GSL and Performing Arts Department host The Human Condition

By JULIANNA LAI
News editor

Upper School dancers recently graced the Gar- lard stage for the annual fall dance production, Ti- tled The Human Condition, this year’s show drew on themes such as the human psyche, birth, con- flict and mortality to embody the essence of hu- manity through movement.

Consistent with previous years, the Performing Arts Department continued its relationship with the Girls Service League (GSL). The partnership don- ated the proceeds from ticket sales and funds raised through a silent auction to the Elizabeth House, a so- cial service organization based in Pasadena. Elizabeth House is committed to providing support and shelter to adult pregnant homeless women and their children in the San Gabriel Valley.

Inspired by the organization’s mission, GSL cab- inet members took the opportunity to advocate for the Elizabeth House and its motto of embracing all lives while performers onstage illustrated the beauty of both the ups and downs of everyday life.

Led by Poly’s resident dance instructor Danielle Pigneri, 50 dancers from all grades and varying levels of skill collaborated over a period of three months, dedicating countless hours in and after school to The Human Condition. Hoping for the production to be mainly a student vision, Pigneri offered juniors and seniors in the Advanced Dance course the opportunity to choreograph seven pieces for the show. Given the blank slate, student chore- ographers were inspired by the show’s themes and personalized the dances, drawing from experiences and emotions. The production featured a variety of styles, from hip hop and contemporary to tap and traditional Indian dance.

The advanced dancers opened the show with “REM”, hauling the audience into a state of reverie. Choreographed by guest choreographer Ericalynn Pri- olo of Lineage Dance Company in Pasadena, “REM” featured freshman Olivia Guerra and set the tone of technical prowess for the remaining performances.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jose Sandoval speaks to Upper School

By BEVERLY SHEN
Assistant news editor

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Jose San- doval recently shared his career path with the Poly Upper School. Covering a wide range of topics from his day-to- day schedule to topical issues in today’s society, Sandoval gave the students a glimpse into his life as a judge.

After graduating cum laude from Harvard and at- tending law school at UC Berkeley, Sandoval was ap- pointed to the bench by former Governor of Califor- nia Gray Davis in December of 2000. He currently works as a criminal judge at the LA Superior Court.

Sandoval briefly described his daily life as a judge.

“Every day is different,” says Sandoval. “I usually start off the day by running through a morning schedule to topical issues in today’s society, Sandoval started off the day by running through a morning calendar, which includes resolving the issues of law-yers who are not quite ready to go to trial. Sandoval, who specializes in felony criminal cases, reviews the processes of the defense attorney, whose job it is to prove any allegations true beyond unreasonable doubt.

Trials occur around mid-morning, and begin with a jury selection. Each defense lawyer and prosecutor tries to obtain information from jurors about their views, background, and biases, to see if there is any ba- sis to challenge that juror’s position on the jury. The focus of a jury selection is to obtain fair and impartial jurors that will not be swayed by personal emotion.

The trial then proceeds, with a focus on whether the prosecutor will be able to prove the allegations true beyond a reasonable doubt. Finally, the jury de- liberates and reaches a final verdict for the trial.

After describing his daily routine, Sandoval ad- dressed some current-day issues, including civ- il rights violations by certain police departments across the country and proper treatment for the mentally ill. Sandoval stated that because of the emphasis on police brutality in the me- dia, many misconceptions have been formed about the police. Although Sandoval argues that not all police officers act unreasonably, he believes that we should strengthen our police training system to improve the safety of our country.

Additionally, Sandoval says that society does not do enough for the mentally ill and believes that legislators do not provide sufficient fund-ing for the treatment of mentally ill people. He states that in many cases he deals with, people usually find themselves in trouble because they are not being properly treated. Sandoval believes that if systems for the mentally ill are im- proved, the overall safety of American society will directly improve as a result.

When asked why he became a judge, Sandoval responded that he had wanted to become a judge ever since middle school, when he had idolized lawyers on television shows and movies.

Sandoval concluded by advising Poly students to “love what you do, and pick some- thing you really are passionate about. I go to work happy every day, and I believe that is the ultimate goal.”

NEWS

Grandparents and Special Friends Day. See page 2.
Alepho Deng visits Upper School. See pages 3.

OPINION

Honoring musicians. See page 4.
Trigger warnings. See page 8.

SPORTS

Boys basketball. See page 10.
Athlete of the future. See page 12.

LIFE

Poetry Feature: Matilda Berke See pages 6.
Artist of the Issue: Alana Pizarro See page 8.
Black Box hosts Cabaret Night
By LIANA KAYE-LEW and JULIANNA LAI
Student contributor and News editor

During Poly Upper School’s annual Cabaret Night, members of the Vocal Ensemble and Chamber Music groups joined together to present a variety of musical performances.

The evening took place in the Black Box Theater and consisted of various solo and small ensemble numbers.

Conducted by Alan Geier, the Vocal Ensemble took advantage of the intimate setting and used the opportunity to convey powerful messages through song. The singers dedicated Eliza Gilkyson’s “Requiem” to victims of natural disasters and wars around the world. “[Requiem]’s message is really relevant right now,” said sophomore Jeilani Rhone-Collins. “It was very powerful for us to sing that song.”

The ensemble’s set also included performances of “No One is Alone” from the musical Into the Woods and a chilling arrangement of “Bring Him Home” from Les Miserables.

Aside from the Vocal Ensemble’s group presentation, small ensembles made up of students from all grades entertained the audience with a variety of pieces. A freshman trio made up of Ella Cornwell, Kristin Toyota and Rory Xanders performed Beyoncé’s “Pretty Hurts,” and juniors Maya Barajas-Tavera and Claire Gershon harmonized to “For Good” from the hit Broadway musical Wicked. Senior Diana Leon highlighted the evening with a haunting rendition of “Creep” by English rock band Radiohead.

Cabaret Night concluded with instrumental numbers performed by students in the Upper School Chamber Music class. Freshman harpist and pianist Annette Lee, violinist Ava Miralles and flutists Angie Liu and Chanel Shen shared their talents with the audience.

“There are so many amazingly talented kids, and Cabaret Night is a great opportunity for them to perform and show what they do,” said longtime Arts Department faculty member Tom Allard. “There is a feeling of sanctuary in the room, so students really go for it. I’m always thrilled by the level of skill the students bring.”

Poly welcomes grandparents and special friends
By NICOLAS MEDRANO
Staff writer

Loved ones joined Poly Upper, Middle and Lower School students for Grandparents and Special Friends Visiting Day, an annual Polytechnic School tradition.

Visitors on the North and South campuses first checked in and enjoyed a warm welcome in Garland Theatre. Green Apple Company provided breakfast for all of the visitors.

Students met with their grandparents and special friends during morning meeting. The meeting featured several games, ranging from music trivia to Flappy Bird, that included grandparent and special friend involvement.

Freshman Lux Blum remarked, “I especially enjoyed when the ASB played different classic songs for the grandparents to recognize, and how my grandparents shot up in delight when they knew a few of them.”

Afterwards students led their visitors to the students’ classes. The experience provided a unique opportunity for the students’ guests to participate in a Poly class and observe the classroom dynamics. Sophomore Lucas Demetriades noted, “It was interesting and nerve-wracking to be in English class with my grandmother, an English professor, sitting right behind me, examining my every move.”

Visitors were able to participate in classroom discussions. Students in a freshman English class discussed the Los Angeles Riots. Blum commented, “It was fascinating to see the perspectives and insights coming from the grandparents who had experienced the riots firsthand. After the day was over, both of my grandparents told me how impressed they were with Poly.”

Students and guests from the North and South campuses then congregated in the Gamble Gym for an all-school assembly. The audience was treated to poems and other written works by students from different grade levels, along with a welcome speech given by Head of School John Bracker. Student musicians from the Lower, Middle, and Upper school also performed.

Senior Daniel Zhu noted, “The assembly was a time to relax a little, enjoy the music and the hard work of all the performers and speakers, and a time to simply be in each other’s company.”

Afterwards, Poly students parted from loved ones and returned to class. “I thought it was nice to take some time to spend with our grandparents and friends,” commented Zhu. “Sometimes we can be so busy that we forget, and we don’t have as much time as we would like to spend with loved ones.”
The Human Condition

Continued from page 1

“When we were thinking about how we wanted to portray the human condition, “REM” felt like the perfect way to portray the themes,” said Pigneri. “But the title of the show didn’t come to us until the end of the process. Everything happened very organically, and The Human Condition encompassed what each dancer had been feeling throughout rehearsals.”

Handing over the reins to the students, Pigneri sat back and offered occasional feedback and enhanced student ideas. The dancers were involved in all aspects of the production and worked closely with student sound and light technicians Sam Clark and Dylan Magarici.

Additionally, allowing students to run the show helped create close friendships among performers. Reflecting on the experience as a whole, junior tap dancer Sarah Ohta said that the relationships she formed fostered her personal development.

“We didn’t have very many challenges during the process because if there were ever any internal conflicts, the dancers just came together as a team,” said Pigneri. “The collaborative aspect was very important to each dancer.”

Pigneri and Polys dancers will shift their focus to several smaller productions in the spring, including a senior recital and a student choreography showcase. With the recent completion of the spring musical, Hair, Pigneri will have her hands full with a dance-heavy production.

was to educate themselves about the world and be aware before they could do anything,” stated Upper School English teacher Grace Hamilton.

“Working with Alepho Deng has been an important experience that student the $1000 to do something awe-inspiring. Applications from Poly’s Upper School students. The Awesome Project is a Los Angeles based organization that gives $1000 to a Los Angeles based initiative that will have a meaningful impact on the community. The students in City of Angels have been advertsing the project and soliciting applications from Polys Upper School students. Once an application is chosen, the class will give that student the $1000 to do something awe-inspiring.

The winning project will be covered in the January issue of The Paw Print.

Written and compiled by Stephanie Choi

PolyConnect invites Airline Captain David Frank ’82

By ANGELA LIU

Assistant news editor

Poly alumnus David M. Frank ’82, a commercial pilot, shared his experiences and career path with students during a PolyConnect lunch organized by the Alumni Office.

Frank introduced himself as a Poly “lifer” who attended Poly from Pre-K until 12th grade. Frank took a hiatus from Poly during second grade to study in South Sudan. In one particular account, Deng trekked through thousands of miles in the African wilderness before reaching a refugee camp. He recalled being nearly killed by a lion and being only spared at the expense of the life of another boy in his group.

In another recollection, Deng told of almost being captured by soldiers who fired on the village he was staying in while fleeing Sudan. He also shared a childhood story of how his father defeated a lion with a club and three spears.

Senior Sean McMahon, a GIP member who shared his own experiences, commented, “It is exciting to hear them tell their story. It was very inspiring and made me very happy to see that.”

Deng also spoke in the Writer’s Center during lunch and talked with Poly students and faculty about his novel and life experiences. Deng elaborated on his father and shared his own experiences in the United States. He spoke about how he had gone from being a bagger at Ralph’s to working in a microbrewery with his brother to speaking at schools around the country and educating others about his story.

“Deng’s speech definitely had an impact on me, and after the assembly, I realized how little we, in the Poly community, know about the world. The students were asking Deng how they could help, and he said that the first thing they must do was to educate themselves about the world and be aware before they could do anything,” stated Upper School English teacher Grace Hamilton.

McMahon expressed, “One of the reasons I got involved in the GIP Program was because I realized that it was a powerful thing for young students to be reminded of the global significance of what we’re learning about and what’s going on around us. I was really pleased with the event because at the lunch meeting, there were a lot of students who came in—sophomores, juniors, and seniors, who all had a vast range of interests but were all united by their curiosity and commitment to learning about someone’s life, to hear them tell their story. It was very inspiring and made me very happy to see that.”

Secret Santa on campus

235 Upper School students participated in the annual Secret Santa gift-giving program. Throughout the week, Secret Santas anonymously gave each other small gifts. On the final day, pairings revealed themselves with a larger gift. Pairings were mixed among grades, and faculty participated as well. Gifts ranged from bags of candy to stuffed animals to a live Christmas carol. Freshman Cole Swanson commented, “It was a fun experience to participate in. Many people got anxious to see who their Secret Santa was and that was one of the reasons why it was so exciting.”

Science Department hosts summer opportunities night

Poly’s Science Department hosted a night where students who participated in science-related summer internships and research opportunities shared their experiences with the Poly community. Sophomores, juniors and seniors spoke about their opportunities to a number of Upper School students and gave them advice on how to find similar positions.

Notes from the evening about each student’s experience have been sent to the Upper School.
The Republican Party’s crisis: the conservatives that aren’t

By NICK WUTHRICH
Assistant opinion editor

Republican outsiders like Donald Trump and Ben Carson have been dominating the news recently with controversial comments about Muslim-Americans and the party at large. Yet it is not only Republican outsiders like Donald Trump who are out of touch with mainstream Americans; the Republican Party itself no longer guards American principles, such as individual liberty, fiscal conservatism and small government. The party now willingly—or at least tacitly—rejects these principles in favor of pseudo-conservative and unrealistic policy proposals.

Republicans and conservatives alike espouse fiscal responsibility—the idea that the government should play a limited role in the economy without financially overburdening its citizens—as a central tenet of conservative ideology.

Individuals should be free to pursue life, liberty and happiness without the intrusion of the government—especially in matters of personal property and monetary assets. Unfortunately, while some of the top Republican contenders for president have tax policies that follow, in principle, this ideology of fiscal conservatism, these approaches in practice will burden the American taxpayer with even more national debt than there already is.

For example, popular insurgent candidate Ben Carson would introduce a tax system based on the biblical notion of tithe, with a flat 10% tax rate for all Americans. The organization Citizens for Tax Justice estimated that Carson’s tax plan would result in a government deficit of almost three trillion dollars per year. Furthermore, establishment candidate Jeb Bush’s more modest proposal, with a system of multiple tax brackets, would still cost Americans $1.2 trillion over the next decade—even taking into account economic growth—according to the Center for Global Enterprise.

Policies of both establishment and outsider Republicans are therefore contrary to the very fiscal conservatism the party promotes. Lowering taxes is great for the average American in theory, but when national debt skyrocket as a result—despite the pursuit of austerity—that very same American is on the hook to help pay that debt back. Living within the nation’s means should not include increasing national debt by trillions of dollars; the Republican Party stands to promote small government. It contends that larger government not only intervenes with the liberty of its citizens, but also is inefficient and unresponsive to the needs of the very citizenry from which it derives its power. Regrettably, the Republican Party by and large seems to be woefully ignorant of what the pursuance of this goal entails.

For example, many Republicans actively promote militarized domestic law enforcement. U.S. police forces are increasingly armed with mine-resistant vehicles, bulletproof vests, M-16 assault rifles and even bayonets to combat the ever-present terrorist boogeyman. The vast majority of the House GOP has spoken out in favor of such arms; GOP leadership as recently as last year suppressed bills that would check the almost uninhibited transfer of military equipment to local law enforcement. It is preposterous to assume that agents of freedom and liberty should resemble an occupying force, yet the party that supposedly stands for small government and personal autonomy openly advocates for such militarization.

Additionally, the most ridiculous example of Republican back-scratching of policies that contravene the party’s core ideology—support of small government—is the party’s apathy toward the NSA’s abuse of its own citizens. Unbelievably invasive security measures that quite possibly are unconstitutional, from mass wiretapping of millions of Americans to coercion of American technology companies into spying on their own users, have been employed by the organization in the name of “national defense”. Such “Big Brother”-like practices—tracking, analysis and surveillance of American citizens on a massive scale, without their knowledge or consent—are undeniably contrary to any rational conception of small government. Yet many Republicans, from presidential candidate Chris Christie to many in the House, actively support the NSA. Such an organization is founded upon government tyranny and invasiveness.

Ultimately, the Republican Party seems to have lost its way. Its core beliefs of small government and fiscal responsibility are actively undermined by policies and positions held by many within the party. If the GOP and conservatives want to see White House success, the party must return to the tenets that make it great in the first place or at least ideological consistency.

The infeasibility of Mars One and the future of private aerospace

By JACK WALLIS
Staff writer

Over the past few years, the public eye has locked on the exploding industry that is private aerospace and research. Companies like SpaceX and Virgin Galactic have attracted huge amounts of attention through radically new concepts and technologies. Just last month, the space exploration company Blue Origin was successful in remotely landing a rocket carrying an empty crew capsule; the company received a justifiably brilliant commendation through radically new concepts and technologies. Just last month, the space exploration company Blue Origin was successful in remotely landing a rocket carrying an empty crew capsule; the company received a justifiably brilliant commendation.
Entitlement to music in the digital age: honoring musicians

By ANDY RICKERT
Staff writer

Last month, I read an email exchange between Phil Elverum of the Microphones and a teenage fan of his work that captured my perspective on purchasing music. The fan, after growing enamored with a pirated copy of Elverum’s seminal album “the Glow pt. 2”, sent an irregular piece of fan mail to Phil.

In the letter, he confessed that he initially pirated, but after hearing it for a couple days, had purchased a physical copy of the album. Although I trust this fan had the best intentions in sending his email, his frankness toward an artist about pirating their music appalled me. Phil, who appreciated the fan’s support but also recognized how the odd sentiment behind the email was, used it as an opportunity to express his thoughts on the economic environment for musicians in 2015, “Nowadays the norm is to say ‘I like your music so much I did a crazy radical thing: I supported you financially...’ I realize this makes sense to you given that you are in high school and have grown up in a world where everything is free on the internet and the necessity of paying for music is not a given.”

As my eyes settle on this reply may read, Phil’s email made me realize something I had previously taken for granted: our generation’s unrestricted access to music.

My primary format for listening to music is Spotify Premium. For five dollars a month I can listen to, with a few rare exceptions, all of my favorite artists wherever and whenever I want. Over the past years, Spotify and its competitors have been subjected to unending criticism by musicians who feel as if music streaming pays them unfairly. Spotify prides itself on being a convenient alternative to pirating music in which artists can still monetize their work; however, how much monetization this service provides is shockingly low. After reading the email I received Spotify’s rate per stream and found that I had earned my first played track, a measurer $0.005 for almost 1000 streams. Purchasing the five albums by this band in my rotation would cost somewhere between 50 and 100 dollars, depending on the audio format. Although I like to buy records every once in awhile, spending an average of 100 dollars on what I can access for free with nothing online seemed a luxury to me, as I’m sure it would to most people my age. However, as Phil argues, this used to be the reality for listeners as recent as twenty years ago.

With the growing emphasis on convenience for the listener, it’s easy to forget the other end of the exchange. When affluent artists like Taylor Swift take their music off Spotify, or Kanye West and Jay Z try to pioneer a new platform for streaming that fairly pays musicians, our culture tends to laugh at them because, well, doesn’t everyone need any more money? What I think most of us fail to realize is that a lot of artists share Swift’s issues with Spotify; the only difference is Taylor Swift can afford to eschew music streaming because people will still listen to her music anyways. On the other hand, smaller artists like Phil Elverum are forced to use these platforms because, realistically, no one is going to buy an album in 2015 without having listened to it online first. If an artist doesn’t adapt to the new market, they’re going to be left in the dust.

I’m not advocating that we stop digitally streaming music, it’s evident by their immense popularity that these services are here to stay (and way too convenient to willingly give up). Additionally, the ease at which we can find new music on the internet means that musicians can expand their listener base in a way that was impossible when music was restricted to a physical medium. However, if the music industry continues in the direction it’s headed, there will be dire consequences. If we want to reverse this insidious trend, consumers need to take advantage of the biggest tool the internet provides for artists: the removal of the middleman.

Historically, record labels underpaying artists has always been a huge issue, but there’s no reason this tradition needs to continue. Services like Bandcamp, a platform for independent artists to disseminate their music, give bands an 85–15 share of all sales. Bandcamp also has “a pay what you want” model, meaning you can opt to pay as little as a dollar—the price of a snack at the vending machine—and support a musician more than you ever would through digital streaming. Additionally, artists can sell music from their own websites without losing any of the profit. We don’t have to settle for the ~$0.001 an artist gets per stream on Spotify—we have the tools to give them what they deserve. It’s up to us, as the consumers, to make the choice.

Climate change: the 6th mass extinction

By ALI MEDINA
Assistant opinion editor

While I’m sure that most of us here at Poly recognize climate change as a threat, I doubt that most of us have recognized it for the reality it is: the 6th mass extinction of our planet.

In Washington DC, politicians continue to claim that climate change isn’t real and that it isn’t a serious problem; a noteworthy example of this denial is Republicans, who coincidently are also the chair of the climate change didn’t exist by throwing a snowball on our planet’s own last ditch attempts to survive. In short, climate change: the 6th mass extinction.

The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid.

Dear Kobe,

From the moment you stepped onto the hardwood, you were different. None have matched your intensity, your signature aggression, your meticulous footwork and mental strength. None has shut the haters out better than you; you’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination.

You are the Jordan to a generation of young players. The 17-time All Star who has never been afraid. You’ve never played for their approval. The fervor of your pour is the very antithesis of complacency. The model for the most extraordinary determination. Thanks, Mamba.

Love you always,
Lakers Nation

Juillianna Lai

Thank you, Mamba.
Love you always,
Lakers Nation

Climate change: the 6th mass extinction

While I’m sure that most of us here at Poly recognize climate change as a threat, I doubt that most of us have recognized it for the reality it is: the 6th mass extinction of our planet.

In Washington DC, politicians continue to claim that climate change isn’t real and that it isn’t a serious problem; a noteworthy example of this denial being when Senator James Inhoffe “proved” that climate change didn’t exist by throwing a snowball on the Senate floor. He reasoned that global warming couldn’t exist if it’s snowing. While the Oklahoma Republican, who coincidently is also the chair of the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee, might be right on snowballs on the Senate floor, mammalian species were continuing to disappear at a rate 20 to 100 times faster than in the past. At this rate, scientists agree that this mass extinction could happen faster than the miniscule 250 years it took to kill the dinosaurs.

Dozens of reports have been published by scientists with data that points out how by 2040 there will be no ice in the Arctic or how heat waves severe enough to kill as many as 70,000 people will occur every other year by 2040 and every year by 2070. A funny side effect of all this knowledge is the intense effort to stifle it for personal gain. Individuals and groups that deny climate change received $558 million between 2003 and 2010 from wealthy individuals, companies and organizations. Billions. Billions. Charles and David Koch themselves have funneled more than $72 million toward climate denial. The tactics have been effective; there has actually been a slight increase since April 2013 in the percentage of Americans who believe global warming is not happening.

The 6th mass extinction probably won’t happen in our lifetime, but you should know that there will be days that get so hot that your future children might not be able to go outside. Yet this temperature increase isn’t the only malaise resulting from climate change. When the sea level raises 3.9 feet by the end of the century, 147 million to 216 million people worldwide can expect to see their homes submerged or put at risk for regular flooding.

The countries that will really suffer in terms of safety and economy will be the poorest ones. Yet the impacts of climate change aren’t limited to third-world nations: Densely populated cities such as Miami, New York, and New Orleans will all be underwater during the lifetimes of our children.

In the United States, I feel the need to mention that by 2100, because of the heat, some states in the Southeast, the lower Great Plains, and the Midwest risk losing 50% to 70% in average annual crop yields; think corn, soy, cotton and wheat.

Furthermore, our grandchildren are going to have it even worse. Scientists Mark Lynas, author of “Six Degrees,” writes that if Greenland completely melts within 140 years—as he predicts—“Miami would disappear entirely, as would most of the city of London. Central London would be flooded. Bangkok, Bombay and Shanghai would also lose most of their area. In all, half of humanity would have to move to higher ground.” Our hypothetical grandchild will also have to deal with other issues like drought, food shortages, and dangerous heat and pollution outside.

Yet drastic effects of climate change aren’t limited to a century from now; terrible things will still be occurring in our lifetimes. Briefly: wildfires year round, much of Alaska will have to be relocated, food prices will increase 83% by 2050 and increasing comminution of brutal winters. In short, climate change is something that will actually affect you.

And for those of you counting on the Little Ice Age, which is said to hit by the end of the century, don’t expect it to solve everything. Human activity will realistically trump all obstacles, even our planet’s own last ditch attempts to survive.
Wall Street Journal Meets Maddie Kim

Senior Alana Pizarro’s passion for dance shines both on the Poly stage and off. As someone who has devoted much of her life to all types of dance, Pizarro has established herself as a talented force in school dance shows, her ballet company and Poly classes. Drawn to ballet at a young age, Pizarro has always admired the finesse of older dancers and resolved to achieve her dream of dancing en pointe. Pizarro joined the Pasadena Civic Ballet at the age of four and worked through the studio to earn a place in the senior company as a freshman.

Her schedule reflects her clear dedication to dance; she participates in six hours of ballet technique, two hours of contemporary and three hours of stage rehearsal per week. While Pizarro’s schedule is consistently packed with homework and Poly’s annual dance shows and musical productions, she has learned to juggle all her commitments and still values her experiences at the Pasadena Civic Ballet.

Pizarro values her secondary classes at Poly as well. She is passionate about her English courses, especially in her senior year, when she studied the works of Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, and William Shakespeare. Her English teacher, Ms. Kim, says, “Alana’s reading list is impressive.”

Pizarro is also involved in the Poly Student Union, where she serves as a junior representative and works on community service projects. She is currently planning a dance fundraiser to benefit a local charity.

While Pizarro is busy with her academic and extracurricular commitments, she still finds time to pursue her passion for dance. In fact, she recently performed in a contemporary ballet piece titled “Your Day Will Come.”

Artist of the Issue: Alana Pizarro

Latinos Unidos and SPARK host breakfast for Maintenance Staff

By HARPER ORECK
Staff Writer

Poly’s maintenance staff was honored last week at a breakfast hosted by Latinos Unidos, Poly’s Latinx student union and cultural club, and SPARK, Poly’s student-based kindness club. The event was held during the annual Latino Heritage Month celebration.

At the breakfast, held during M Period on the junior patio, faculty and students toasted members of the maintenance staff over French toast and orange juice.

Latinos Unidos originally decided to hold the breakfast after finding success with a fundraiser they held last year, from which they donated half of the proceeds to the Pasadena Job Center. The rest of the proceeds were set aside for the breakfast.

Originally, the breakfast was inspired by Latinos Unidos’ desire to celebrate the maintenance staff as many of its members are of Latino or Latina descent. However, Latinos Unidos decided to shift the focus of the breakfast to celebrate the work the maintenance staff does for Poly and consequently partnered with SPARK, which aims to improve student life and appreciation of the Poly community. Together, the two groups coordinated the breakfast.

The maintenance staff begins their days long before we arrive at school and leave long after we have gone home, and their commitment to improving our campus is invaluable to the Poly community. While the breakfast was an enjoyable and uplifting way to show our gratitude for the maintenance staff’s dedication to making the most of the breakfast emphasized the importance of showing our appreciation in our everyday actions.

Latinos Unidos leader Jessica Lopez said, “The only way you can really appreciate the maintenance staff is by hearing their presence on campus and seeing how they go to your writing room and sit and write.”

On Thursday, the center presented a total of $17,500 in prizes to writers, according to Ms. Schiller.

Eric Boomden, who graduated from Yale University in May, won for a package of three books on a violin-maker, a lute, and a program to try to control the spread of tuberculosis. Ms. Boomden, now a 24-year-old general-assignment reporter for the science and health website STAT, said he has consulted Mailer’s nonfiction for other articles.

“Last year I was writing a profile of a Senegalese wrestler,” Ms. Boomden said. “I looked to some of Mailer’s writing about boxing… I wanted to see how other, better writers had done it.”

Josh Davis, now in his 11th year as a teacher at Beachwood High School in Beachwood, Ohio, won for his nonfiction narrative about raising a son with autism. The Mailer award is unusual, he said, because “there aren’t a lot of contests that target teachers—that give teachers a chance to pursue their craft.”

The awards are administered by the National Council of Teachers of English, which winsnows the initial submissions and submits five finalists in each category to the Mailer Center. At that point, panels of writers and educators appointed by the center—including Mailer biographer Michael Lennon and Anne Fadiman—decide on winners.

Despite a reputation for combative-ness, Mailer made himself accessible to his readers and won admirers of all kinds, from beginners to experts. His influence as a writer is evident in his works, which continue to inspire and challenge readers today.
Meet the Operations Staff: Officer Gapas & Martinez

By Alex Patzakis
Assistant life editor

Officers Gapas and Martinez, veteran security guards at Poly, have watched over our campus for twelve and fifteen years, respectively, devoting innumerable hours to maintaining the safety and quality of our school environment. This feature, continued from last issue, is intended as a gesture to celebrate those who do so much for us behind the scenes at Poly.

Resurrecion Gapas

During a quiet night following the end of one of Poly’s bustling after-school evenings, Officer Gapas patrols the perimeter of campus in her surveillance golf cart, circumnavigating the streets of Wilson, Arden, and Cornell with a keen eye and formidable composure.

Originally a police officer from Manila, Philippines, Officer Gapas exudes her years of experience as she dangles two heavy rings holding identical gold-rimmed keys, a symbol of the trust Poly places in her throughout her many years serving our school.

After emigrating to the United States in 2003, she worked as a security guard at Milken Community High School in Bel Air. There, she crossed paths with Officer Martinez, who today is her long-time “partner” and close friend.

Her shift begins at 4 pm, beginning on the South Campus, where she secures each building and sets each alarm in every room for the night. She then makes her way up to the North Campus later in the evening. Her day ends at 2 am, an unfathomable thought for many of us, one that has become routine for her.

Officer Gapas has even faced the “friendly” yet unknown spirits of Haaga House: “We are used to them, they are our friends!” she laughs. She also sometimes encounters other late-night campus visitors, including students trying to retrieve a book, raccoons, and even the homeless in search of a dry place to sleep.

Officer Gapas explains that her security job involves a lot of walking, pressure, and great responsibility. “We are here rain or shine!” she exclaims. “We feel the responsibility and want things to be safe and ready for the Poly community.”

“I am happy working here,” she explains. “Poly kids are good, never rude. I love watching the kids play and grow up! Not too long ago, I was monitoring during an alumni gathering, and one of the alumni greeted me and, in shock, said, ‘You’re still here!’”

One day, after her retirement, she hopes to perhaps return to her native Philippines. Family is very important in her culture, and family members feel deeply their responsibility to care for one another, she explains, the same way she takes her responsibility for securing our campus community with so much poise and pride.

Torbio Martinez

Officer Martinez flips through his camera roll of photos from his recent trip to Guatemala, his distant home and native country, sharing moments of traditional dishes drenched in mole sauce and the family mariachi bands that line the colorful streets.

The third of four sons, Martinez was born in San Felipe, Guatemala. He helped support his family at a young age, and Officer Martinez exhibits this same tenacious character in his current job as a Poly security guard.

Unbelievably, Officer Martinez did not own a pair of shoes—an amenity we unconsciously take for granted—until the age of twelve. As a child, he never had a toy to enchant him or bedding to sleep in; in fact, every other night, Martinez and one of his brothers would take turns using a jacket as a blanket.

Officer Martinez held many jobs prior to Poly, from selling tortillas to neighboring restaurants at the young age of five to selling candy at his local futbol stadium to support his family. At the age of eleven, he became a baker. He has also worked factory that made hamburger buns for McDonald’s, sold ice cream bars, and shined shoes. In his limited free time, he enjoys baking traditional Guatemalan breads that remind him of the comfort of his native country.

Officer Martinez recalls his exhausting commute during his first years in this country: “When I first immigrated to the United States, I hiked an hour and fifteen minutes each way to my first job. I also worked on improving my English listening to Dodger games—Vin Scully was my teacher!” he laughs.

Officer Martinez speaks of his close relationship to his struggling Guatemalan family, a reflection of his profoundly kind character. After the tragic death of the father, an electrician, the mother of the family was left alone with her eight children. Since, Officer Martinez has provided them with donations of food and clothing. When he retires he hopes to return to Guatemala, start a tortilla business, and teach English to those who want to emigrate to the United States. “One of the things I like about Poly students,” he notes, “is that they like to visit remote places and learn about other cultures. If you come to Guatemala after I retire, I’ll be waiting for you Poly kids there!”

hey Poly

Buy $30 in Gift Cards now through December 31 and get a Free Pizza Pass valid between January 1 and February 29.

#BestGiftEver #TreatYoSelf

Blaze Pizza

667 East Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Give: Receive.

BUY $30 IN GIFT CARDS - GET A FREE PIZZA PASS!

Raise Funds Fast at BlazePizza.com/Fundraising
Lana Del Rey Sells Me on Sadness: "Bad Girls, Honey" and the Pitfalls of Sad, American Dream Pop

There's something so ineffably indulgent about Lana Del Rey. I understand this as much as I don’t understand this: I’ve listened through her entire discography until songs became indistinguishable from one another, her lyrics have inspired my Instagram username and countless captions, and I'm writing her book about a movement focused on sadness inspired in part by her. Megan Falley understands this, too, author of "Bad Girls, Honey" (Poems About Lana Del Rey), a small, 40-page stapled booklet with a girl’s cutoff shorts against a baby pink backdrop on its cover, in which Falley explores her obsession with the starlet and the dangers of that obsession. A kind of guilt comes with listening to Lana: several of her messages are across as anti-feminist and glorifications of pain, and although I'm aware of this, I still find myself listening. It's easier to sneer, less bad to smile. You'd never cry, strapped down on a white suicide bed behind your eyes, tell them you don't care at all—no one can leave you lonely anymore.

Today you stop in a dark place under the moon. Today there's nothing keeping you from the atmosphere. Today I got a clue you'll be here soon (I know you’re never really here) you think you say just how you feel and ruination’s not the best of you when it's just you inside your mind and if you’re trying to run from it, you’re running out of time—

But now

it’s summer over the river tick tock
it’s summer over the river tick tock
it’s summer over the river

And Falley is understandably jealous of that. She (and so many of us) is drawn to Lana, despite the kind of guilt that comes with her. For me, she is a kind of guardian angel, someone I can listen to when I'm feeling low, when I need someone to relate to. But I don’t know how I feel about it. I’m very torn by this paradox—

I'm very torn by this paradox—the idea of using pain as empowerment is an attractive one, without a doubt, but that pain can so easily become warped into dependency.

I don't know how I feel about the kind of influence Lana has on young girls, and I don't know if sadness can simply be reappropriated and reassigned a new purpose. But I’m awed by Lana’s ability to hone in on this attraction for vintage, American, honesty-soaked sadness so base and instinctive, to create such a complex internal conflict between wanting to give into that attraction and fighting against it for a healthier form of empowerment. Maybe that’s what Lana intended to achieve all along—the self-examination of her listeners, an unveling of a conflict inherent to all of us.

Falley is deft in her analysis of the questions Lana’s very existence raises: the meaning of womanhood, pain and empowerment and the point at which they all intertwine. In the final poem of the collection, “Undressing Lana,” Falley helps Lana remove her physical affectations, her deep voice, her perfecions, revealing a Lana who is unbelievably human, a Lana who is flawed. No matter what Lana represents, Falley finds a sort of comfort in this normality, and she writes, “Suddenly, I don’t hate / my freckles, my collection of scars, / my asymmetry, and I love the name / I was born with.”

-Maddie Kim
Opposing viewpoints: trigger warnings and sensitivity

By BELEN CAHILL
Opinion editor

We began AP English this year by reading several articles about the identity and role of a scholar, including one in The Atlantic entitled “Coding the American Mind” by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt. As a piece that seemed to advocate for the attack of political-correctness and hypersensitivity, it was a kind of alluring rebel yell for the vast majority of eleven grade students eager to hop on this exciting national bandwagon. I loved the idea that kids were being coddled and needed to be shaken up, especially because I’m a big believer in the power of garnering wisdom from venturing out of one’s comfort zone.

But over Thanksgiving break, in light of the recent happenings on Yale and Missouri’s campuses, my mom asked my aunt, a professor of feminist theory, ethics and philosophy at Elon University, for her take on the issue. I was excited to drop some references to our readings in class and make sweeping judgments about professors everywhere that promoted the use of trigger warnings, but my aunt stunned me by elucidating the extremely dangerous nature of this movement.

Trigger warnings originated on the Internet as a means of self-protection for those with PTSD on a platform that has unlimited and largely uncensored content. In a college or university context, trigger warnings are employed by professors to notify students of potentially triggering material that may come up in readings, lectures and presentations.

A major misconception furthered in “Coding the American Mind” and articles like it is that trigger warnings enable students to refuse completing an assignment or participating in discussion. Rarely is this the case, they are merely measures taken to avoid retraumatizing students. Given this purpose, I don’t see why the practice of giving trigger warnings is a point of contention at all. How could anyone be against the preservation and nurturing of a student psyche?

Furthermore, trigger warnings were put in place in an educational context mostly to help victims of sexual violence or occasionally extreme racial violence. When I asked my aunt why she chooses to use trigger warnings, she said, “Here is my logic. If I’m teaching in higher education in the United States of the 21st century, a normal percentage of women in my class, chances are good some of them have been victims of sexual violence, and oftentimes people who have been victims of this can respond to images of sexual violence by shutting down. Trigger warnings are used to make sure this difficult material is as accessible as possible—we, as teachers, must always try to create an environment in which all sorts of students can engage with the material and each other. So if you’re having a panic attack or a reaction that shuts you down, you just lost access to that educational opportunity. It is also about not ignoring the facts of the world that students live in: trigger warnings recognize that sexual violence is quite common on college campuses. So if that’s coddling, I guess I’m willing to coddle because it seems ridiculous to teach students as if sexual violence was not happening. Why would I do that?”

Broadly speaking, most students who object to trigger warnings are those in the majority. That is definitely not to say that straight, white males can’t experience trauma, and events like sexually violent encounters are in no way limited to a race, gender or sexuality, but generally, there are far fewer hoops that must be jumped through for those who fall into this identification in contemporary America.

Kate Manne of Cornell University writes, “In philosophy, we often draw a distinction between responses based on reasons and those that are merely caused.” Ultimately, a line must be drawn to divide stepping out of your own comfort zone and being coddled out of it. We are a country inclined to desensitization, and for this reason, it is important to maintain practices that engender empathy and healing. We are also a country that has a strong tradition of academic excellence—one which is jeopardized when a student’s psychological standing is threatened.

Trigger warnings should be the hippocratic oath of higher education in the United States: first, do no harm.

Recent student protests at universities around the country, most notably at Yale, all stem from a growing trend of hypersensitivity on college campuses. Today, colleges are no longer seen as environments in which students can be exposed to new ideas, have their opinions challenged or face uncomfortable subjects for the sake of intellectual growth of those very students. Instead, the level of sensitivity shown in students’ responses is such that it could be perceived as offensive by other students. In response, a student sent out an email to a number of other students that read, “Is there no room anymore for a child or young person to be a little bit obnoxious … a little bit inappropriate or provocative or, yes, offensive?”

This email caused uproar on the Yale campus from many students who were worried that the Halloween costumes of other students might be anything other than completely neutral and sterile. The level of sensitivity shown in students’ responses to a single email that was stapled to a bulletin board, students should be allowed to make mistakes is insane.

At its core, the issue of hypersensitivity is born from the inability of some students to perceive and understand the mistakes of others. Students assume that everything is a personal attack, and in doing so they create a college environment that is unequivocally hostile to learning and, ultimately, the intellectual growth of those very students.
Boys basketball excelling in Webb, Poly tournaments

By JUSTIN AUH
Assistant sports editor

Poly’s boys varsity basketball team has opened its season with a 6-1 record following dominating wins against Pilibos and Holy Martyrs in the Poly tournament. Against Holy Martyrs, the Panthers’ combination of balanced offense and stifling defense propelled them to a 17-9 lead at the end of the first quarter. Though Holy Martyrs came within two at the half, Poly pulled away in the second half, winning 53-38.

The Panthers opened their season in the Webb Classic Invitational tournament, defeating opponents La Quinta and Ribet Academy by double digits. The championship game against Webb was an exciting, back-and-forth match that went into overtime with both teams tied at 41. Poly bolstered its defense, holding Webb scoreless in overtime and securing a 47-41 victory to win the tournament. Junior John Genske received MVP honors for his stellar performance.

With an influx of young talent, the Panthers have impressed their far despite a relatively inexperienced roster of eight underclassmen, five of which are first-year varsity players. Meanwhile, seniors Hunter Harper and Tim Matthiessen have provided the team with leadership and a powerful inside game. Regarding the team’s strong start, junior Ryan Bowen said, “Our biggest strength is our fundamental training. We strive in defensive positioning and court awareness on both sides of the ball. However, we need to improve on court spacing in transitional opportunities from defense to offense as well as executing our offensive plays.”

The fast start has given the team hope to surpass last season’s fourth place league finished for and CIF exit. Despite losing four key seniors, the Panthers aspire to make a run at a Prep League title and a deep playoff run as team chemistry continues to build.

The strong play of the underclassmen has contributed greatly to our strong start and to our sweep of the Webb tournament. Our team is very young but has a lot of high-level basketball experience, so a number of underclassmen have been able to step right into big roles. The freshmen have shown they can make plays in high school and have shown great potential for improvement. There certainly is a great core in place for the future of Poly basketball,” said junior Isaac Harris.

Girls basketball rallies behind Johnson to 37-30 victory over San Marino

By MATT ALISON
Staff writer

Poly’s girls varsity basketball team has posted a 2-5 record this season after competing in the Panthers Holiday Classic and the Poly Tournament.

In their most recent game against San Marino, sophomore Sarah Johnson scored 19 to lead the Panthers to a 37-30 victory.

With the team retaining only four varsity players from last year’s team, growing pains and struggles with chemistry are to be expected this early in the season. However, the team remains optimistic with respect to their long term potential.

Junior starter Julianna Lai said, “Since we’re such a young team, we’re just focused on getting better. These tournaments have been valuable practice for us to get adjusted to all the new faces on the court. We have a lot of upside; we just need all the experience we can get.”

One major reason for the team’s optimism has been the stellar play of several underclassmen. Freshmen Kristin Toyota and Alexis Pupchan have both played their way into starting roles, while impressing their teammates. Toyota, a point guard, has played with precocious composure in early season games and will undoubtedly improve as the season progresses.

Another bright spot for the Panthers has been the play of the sharpshooting Sarah Johnson, a key contributor from last year’s roster. Johnson, who has played a much larger role in her role with the team’s limited experience, is the team’s leading scorer. The team will look to Johnson for leadership on the court both this year and beyond.

While the team has recently made steps in its development, its improvement will be tested in upcoming League play. “Our win against San Marino gives us the confidence we need going into league,” said Lai, continuing, “We still need to fine-tune some details, but we’ll show up ready to play.”

Young girls water polo opens season with 3-5 record

By ROBYN LEE
Sports editor

With an abundance of new faces this season, Poly’s girls water polo team expected a dip in team experience compared to last year’s team of veterans.

Following a CIF-winning season, the team members, nine of which are new to varsity, look to their talent and work ethic to boost their current 3-5 overall record.

The Panthers started their season against nonleague teams in the Los Altos Tournament. Opening with a loss against Helix (14-2) and a win over Carpinteria (11-6) last Friday, the young team is beginning to show promise in conference and developing skills. Our season may not be as strong as last year’s, but as a team we are working hard and putting our best foot out there.” She elaborated, “We are building good chemistry and using every opportunity to improve together, while also enjoying the sport. I want to help create an environment that is focused mainly on teamwork.”

Against Westridge, sophomore Kate Fogassa and junior Maddie Magee each contributed two goals, and Woo scored one. Junior Mor-gan Shawfi scored Poly’s only two goals against Helix during their tournament game off. Assists from senior Emily Dickinson and junior Kate Penner.

Recently, the Panthers had a 10-9 win against Cajon, with five different players finding the back of the net. Their win indicates the great potential the Panthers have when they successfully combine chemistry and experience.

Katsuyama is looking forward to seeing the young team evolve as the season goes on: “It’s teams like this that show the greatest improvement from the first game to the last game.”

Girls basketball rallies behind Johnson to 37-30 victory over San Marino

By MATT ALISON
Staff writer

Poly’s girls varsity basketball team has posted a 2-5 record this season after competing in the Panthers Holiday Classic and the Poly Tournament.

In their most recent game against San Marino, sophomore Sarah Johnson scored 19 to lead the Panthers to a 37-30 victory.

With the team retaining only four varsity players from last year’s team, growing pains and struggles with chemistry are to be expected this early in the season. However, the team remains optimistic with respect to their long term potential.

Junior starter Julianna Lai said, “Since we’re such a young team, we’re just focused on getting better. These tournaments have been valuable practice for us to get adjusted to all the new faces on the court. We have a lot of upside; we just need all the experience we can get.”

One major reason for the team’s optimism has been the stellar play of several underclassmen. Freshmen Kristin Toyota and Alexis Pupchan have both played their way into starting roles, while impressing their teammates. Toyota, a point guard, has played with precocious composure in early season games and will undoubtedly improve as the season progresses.

Another bright spot for the Panthers has been the play of the sharpshooting Sarah Johnson, a key contributor from last year’s roster. Johnson, who has played a much larger role in her role with the team’s limited experience, is the team’s leading scorer. The team will look to Johnson for leadership on the court both this year and beyond.

While the team has recently made steps in its development, its improvement will be tested in upcoming League play. “Our win against San Marino gives us the confidence we need going into league,” said Lai, continuing, “We still need to fine-tune some details, but we’ll show up ready to play.”

Young girls water polo opens season with 3-5 record

By ROBYN LEE
Sports editor

With an abundance of new faces this season, Poly’s girls water polo team expected a dip in team experience compared to last year’s team of veterans.

Following a CIF-winning season, the team members, nine of which are new to varsity, look to their talent and work ethic to boost their current 3-5 overall record.

The Panthers started their season against nonleague teams in the Los Altos Tournament. Opening with a loss against Helix (14-2) and
Boys soccer loses 2–1 to Burroughs in Ralph Brandt tournament

By NOLAN MATHEWS
Staff writer

The varsity boys soccer team fell 2–1 to Burroughs in their third game of the tournament. After junior Will McConnell scored in the 10th minute, Burroughs responded with two first half goals. Poly created several scoring opportunities in the second half but was unable to capitalize with a goal.

Although the team lost almost all of last year’s starting lineup, the development of returning players and addition of new players have propelled them to a competitive start.

A young Panther defense features three first-year varsity players: sophomores Matthew Queen, freshman Alec Walsh and Brady Carter. Though junior center back James Valencia has been on varsity since freshman year, this year is his first as a center back. Their youth has hindered them in games against San Marino and Sylmar, in which the group allowed six goals combined. However, they are rapidly improving as they gain experience.

Junior Matt Alison said, “Our defense gets better everyday, especially as we figure out our starting outside backs. Valencia and Carter have been great in the middle, and I think with Walsh and Queen at the outside, we’ve finally found our starting unit.”

A rapidly improving offense has put up six goals in wins against San Marino and Buckley, three of which were scored by senior Jack Queen, Matthew Queen’s brother. Jack Queen and junior Zeialand Mclean are the only returning starters from last year, but the team has found new offensive contributors.

Several players that served primarily reserve roles for last year’s varsity team have stepped up, including junior wing Clay Hillenburg, senior forward Ryan Ng and junior midfielder Will McConnell. Other contributions have come from last year’s junior varsity team, including junior wing Alison. Finally, the addition of freshman Sinjin Mendenhall has filled a crucial vacancy at forward.

Junior Valencia said, “Though most of our offense has never started in varsity games before this season, everybody plays like they belong on the field. Nobody thinks of themselves as freshmen or junior varsity players or bench players when they’re on the field. Because we’re so young, coach Jolly has made it a point to get everyone to act like a captain, and this team’s ethos translates to confident and composed soccer.”

Junior Mclean said, “Once our offense reestablishes some of the rhythm that it saw last year, we will be able to beat opposing teams with ease because of how much talent we have.”

However, at the heart of the Panthers’ offense is senior Jack Queen, who leads the team in goals despite having played only two full games.

McLean said of Jack Queen, “He’s our go-to player without a doubt. In our win against Buckley, he scored two equalizers essentially single-handedly to tie the game at 2-2 before Matt Alison hit the game winner. He’s an incredibly skilled player and standout leader.”

With Jack Queen and the team’s growing chemistry, the squad finds hope for a return to CIF and another top Prep League finish.

Promising play in difficult Best of the West tournament for girls soccer

By RJUL GARG
Assistant sports editor

The girls varsity soccer team is off to a 3–0–1 start after a win against La Serna and a tie with Citrus Valley in the Best in the West tournament. In the Best of the West tournament, the team faced Division I and II teams, tough competition that will prepare the team for league and postseason play.

Despite the loss of key seniors Kayla Valencia and Becca Hanel, the team has been able to capitalize on both their chemistry and star talent. Senior Captains Ryan Casey, Mia Fernandez and Sloan Askins lead the team on both ends of the field. Casey helps lead a Poly attack and has scored over 15 total goals in 5 games thus far this season. Meanwhile, Askins, an outside back, maintains a formidable defense.

Several underclassmen have admirably risen to the challenge of replacing the talent that Poly lost to graduation. Junior Jessica Lopez said, “Vivian Wheeler, Annie Hodgen, Isabel Ball and Sophie Schleifer were all very important assets to the team in the recent game against San Marino; each stepped up as we played our toughest game yet and left it all out on the field.”

With the Panthers performing well in spite of recent player injuries, the team has a chance to match the success of last year’s Prep League championship team. Senior Ally Annick is recovering from an ACL tear, while sophomore Sarah Fay is coming back from an ankle surgery. Once the team is at full strength, winning a League Title and making a deep CIF run are entirely feasible.

Lopez said, “Our greatest strength as a team is our speed, as we have numerous very fast players. In addition, we excel at keeping possession of the ball and finishing off of set pieces. If we continue to capitalize on these strengths, I feel very positive about our team’s CIF prospects this season. Our goal is naturally to win both CIF and State.”

Athletes earn All-Prep League honors from fall season

Football:

1st Team
Tim Matthiessen, senior WR
Christian Henderson, sophomore RB
Lucas Bolhinger, senior C
Joe Edwards, senior MLB
Will McConnell, junior FS
Patrick Woodsome, junior DE
Jack Queen, senior OLB

2nd Team
John Genske, junior QB
Jackson Hayes, sophomore RB
Brady Carter, junior LB
Sean Tibay, sophomore OT
Robert Boghossian, senior DE

Water Polo:

1st Team
Dean Behary, senior

2nd Team
Teddy Debreu, senior
Athlete of the Future
Sinjin Mendenhall

Early in the soccer season, freshman starting forward Sinjin Mendenhall has shown that he can perform at the varsity level. Playing at the highest club level with FC Golden State for the past four years has been crucial to Mendenhall’s transition into high school soccer.

Senior Conor Xanders said, “Sinjin really has made strides recently in his confidence, which I believe is reflected on the field in his play. He has a great attitude and work ethic, and he has a great soccer acumen. Sinjin plays like the soccer veteran he is.”

Although Mendenhall started off playing outside defender for FC Golden State, he now plays forward for Poly varsity, a more offensive position. Through the first six games, Harper has chipped in just over nine points per game, contributing to the Panthers’ hot 5-1 start. Additionally, he leads the team in rebounds and blocks. Defensively, Harper’s quick feet allow him to guard both wings, making him central to Head Coach Brad Hall’s defensive gameplans.

At this point in the season, Harper is already a top player on the team, but teammates think he still hasn’t reached his full potential. “The crazy thing about Hunter is that as good as he is now, he still has a lot of room to improve. He’s got all the physical tools to really emerge as this team’s best player. Given how much he’s improved from last year to this year, he clearly knows what it takes to work-wise to step up his game,” said senior teammate Tim Matthiessen.

Along with Matthiessen, Harper has assumed a critical leadership role for a young team that starts three underclassmen. "He’s definitely emerged as a vocal leader on the court. He’s always encouraging us on the floor while at the same time giving everyone positive feedback to help with what we’ve been doing wrong. More importantly, Hunter’s strong work ethic sets the tone for everyone,” said coach Ryan Katsuyama.

Standing at 6’1 and fluidly athletic, senior forward Hunter Harper anchors a stingy Panthers defense while dominating the boards for the boys varsity basketball team.

Coming off the bench last year, Harper has been crucial in Mendenhall’s transition into high school soccer. Coach Doug Jolly said, “Because of his effort, Sinjin has been one of our best players in practices so far. His good work in practices has gotten him time in games.”

Late in the soccer season, Mendenhall’s nice touch and natural feel for the game has helped him succeed almost immediately. Outside of the soccer season, he practices seven days a week either with his club team or at any field he can find.

Coach Jolly added, “He works hard, he hustles, he does what we ask him to do, he is very coachable, and he is a good teammate. Sinjin also has good touch on the ball, and he has the ability to finish goals.”

- Matt Kim

Athlete of the Issue
Mary Holt

A well-respected leader in and out of the pool and an accomplished athlete, Mary Holt has emerged this year as a stalwart contributor in the girls varsity water polo team.

As a second-year varsity player, Holt has garnered the respect of her teammates and coaches with her humility and her dedication to the sport, which compelled her teammates to elect her co-team captain this year.

Coach Ryan Katsuyama said, “Her impact is definitely through leadership, and players respect her. She conducts herself in a very respectful way, she does everything that we ask of her as coaches.”

Although the team kicked off the season with a 1-2 record, which can be attributed to the additions of many young and relatively inexperienced players, Holt continues to guide and support her new teammates as she fills the role of a senior mentor and teammate following the graduation of eleven seniors.

Fellow senior Shuchi Sehgal said, “Mary is the type of person who will always make sure everyone is part of the team and feels included and supported. If someone is having a down day in a game she will tell them to shake it off and keep going. If someone is stuck defending a really strong player, she will commend them on a job well done. She’s kind of like the glue to the team.”

- Austin Lee

By The Numbers

23 Points scored by sophomore Sarah Johnson against San Marino

2 Goals scored by Shirali Shah against La Serna in the Best of the West tournament

13 Points recorded by Colleen Woo through girls water polo’s first seven games

57 Average points per game by boys varsity basketball in first six games

Athlete of the Issue
Hunter Harper

Points recorded by Colleen Woo through girls water polo’s first seven games

Points scored by Mary Holt

Average points per game by boys varsity basketball in first six games

Volleyball

Rally on Down Yards to Go Out

Varsity girls basketball defeats San Marino 37-30 last Saturday.