Father Greg Boyle returns to Upper School
By JULIA WOHL
News editor

Father Greg Boyle, the founder of the non-profit Homeboy Industries, returned to the Upper School to speak about his work with ex-gang members in Homewood during a recent assembly organized by the Men's Service League.

Boyle began as an assistant pastor at a church in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, in an area that at the time was experiencing the highest concentration of gang activity in the entire city. The positive effect that Boyle had on countless gangs and gang members, leading to a significant decrease in gang activity in that area, led to his creating Homeboy Industries in 1988.

Homeboy Industries is the largest gang re-habilitation and re-entrance program in the world and provides jobs for several thousand high-risk or formally gang-affiliated, men and women. These jobs teach basic skills that act as the foundation for these men and women to become contributing members of their surrounding communities.

“It’s a matter of self-respect;”
Administration in hot water after controversial dress code meeting
By NICKY STEIDEL
Opinion editor

On Tuesday November 12, Polytechnic’s Upper School administration requested that all female students stay after Morning Meeting in order to discuss recent dress code violations. One of Polytechnic’s female faculty members stated that overly provocative attire was becoming an issue and that girls should henceforth avoid dressing in a way that would distract others. Students were told to do so as a matter of respect for the school, the faculty and themselves.

After the discussion, many female students felt slighted by the faculty’s criticism. Junior Miranda Johnson said, “I’m more bothered by the change that they’re using to talk about [the way girls dress] than I am with the actual concept of having a dress code. They’re saying that self-respect is directly correlated to how much clothing you wear, which really bugs me.”

Other students agreed with Johnson’s sentiment. Said junior Laila Jaffar, “The way I dress and the amount of self-respect I possess has nothing to do with each other.”

Sophomore Halle Berger believed that both the boys and the girls should have been concerned with the remarks made during the meeting. Berger was told that short-shorts were inappropriate because they are distracting to all males, including teachers, on campus, and also because they show a lack of a girl’s self-respect. This suggests that men cannot control themselves when a girl wears revealing clothing, and that wearing short-shorts is a reflection of a girl’s low self-respect, which then contributes to slut-shaming. These arguments are completely unfair and offensive to both sexes.

See Administrator policy—page 2.

Current debate team best in Poly’s history
By NATHAN LEE
News editor

With exceptional showings at both the St. Marks and Wake Forest Invitational, the high school debate team started the year with solid results and high standings. The Poly team competed in several policy debate tournaments earlier this year.

At the Heart of Texas Invitational in St. Mark’s School of Texas last month, senior debaters Levi Asimow and Julia Alison went 6-0 in the preliminary rounds to secure the first seed in tournament play. They duo reached the quarterfinals before losing to the Stratford Academy team from Georgia, the same team that would win the tournament. Asimow clinched seventh place speaker out of 160 other competitors. The tournament itself hosted 80 top debate teams from over 30 states.

Earlier in the year, Asimow and Alison reached the semi-final round in the 2013 National Earlybird for Policy Debate at Wake Forest University North Carolina.

The strong showings at St. Marks and Wake Forest helped Asimow and Alison to be ranked eighteenth nationally, and twelfth in the most recent debate coaches’ poll.

Asimow and Alison’s team is the first in Poly’s history to qualify for the National Tournament of Champions, an invite-only tournament for only the top 75 teams in high school debate. The tournament is held at the University of Kentucky-Lexington. Qualifying requires accumulating two “bids” by reaching late elimination rounds of recognized national tournaments.

Other debaters have also been performing extremely well in other events earlier this year. Juniors Manny Medrano and Richard Hathaway secured the second seed at the California State University Fullerton Fall High School Tournament where Medrano also received the prestigious award of top speaker.

Asimow said, “It’s been great to have so many people across grades involved in the program this year, and everyone’s been working really hard and collaborating. Julia and I, along with juniors Manny and Richard, have all been stepping up our research efforts and making sure to do a solid job preparing for each tournament- and we’ve been excited to see all that turning into solid results for the whole squad.”

“I think it’s a real possibility that Poly could qualify two teams to the Tournament of Champions this year,” he continued, “which would be a real feat for a smaller program like Poly’s.”

Medrano also expressed optimism of placing two teams in the Tournament of Champions: “I look forward to the remainder of our season, knowing that we already have one team qualified for the Tournament of Champion[s]; hopefully we’ll be next!”

Nirayama students visit Poly
For the fourth consecutive year, Poly hosted 35 students from Nirayama High School in Nirayama, Japan. This year, for the first time, Poly families hosted the Japanese visitors in a homestay.

The Poly classes the Japanese students visited provided a stark contrast to the classes that they take at home. In Japan, there is a large emphasis on memorizing content, while at Poly, there is a larger level of teacher to student interaction and discussion during class.

After the visit, Rick Caragher, Global Initiatives Program Coordinator, commented, “With each successive visit, the trust the schools have for each other grows. Continuity has helped our relationship grow.”

- Michelle Chen
The United States has resisted the spread of globalization despite the benefits of international trade and communication because there are substantial side effects that result from the destruction of national borders. The largest of these is the spread of radical Islamic terrorism. Western globalization has brought American pop-culture into Middle Eastern cultures. Often the subject of Western proxy wars and exploitation, Muslims have taken the capitalistic, English and fully secular approach to globalization as an effort to forge their own form of globalization: a global jihad (religious war) that fights for an end to Americanization and the spread of the Islamic state. In this sense, the issue of globalization and terrorism becomes a clash of globalizations, not a “clash of civilizations.” Two major ways of life are fighting for international dominance.

This “clash of globalizations” presents a challenge to successful globalization. Radical Islamic terrorists are communicating, transferring funds and perpetrating attacks with the same technology that is currently facilitating widespread international cooperation and integration i.e., globalization is helping international terrorists attack Western countries. How can we continue to support globalization if those efforts will only further the effects of terrorism?

Differences in ideology have become the fundamental driving force behind international conflict. Our world will first need to solve issues of borders, national identity and religion before productive globalization can take place.

A Nonpartisan Thanksgiving: Four things for which all Americans should be grateful

HENRY BROOKS
Opinion editor

As Americans, we find ourselves caught in a bind. Post 9/11, the United States is struggling to identify its international interests because globalization, the liberalization of international policy, has pulled the world closer together as cultures become more immersed and countries become more economically interdependent. In this new era of free trade, cross-continental communication and resource dependence, it is becoming harder and harder for a nation-state, especially the United States, to protect its own interests and sovereignty while still receiving needed external benefits. Intergovernmental organizations such as the European Union are chipping away at state borders and national identity. A lack of borders and sovereignty make nations permeable to the diffusion of people and ideas. The United States has resisted the spread of globalization despite the benefits of international trade and communication because there are substantial side effects that result from the destruction of national borders. The largest of these is the spread of radical Islamic terrorism.

Western globalization has brought American pop-culture into Middle Eastern cultures. Often the subject of Western proxy wars and exploitation, Muslims have taken the capitalistic, English and fully secular approach to globalization as an effort to forge their own form of globalization: a global jihad (religious war) that fights for an end to Americanization and the spread of the Islamic state. In this sense, the issue of globalization and terrorism becomes a clash of globalizations, not a “clash of civilizations.” Two major ways of life are fighting for international dominance.

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Differences in ideology have become the fundamental driving force behind international conflict. Our world will first need to solve issues of borders, national identity and religion before productive globalization can take place.

We must never fail to recognize that we are all advantaged simply by virtue of being born American citizens.

This concept – the concept of speech without censorship – has protected many throughout our history. It protected Dr. Martin Luther King when he was accused of segregationist during the Vietnam War. And it protects us today, allowing us to share our ideas without fear of retribution. For this right, all Americans must give thanks.

2. The democratic tradition that America has maintained for 237 years is another feat for which each one of us must be grateful. Whereas a slew of nations around the globe deny their citizens the most fundamental right –

“...”

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Administration’s policy, comments spark dress code controversy

Continued from page 1

One of the key points of contention with the meeting was that the details of the dress code were never actually made clear to the students. Instead, students were told to “show some self-respect” and “use their common sense.” Although the Upper School does have a dress code, it is not generally enforced by the faculty. 15 out of 15 students asked were not even aware that a dress code existed.

“I’m okay with a dress code, and ultimately I think it’s at the administration’s discretion what they want to do, but I think they need to make their expectations of others absolutely clear,” said senior Brad Shanks. “I think there’s confusion among the girls about what they’re allowed to wear, and the administration needs to make sure that the dress code is out there and that people know exactly what it is.”

Upper School Director Dr. Jamie Neilson admitted, “We could probably do a better job of disseminating information about the dress code. Even the adults don’t really know the dress code. The reason we haven’t resorted to literally pulling out the dress code and pointing out to students what it says is that [at the school I last worked at], the dress code ended up being covered between the faculty and the students—that’s the last thing I would like the dress code to do at Poly.”

Neilson defended the contentious comments made during the meeting. “People in just about any other environment draw conclusions based on what you wear,” he said. “If guys or girls are revealing too much of their bodies, if they’re not maintaining a sense of privacy in the name of creating a look, then they’re making a statement about how they see themselves in that environment. And I think that there is an element of self-respect in whatever you choose to wear when you go out into the world.”

Neilson was aware that the meeting had sparked controversy within the Poly community, stating that “issues have been triggered by this simple problem of tension in our school life.”

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Later, he conceded that there was a shaming aspect involved in what was said to the girls. “I don’t think the notion [that the rhetoric was shame-based] is totally off base. But when you think about it, there’s a lot that we cohere [the students] to do by means of rhetoric that has a shame element to it.”

Regardless of whether the tactics used by the administration were right or wrong, it was clear that the approach taken caused more problems than it solved. Dr. Neilson eventually came to agree that the administration had to employ a different method in dealing with the topic of concern, noting, “This issue is something for which we have to take responsibility.”

Following a discussion with concerned students, Neilson sent an email to the Upper School parents that detailed the particulars of the dress code and asked “for their help on the home side.”

“My only wish is that the students had more knowledge of what the dress code consisted of, so that we could better understand what to wear and what not to wear.”

- Christopher Lopez ’15

Features of the Upper School Dress Code

- T-shirts should be in good taste; i.e., ads for alcohol or drugs, obscenities, violence and sexual innuendo are prohibited.
- Girls’ tops must have straps (no tube tops) and no midriff revealed.
- Girls’ clothes should be in good taste—no extremely short-shorts, no low-cut tops or pants.
- Boys should not allow their pants or shorts to sag below the hips.
- Underwear should not be exposed.

Shuchi Sehgal

I understand the desire for students to dress for an educational environment, and I recognize that this does mean covering up more than we might in a social environment. What I don’t understand, however, is why this particularly targets the female students. If the school wants a more professional atmosphere, I would expect a simultaneous crackdown on ripped and messy clothes or pajamas at school, not just about how short our shorts are. Also, I can’t be entirely comfortable with the growing obsession with “how sexually are the girls dressed today?” Whenever the weather gets warm, I feel like my body is being scrutinized to see whether or not I’m conforming to the dress code, which I’m sure was not the intended effect. Regardless of whether it should exist or not, the focus on the dress code has gotten out of hand. I feel like there are more far important things to hold the students after morning meeting to talk about, like sex education, the fact that we are the prime demographic for eating disorders, or that there has been rampant homophobia observed among the underclassmen.”

- Amanda Cook ’14

I believe that the dress code, if properly enforced is necessary. First and foremost, I feel that the dress code is specifically targeted towards females. That being said, I feel that as a male at Poly, the dress code does not affect me. However, it does affect my female peers. In speaking with several people over the past few weeks, I have discovered that there is indeed an actual dress code at Poly, however most of the students are unaware of such a code. Although I feel like the freedom of expression is important, having a modest dress code is proper in a high school environment.

- Christopher Lopez ’15

The Paw Print staff would like to write a letter of no more than 300 words to the editor, please send an email or place the letter in the Box of Opinions. The Paw Print reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar and space. The Paw Print reserves the right to identify and publish all contributors of letters to the editor, please provide your name, class, and school. The editors will make every effort to publish all letters. The Paw Print reserves the right to refuse to publish letters that are or show an unacceptable degree of vulgarity, parece, or public irrelevancy. Letters will be published in print or online. Letters will not be returned. All letters are subject to the editors’ approval.”

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- Christopher Lopez ’15
At Harvard Westlake, some wonder whether standards are too high
Meanwhile at Poly, Juniors take on Calc “C” Course

By NATALIA SANCHEZ-NIGOLLAN
Life editor

A recent Los Angeles Times article, “Privilege and Pressure,” called attention to the consequences of demands faced by high school students of one of Polytechnic’s academic rival schools, Harvard-Westlake. The article referenced the school’s loss of 14 students who dropped out in 2011 due to academic pressures, urging prestigious institutions to rethink their standards.

At Polytechnic, many students strive to exceed expectations, convinced that the pressure to achieve excellence is a tribute to their own capabilities and central to their academic and extra-curricular accomplishments.

This year, a few members of the junior class sought to stimulate an already heavy load by packing on another slew of concepts with the intent of finishing all of calculus in a single year, instead of two. The ambitious proposal was discouraged by numerous parents, members of the administration and even students who excel in mathematics.

Just three students have decided to continue the quest to conquer the advanced material, suggesting that the majority of students know their limits. Despite an intense desire to test boundaries, students are learning where to draw the line.

The following students from local high schools were interviewed and expressed the following opinions.

Rob Sanders, a junior at Harvard-Westlake School, is taking three AP courses and dedicates outside time to playing soccer and jazz.

“There is definitely intensive pressure, but it is mostly self-imposed. Although a blanket of outside pressure exists, I think it is valuable to be expected to perform well and work hard. There are always people who skate through without caring or really trying, but I think in order to fully reap the benefits of education, you have to commit to learning. Harvard-Westlake’s expectations are ideal, you don’t have to take a lot of hard classes, but if you choose to and immerse yourself you are challenged and will establish mastery of the material.”

Justin Hopkins, a senior at Loyola High School, is president of the ASB, accels at parliamentary debate, is the head administrator of hospital board at Cedars Sinai and attends the Roanard School of Scholars at UCLA.

“I’ve experienced a lot of pressure from a family perspective, as well as personally. My mom’s influence cultivated my own desire to excel academically and to emulate the standards set at Harvard-Westlake and Poly. Loyola students are capable of achieving those same ideals, it is a matter of effort, focus and organization. Efficiency is a quality ingrained in achieving excellence and maintaining a healthy social life. From an egalitarian outlook, I think standards are way too high in the private schools of our community, and there is despair in the low standards of the general American population.

We should seek to find the goldens mean between the overwhelming stress that students face, while bringing up the expectations of the greater population, ultimately raising the overall standard of our country and society.”

Arielle Strom, a senior who began attending Harvard-Westlake School in the 9th grade, is an accomplished volleyball player, pianist and student.

“Looking back, I wish I had selected my AP courses more discriminately, instead of piling on as many as I could handle. I’d rather not be as burnt out for college. A lot of my friends and I feel the weight of academic pressures, especially since we are in the middle of the college application process and balancing apps with schoolwork is taxing. The pressure is mostly self-imposed but that stems from the highly competitive environment. We all seem to do our best to keep it in perspective, stay calm and focused. I think Harvard-Westlake’s expectations are too high overall; however, I applied knowing of its rigorous reputation. I love being challenged, so Harvard-Westlake has been a great fit for me.”

Adam Stanford-Moore, a junior at Polytechnic School, is a dedicated student with a passion for physics and biology. He conducts research on morphologic variations at the LA Natural History Museum and started the Chess Club, organizing student tournaments at Poly. He also plays volleyball and the trumpet.

“Expectations are pretty high, but it’s that kind of atmosphere that motivates people to compete. Coming in to poly, I had high expectations for the education I would receive, and Poly does seem to have high standards for its students. Are they too high? Yes, but maybe it is for our own good. Expectations are high to push the students to their maximum potential. Originally, Mr. Thompson and I intended to begin the Calculus C Course. However, a lack of options for senior year math compounded with the lack of GPA boost for the extra AP class meant a required 3 extra hours a week without real incentive or reward for the additional effort. College counselors thought we would simply rush through Calc BC concepts without fully absorbing the material. There are a few students who have continued with the course, however I decided it was not the best decision for me, as I would rather invest my time in other interests.”

Alex Diaz, a junior at Marlborough School, dedicates her time to voice and dance while simultaneously serving as an ambassador for the non-profit organization, Packages with Love.

“Going to a prestigious school has imprinted in me the ideal of what I should achieve and the kind of person I should be. Although my parents had the ultimate say in which school I would attend, I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given. It has a lot to do with shaping my character. I strive to excel and be successful in everything I do, and along with that comes a lot of self-imposed pressure. I have had to sacrifice some weekends from studying too much and I definitely sacrifice a ton of sleep. Marlborough’s expectations are ideal. We have been preparing since the 7th grade for the kind of person Marlborough want, so expectations seem normal for the school’s lifestyle. I think what worries most of the girls, including me, is not knowing what is in our future and remembering that everything we do in high school affects where we go for college.”

Loyola High School

I sacrifice the more I will be able to achieve. Standards are a matter of perspective, as well as personally. My mom’s influence cultivated my own desire to excel academically and to emulate the standards set at Harvard-Westlake and Poly. Loyola students are capable of achieving those same ideals, it is a matter of effort, focus and organization. Efficiency is a quality ingrained in achieving excellence and maintaining a healthy social life. From an egalitarian outlook, I think standards are way too high in the private schools of our community, and there is despair in the low standards of the general American population.

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Polytechnic School

Robert Cartwright, a senior at Flintridge Prep, will be attending Stanford in the fall of 2014, to play basketball.

“Doing poorly in school is frowned upon at Prep. My dream was to go to a Division I basketball school, and I knew I also had to maintain high academic levels of achievement. My parents expect me to uphold certain standards. Time management was rough because I could not slack on basketball, and I would often get home at 10pm from practice without having touched my homework. I think it is important to develop good habits now because workload will be amplified in college. Getting into Stanford was worth the sacrifice. It made me realize that the more I sacrifice the more I will be able to achieve. Standards are not too high. If you are at Prep, you are paying for a great education and excellent teachers who want you to succeed. It is important to do well. Disappointment is a part of life. You just have to do your best and if that is not enough it is a shame but you learn that failure is inevitable. It is how you respond that is crucial.”

Flintridge Preparatory School

Annie Stock, a senior at Marlborough School, dedicates her time to voice and dance while simultaneously serving as an ambassador for the non-profit organization, Packages with Love.

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Marlborough School

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Fashion for fall: breaking tradition
By CAROLINE IAFFALDANO
Assistant life editor

As the temperatures start to drop and our sun-kissed summer skin starts to fade, it becomes time to pull out a new wardrobe. Fall means it is time to awaken your classic black boots from summer hibernation and add new pieces to your wardrobe. Autumn is the season of emerging trends, including leather, velvet and chunkier-than-chunky knit sweaters. The hottest fall trends can be divided into three categories: color, pattern and material.

One of the most sacred traditions of fashion is to never wear white after Labor Day. Currently fashion has eradicated this idea and created a completely new movement of chic and clean. Today’s runway shows and fashion blogs are filled with the two time-less colors of black and white. Minimalistic styles are flooding stores and trickling down from haute couture to places like Zara and H&M.

However, if you are searching for a look that is a little less business chic, adding some color can create a fun and playful outfit. Last year, the favorite fall color of many designers was a deep oxblood red, but this year we are seeing a dusty, pale pink instead. Pale pink overcoats and angora sweaters have taken over the racks of almost every clothing store. The pale pink trend is definitely prominent in stores like Topshop and Forever21, two stores that appeal to a younger demographic. The biggest fall pattern this year is plaid, a fall wardrobe essential since the nineties and one of the hottest trends to date. Both plaid skirts and large oversized flannel shirts are hugely popular right now. Whether the plaid flannel is tied around your waist or worn on top of something else, it makes for a perfect, comfortable fall outfit. Plaid can be found nearly anywhere, from Goodwill to Urban Outfitters to Topshop, or even at stores like American Apparel. Plaid works for all styles as it can create a grungy Kurt Cobain-esque vibe or be preppy if worn like Cher from Clueless.

Every year, there seems to be a new material that captures the imaginations of designers and consumers alike. Last year it was velvet. The year before it was leather. This year, the material that has taken over runways is PVC, a type of plastic popular in the sixties. An era in fashion about being innovative and futuristic, the sixties were marked by a fascination with space that was reflected in fashion with paper dresses, large alien-like sunglasses and, of course, lots of PVC. It is now used in clear trench coats, plastic skirts and dresses with plastic cutouts. Currently American Apparel is featuring clear plastic skirts, and a lot of clothing now features mesh or sheer cutouts, a more toned down version of the PVC trend.

Cabaret evening
By SHIRALI SHAHI
Student contributor

The Upper School Vocal Ensemble’s annual Cabaret Evening featured music from many different genres and musical backgrounds on Saturday. Poly students, accompanied by Alan Griez, showcased their various musical talents in front of family, friends and faculty.


Members of the class of 2013 in the Vocal Ensemble performed “Circle Game” by Joni Mitchell, reflecting on their years as Poly high school students. Next, Diana Leon and Nikolai Angelopoulos sang “Falling Slowly” from Once. Laura Wilmanen, Alina Pirzaro, Diana Leon Chris Lopez and special guest Ilai Gilbert from LACHSA accompanied Nikolas as he performed his original song, “Don’t Cry No More.” Then came the finale, an ensemble performance of an inspirational mash-up of “Lean on Me” and “We Shall Overcome.” The night ended with everyone, audience included, singing “Happy Birthday” to Richard Sherrell, Poly’s technique and choreography director.

By the end of the night, the audience was amazed by the talent they had witnessed. Sophomore Hannah Guevara stated, “It was a lot of fun to see my friends on stage singing. Some of them really surprised me because I had no idea they were such good singers and performers. I think this night is great for students to be able to open up and express who they really are and what they really love to do, which is perform. Poly possesses a lot of great talent, and I am glad I was able to witness it.”

First annual pep rally
The Poly varsity water polo team performed a unique dance at Poly’s first annual pep rally. With the help of cheer team captain Emily Woolway, the water polo team successfully choreographed a humorous dance. The student body cheered wildly as the team swayed to Christina Aguilera’s “Genie in a Bottle.” A flowing macarena and a multi-person worm were just a few of the numerous dancing feats the team accomplished in its presentation.

The team donned its iconic parkas, concealing the shorts and undershirts they would wear underneath. When asked about his team’s attire, player Ezra Sunshine commented, “We were hoping to be able to just wear our speeds with parkas on top, but we had to wear shorts and wife-beaters because of the drought.”

The amazing display of school spirit contributed to the positive energy at the pep rally. At the all-school assembly, fall sports teams performed various acts ranging from the football team’s “human field goal” to a school-wide basketball knockout competition. Aside from the traditional water polo team dance, one of the highlights was the fencing team’s glow-in-the-dark saber spectacle.

- David Ohra, assistant life editor

Reporters take Boston
By NATALIA SANCHEZ-NIGOLIAN
Life editor

Five editors of the Paw Print recently attended the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Conference in Boston. Chaperoned by Greg Feldmuth, the student journalists joined 5000 others in attending a number of workshops at the Hynes Convention Center and the adjacent Sheraton Hotel.

The conference featured a variety of inspiring professional journalists and advisers as workshop leaders. Topics ranged from interviewing skills to layout and design, allowing students to develop their journalistic skill sets.

The editors were particularly struck by Tom Svertstern’s enthusiastic appeal to investigative reporting. He emphasized the power that student journalists can employ when harnessing their talent and refining communication methods. He underlined the importance of leadership as pivotal to the success of any publication.

Julia Wohl said, “The conference was eye-opening. It revived us as editors and as reporters. We gathered a lot of new information and ideas and are motivated to make the Paw Print compelling and inventive.”

The editors also attended a Poly reunion hosted by Head of School Debbie Reed at the Harvard Club of Boston. Attendees included 35 alumni, including past Paw Print editors Caleb Lee, Justin Worland and Hayden Betts and current president of the Harvard newspaper, Bobby Samuels.

Later, the editors toured Harvard dorms and the Harvard Crimson building.
Improvised group performs skits at assembly

By NATHAN LEE

Five improv actors recently performed a variety of comedic skits during an Upper School assembly, provoking an extremely positive response from the student body.

The actors were part of the acting troupe The Second City, which describes itself as "a leading brand in improv-based sketch comedy." The Second City gives several different shows all across the nation. Some of the actors who performed at Poly had appeared in shows such as NCIS and MADtv.

One of the show's most popular acts showcased senior Willy Moffly, who was brought on stage and given a series of questions. The cast then used his answers to create what one of his dreams might look like, and the actors playfully mocked Moffly with references to things such as his Chinese homework, significant other, dad's personality, and the actors playfully answers to create what one of his dreams was brought on stage and given a series of questions.

The student body as a whole gave the performance very positive reviews. The group's act was the first of its kind this year at Poly.

Junior Jack Moore commented, "It's assembles like these that really exhilarate the community and create a strong sense of camaraderie. [The improvisation group] gave a great performance, and a special thanks to Willy Moffly and all other participants for making the event even more provocative."

Boyle

Continued from page 1

Boyle speaks over 180 days a year and tries to avoid revisiting the same place. However, this was Boyle's second visit to Poly in three years. During the assembly, Boyle commented on the fact that Poly is his favorite high school to visit.

Men's Service League cabin member Spencer Rogers explained, "The first time Father Greg came to Poly, there was an extremely positive response to his message. We had the opportunity to schedule him to come again, and since only half of our school had heard him speak the first time, decided it would be great idea to have come back. His message embodies a lot of what the MSL represents and I'm glad the sophomores and freshman classes were able to take in this message."

Homeboy Industries has been the MSL-designated charity for the past three years; the MSL has organized a dance, a Goodwill drive and a point-
Football defeated in the first round of CIF

By KYLIE BEERMAN
Staff writer

The varsity football team’s impressive 8-3 season ended in a back-and-forth battle and a defeat in the first round of the CIF playoffs against the St. Genevieve Valiants.

After going down by two early touchdowns, junior Griffin Carter helped spark the Panthers back to within three points of the Valiants shortly before the end of the first half. The Panthers held St. Genevieve scoreless through the third quarter but were unable to capitalize for the rest of the game. St. Genevieve went on to score a late fourth quarter touchdown to crush any possibility of a Poly come back.

This year, the Panthers started out to a blazing 8-0 start. Most notably, they defeated Flintridge Prep 41-8 and Chadwick 47-30, finishing 3-1 in league, the Panthers placed second and made it back to the CIF playoffs after missing the post-season the previous two years.

This season senior quarterback Michael Bowman totaled 1,118 passing yards on 144 attempts with 19 touchdowns. When asked his take on the season, Bowman stated, “I thought we improved greatly as a team throughout the season. We had a very close-knit team and that certainly translated to our performance on the field. I thought we had a great season, and I enjoyed every moment of it.”

As an offensive and defensive threat, senior Will Gentles commented, “I had a lot of fun this year with this group of guys. We always went out and competed no matter what. We loved to come out with the mindset that we would dominate. I thought our team had a great season, and it was a fun environment to be in everyday at practice or games.”

Junior wideout Vince Porter added, “We had a spectacular season. Our team operated as an elite squad, consisting of record holders, go-getters, and passionate athletes.”

Tennis finishes second in Prep League

By EVAN KIM
Assistant Sports editor

In the first round of CIF, the girls team suffered a disappointing loss to Valencia High School, marking the end of their regular season. However, the Panthers did not go down without leaving a significant mark on the competition. Led by senior captains Elissa Boghossian and Juliet Johnson, the girls were able to finish with a second-place title in league. The squad also boasted an impressive record 12 wins and 3 losses overall.

Reflecting on the season, senior Erin Lee commented, “I’m so proud of how our team did this season – it was amazing to be able to earn 2nd place in league. Every member of the team contributed to our success and I’m really going to miss being part of such a fun, talented and motivated group of girls.”

The Panthers were also able to sweep their long-time rivals, Chadwick, in two games. The girls won the first game 10-8 and the second 11-7. This is a feat the Panthers have not accomplished in years.

Senior captain Julia Johnson noted, “Unfortunately we lost in the first round of CIF, but nonetheless we had a very successful season. Everyone had extremely strong matches to be proud of, and it definitely was a great senior season that I will never forget.”

Not all the Panthers seasons are over, however. Junior Brooke Olson and freshman Shalini Haupt will be representing the Prep League as Poly’s number one doubles team in the CIF Individuals tournament that start on Monday, November 25th at the Claremont Club.

Junior Julia Wohl noted, “Brooke and Shalini had such a stellar season, they really deserve to succeed in CIF. They played with such poise and skill throughout the season and especially during league. The whole team is proud to have them represent our team.”

Next fall, the team looks to Wu, Lamb, and Olson for leadership as they hope to build on a successful season.

Volleyball ends playoff run early against Palm Desert

By CHARLIE RAMIREZ
Sports editor

Dealing with adversity and tough competition, the varsity girls volleyball team dropped in the first round of CIF playoff losses to Palm Desert in a hard-fought five set match that marked the end of the season for the Panthers.

With the help of an 11-3 run to gain momentum, Poly took the first game 25-20 to take an early lead. “They had a large crowd which can really give a team a lot of momentum going into a game,” said senior Hannah Kaufman, “but I feel like we were able to create our own energy to help us get things going.”

Although at one point the Panthers led 23-19, the Panthers could not hold off a Palm Desert rally that gave the Aztecs the 29-27 victory.

The two teams battled the remainder of the match and Poly would not fade away, winning the fourth game 25-22. In the end, the Aztecs prevailed, winning the fifth set of the match and ending the Panthers’ season. “Although we were disappointed to finish the season with a first round loss in CIF, it was an exciting game going all the way down to the wire,” said senior Kauffman.

Before the playoffs, Poly finished the regular season with three league wins and a strong 4-2 record in the competitive Crescenta Valley Tournament. The Panthers finished the season with an overall record of 17-7 and a 9-3 league record.

“I think everyone was very happy with the outcome of the year because we had relatively no expectations coming into the season with such a young team,” said junior Drecode Logan.

“Our team’s success throughout the year was a direct result from the dedication of all the girls. Along with pushing ourselves to perform to the best of our abilities, the close-knit bond between all the girls is what really helped us become a well rounded team.”

Football defeated in the first round of CIF

By HUNTER WORLAND
Sports editor

The varsity water polo team ended its CIF run by losing to Los Altos (11-7) in the semifinals. The loss marked the end of the careers of some of the program’s best athletes in the past 10 years—four-year players Spencer Rogers, Brock Hudnut, and Dennis Grover. In their four years, the trio shattered records, dominated the Prep League and brought Poly’s first CIF Championship banner in water polo to the Gamble Gymnasium.

In addition, Rogers, Hudnut and Grover lost only one Prep League game in the entirety of their varsity careers.

“We were able to have success with a different team every year, and I’m proud of what we achieved in every season,” commented Hudnut, who etched his name in the record book last season with the most career assists in school history.

“Everyone on the team sacrificed, and we are proud of what we accomplished this year,” said Grover, “everyone on the team is proud to have accomplished this year.”

Rogers added, “Obviously it’s tough to get knocked out, but I’m proud of how we fought. Our division was very evenly matched this year, and it came down to whichever team showed up that day. Los Altos came to play, and we weren’t able to find a defensive answer to them.”

A slim Panther victory (9-8) against Flintridge Prep led the hunt for the league title earlier in the season. Senior Josh Ball fortified the Poly defense with 14 saves.

“Both Prep and Webb were very strong and to come up on top against both of them really shows how special this team was,” Rogers commented.

The Panthers entered CIF ranked ninth. With experiences in high-pressure situations, the squad edged out another close win in the quarter-finals against the third seed, Crescenta Valley High School.

“The quarter final was a great game and a true team effort. We played very strong defense and we were able to come up with the 8-7 win,” Grover commented.

Despite playing a new position this year, Grover tallied 73 goals this season and 30 field blocks. Despite often being double-teamed, Rogers leads the team in scoring with 91 goals. The reigning CIF Player of the Year also drew 27 ejections over the course of the season.

Hudnut deepened his school record with 99 assists of 273 team assists on offense.

CIF winning coach, Ryan Katsuyama, stated, “We always look to the seniors to provide the leadership and help guide and instruct the younger players so our tradition of excellence can continue. This group led by example and I have no doubt that our younger players learned from them—learned that you have to train hard, learned that you have to play together as a team, learned important skills that will make them better players. While we have to wait until next year to see how things pan out, our seniors did a fantastic job this year as leaders of our team.”

Fencing finishes fall season strong

By HUNTER WORLAND
Sports editor

Led by senior Emily Grifford, the varsity fencing team ended the fall season with several victories. Grifford, specializing in foil and epee finished 8-1 in the co-ed San Bernardino Division I Weapon Open, and 5-2 in the Novice Foil, “C” & Under Mixed Foil, Mixed Epee Tournament.

Grifford emerged early in the season as the best fencer, standing at an 80.8 win percentage in foil bouts.

Junior Matthew Soulanielle also led the squad, boasting a 4-4 record at the San Bernardino Division I Weapons Open. At the same tournament, Junior Alyssa Aquino finished 6-2 in mixed foil.
Athlete of the Issue
Anisha Cook

Whether it is boosting morale on the field, in the gym or on campus, the Spirit Squad has a remarkable impact on sports teams’ success during the fall and winter seasons. This year, senior captain Anisha Cook has led the dance team to yet another outstanding season as she concludes her high school career.

In her fourth year as a member of the dance program, Cook has established herself as a team leader, contributing greatly to the cohesiveness of a young Panther squad. With many new additions to the team, Cook’s talent, experience and team spirit are essential to the team dynamic. Senior Camilla Higgins comments, “Anisha is an amazing captain. As a new addition to the team, I often had trouble learning choreography, but Anisha was always willing to give advice. She is positive, kind, consistent, and a leader both in and out of practice. Her sound leadership allows for our practices to run smoothly, positively and quickly. Anisha is a great dancer and teammate.”

Last year the girls tennis team had one of their best seasons in years. The Panthers, with a large number of returning key players, were hopeful for the 2013 season. However, none of the Panthers expected a new player, freshman Shalini Haupt, to play such a key factor in their success.

Haupt easily adapted to the varsity environment and even became a part of the Panthers’ number one doubles team with junior Brooke Olson. The pair went undefeated in the season and will continue on to represent Poly in the CIF individuals tournament.

Olson commented, “With a spot open on the varsity roster at the beginning of the season, Shalini was the obvious choice for the position. Her consistency and poise on the court are unique traits for a freshman, and it will be exciting to see how she uses these skills to become a valuable team leader in the future.”

According to teammate Anna Lamb, “Shalini wins her matches using an aggressive, consistent play style.” The team is confident in Haupt's and Olson's success in their upcoming matches.

Athlete of the Future
Shalini Haupt

In every sport, the ability to play defense is a key component in defining whether or not a team will be successful. In water polo, the most important position at the defensive end is the goalkeeper. Goalkeepers have many responsibilities: they need to be leaders, informing their teammates about unmarked players, the time of the game clock and giving instructions to the field players. Because of this, the goalie may sometimes be known as “the coach on the water.”

Being a key aspect in the water polo team’s success, senior goalkeeper Josh Ball can now be recognized as one of the best goalies in the San Gabriel Valley. Throughout his varsity career, Josh has compiled an amazing 45-8 record as the starting goalie for Poly. This year, Josh posted incredible numbers yet again, but one of his most impressive stats was his division leading 239 saves. Coach Ryan Kotsayas comments, “Josh came into the season with some natural instincts and ability, but his hard work turned him into one of the best goalkeepers in the program’s history. His ability to read the shots, read the offense and control our defensive players has been invaluable to us over the last two years.”

Athlete of the Issue
Josh Ball

Basketball Preview
BOYS
Webb Tournament from December 5th to 7th
Poly vs. Sherman Indian on Thursday, December 5th

GIRLS
San Gabriel Valley Tournament on Monday, November 25th, Tuesday, November 26th, and Friday, November 29th

Water Polo Preview
Los Altos Tournament from Friday, December 6th to Saturday, December 7th.
First Prep League game on Friday, December 17th against Flintridge Prep on the road.

Soccer Preview
BOYS
First game at home vs. Buckley on Monday, November 25
Poly vs. Mark Keppel on Tuesday, December 3rd

GIRLS
Poly vs. Crescenta Valley on Tuesday, December 3rd
Poly vs. Pasadena High School on Friday, December 6th.