

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

NOVEMBER 2014

Poly Goes High-Tech

Poly Undergoes a Technology Reformation

By Kate Martinez & Michael Manzano
Staff Writers

Poly, one of the oldest schools in LAUSD, strives to function at a "21st century" level as we acquire new digital programs, giving the school more options for electives that utilize web design suites, rebuilding the network to work more efficiently, and adding new equipment to Poly's inventory.

Among Poly's new tech upgrade is the Film Production program called *Final Cut*.

Dennis Madrigal, former magnet freshmen English teacher, is the new teacher in charge of Film Production class. The class uses two main rooms. M3 is for editing and room 11 is a studio, Poly's million dollar classroom.

Madrigal says, "It is a film production class and the kids have two to three projects per quarter and each project teaches them a film production skill."

The class has been stocked with equipment for the process which has three main steps.

"Film production is everything from pre-production, that's meeting, planning, scripting, and story boarding, production is shooting, using professional microphones tripods boom poles, as well as acting, directing, and post-production, which is editing."

"The *Final Cut* program is professional editing software, like 'Imovie' and 'Windows Movie Maker', but at the professional level. *Final Cut* is professional grade software that is used throughout the movie industry."

Students are broken up into groups and each group is split in two halves. Each half works on

maintenance, computer security, classrooms computers and printer functionality as well as school wide inventory."

Principal Ari Bennett made an estimate of Poly's technology investment of about \$150,000 for 100 laptops, \$20,000 for 40 LCD projectors and document cameras for teachers, and \$40,000 for 30-



Poly's Own Geek Squad Mario Marasco and James Hicks Photo by Victor Garcia

the same film, but will work on them separately and whichever half is better, will be turned in for grading.

Student Augustine Martinez said, "it is an enjoyable experience and we are having a lot of fun with it."

The technology department's microcomputer support assistants, James Hicks and Mario Marasco, have been very proactive when it comes to improving the school, at the main campus and the freshman center.

Hicks said "Mario, Javier Rios, and I have helped put together various winter and summer projects that focus on upgrading network utilization, computer

40 desktop PCs.

Title 1 coordinator Yesenia Pleitez has been working tirelessly with the Technology office and within the Title 1 budget to enhance campus technology.

Currently the technology department is working on improving the Poly High school website and requests teachers' feedback for improvements.

LAUSD restored Poly's network providing us with a state-of-the-art network equipped with hundreds of access points for wireless connection.

The network speed is around 100 Mbps giving us extremely

[Continue to page 4]

Breakfast Club Comes to Poly

By Joshua Penado
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles School district has begun to implement the new Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) program to schools across the county. "Breakfast in the classroom has been accepted by most of the entire district already" said Poly Principal Ari Bennett, "Poly is one of the only few remaining hold-outs for the Breakfast in the Classroom program."

Poly has not agreed to participate in the BIC program as of yet. "I don't want to make a decision until I know what staff, students, and parents want," said Bennett "I want to make sure that Poly provides what is best for students and if most think that breakfast in the classroom is the best way to go for Poly, then so be it."

Breakfast in the Classroom is a debated issue amongst staff. "I'm not in favor of Breakfast in the classroom mainly because

of the loss of classroom time and because of the cleanliness aspect of everyone eating in the classroom which could attract insects or rodents," said Pilot Governance Council President Jim Schwagel. "If students come to school early they can have the breakfast we already provide."

In an email from David Binkle, Director of Food Services, Binkle presented benefits from the BIC program. "Breakfast in the Classroom requires minimal work and an opportunity to bond with students...The

[Continue to page 6]

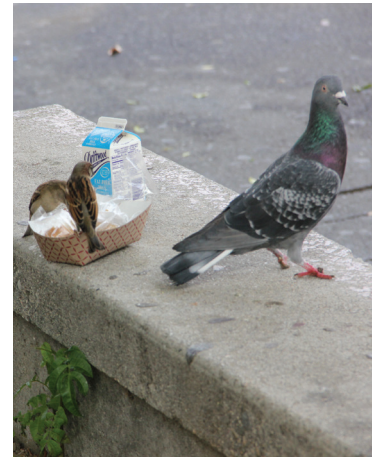


Photo by Joshua Penado

Breakfast for the Birds

Poly Plays in UNIFIED Games for Special Olympics

By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer

Project UNIFY is a new league that was started by LAUSD with the help of The Southern California Special Olympics. Poly has been participating in this program for a few years now. They began with basketball and then added soccer, now they will add baseball to their repertoire.

Unified Sports Programs throughout LAUSD have

become increasingly popular amongst schools. The goal of UNIFY is to do a lot more than get the students physically active. The program wants to break barriers between students in the Special Ed and General Ed.

Here at Poly, the sports team is ran by head coach Julio Dimas and assistant coach Jorge Ramirez.

The sports programs promote acceptance of differences between people. The program

benefits the students by increasing their confidence and enjoyment of school.

Dimas says that he has seen a stronger bond between his players and the general population. His students have gained more confidence and now ap-



Poly athletes work with partners to score

Photo by Michael Manzano

proach their fellow General Ed students with hugs and hellos. A mutual respect and love has been seen through all students at Poly.

The UNIFY soccer team consists of seven total players, three of whom are partners to

the other athletes. The partners are general ed students who help guide the other players during the game.

Prior to the City Championship, Poly hosted the League Finals. Dimas stated that it was a tough task to execute, but everyone involved had a good time, especially the players. Poly's team won the northern League Championship, beating out five other teams.

In addition to the varsity team Poly's JV UNIFY team, High-Five, also had a small tournament during the championship. This team also plays soccer, but without the guide of partners.

Dimas has seen an increase in his student's confidence and

[Continue to page 4]



Photos by Victor Garcia

Volleyball Ends Season

Girls Volleyball wins some, loses some.

SPORTS - page 8



Photo by Victor Garcia

"Next-Gen" Students

Students teach the next generation.

CAMPUS - page 6

OPINION

EDITORIAL

True Obstructionists

Republicans recently took control of the United States Senate these past midterm elections.

Republicans also kept control in the House of Representatives with a larger majority.

These midterm elections were just not good for the Democratic Party.

Just imagine, things would not get passed with the Republicans in power in the House, now with control of the Senate, bills will never get passed.

After the election results were posted, Republicans gave a press conference in which they spoke about their agenda for the next two years.

But it seems that Republicans have nothing else on their agenda but to get President Obama out of office.

While giving their press conference, Republicans had a back drop which stated "Stop Obama, Fire Reid"

Republicans won their Majority campaigning to

stop Obama from proposing any legislation and firing Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

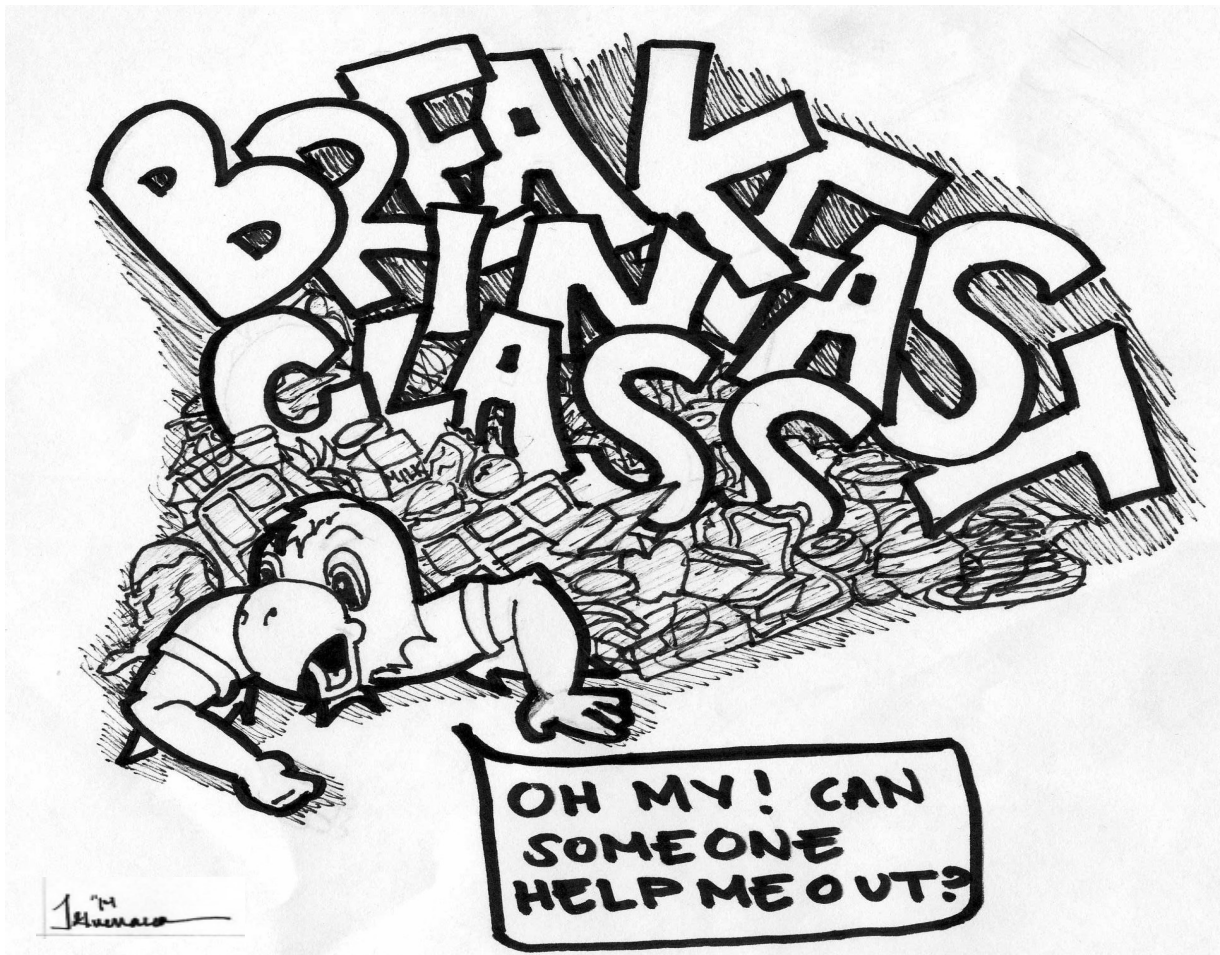
Republicans will not govern; they will only do anything in their power to stop Obama from passing any legislation.

In the past few weeks Obama has said that he will sign an executive order concerning immigration.

Obama stated that if Congress will not work with the White House to pass comprehensive Immigration Reform he will take matters into his own hands.

Republicans have responded stating that they will not give him funding to execute his orders and there have even been talks about impeachment.

At this time when there are school shootings, a foreign terrorist threat and major immigration problems, Republicans are more focused on stopping President Obama then passing real laws that would better help the nation in crisis.



Let your voice be heard log on to:
Polyoptimist.edublogs.org

Response to The Optimist blog

Stefany Rossie

Dear Editor,

I read the article titled "Homecoming Defeat" by Jonathan Femat & Kate Martinez. Until reading this article I was unaware of the impact the homecoming game has toward the Polytechnic Varsity football team ranking.

I was unaware that the team is ranked last in this section of East Valley. I thought that the picture was a bit ironic as the article suggests the team is having problems defending their goal yet the picture shows a strong defensive line.

I liked the flow of the article and how both the beginning and end connect to each other. Lastly I enjoyed the use of the word "shellacking" I have never come across that word prior to reading the article.

Jennifer Mejia

I really enjoy the fact that the newspaper is fun to read. I loved the pictures of homecoming and of the floats.

The pictures seem to be a perfect representation of what it felt like to actually be on the stands. The Poly Optimist is something I look forward to reading.

Leticia Eufrazio Gonzalez

Many people have their own methods to motivate themselves but hearing others advice and stories, like the article about the Alumni's, are also inspiring and motivational.

Only you are in charge of what path you take in life but its true, part of it is perseverance and taking risks. Many don't take chances, don't speak up, or even tend to give up easily because they don't see what the outcome will be in the long run.

Their stories can help others know that things will be hard and it is okay to struggle because in the end it will be worth it if you work hard and keep moving forward.

Linda Morales

The Happiest Homecoming on Earth explained Poly's Homecoming and how every year it is better and better and the same.

Ms. McEwen talked of what an amazing job leadership did. I think if leadership did the whole homecoming they should have got some kind of recognition for future reference.

Julio M. (Response to Linda Morales)

I think that if you joined leadership you did it because you wanted to be a part of the work that takes place to execute school activities, not to brag about the work.

Leadership is for students of leadership not for students who cry and whine that they don't get recognition for it. As a member of leadership you should be content with the work you do and not need recognition. Plus the ride on the fire truck is good enough isnt it?

Augustine Martinez

Its nice to know that we are safe by our military grade weapons. A vehicle that gargantuan with steady firearms is sure to keep us protected.



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Letters to the Editor must be typed or printed in ink and include the writer's signature. The OPTIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.14 or Ethel Matlen's box.

The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community, and follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff.

CAMPUS

Opportunities Offered Beyond Poly

Deferred Action Gives Students a Real Chance for Success

By Juan Garcia
Staff Writer

In June of 2012, President Obama sent out a memorandum to the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, stating that these immigration law enforcing agencies should exempt individual immigration laws that effect current students' ability to attend college in the United States, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or

simply Deferred Action.

Title I Coordinator, Yesenia Pleitez along with the Youth Opportunity Institute held an orientation mid October, for those who might qualify for Deferred Action.

The Youth Policy Institute is a community organization located in Pacoima that helps disadvantaged members of the community. In helping individuals on Deferred Action, YPI found connections to community lawyers who would be willing to provide legal advice to those who needed it at no expense. YPI also got a Credit Union to provide loans at low interest for those that required financial assistance in filling for Deferred Action.

To qualify for Deferred

Action, one must meet certain requirements. These include: arrived in United States before 2007, 15 years old at the time of filling, under 30 years old by June 15, 2012, have no major crimes on record, and be enrolled in an educational institute.

To proceed with the filling process, applicants must prove all eligibility requirements. School records, health records and commu-

a positive involvement in the community.

When applicants are awarded Deferred Action they are given a renewable permit to legally reside in the country for two years. This permit also provides a work permit as well as a social security number. With this permit students can also apply for financial aid. More specifically in California, students can ap-

eral government (FAFSA).

Those who wish to renew this permit must do so three months before the date of expiration.

Pleitez informed the Optimist that many individuals are afraid to apply for Deferred Action. She stated "many believe that if they are awarded Deferred Action, it will be taken away and be deported after the Obama administration leaves office." She also stated many believe they will be put into some sort of data base that will lead to their deportation.

"The biggest discouragement for those wanting to apply for Deferred Action is money" stated Pleitez

Pleitez would like anybody who believes he or she qualifies or anyone who has a question about Deferred Action to address them to her in the Title I office, "Students should not be discouraged; there are resources available."



Title I Coordinator Yesenia Pleitez

Photo by Victor Garcia

nity service records are valid in proving the presence of applicants in the country. Applicants must also show

ply for financial aid through the California Dream Act. Students cannot apply for financial aid from the fed-

Freshman Corner

Lions and Tigers and Bears! Oh My!



Photos Victor Garcia

Día de los Muertos



Freshman Faculty Celebrate Halloween

FEATURE

Throwing on the Wheel

By Jaycelle Tadena
Staff Writer

Olin Vold learns how to throw on the wheel in Karen Daneshvari's ceramics class. "Throwing on the wheel" is a ceramics term for using a pottery wheel to create a pot using clay.

Vold's health issues include an open tracheostomy, and dwarfism which oppose difficulty that may prevent him from throwing on the wheel, but Vold has proved that he is able to overcome such difficulty.

Vold said, "At first I had problems because I had to adjust the chair a little bit to stretch so I can reach the button so I can spin it at any



Photo by Victor Garcia
Vold places his clay on the wheel

speed with ease, so I can do anything on the clay. Once I got it, it was very smooth."

Vold said the hardest part was, "technical difficulties and centering the clay."

"The only time I would give up would be when it shatters all the way. But then I just try again," he stated. Vold was very determined to apply his creativeness to what he builds with clay. He never gave up entirely, he just kept trying again.

Daneshvari describes Vold to be "very good at working through difficulties" by demonstrating that he is just as talented as any other student through his determination in ceramics. Vold's difference in health does not set him apart from any other student.

Daneshvari stated, "I'm so proud of Poly because we make sure that every student has every opportunity to participate in every single class. The faculty, the students, the administration, everybody is supportive of making sure that if you want to do something here, we'll make sure to make it happen for you. That's the main thing."

Vold sets an example of Poly determination.

History Teacher makes Own Journey

By Jonathan Femat
Staff Writer

David Valle currently teaches History and AP Human Geography teacher for sophomores and is currently teaching at the tenth grade center.

AP Human Geography studies are demographics related to population and region. Students explore the data of various places around the world and learn the different factors that affect regions of the world.

Before joining Poly, Valle was a teacher at Los Angeles International charter high school. LAICHS is a relatively small college-preparatory high school that is located in North East Los Angeles. Its student body is mainly made up of Hispanic and Latino students.

Valle attended Cal State Northridge where he received a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish.

His inspiration for history comes from two factors. Valle stated, "One of my inspirations came from my high school teacher at Manuel Arts Mr. Cornelius. He made history fun and interesting." Valle added,



David Valle Photo by Victor Garcia

"My Sister in Law's Arab Lebanese background made me interested in knowing more about it and showed me that everything was interconnected."

Valle's current hobbies include running and reading. He lives by the motto "Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar," which translates from Spanish to English, "Journey man, there is no journey, until you make your own."

When speaking about his experience at Poly, Valle stated, "Poly is one of the best schools I have been at. The students are great, they have goals, school spirit, and the teachers are also awesome to work with."

She said the easiest thing teaching is, "working with such polite and respectful students," and the hardest is the large class sizes.

Padilla states that she was always drawn to math since a young age. "Math was always my favorite subject since grade school."

Padilla is married and has three children: Diego, Jeshua and Natallia.

Her hobbies include jogging especially while her children ride their bikes.

Referring to Poly, Padilla stated, "I love it. Everyone has been so welcoming."

Padilla lives by the quote, "Always persevere no matter what the circumstances may be."



Monica Padilla Photo by Victor Garcia

Padilla received a BA from Cal State Northridge and a master's from UCLA.

Padilla stated that she loves seeing when students make connections between math, they are solving and the real world.

Always Persevere- Especially in Math

Sun Valley's Loss, Poly's gain

By Juan Garcia
Staff Writer

Math Teacher Monica Padilla joins Poly this year.

Padilla began her teaching career in Arizona, later moving back to California.

She states she was inspired by her Trigonometry Teacher, Mr. Heart.

Before teaching at Poly, Padilla taught at Sun Valley Middle School.

Padilla attended San Fernando High School and later Mission Col-

[From UNIFIED page 1] interest in school. He stated "The program has very much helped students socially."

Student athlete, Diana Moran, who also qualifies as a partner said, "The experience is heart-warming and it's not so much about winning. It is for the kids to have fun and do something different." The program is a source of joy and entertainment for the children.

The students really seem to be enjoying the sport. Student athlete Maricruz Padron said, "The game was good, I had lots of fun and I really love playing."

Senior partners Kathy Diaz and Rodolfo Oliveros have thoroughly appreciated their time in the program. First timer Diaz stated, "You get really attached to the students. It makes you realize that even though some people see them as different, they're just like us."

"The best part of the whole experience is seeing the kids smile, that's what really warms our hearts," said Oliveros.

The popularity of the team has increased and more often, students are asking to be

[From Tech page 1]

fast uploads and downloads, although there are times when it seems slow, but that is due to older equipment and several district based firewalls issues.

At Poly we have three main computer labs with over 30 working computers in each class installed with windows 7. Teachers such as Mrs. Elias, Mrs. Lewis, and Mr. Ovanessian received new computers.

Poly is also in the process of obtaining 8 more laptop carts with over 20 Lenovo Laptops, for testing and class use, in addition to the 2 carts we have. The freshman center has 3 carts with 24 Lenovo Netbooks with windows 7. Magnet has their own computer lab with around 32 computers.

As for the desktops being provided, teachers have been given the option of choosing a new PC or a new MacBook pro for classroom needs. Hicks states, "Over 100 new computers were ordered for faculty and these will be rolling out very soon."

They are also working on supplying teachers in need of new document readers, projectors, and printers.

Poly purchased a school site license to provide Adobe Web Design suites, industry standard when it comes to editing tools and design, for classes such as Photoshop, Digital Imaging, and updating Journalism's InDesign."

Hicks said, "We are still in the process of creating new projects that will focus on the other computer issues on the campus as well as making sure that Poly going forward shines as a central hub of technology improvement and programs offered to students."

on the team, or are asking to volunteer. The sports team also receives support from newcomers teacher Avilene Espinoza and Leadership advisor Brian Le Clair.

On Friday, Poly played the City Championships and ended in fifth place. The Varsity soccer team won two out of the three games they played.

Poly was also one of the only two schools to have a mascot and full cheerleading team. The stands were full of Poly pride and pure enthusiasm for the players.

Michael Manzano who attended the game stated, "The event was very lively and high spirits were felt throughout the crowd. For the players, winning is not the most important thing on their minds, it is more about the experience and the joy of the game."

All players had great sportsmanship no matter if they were winning or losing. The experience means a lot more to the students and players than the win.

FEATURE

Poly's Intellectual Nomad goes East

By Ashley Tulle
Staff Writer

Magnet student, Hannah Almonte took the summer to explore her college options. Almonte went to Bowdoin College, a national Liberal Arts and Science College in Brunswick, Maine this summer in August for three days to have the college experience and an overall feel of what is expected. Almonte visited a total of three universities UCLA, Caltech and Bowdoin. As a result of the visits, Almonte reaffirmed her quest to attend a four year university. Almonte said "The overall experience was pleasant for many different reasons." On her trip to Bowdoin, Almonte wanted to understand

more about the educational experience of liberal art schools. "I wanted to visit Bowdoin because it is a liberal arts college, so I was expecting to learn a lot about how a smaller community would feel like in terms of the atmosphere and I did learn about that." Almonte stated that her attraction to Bowdoin came from its charm. Almonte considers herself as an "Intellectual Nomad" because she does not feel comfortable staying in one place. "I want my career to be in science, and right now, I'm looking at computational biology, but at the same time I also like literature and art for pleasure." Almonte is still undecided on a major to pursue.

"I change my mind every 6 months." Almonte says.

Bowdoin, like many other universities and colleges has a diverse selection of study fields. This includes a program where a freshman may take a class in every field what he or she enjoys choosing.

"For Almonte however, she stated "It's going to go in two ways, either it will help me decide what I want to major in because I have a lot of choices and I get to try them all out or it could be the other way, where I don't decide at all because I get to do everything!"

Almonte said "I don't think that it's enough time necessarily to form an opinion of it."

The cost to attend Bowdoin ranges from mid \$50,000 to \$59,000, not including scholarships.

Almonte has not received any scholarships, but stated that "the scholarships are all need based, so after they have accepted you they figure out

how much you're going to need, and will try to give you as much as you need."

However, because she



Hannah Almonte Photo by Victor Garcia

did attend the program trip, Bowdoin will be wavering Almonte's application fee, which she can reduce from the price of Bowdoin's tuition.

Bowdoin College is 2,646 miles away from Los Angeles. "I like the idea of getting to experience new things and if

that involves being away from home I would be willing to do it" Almonte said.

Almonte, does not consider herself as strong of an applicant as perhaps others, on the other hand, Almonte uses her competitive spirit as a source of motivation to compare herself to the other applicants as a whole, "that's sort of good way to look at it because then you're going to look at the strong applicant and think I'm not as strong as an applicant but I can work harder" Almonte stated.

Almonte's attitude toward her chances of getting accepted into Bowdoin and to any other school is "I always say this for every school, I ALWAYS say go."

"Family is very supportive. Their general opinion is if you think it's a good decision for you, it's fine; if it's going to help you grow, it's something we can deal with."

Fly Me to Boston



Photo provided by Miguel Gutierrez MIT's "The Alchemist"

A visit to MIT

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

Summer days can be boring for some students, but not for Poly student, Miguel Gutierrez, who received an email over summer for an opportu-

nity to attend a 3 day study program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Gutierrez was "over-joyed" when he received an acceptance email. He exclaimed, "I freaked out and said 'Yeah! I'm going to visit MIT, Mom!'"

The 3 day trip was paid for by MIT including plane ticket, meals and housing.

During his time at MIT, undergraduate Camilla Chille gave him and a friend an exclusive tour of the Cancer Research Facility.

He was amazed by the many students who will be accepting prominent positions in large corporations as soon as they graduate school.

"It wasn't what I expected," said Gutierrez, "When you imagine MIT you imagine this whole incredible technologically advanced facility that's just decades ahead of everyone else. It's not as unattainable, it was pedestrian, and it

was just really nice."

"Overall I did not expect the amount of support the students gave each other," said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez has known about MIT since he was in elementary, and it has been his dream school. "MIT wasn't in my college list, it was the dream. I never thought I'd have the chance that I actually have. I have a shot and I want to take it."

On his trip, he learned about MIT's program for their freshman called the "pass no record," as Gutierrez explained it, "You can take as many classes as you want, any clubs you want, do whatever you want. The classes taken, you either pass them or they keep no record of you ever taking it."

Gutierrez stated, "You have so much room to try things, to explore, to invent, to just do."

As for his major, going on the trip has changed his goal.

"I went in thinking of majoring in Biotechnology, but now I want to do mechanical engineering with an emphasis in biology," said Gutierrez, "It's a bigger umbrella and I would still have that emphasis in biology to back me up."

MIT, as a private college, works with students on tuitions. The way MIT sees it, a check shouldn't prevent you from going to their school. The things you will do after your experience at MIT will

outweigh the price of the school.

"For MIT, if you make under a certain amount your whole tuition is paid for, and I fall under that category," said Gutierrez.

"The acceptance rate is very selective, but I like to think I have a good chance." said Gutierrez.

Reflecting on the experience of the trip to Boston Gutierrez said, "It was good to step out of my comfort zone."



Miguel Gutierrez

Photo by Joshua Penado

Students View Solar Eclipse

By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer

On Thursday October 23rd there was a partial solar eclipse that stunned many. The eclipse peaked at around 3:30 where it covered around 45% of the sun.

Bryce Pemble had a solar eclipse viewing station where many students and teachers went to see the visual phenomenon. The solar eclipse follows a lunar eclipse that happened just two weeks prior.

The eclipse covered some, but not all of the sun. What made the eclipse notable was the huge sun spot that was seen. At the time of the eclipse

the sun spot, was the second biggest thing in the solar system.

This fall eclipse showed a prominent sun spot that was clearly visible. Pemble stated "Biggest one I've ever seen. I'm doing some research to see if it's the biggest one ever, but there was a report on one in 1987 that was pretty big. It's definitely the biggest one I've seen and I've been watching them since the mid 80's".

Looking directly at the sun would harm human eyes, so Pemble had a telescope set up along with many specialized 'eclipse viewing' glasses. Students from different classrooms gathered around after school to see the sun.

When describing the shape of the eclipse, Pemble joked "It kind of looks kind of like pac-man".

During an eclipse, the moon lines up exactly with the sun and the earth

to cover some and sometimes all of the sun. Pemble informed the Optimist staff of other eclipse that will be happening in the years to come. In 2017 and 2024 there will be total eclipses that will be visible in most of North America.

Pemble plans to take a trip to Oregon for the 2017 total eclipse, "I've seen a lot of eclipses, but total eclipses are the big ones" said Pemble. In 1991 he also went to the tip of Baja California to see a total solar eclipse that he thought was astonishing.

To Pemble and many others, eclipses can be philosophical as well as scientific. Pemble believes solar eclipse show where we are in the universe. "Some people say that they 'wish' they could be in outer space, but we're always traveling through space, the Earth moves extremely rapidly. Eclipses show the nature of

this".

Contrary to popular belief eclipses really do not last very long. Movies have created a false stigma that eclipses are all day and threatening, "That sort of total and long lasting

darkness only happens in movies. Those are not factual because the most it can happen is about eight or ten minutes for an eclipse. Even if you covered 90% of the sun it would not get very dark".



Telescope Showing sun spot

Photo by Victor Garcia

CAMPUS

No Ordinary Computer Science Teacher

Students learn new computer skills in one of Poly's newest AP courses.

By Jaycelle Tadena
Staff Writer

AP Computer Science is Poly's latest course to join our AP offerings.

Gilbert Ovanessian left his position as 11th/12th grade dean to teach this AP. Prior to Ovanessian, Javier Rios was the only teacher offering any courses related to computer science.

"Computer Science is the science of problem-solving through the use of algorithms and implementation. An algorithm is a collection of step-by-step operations or instructions we enter in the computer."

Before taking on computer science, Ovanessian had a very important role on the campus, being the Dean. But he had a greater passion for computer science. Ovanessian majored in Computer

Science and Electrical Engineering in Tehran University. He also received his teaching credential and MA from California State University, Northridge.

Ovanessian is from Tehran, Iran, located in the Middle East. He has a wife and two children, one nine years old and one seven



Gilbert Ovanessian Photo by Jaycelle Tadena

months old. Ovanessian described his teaching opportunity as "a great opportunity to share his knowledge and experiences with Poly students."

Ovanessian first got to the United States in February 1, 2001. He describes this day to be the day of his rebirth in his new life outside of Iran. Ovanessian left Iran in 1999, after the Iran and Iraq war. He and his wife had to leave their past behind, even their family. He said, "The day we were leaving, we didn't even know where we were going." Many had to pay a great

amount of money, around \$7,000-\$10,000 per person, to escape the terrors of Iran.

They arrived in France in December 1999 with visas. They wanted to leave for Austria, but in order to get to Austria, they had to pay someone to smuggle them to Germany. The risk of getting caught of going to Austria was too great, so they stayed in Germany. They arrived in Germany on New Year's Day and stayed there for fourteen months as refugees in a former Nazi military camp.

Ovanessian describes his experience in Germany to be depressing because most people were celebrating while he and his wife were suffering in a small enclosed room, only about 80 square feet. He said, "It barely fits two people!" They then moved from the temporary camp to their permanent residency in a small town in the middle of nowhere. "The room was a little bigger, something around 120 square feet, but it was still small."

Eventually, Ovanessian and his wife went to the immigration office to come to the U.S. They were interviewed for two hours at a U.S. military base. Ovanessian said, "They really grilled us for around two hours, both of us. They questioned us about everything possible about how we got out. They said it was 'impossible,' so they knew about how difficult it was."

After the interview, they were told to wait in the waiting room. Usually, people would have to wait months to be given an answer from immigration. Ovanessian and his

wife only had to wait ten minutes to be accepted into the U.S. The immigration office also paid for their airplane tickets to be able to come to the U.S.

Ovanessian emphasizes the importance of education. In Ovanessian's senior year of high school, the school was hit by a bomb and was destroyed. The school had built bunkers under the school in case of an attack. Even in these situations, Ovanessian said, "students were very determined. Even the fear of death should not stop you from getting an education."

He said, "Computer Science is one of the most demanding and high paying careers in the job market. My vision is that all students, both male and female, equally participate in these courses because there are a very small percentage of females who work in this field."

Ovanessian encourages Poly students to join the learning experience of Computer Science. He

wishes to "encourage the under-represented groups in the field of computer science—especially females and minorities—to pursue the paths leading to high-end technological jobs."

From Computer Science to App Development club called PAC, which stands for Poly App Club, Ovanessian starts the process of creating a new club on Poly campus. It will be held in room 97, during lunch on Mondays. Students do not need experience to join.

Students will be able to create their own apps and learn how to load them into phones and/or tablets. Ovanessian said, "The idea of starting a club was not only my idea, but also my students' because they wanted to be more involved." Students will not only learn about computer science along the way, but will also learn about things that may help them in the future in real-life experiences.



Students learn to be tech savvy

Photo by Jaycelle Tadena

Going back to Pre-School

By Michael Manzano
Staff Writer

There is a special place at the back of the main campus, here at Poly, which not everyone knows about, it's a preschool.

The preschool is where the child development class is held, but this is not just a class. This is on the job experience.

This preschool is not for just faculty children, it is for any kids, including students who have young

siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, and children from the Sun Valley community.

Karen Navarratte, who has a psychology degree from CSUN, is the teacher for these classes.

Navarratte originally planned to be a family therapist, but she had done after school programs and then became a caseworker. She realized that she really enjoyed working with children.

They have two classes one in the morning starting at 8:15 and ends right before lunch, the other class starts at 12:15 and ends before school ends.

As of right now they're 25 students in both classes in both sessions that are both run by the high school students.

Navarratte said "I saw a lot of the high school students started evolving as soon as the preschoolers came in, a lot of the work they did on paper was beyond what we thought, would happen when the children came in, they went above the exception, that we had."

"Some of the more quiet students really opened up once the kids came in."

Navarratte feels that because the room is behind the main campus most people do not know the class exists, and the students will lose on the chance for this experience.

Taking this class is a good way to earn ten credits and hands on job

[From Breakfast page 1]

teacher's role is as easy as checking names off a roster and placing trash outside the classroom. Custodians need only pick up bags when breakfast is over".

"I don't particularly disagree with Breakfast in the Classroom but I do worry about the possible drawbacks such as roaches, and rodents" said Tenth grade Coordinator Royce Stucky. "Also, not every teacher has the ideal facilities to provide breakfast to students like the computer labs and P.E".

Students will have to

pick up their class breakfast in the school designated area to take to their class. Then students will have about 10 to 15 minutes to eat their breakfast. When done, students will dispose of their trash in the provided bag before placing the bag outside for disposal by custodians.

In an informal poll conducted by the Poly Optimist of 170 students and 26 teachers concerning the BIC program, the data shows that about 77% of students support BIC while about 85% of teachers oppose the program.

Student/Faculty Survey

Students Surveyed: 170

Yes

131

No

23

Teachers Surveyed: 26

Yes

22

No

4



Future Parrots at work



Photos by Victor Garcia

ENTERTAINMENT

Karen O's "Crush Songs" is Crushing

By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer

The Yeah Yeah Yeah's lead singer, Karen O, recently released a collection of short songs she recorded in 2006. Crush Songs has stories of heartbreak, loss, and love, enough to make any young adult's head spin and heart break.

The songs were written when O was 27, at the peak of her heart-break. The album is a reflective and nostalgic piece for O who is now

married and is no longer 'crushing'.

The album is a collection of home recordings O did herself. The lo-fi and unrefined sound are prominent throughout the record. The impurity of the album adds character and even more grit than it originally had with the lyrics alone.

O's acoustic style was first noted by the public with the "Moon Song" a short love song she wrote for the Academy Award winning movie "Her". Crush Songs is full of similar short and tender songs with only an acoustic guitar and O's soft and breaking voice.

Songs like "Rapt" and "Body" send strong messages of love. O sees love as a tough, yet vital component in life. There are a few songs that shortly diverge from the main message of the LP such as "King" which pays homage to Michael Jackson.

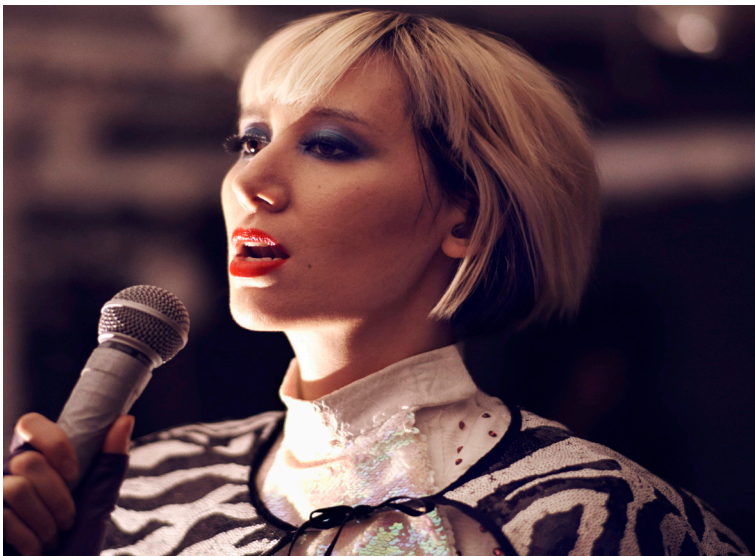
O can be seen straying away from the typical style she has with the Yeah Yeah Yeah's. She focuses more on her falsettos than her lengthy screams. The album is a more vulnerable side of O that is not typically seen.

On stage she is still a strong presence, but instead of belting out her lyrics, she sings with concentration and emotion. The songs come to life with O's two person backing band, but still keep the genuine simplicity and natural passion.

The record seems to be a whisper, lasting a short twenty six minutes. Though listeners may be left wanting more the album is sincere and heartfelt.

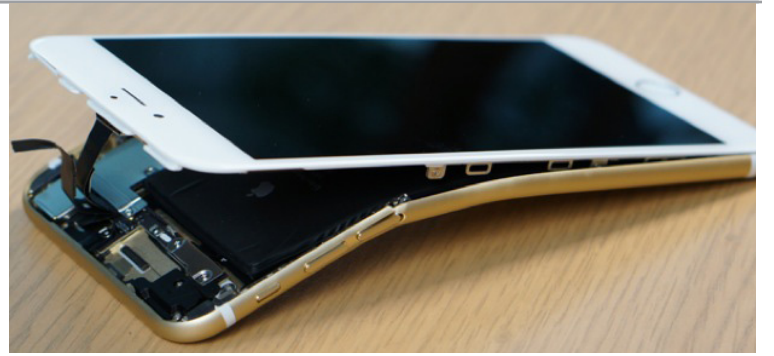
The songs are soft and truthful, no extravagant interludes or heavy guitar solos clutter the record. O and her guitar speak from the heart with rawness that is charming and relatable.

Crush Songs was released on Cult Records, Julian Casablancas's (The Strokes) record label.



Songstress Karen O

Photo provided by Google Images



Bendable iPhone 6

Photo provided by Google Images

Bigger May Not be Better

By Filiberto Catalan
Staff Writer

New I-Phone 6 "Bigger than bigger". That is what Apple said to its devoted followers when Tim Cook, CEO of Apple Inc., revealed the new iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus on September 9, 2014. Ten days later, on September 19, 2014, the iPhone 6 was released to the American public.

Since then, the iPhone 6 has received mixed reviews. Some have criticized Apple for straying too much from the traditional iPhone look. The iPhone 6's camera has been widely criticized. From the camera's protrusion from the phone to the loss of aesthetics because of the camera, the iPhone 6's "new look" has not been welcomed by the apple community.

Others have criticized the placing of the lock button. Instead of being placed on the top of the device, developers placed the lock button on the side of the phone. Many long time Apple fans have protested trouble of adjusting to this change of design.

The iPhone 6 Plus has probably been the most highly criticized of the two versions of the new iPhones. There have been videos and forums that have both praised and condemned the new phone's ability, look, and resourcefulness. One of the biggest issues that has come to the minds of many critics is the tendency of the phone to bend under small amounts of pressure. People have reported to have their new phones bend in their pockets, while others have gone as far as to deliberately bend their iPhone 6 in front of a

camera to show the legitimacy of the issue and to question the value of the product.

Along with the bending issue, many iPhone owners have complained that the iPhone 6 Plus is way too big to be a phone. For many, the phone does not fit in their pockets and the phone makes it impossible for the user to single-handedly use the phone, forcing the user to use both hands. Many others have complained that the phone's size makes the phone easier to slip and fall out of their hands. Buying a case would just make the phone bigger and much more difficult to hold and handle.

Still, the new phone has won over many skeptics who have grown to love the product. The new iPhone has been integrated with the latest updates in hardware and software, such as a full 1080p screen on the iPhone 6 Plus and an outer stainless steel chassis for both versions of the iPhone 6. The camera integrated in the phone has the ability to shoot 1080p pictures as well as capture slow motion shots in 60 and 120 fps. The camera has video stabilization, which means that the lens move when the phone begins to shake. The iPhone 6 also has a longer battery life that can last up to more than a day. The new A8 chip in the phone allows for faster processing power (25 percent faster than the iPhone 5) and faster graphics (50 percent faster than the iPhone 5). The phone can come with 16GB, 64GB, and 128GB depending on which one the buyer may choose.

The iPhone has its pros and its cons and as with any new product, the demands of the people have not been fulfilled just yet.

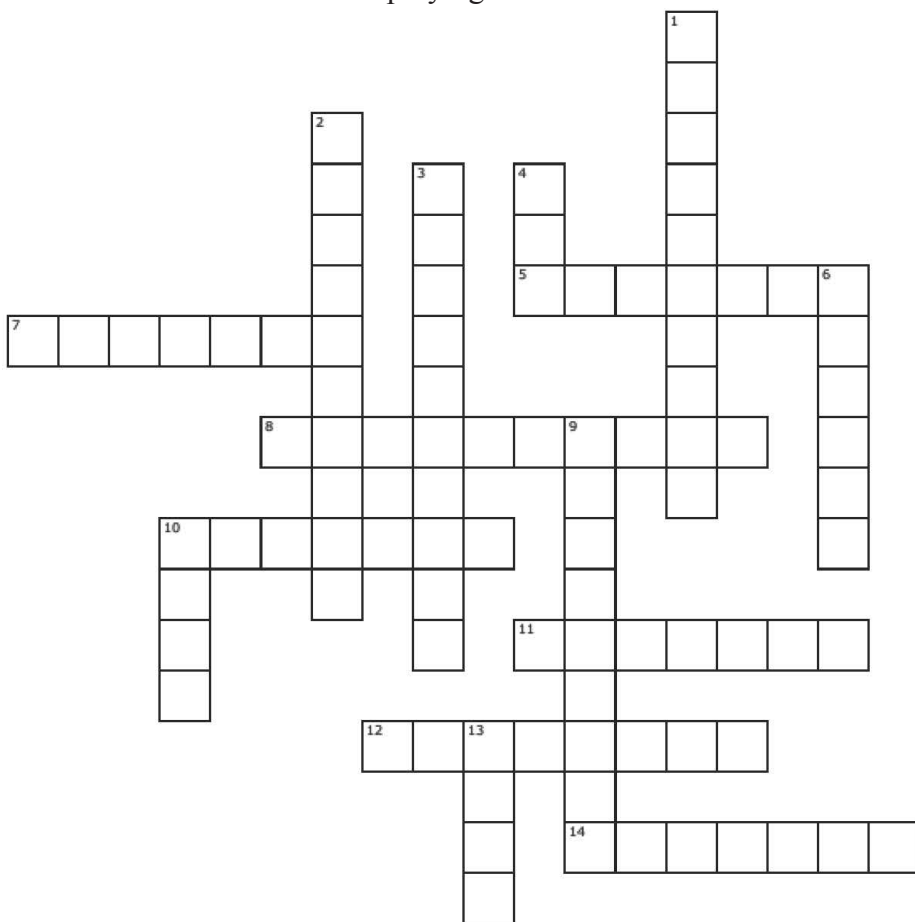
SAT Crossword Puzzle

Word Bank

Voluble
Bard
Condoning
Edifice
Germane

Ire
Munificent
Perpetuity
Rant
Stupefying

Voluminous
Bastion
Efface
Germinal
Irsome



Across

- 5. building; structure; construction
- 7. annoying; infuriating
- 8. generous; charitable
- 10. fortress; stronghold
- 11. talkative
- 12. just growing; not developed; immature
- 14. relevant

Down

- 1. astonishing; shocking; stunning into silence
- 2. eternity
- 3. very large; spacious
- 4. anger, irate
- 6. wipe out; remove all trace of
- 9. overlooking; disregarding; ignoring
- 10. poet
- 13. use bombastic language

Sudoku

		2				4		
	6		7		5		8	
		9		3		2		
	8		5		9		4	
4								1
	5		3		1		7	
		1		9		8		
	3		1		2		9	
		8				3		

SPORTS

Poly Parrots Conquer Chavez Eagles

By Jonathan Femat & Ashley Tulle
Staff Writers

The Poly Parrots Girls volleyball team won its League conference match against host Ceaser Chavez Eagles 3-0. The Parrots quickly scored 25-9, maintaining a strong defense with the second set at 25-11, and finishing the third set at 25-8.

The Parrots kept a



Cynthia Portillo serves. Photo by Victor Garcia

strong hold against the Eagles ending the second set to a score of 25-11.

The third set ended with yet another win for the Parrots 25-8.

Even with this win, the Parrots were un-



Photos by David Simms

Volleyball Senior received roses able to make it to the playoffs finishing their season with 2 wins and 10 losses in the final standings.

Saira Medina reflected on the loss in

the season and believes “lack of communication was a problem”

The new coach, Ron Cable, moved up from Frosh- Soph to Varsity, “but even with experi-

enced senior players, we continued to struggle. We just couldn’t seem to connect with each other” said Medina.

The Parrots final loss was to El Camino.

Girls Tennis Score High-Water Mark Girls Tennis seasons of winning

By: Juan Garcia & Ashley Tulle
Staff Writers

The Poly Girl’s Tennis team had unmatched success, earning a #1 seed in the playoffs and defeating Franklin HS 4-3. Singles 2 Angela Lawenko was heroic, fighting back from a 5-2 deficit to win the deciding set 7-5.

The two teams were fairly matched but “Wilson was simply better,” stated Coach Evan Rabins. Dou-

bles were Kristine AQUI and Alexia Barrera, who won in straight sets, 7-5 and 6-4.

Doubles 3 were Elaine Grace Reasonable and Honey Cruz, battling it out to win 6-4, 6-7, and 6-3. Coach Rabins informed the Optimist that the Wilson coaches and players were very pleasant. Rabins stated, “No shame at all, our girls played tough.”

Poly Tennis finishes the year at 9-6 and 1-1, both high-water marks. “It’s been a GREAT season, and these girls were a joy to coach,” stated Coach Rabins.

Rabins would especially like to thank his seniors who will be leaving this year. “Losing these girls is tough, but we’ll still be good next year.” In their second playoff match, Senior Maria De La Rosa and her partner Andrea Tirado were victorious, as they have been most of the year.



Players Angela Lawenko and Shelly Ocampo



Photos by Victor Garcia



Rodolfo Oliveros scores 15 yard game winning field goal.

Photo by David Simms

2-8 Still Made it to PlayOffs

Parrots deal with a season of injuries and tough losses

By Jonathan Femat
Staff Writer

The Poly Parrots football team conquered host Ceaser Chavez at Friday’s last league game 18-15. The Parrots came out strong with #8 Marcos Lepe scoring a touchdown at first quarter.

The Parrots then scored again with #44 Eduardo Tejada during the second quarter but The Eagles came back fiercely with a touch down.

Parrots held steady for the third quarter holding off any scoring opportunity by the Eagles.

The last quarter coming to a close end with Chavez scoring one more touchdown leaving the score 15-15.

With Chavez having facing a number of penalties, Poly took its chance with #2 Rodolfo Oliveros scoring the 15 yard game winning field goal.

Oliveros stated, “It felt really good because Chavez was chanting block the kick. The band was playing loud as well as

their commentator, was motivating them to try to make me nervous right before I was going to kick. The Chavez coach called time out and tried to make me think about the pressure of this kick, but I knew it was a guarantee kick once I was on the field”

Poly wins its last league game making it to play offs.

The Poly Parrots football team continues to push to the City title which will be held at

USC’s coliseum.

Poly has three plays of games the first is against Belmont, followed by Hawkins, and LA High.

Poly finished its season ranking 12th seed in Division III.

Eduardo Perez said, “2-8 still made it to play offs”

The Poly Parrots football team continues to push to the City title which will be held at USC’s coliseum.



Poly Defense stops Grant quarterback

Photo by David Simms