

## 100% Middle School!

### DAD'S DAY FUN WITH TEDDY AND MIKE DOMANOVICH

- 5% Breakfast Lovers
- 9% Vacations Hoppers
- 10.5% Hot Tubbers
- 10% Dog Walkers
- 25% Movie Watchers
- 10% Sports
- 18.5% Restaurant Visitors
- 12% Mario Party Players



Eighth Graders drawing Buck's journey

Mrs. Standart's Sixth Grade math class completed a task to create a pie chart representing characteristics that make up 100% of who they are as an individual. Two of their numbers had to contain decimals and they were given a challenge to turn it into a poem if possible. This project was an introduction to the upcoming unit on percentages and decimals. Mrs. Standart enjoyed learning more about her students and the things they like to do in their spare time. Sixth Graders also completed this project with their Dads on Dad's Day. They had 100% fun! Students have also learned about proportions, unit rates, and cost analysis.

Mr. Ahn's Seventh Graders are deepening their understanding of fractions and decimals with variables. They are also learning conversions using college level techniques. Wow! Way to go Seventh Grade! The Seventh Grade excel class and Eight Grade algebra math classes are tackling linear equations involving slope and y-intercept!

The amazing Eighth Grade Geometry class just completed their four-minute oral presentations about a Mathematical Current Event. In addition to learning about the latest addition to Pi and also the Reimann Zeta Func-

tion, we were dazzled with the use of Geometry in motion pictures. Charlotte shared the latest research in the shapes of figures in movies and how they trigger our emotions: rounded figures prompt feels of kindness and happiness while sharp, pointed figures exude apprehension and doubt. In our Geometry curriculum, we have just completed our chapter working in detail with all types of quadrilaterals and are now launching into the geometry of summity. A unique project about fractals awaits us!



## Eighth Grade Literary Luminaries

### Let it Snow. . .

Eighth grade ushered in the winter season by exploring personification in text and poetry. Students then crafted creative narratives that personified a day in a life of a snowflake. True to form, each story was as unique and individual as real snowflakes!

### Into the Wild. . .

In January, students ascended the Golden Staircase into the Yukon Territory as they began their study of Jack London's

acclaimed classic *The Call of the Wild*. In order to extend their knowledge of this infamous and rich history, they began their journey by engaging in student-led explorations which included the history of dog sledding, the Klondike Gold Rush, and of course, the life of Jack London. Each team presented their research to the class complete with visual aids. Fully armed with knowledge, students delved into how London's style exemplifies literary naturalism and his use of anthropomorphism throughout the novel. Eighth Graders also had lively debates over many prominent themes addressed by London. After much deliberation, they concluded that: The urge to survive is ultimately more powerful than the moral law of human civilization. The culminating activity consist-

ed of creating an original map that portrays ten key events in Buck's journey from his original home to his "return" into the wild. Students were encouraged to integrate illustrations and images into their summaries that supported each event. One student was quoted as saying, "Surprisingly, this book was pretty enjoyable and not at all a chore to read." That's high praise from an eighth grade boy!

# Happy Historians



Egyptian queens—  
Sofie Edler, Gabrielle  
Tangen, and Claudia  
Dineen

The Sixth Graders embarked on their journey up the Nile River and divided themselves into Egyptian the nomes, or city states, of Memphis, Thebes, Abydos, Bubastis, and Hermopolis. Each nome is competing to earn miles that will take them on their 4,145 mile expedition. Students have learned about the importance of the Nile and the abundance of gifts it gave the Egyptian people including food, trade, silt, and animals. The Sixth

Graders also took a virtual tour of the Egyptian pyramids using virtual reality Google glasses.

Eighth Grade Social Studies class is traveling back in time to the years of 1777-1791. They are examining the formation of our government, the Articles of Confederation and the creation of the Constitution that provided a framework for a stronger national government.

The Seventh Grade just completed their Africa unit and learned about the countries of Mali, Ghana, Songhai. They wrote My Trip Through Africa reports highlighting the sights and landmarks of their African travels! Next country to explore.....China!

*“We enjoy going to PV Net because not only do we get to code but we get to collaborate as well!”*

*-Chris Shin and  
Jack Shaw*

## PV Net

The PHS Middle School has partnered with a non-profit technology center called PV Net. Every Tuesday from 2-4PM, several Eighth Grade students are enrolled in a Vex IQ class created by Carnegie Mellon. In the class they are combining mathematics, physics, and

problem solving skills to learn the fundamentals of programming while building virtual and actual robotics. The Eight Graders have made robots dance, traverse through obstacle courses and are learning Graphic C and C++ programs!



## Middle School Gives Back

The PHS Middle Schoolers spearheaded a project to collect blankets and towels for shelters to keep animals warm this winter. Students made flyers and talked to each class about their project. They collected over 50 items that were donated to the Carson Animal Shelter! Way to go



Our glasses being adorned by  
a man in Uganda

middle schoolers! Also, Mr. Miller was able send over some of the reading glasses that the middle school collected for people in Uganda! He will bring the rest and personally administer them this summer!

# Middle School Is Fantastico and Fantastique

This Seventh Grade Spanish class continues their study of grammar and expression. They are focusing on complete expressions using regular and irregular verbs and prioritizing syntax and pronunciation. All students are able to introduce themselves, express condition like and dislike, and form complete sentences both in written and oral expression.

The Sixth Grade Spanish class is now using the program, Duolingo, which incorporates translations, oral practices of sentences, and

writing in Spanish. Students have also studied the Mayan civilization and investigated its culture and geography!



The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade French class studied the Francophone World in January. Students enriched their vocabulary to study French people, landscapes, and language. Useful, everyday French words and phrases were introduced weekly. French/Latin roots were implemented to improve English skills as well. Our purpose was to provide a circular curriculum, visiting a multitude of French subjects with central objectives.

## Scientific Explorations...

There is never a dull moment in Dr. Wilson's science lab. The Seventh Grade is wrapping up a unit about DNA and boy have they been busy! They made models of polypeptides using codons for amino acids, extracted DNA from their buccal mucosas, read the dermatoglyphs of their fingerprints, and investigated mutations and how they cause genetic defects not only on earth but in space too. They

even learned and communicated in Morse code! Way to go Seventh Grade!

Not to be outdone, the ever impressive Eighth Grade studied reactions, mixtures, acids, bases, and pH. They performed exothermic and endothermic reactions and tested dozens of substances to determine if they were acids or bases. They also made solutions, suspensions, and colloids and deter-

mined the effects of particle size using laser light. They also worked with electroplating nails and coins with zinc and copper.

Last but not least, Mrs. Mallon has been extremely busy mummifying stuffed animals with the Sixth Grade. Students learned how the ancient Egyptians were the first surgeons and learned the ancient, yet advanced, techniques to embalm and preserve the human body!



**Hands On Science in Mrs. Standarts's Class... William Duckett's licorice and gummy bear DNA**

## Middle School Art is....SM A R T!



**Eighth Grade Art in the style of Andy Warhol and Wane Thiebaud**

Mrs. Patricia Harunk, the middle school art teacher extraordinaire, has created a multitude of projects for our students to enjoy. The Sixth Grade is creating a Mummy Sarcophagus Clay Art Project. They cut a top, bottom, and sides of the sarcophagus from a rolled slab of clay. They assembled the sarcophagus using clay techniques of scoring and slipping

and adorned their shapes with faces, arms, hieroglyphs, and patterns. Lastly, they painted their creations with acrylic paint. The Sixth Grade also made Pop Art Portraits in the style of artist Didier Triglia out of recycled soda cans mounted on a patterned abstract background. The Eighth Grade made Pop Art Food Scul-

tures in the manner of Andy Warhol and Wayne Thiebaud. The students created realistic clay sculptures of some of their favorite food ranging from hot dogs, pizza slices, and steak to a plate of cookies and cupcakes for dessert. Currently the Eight Grade is making Op Art Cube Sculptures in the manner of Victor Vasarely.

## Physical Education

Let the tournament of badminton commence! The Middle Schoolers are competing in 2 rounds of badminton with 7 games in each round! Wow! Then the students will challenge the PHS staff for the winning title! (Start practicing your serve Mrs. Cailler!) Mrs. Nygaard is also conditioning the students to pass the state standards for the California Fitness Test!

Coming up: lacrosse....soccer....and an into to the Paralympic events!



The Middle School had another wonderful morning at Zia Fitness! They worked out with TRX band, learned self defense, mind-blowing wrestling moves, and got their heart beat up in circuit training conditioning. The students loved climbing the rock wall and listening to Mr. Toney's motivating talk about the im-

## Drop Everything and Read...and Write too!

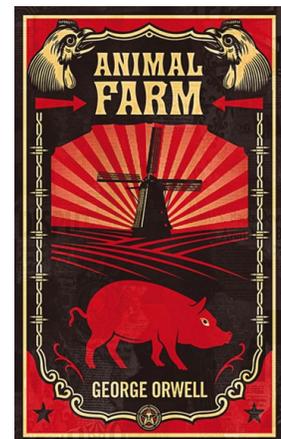
The table is set with your best china and crystal. The delectable turkey is cooking in the oven; transforming into different shades of gold. Now all you need is your guests to arrive....Ding Dong! They're here.... If you could invite 3 people to dinner, living or non-living, who would you invite? Well the Sixth Graders had to tackle this question and write expository essays explaining their guest lists. Some guests included Abraham Lincoln, Taylor Swift, and George Lucas! In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the Sixth Graders wrote love letters...but not to their sweethearts. They wrote love letters to inanimate objects

such as their pillows, chocolate, and their surf boards!

The Sixth Grade is also reading a book entitled, *Tuck Everlasting*, by Natalie Babbitt, which explores the themes of love, friendship, and life. Students are analyzing how the author embeds literary devices into her writing and crafting their own figurative language as well.

The seventh graders have almost completed George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. They have constructed political cartoons, explored the use of propaganda in the media, and learned about the Russian Revolution. They are also learning how to write analytical essays and writing creative stories from the point of view of the animals.

The PHS is extremely fortunate to have Award-winning writer, Mathieu Cailler, teach writing to the middle school. Mr. Cailler taught the students a lesson on image-based poetry. Students were encouraged to use all five senses in their poems, mirroring the example provided, James Wright's "A Blessing."



# Eighth Grade Author...Samantha Walter

Ahhh...I awoke to a dark cloud, crammed, cold, and suffocating. I wanted to escape, I wanted to be free! However, I wasn't big enough to fall, and it wasn't time yet. Then suddenly snowflakes around me started falling! As everyone left, it became less crowded, more comfortable, and I wanted to stay! But, I had no choice. Then suddenly, I was falling through the sky, along with millions of other snowflakes. Then as I fell, long arms of ice formed upon me. Then I was a complete snowflake, falling through the sky.

The view from up that high was beautiful as I fell. The lights of the city lit up the whole place, making the city shine bright. I could also see the Thames River reflecting all that light into the sky. As I got closer and closer to the ground, I could make out the London Eye and Big Ben from all the lights. But, I could also see that I was going to go right into the Thames! I started panicking. I didn't want to die, not yet anyway! I kept getting closer and closer before suddenly, whoosh! A quick breeze sent me rocketing towards the shore, saving me from death. I began my quick adventure through the city, with sights

and smells everywhere I flew.

Just as I was going to crash, the warm breeze from the restaurants lifted me back up to see more. The warmed air was filled with the smell of bread and fresh baked goods. I had seen my fair share of London now, and I was getting bored from all the sights and smells around me. I wanted to go back somewhere comfortable and not crowded like London. Then when I least expected it. BAM! I crashed into someone's nose! The human's body heat started melting my arms, and eventually my body. Then as I melted away, on that nose, I saw a firework shoot up into the sky, turning it into a rainbow of colors. I can't help but wonder, where will I be next time?

## Middle School Memories



## Music With Mr. Miller Is A Magical Melody

During the month of January, our sixth graders watched the documentary "Note by Note," which chronicles the building of a Steinway concert grand piano over the course of a year. After watching the film, students gave a written response, telling five things they didn't realize about piano building, and their overall "film critic" impressions of the

film. Finally, they spent one class period opening up their own beautiful PHS grand piano and looking at the main parts in detail, referring back to the piano building process shown in the film.

In our 7th & 8th grade music class, half of the students are learning to use Apple's GarageBand program on the iPad. A

highlight was adding music to an excerpt of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech." Meanwhile, our other students have been practicing their guitar, ukulele and piano skills. Stay tuned as some of our middle school musicians will be featured in our assemblies soon.



