

VOL 104 ISSUE 6



THE
CHRONICLE

Letter from the Editor:

Happy February, Bulldogs! Congratulations in launching yourselves into another semester at PHS. Don't worry, the Chronicle is still here bringing you the latest in news, crafts, and horoscopes! We hope that you enjoy this month and have a fun-filled Valentine's Day!

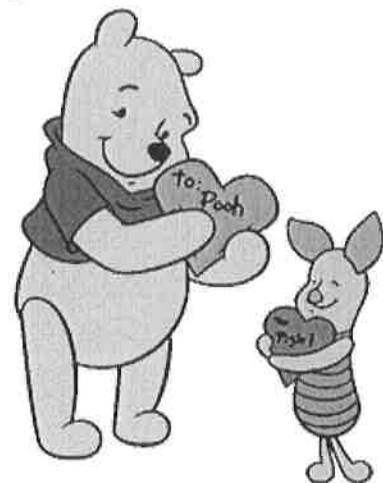
- Your Editor-in-Chief,

Ashley Coventry

The Chronicle

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District Drowning in Debt

Whether it has come up in one of your classes, or maybe you read about it somewhere online or in the newspaper, you have most likely heard about the gaping 20 million dollar debt that the Pasadena Unified School District is in. The matter has become such an issue that if by March the PUSD does not have their reserve back to the state mandated 3 percent, the state is going to have to intervene.

Many of you are probably wondering, how did this large debt come about? Well, Scott Phelps, a district board member and the chair of the financial committee, posted “Declining enrollment and decreasing state funding point to a coming fiscal emergency in the PUSD” in the Pasadena Weekly to explain the reasons as to why the debt has accumulated to the large amount that it has. The first reason Phelps stated was, “Unrestricted revenue and special education revenue have actually decreased over the last two years due to declining enrollment and the lack of significant increases in state funding...” The second reason was, “...the 6-percent raise granted to all staff in the spring of 2016.” The final reason was, “...state mandated retirement contribution increases and increased health care market cost [for teachers].” These three reasons are why the district’s “budget is not doing well.”

After broaching the topic with the superintendent and the United Teacher of Pasadena’s president, both declined answering, having no official statement about the debt. Our principle Mr. Hernandez said that though there maybe changes because of cutbacks, he is “...trying to keep consistency for the next school year.” As of right now, it is a waiting game to see whether or not the district is going to be able to avoid having a state overseer come in.

Just something more to learn.

► *Rosie Gongora*

Technology in Our Classrooms

Student Life

The Chronicle

Chromebooks -- what are they and why are they taking over the education market?

Earlier this month, the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors received information about the newest educational advancement at Pasadena High School - personal Chromebooks. As my younger peers begin to experience constant technology in the classroom through Chromebooks, I am inclined to ask myself: what exactly is a Chromebook and why are so many elementary, middle, and high schools replacing their hardcover textbooks and paper-based exams and homework assignments with what looks like the average laptop?

A Chromebook is a laptop that runs on a Linux-based Chrome OS system that stores most of its applications and data in the cloud rather than on the machine. Linux is a family of free and open-source software operating systems that are built around the Linux Kernel: an open-source computer program that has complete control over everything in the system. The Chromebook is Linux-based because its primary operating system is the Chrome OS, a system designed by Google that uses the Google Chrome web browser as its principal user interface. The Chromebook is universally appealing due to its cloud connection and storage and easy-to-use Google Chrome applications. Schools across the nation have advocated for Chromebooks for students of all ages, and by 2012 schools had become the most significant Chromebook consumer.

Why exactly are these devices so prominent in the education sector? Beyond the benefits of the cloud and the popular Google Chrome user interface, teachers and administrations favor the Chromebook because of Google's free and useful educational applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations. The price of the Chromebook is also a reason why school districts are choosing this device over other options (like the iPad for instance): the price per Chromebook is an average \$220, which is an affordable option for many school's buying in bulk. This low price not only saves schools money but also allows the younger children in the school district to receive Chromebooks at an earlier age.

► *Continued on Page 6*

Other positive changes the Chromebook transition can bring include the benefit of easy-to-access online resources such as dictionaries, thesauruses, and world news, the reduction of paper use due to online tests and assignments, and allowing younger students to practice their typing skills through consistent Chromebook use.

Some concerns with the advancement of the Chromebook's prominence in schools include the possible increase in cheating and distractions, and that the strict blockage of many sites on the Chromebook limit freedom while also preventing research.

No matter how you feel about Chromebooks, if you're a freshman, sophomore, or junior at Pasadena High School, Chromebooks and technology are going to become an integral part of not only your education but also the education of the students who come after you.

► *Sophie Manoukian*

Academic & Athletic Achievement at PHS

Student Life

The Chronicle

These two students are being recognized for their academic and athletic excellence.

First, there's "Lily" Lilit Yengoian, who has a weighted Academic GPA of 4.7. She also was honored in the top 10 of the Class of 2018, placed second on math field day, made it on the 4.0 and 4.5 honor roll, and received the president's award for educational excellence. Lily is not only academically inclined, but is also athletic, for she is on Varsity Tennis and was awarded the Pasadena High School Tennis Award.

Q: Although it may be a little early to ask, do you feel that all that hard work and effort was worth it?

A: "...I think all the hard work definitely was worth it because it made me resilient and taught me how to manage my time well."

Q: What would you like to do as a career?

A: "I really want to become a neurologist, so I can not only research new methods of treating neurological disorders but also treat them."

Q: Who has been your biggest inspiration?"

A: "My biggest inspiration has been Logic, because he grew up poor, in a family of drug and alcohol addicts, but he found his passion and worked his butt off to get where he is today!"



► *Continued on Page 8*

Our other outstanding student is our new varsity basketball star Tavian Percy, who moved here from Florida. This 6'5" senior has been playing basketball since the age of four, sports jersey #4, and is the starting shooting guard. In the team's first six games, he averaged 12 points a game, 6.3 rebounds, and 2.5 assists.

Q: What has your experience on the basketball team/at PHS been like so far?

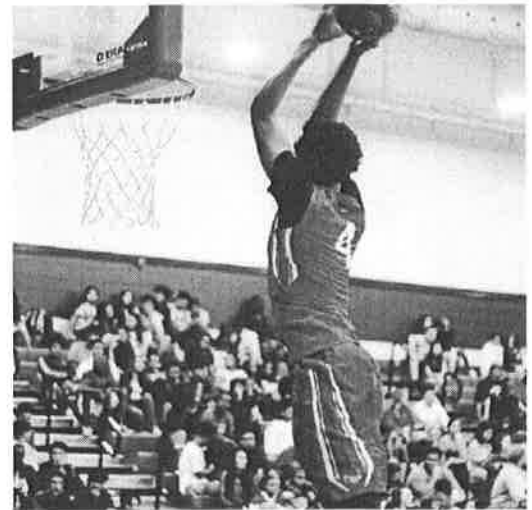
A: "My experience has been fun and funny with the basketball team this year. We're like brothers, so we hang out with each other and play around with each other so I would say it's been a pretty good experience so far."

Q: If you could play for any NBA team which would you choose?

A: "I would choose the Lakers so I could stay close and experience LA more"

Q: What's your favorite thing about basketball?

A: "My favorite thing about basketball is that there is a chance you could make it your job and have fun with it."



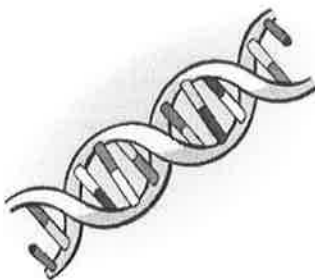
► Savannah Bradley

Teacher Highlight

Student Life

Rachael Jacalone is a regular and AP biology teacher here at PHS. She is also the assistant coach for the girl's soccer team. She grew up in Monrovia and attended Monrovia High School. Mrs. Jacalone had knee surgery her senior year in high school, which inspired her to want to help people and work as a physical therapist after attending Loyola Marymount University. But during an internship in a physical therapy office, she realized that she didn't like it as much as she thought she would. She admitted, "I wanted to work specifically with high-school age athletes, and at the PT [physical therapy] office I had to work with all ages." This prompted her to become a high school teacher.

Mrs. Jacalone began her teaching career at PHS in 2011, so she's now a 7th-year veteran. She says, "My favorite part about teaching is my students. I love to see their minds working, and when they understand content...it's a good feeling!" As a biologist, "I love that there are always new scientific discoveries and ideas to explore." Mrs. Jacalone is an amazing teacher, and we are beyond grateful to have her here at PHS.



► *Rosie Gongora*

Hidden Gems of Pasadena: Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden

Independent

The serenity of the garden is undeniable. A tea house hung over one of the ponds while a performer plays the koto. Koi fishes swam around in dazzling patterns that many children found tantalizing as they put their hands into the water. The plants, although of several types, blended well and created a picturesque scene. Today, the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden is owned by Jim and Connie Haddad. There are two areas to buy authentic items such as antique poems, porcelain containers, and even traditional Japanese clothing. Jim works by the gallery and he mentioned, "We have so much art here." as unhung paintings are stacked up in the corner. Meanwhile, Connie operates the clothing store where many kimonos can be seen among the origami swans.

The history of the garden is as fascinating as the garden itself. Charles and Ellamae Storrier Stearns made several trips to Japan; and in 1935, they hired the expert Kinzuchi Fujii to design their garden. It took seven years to make, even with Fujii's expertise in carpentry and landscaping. Unfortunately, with the outbreak of the second World War, he was sent to an internment camp in 1942. The Stearns died, and in 1950 their estate was auctioned. Gamelia Poulsen, the mother of Jim Haddad, made a successful bid. The mansion was dismantled for reuse elsewhere and most of the estate was gradually sold off, only the garden and enough property for a house was kept. In 1976, the Caltrans acquired an easternmost piece of the property. Due to the anticipated construction of the 710 Freeway, another chunk was taken. Mrs. Poulsen let the garden go and sold some of the artifacts. Mysteriously in 1981, the tea house burned down.

Takeo Uesugi took an interest in the garden in 2005, recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the garden. He therefore volunteered to oversee the restoration, and the tea house was rebuilt. The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden is now a California Historical Landmark and a California Register of Historic Places.



► *Trisha Valmocena*

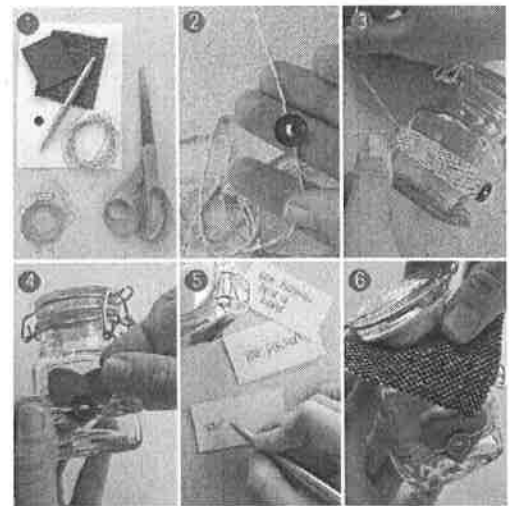
DIY Valentine's Day Crafts

Independent

Looking for a DIY gift that your loved ones will actually want? These pretty projects could not be more perfect for Valentine's Day.

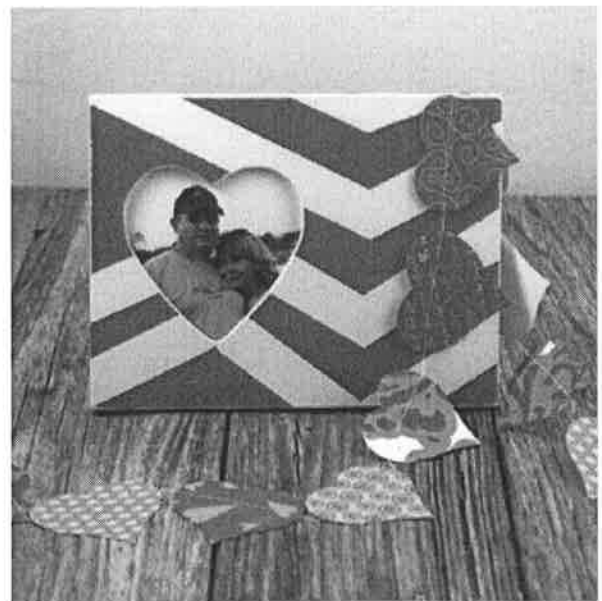
1. A jar of reasons why you love them

Decorate a small jar with ribbons, felt, and other decorative items. Wrap the jar with twine with a button in the middle. The button holds a heart shaped felt cut-out in place. Write reasons why you love and appreciate that person on small pieces of folded paper and put in the jar.



2. Personalized photo frame

Create a photo frame that you can't buy anywhere else. You can use paint, stickers, masking tape, ribbons, etc. Let your creativity go wild!



► Suha Kim

Horoscopes

Aries: A social event could bring a fascinating new someone, perhaps from a different culture, into your life, Aries. This person could end up talking to you for hours about a number of intriguing subjects that interest you both. You could meet some other interesting people as well, and some could become friends, but this person could well end up as a very close friend or romantic partner. Make sure you exchange phone numbers. Have fun!



Taurus: Are you falling for someone you know on the job, Taurus? If so, this person might invite you out, away from work. Some other people could be present, but this won't stop you from getting better acquainted and realizing that this relationship shows promise. The only problem is that you may have to keep it under your hat for a while, at least at work.



Gemini: Love and romance are first and foremost on your agenda for today, Gemini. You and your romantic partner may leave a gathering of friends to be alone together and talk. You communicate well, and the intense feelings between you could be obvious to both of you, and embarrassingly, to everyone who knows you. If you've been together for a while, talk of commitment or a wedding could come up. Enjoy your day.



Cancer: A festive event takes place in your home today, Cancer. Is it a family member's birthday? A lot of light-hearted banter takes place alongside intense discussions of deep subjects and stories of strange events occurring around the world. You might make plans for another such gathering at someone else's house. Love can blossom. Something about the evening has brought you and another closer together. Enjoy!



Leo: Your neighborhood is a busy place today, Leo. Perhaps a public gathering of some kind is happening, maybe social, political, or humanitarian in nature. A number of your friends should be there. You might drop by with your romantic partner, out of curiosity more than anything else. Stick around for a while. You could learn something and discover a cause that could mean a lot to you.



Virgo: Financially, things seem to be going great for you right now, Virgo, and therefore you could plan to make an investment in your home. If you already own one, you might decide to remodel or redecorate. If not, then you could just haunt realtors' offices for the next few weeks. This is a good time to turn your energy toward improving your own space. Go for it and have fun!



Libra: At this time, Libra, most of your focus is on either a group you're affiliated with or an intellectual subject in which you have an intense interest, or perhaps both! The arts, particularly writing and drawing, might be among these subjects. A number of your closest friends could share your interest, particularly a woman who lives nearby, so you can expect some exciting discussions over the next few days. Enjoy!



Scorpio: Today you might decide to spend much of your day alone at home, Scorpio, perhaps working on a creative project of some kind. Your intellect and imagination are operating at a high level, and a gathering of friends might have brought inspiration your way. This is actually a good day to make use of your artistic talent. Your insight and vision should give rise to some moving results. Work hard!



Sagittarius: Expect to be surrounded by genuine love and affection today, Sagittarius. Friends, family members, and a very special romantic partner could pay you far more attention than usual. A group activity or other social event could put both you and your beloved in touch with some interesting people who could become your friends. Much information will be exchanged, including the names and phone numbers of those who might prove to be important business contacts. Have fun!



Capricorn: Idealistic love could come your way today, Capricorn. This might involve a colleague or possibly someone in a group with which you're affiliated. It might even be someone you've never before considered as more than a friend. Whoever it is may seem to be too perfect to be true. Bear in mind that this is the first rush of infatuation, and that for romance to be successful you have to love a person's flaws as well.



Aquarius: Travel by air, perhaps in the company of some friends, could well be in the works for you, Aquarius. A group with which you're affiliated might want to take a trip together, perhaps to a place associated with artistic or spiritual traditions. Your romantic partner could accompany you as well, making it as much a romantic getaway as an adventure. Take plenty of money with you! Your friends will want to go to nice places.



Pisces: A lucky break could put you into a higher financial bracket than you were two days ago, Pisces. Career matters, perhaps those concerning the arts, could be involved in some way. You and your romantic partner will probably want to go out and celebrate your good fortune; however, make sure you don't overindulge. You'll want to feel absolutely fabulous tomorrow so you can continue to enjoy your success.



► Jane Lee

February 2018