feel the urge to throw up. It’s also not super great to look at even when the sophomores aren’t there either.”

Common complaints range from concerns about city zoning limits to worries about the sophomores getting too comfortable and allowing their grades to drop. These comments were quelled by a vague announcement about “community.”

Money has already begun pouring in, and the estimated time for the donation ceiling to be reached is approximately two weeks. In celebration of this generosity, the 4th graders are putting on a production of the play Robin Hood, opening in May.

On an unrelated note, hearty laughter, the smell of champagne and cigar smoke has been reported coming from the Board of Trustees meeting room.

Upper School gives standing ovation to French Club

By TEDDY DEBREU
Opinion editor

The French Club, a long-standing association known for its generous donations to the Penny Drive Foundation, blew away the Poly Upper School last Morning Meeting with a phenomenal announcement, absolutely dumbfounding all those in the audience.

Senior Will Dean, currently holding the highly regarded position Captain Crepe of the club, tried to describe the cathartic, beautiful nature of the president’s statement on his way out from Assembly. “Wow… I just… If I had sat through ten college counseling meetings, I would not shed as many tears as I just did right here, right now.”

Eyewitnesses reported that the co-presidents took the podium with such grace that a silence fell over the crowd. Alternating one word at a time each, they spoke: “The French Club will be selling mini-croissants today at lunch. $1.50 for two, $2.00 for three, $3.00 for five!”

Right there, the Poly Upper Schoolers understood the meaning of life, even more profoundly than if Father Greg Boyle had just taken the stage. One by one, students jumped out of their seats, clapping wildly, emotions loose. Eventually, the entire school was giving a well-deserved standing ovation.

To this day, through all the tears, no one actually remembers what was said. But if the entire school stood up, it must have been good.

And next up in the announcement line, the Standing Ovation Club is looking forward to new sheep, I mean members. When’s the next meeting you ask? Just let them finish this announcement.

Freshman takes two Krispy Kreme donuts: Judiciary Committee discusses consequences

By TEDDY DEBREU
Opinion editor

One day at Polytechnic School, Poly high schoolers bursted out of Morning Meeting to see boxes of Krispy Kreme donuts at their disposal. Everyone knew the rule, “One donut each!”, but one starving freshman had a very different, very malicious plan.

Eyewitness Oliver Penner disclosed having seen the freshman initially approach the donuts with a crazed look in his eyes, a look Oliver had never before seen in his life. “His eyes… They were like those of a beast, a wildcat, a panther…”

As the overjoyed culprit sat in his next class, ready to learn after having finally had more than his share of donuts, dark thoughts enveloped him. Feldmeth’s snack box, filled to the brim with Almond Joy and Junior Mints, the perfect last heist. But the next thing he knew, campus security breached the windows of Room 401, interrupting the freshman’s unimportant education, delivering justice to the stolen donuts.

The kid woke up in court, blinded by the bright lights, surprised to hear that he, in fact, was being read his rights. “You do not have the right to be silent!” So the freshman willingly told his story.

The defendant had forgotten his Luna Bar on his way out the door, thus claiming that he was not responsible for his actions due to his mental state, for a freshman without a breakfast is nothing but an empty shell of something that once was.

It was a difficult case, and the Judiciary Committee knew it. The freshman had committed an inconceivable offense but, at the same time, was pretty hungry.

Freshman Jackson Walters McDonald was declared guilty for not following the rules. The final verdict: censure no repeat. On a brighter note, the Poly Administration has graciously donated the nine extra boxes of Krispy Kreme donuts to the faculty lounge for all faculty and staff to ignore.
Syrian Refugee Crisis
By Teddy Debru
Opinion editor

The publication of a striking image of a soldier carrying a drowned child-refugee has awakened the world to the magnitude of the Syrian refugee crisis. From German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s bold commitment to accept 800,000 refugees to the European Union’s call for “historical fairness” in helping migrants to reminders of non-European countries’ humanitarian obligations toward anyone fleeing persecution, the world is finally feeling pressure to provide assistance for those in need.

“Empathy is, in practice, mostly a measure of distance from one experience to another, reckoned by some ancient tribal part of the mind. There’s ample psychological research suggesting that people underestimate the suffering of those who look different from them. But in the geography of empathy, the boy on the beach occupies an unusual position. He is at once an emissary from a distant war of unfathomable, baroque atrocity and a figure of awful closeness. For a moment at least, you are looking at a photograph that hurts just as much as it should.”

by Charles Homans

“If Germany – a country with one-fourth our population – can accept 800,000 refugees this year, certainly we – the nation of immigrants – can do more,” Democratic presidential candidate Martin O’Malley said in a statement.

by The Guardian
September 7, 2015

“On Sunday, Carly Fiorina said the US cannot relax its criteria for letting refugees in and warned against those who might be affiliated with terrorist activity. ‘The United States, I believe, has done its fair share in terms of humanitarian aid,’ the former Hewlett Packard CEO said on CBS’s Face the Nation.”

by The Guardian, September 7, 2015

In the end, there are Syrians and Iraqis and many others who are running from the genocide to which the Daesh (Arabic acronym for ISIS) barbarians have imposed on religious minorities and on true Muslims. They should be considered as one did the Jewish Germans between 1933 and 1939.

by Jean-Christophe Lagarde
September 11, 2015 (Le Monde)
Translated by Teddy Debru

“In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States received hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese boat people…..who were fleeing Communism. What’s holding back sympathy for the Syrians? They’ve been barrel-bombed in Aleppo by their own regime, they’ve been tortured, kidnapped and massacred by miscellaneous jihadists and opposition militias. They’ve been in refugee camps for years, waiting for that cruelly deceiving fiction “the international community” to come to their aid. Now, when they take to the roads, to the boats and to the trains, all our political leaders can think of is fences, barbed wire and more police.”


Undocumented immigrants’ struggle: importance of rhetoric
By NICK WUTHRICH
Assistant opinion editor

Driving through California’s Central Valley, farm workers can be seen toiling on fields that seem to stretch for miles. These workers perform some of the most difficult, menial tasks in the state, and according to the United States Department of Labor, over half of them are undocumented.

Many supposed supporters of undocumented immigrants assert that such immigrants are valuable because they perform tasks that American citizens would never do. Such statements of undocumented immigrants’ economic “value” are only a few examples of harmful rhetoric that shows no respect for the human dignity of such undocumented immigrants.

Due to their status as “illegal aliens,” undocumented immigrants face the horrible reality of life as unlawful residents. Few jobs are available to those without documents proving citizenship, and those that are available have very little in the way of workplace protections. Moreover, such immigrants are forced to live in constant fear of capture and deportation.

Often, immigrants are driven to jobs in agriculture, where employers actively seek out undocumented individuals. The confluence of few job openings, a lack of workplace protections and the ever-present threat of deportation ensure that the hundreds of thousands who do eventually turn to farmwork are easily manipulated.

Because workers have very few rights and almost no avenues to speak out about their labor predicament, farm owners have the ability to force immigrants to work for lower wages for longer hours in poor conditions. And those who do speak out face the very real threat of deportation. Undocumented farmworkers are thus forced to face coercion, exploitation, and fear in silence.

Living day-to-day in such conditions takes an immense toll on their emotional and psychological well-being, and not being able to escape because of the ever-present fear of deportation ensures that emotional dehumanization and trauma are commonplace.

According to the widely-publicized Indigenous Farmworker Study, there are tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants who make less than the minimum wage. With the California drought raging and water prices rising, employers are likely to further lower the wages of undocumented immigrants in an attempt to protect their profit margins. As a result, immigrants who are already struggling could likely face even greater challenges.

Undocumented immigrants do not perform these menial tasks and undergo subhuman treatment because they want to. Economic realities force undocumented immigrants to obtain the only jobs available: farm labor. Unfortunately, the perpetrators of such abuse and exploitation are not just employers, but also consumers. Every time you purchase goods from the produce section of your local market, you are directly benefiting from the cheap prices made available only by taking advantage of immigrant workers. As such, the blame falls not only on employers but also on us.

Those who supposedly advocate for undocumented immigrants by claiming that they perform tasks that American citizens would never perform themselves a distinct ignorance of the economic plight faced by those immigrants. Indeed, similar arguments were made by supporters of American slavery; slaves’ economic value was already too great to justify their freedom. Here is the problem: it does not matter if undocumented farmworkers are economically valuable; their continued abuse is an unacceptable tradeoff.

Furthermore, it does not matter who is advocating for whom; advocating on behalf of undocumented immigrants using rhetoric that celebrates or even acknowledges the “necessity” of undocumented farmwork is disgusting because such advocacy perpetuates the very ideas of economic necessity that allow for the workers’ exploitation in the first place.

We need to stop being complicit in the dehumanization of undocumented immigrants and recognize the fact that it is our own consumerist values that incentivize oppression in the first place. Even before any policies regarding undocumented farmworkers are put into place at the state or national level, we need to systematically reject rhetoric that accepts the conditions that breed the coercion, abuse and oppression of tens of thousands of people right here in California.
Football drops to 2-1 after 38-14 loss against Linfield Christian

By WILL MCCONNELL
Sports editor

Poly’s football team opened its season with a 2-1 record following a 38-14 loss to the Linfield Christian Lions.

Against Mark Keppel, Poly scored only 38 total yards in the first half en route to a 38-7 victory. Seniors Tim Matthiessen, scoring touchdowns, while Genske and Queen each added a rushing touchdown. On the defensive side, junior Will Mcconnell recorded a interception and one fumble recovered for a touchdown.

Despite the promising start, the Panthers remain humble and unfazed by the expectations stemming from the league and postseason success of last year’s team.

“We are just thinking one game at a time and putting in our best effort to beat whatever team we play next,” Matthiessen said. “There is no reason for us to not be as good as we were last year, and there is no reason for us to compare ourselves to last year’s team. Last year is last year — we are just focusing on being the best team possible this season.”

Young cross country team impresses in early invitationals

By ROBYN LEE
Sports editor

Poly’s varsity cross country teams have shown consistent improvement throughout their first three non-league meets at Crescenta Valley, Riverside and Rosemead.

Many runners earned course personal records at Rosemead, including both JV and varsity runners.

Both boys and girls teams have posted some impressive times in the first three meets, a promising start for the younger runners. At the Crescenta Valley Invitational, freshmen Vivian Wheeler and Shayna Han started first and second, respectively, in the girls JV division.

Regardless of the disappointing loss, the Panthers have experienced success on both sides of the ball thus far. The defense, led by a formidable group of seniors, played a key role in the Panthers’ wins by forcing turnovers that led to easy touchdowns. Meanwhile, the offense, despite losing key seniors at skill positions and the offensive line, has been balanced and effective in the running and passing games.

Senior Joe Edwards said, “As of now, the team’s greatest strength seems to lie in the defense. We have plenty of returning starters, especially a really experienced D-line that puts pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Offensively, we have plenty of weapons, and a few seniors have stepped into the roles left by graduates really well.”

The Panthers immediately displayed its dominant defensive identity against Don Bosco Tech, allowing only 204 total yards and recovering several forced fumbles.

Despite the promising start, the Panthers remain humble and unfazed by the expectations stemming from the league and postseason success of last year’s team.

“We are just thinking one game at a time and putting in our best effort to beat whatever team we play next,” Matthiessen said. “There is no reason for us to not be as good as we were last year, and there is no reason for us to compare ourselves to last year’s team. Last year is last year — we are just focusing on being the best team possible this season.”

Girls tennis defeats Glendale 10-8 in season’s first match

By WILL McCONNELL
Sports editor

The Poly girls varsity tennis team won their opening match versus Glendale 10-8 behind the strong play of their singles players.

Top singles player Shalini Haupt, who transitioned from doubles to singles this year, swept all three of her opponents with relative ease.

Meanwhile, number two and number three singles players senior Kelly Liu and sophomore Ashley Wu each won two of their matches for a total of seven singles wins.

While the singles players shined in the match, the doubles partners struggled, winning only three out of nine possible sets. Only the number one doubles pair senior Sam Collins and Tara Adarkar seems set at the moment, with the rest of the lineup yet to be finalized.

Haupt said, “We are still trying to figure out the best lineup, especially with so many inexperienced players expected to contribute. However, I am confident in coach Weber’s ability to quickly figure things out.” Losing almost the entirety of last year’s CIF champion team, the Panthers are setting their sights on a Prep League title as a realistic goal for this season.

Haupt said, “We have a lot of work to do to get to where we need to be. I think a Prep League title is a great goal that we can strive for this year. It will be a rebuilding year for us, but we are still going to go out and compete to the best of our ability every day.”

The team has benefited from the addition of two new coaches, Sheryl Bon and Freddie Wilkens, who both played Division II tennis at Azusa and bring an array of technical skills to the squad.

In contrast to Bon and Wilkens’ technical knowledge, coach Kim Weber fits the mold of an emotional leader.

Haupt said, “Coach Weber is always pushing us, creating a pressured but yet relaxed atmosphere at practice that is extremely conducive to growth and learning.”

With a huge influx of new tennis players from multiple grade levels, including promising underclassmen Adarkar, Wu, Ella Ancheta and Anna Hackel, the team is focusing on growth above all.
Girls volleyball flashes potential, shortcomings in 2-2-2 start

By WILL MCCONNELL
Sports editor

The Poly girls varsity volleyball team has struggled to find themselves throughout the first few weeks of action with a 2-2-2 record including tournament play. In key wins versus Temple City and Ramona Covenant, the team showed its vast potential for the year, both offensively and defensively.

However, the team’s inexperience and still-developing chemistry showed in one-sided losses to South Pasadena (3-0) and Sierra Canyon (3-1). Though early growing pains may be expected early on for a team that lost key seniors, there is no reason to think the panthers cannot build off of last year’s CIF semi-final run. With two returning senior setters Carolyn Shanks and Kennedy Cameron, dynamic senior Carter Woodruff in the middle and plenty of talented underclassmen, the team just needs to put the pieces together.

Cameron said, “On the back of our warm-ups we have the words ‘back to back,’ which is there to remind us everyday that we can do it again; we can be as good as last year if not better.”

With an absence of the star power that graduated seniors Alex Clark and Deeede Logan supplied last year, the team believes they can come together through trust and passion, the team’s mantras. Shanks said, “We’re pretty experienced as an overall team, but we can be really successful if we just go out trusting each other and being together as a team.” Shanks, who has been sidelined with a leg injury through the start of the season, should have an immediate offensive impact upon her return.

At the center of the Panthers’ defense is imposing senior middle Carter Woodruff. In a 3-1 win versus Temple City, Woodruff recorded a game-high of 16 kills. Cameron said of her primary hitter, “When Woodruff goes up to hit, it goes down without fail. She is dominant at the net, which comes with her experience, and she is doing a good job teaching that to the younger girls. She also has pretty severe knee injuries, but she does not let them slow her down.”

Of course, part of Woodruff’s dominance has stemmed from the great connection between her and Cameron. Shanks said of fellow setter Cameron, “She is really quick, and she hustles a lot. If you think a ball is down, you just see her hand coming out of nowhere. Even if she cannot reach a ball with her hands, she can pass it just as effectively. She has really good relationships with her hitters, especially with Carter. Their connection is really strong.”

An influx of young talent has augmented the senior talent, with several key contributors from underclassmen. Freshman outside hitter Alexis Pappachen, sophomore outside hitter Natalie Clark and sophomore middle Halston Harper have all shown great hitting potential early on. With the amount of roster turnover from last year, coach Steve Beerman’s ability to figure out the best lineup has been put to the test.

Shanks said, “He’s really good about knowing where to put the pieces and figuring out where he can put people to give the team the best chance to succeed.” Beerman and the Panthers will have to grow up quickly as they enter league play, with an October 6th match versus rivals Mayfield Senior looming on their schedule.

Boys water polo struggles defensively in 19-9 loss versus San Marino

By RJUL GARG
Assistant sports editor

The boys varsity water polo team dropped to a 1-2 record following a 19-9 loss to San Marino Titans, despite a strong showing by senior captain Dean Behary. Behary racked up five goals, but the Titans overpowered the underclassmen-dominated Panther defense.

Though the team lost four key players, Ezra Sunshine, Turner Roney, Omar Diaz and goalie Henry Brooks, to graduation last year, the Panthers have made up for their lack of experience by adding a number of talented sophomores and juniors to their roster. Junior and first-year varsity player Isaac Harris said, “Although a sudden influx of young players can be challenging to a team’s chemistry, coach and our senior leadership have been incredibly helpful in creating an atmosphere that’s conducive to everyone’s development, regardless of previous experience.”

During their first win of the season so far, the Panthers’ depth led them to a narrow 13-10 victory over Pasadena, with five different players scoring goals. In addition, the defense delivered seventeen steals. Varsity goalies Oliver Penner and Brett Kidman contributed nine saves combined. Senior captain Teddy Debreu said, “The PHS game was a great confidence builder for us because we defeated the team that beat us (3-0) goals last year. There was great teamwork and chemistry throughout, and we worked hard for the win.”

Although the Panthers have a rough start, the team remains high hopes for league play and the postseason. “We hope to restore Poly to its position as one of the top teams in the Prep League. Obviously we lost some very important players from last year’s team, but this hasn’t slowed us down a bit,” Harris said. “I think we have the talent and the drive to earn a CIF bid. Once there, a deep run and a string of upsets are not out of the question.”

Girls golf posts 1-1 league record

By WILL MCCONNELL
Sports editor

Despite losing to rival Mayfield (266-237) for the third consecutive year, Poly’s girls golf team has jumped to a 2-1 record. With key players returning, the squad shows promise after their wins against The Webb Schools (287-337) and Westridge School (269-283).

The Panthers are hoping to reach their new potential and utilize their returning talent to keep improving throughout the season.

Losing only one senior and adding several new sophomores this year, the Panthers have the opportunity to build off of last year’s success in the Prep League. Key returning juniors Rohyn Lee and Angela Liu have led the team thus far, consistently shooting below 50 on the par-36 courses.

Lee said, “As an overall team, we’re all looking to consistently play well in our league games. With returning starters and new sophomores with lots of potential, I’m hopeful we can continue our success from last year.”
Athlete of the Issue
Dean Behary

Leading the varsity water polo team in every statistical category through four games, senior Dean Behary has emerged as the undeniable star of the team.

Junior teammate Isaac Tien and the Rebels losses verses and the Panthers look Monday, September 21 at Poly, 3:30 tentatively making time to have one-on-
an intense motivation or consistent discussions with his coaches to discuss strategy and ideas. Fellow senior and water polo newcomer Carter Alvarez said, “Dean is always working as hard as he can because he truly cares about the guys he is playing with.”

Dean has made the most of his water polo career at Poly, and there is a lot of excitement to see what ‘D.B.’ does in his final season as a Panther.

-Nic Khang

By The Numbers
5 Receiving touchdowns for senior Tim Matthiessen through three games

16 Kills by Carter Woodruff versus Temple City

Athlete of the Issue
Carter Woodruff

Any fan that comes to watch the Poly girls volleyball team can immediately see the continuing impact senior middle Carter Woodruff has on the team. A third-year varsity player, Woodruff has emerged as the Panthers go-to hitter in her final year.

Despite opening the season with a 1-2 record, the Panthers will continue to rely on Woodruff’s athleticism and leadership to lead them in the prep league. In a 3-1 win against Temple City, Woodruff recorded 16 kills and two blocks.

Since then she has logged over 30 more kills and eight more blocks in just three matches. Though she is best known as a hitter, teammates recognize the vast improvements she has made as a passer.

Senior Carolyn Shanks said, “It can be hard, sometimes, for great hitters to also be good passers, but Carter is really focusing on her passing and is constantly improving in that area of her game.”

Woodruff can provide key defense and block the hitter when it matters most. “It is awesome how she is able to gauge where we are and what we need as a team during a game,” said Shanks. “She knows when we need to be serious and focus, but she is not against having fun and enjoying herself. She is also very vocal, which is an awesome trait to have on the court.”

After the loss of three starters to graduation, Woodruff has not only made her impact felt as a player but as a leader. Even in tough losses, Woodruff demonstrated poise and pride to the rest of the team. Woodruff and the varsity volleyball team look to utilize their potential as they face Chapwick, Westridge and Firebaugh in their upcoming league games.

-Fourth-year varsity player Carter Woodruff has stepped up to the plate in the team’s recent win against Pasadena High School. The success Behary has found as a junior and key player for the water polo team is a result of the work he puts in.

Save the Date
Monday, September 21 at Poly, 3:30

Key players, Dean Behary and the Panthers look to make last year’s losses verses sophomore standouts Ian Tien and the Rebels.

Fencers impressing coach in preseason
By ROBYN LEE
Sports editor

Poly’s young varsity fencing team has demonstrated a unique passion and dedication towards fencing in the preseason.

Head coach Laura Holmgren said, “With only one returning senior and three returning juniors, we have a young varsity team, but it is probably the most uniformly enthusiastic, dedicated and driven team we have had since the competitive program began eight years ago.”

As a part of the team’s overall goal of becoming better fencers, the Panthers are also placing an emphasis on the individual skill development of each fencer, allowing for more personal growth every day.

Senior Austin Yu said, “With a fresh pair of eyes to look at my technique, I am able to progress and learn to become a better fencer.”

Senior Carolyn Shanks said, “It is awesome how she is able to gauge where we are and what we need as a team during a game,” said Shanks. “She knows when we need to be serious and focus, but she is not against having fun and enjoying herself. She is also very vocal, which is an awesome trait to have on the court.”

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