

THE POINT

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NOVEMBER SECTION

Veteran's Day

By Ghadir Alsray

Veterans Day just passed, and it was as memorable as ever! If you don't know the interesting facts of this day, allow me to enlighten you.

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living and dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Veterans Day occurs on November 11th every year in the United States in honor of the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, that is why we had Thursday off this week!

The military men and women who serve and protect the United States come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities. We think of this day a celebration and day of honoring them!



Native American Heritage Month

By Cheyenne Pero

The month of November celebrates the heritage of Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, illuminating Indigenous culture and reflecting on traditional stories and contributions belonging to Natives. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush agreed to the joint resolution deeming November as National American Indian Heritage Month. Though, as we move forward, it is important we respect and recognize the politically *correct* way to address Indigenous peoples and their culture.

Native American Heritage Month emphasizes the value of Indigenous peoples' cultures, integrating emphasis on their music, ceremonies, dances, and practices. Their opinions on legislation in local governments (referred to as Tribal Government) are also critical beyond November.

As housing developments and cities expand, Indigenous lands are to be protected and acknowledged in these architectural decisions. Colonialism, the authority over a dependent land and its people, is an ongoing practice that threatens the sacred land of Native Americans. In the past, colonialism was executed through mass genocide of Indigenous tribes, ethnic cleansing (now commonly known *as white washing*), and removal by force. As we bring more awareness upon Native American culture, it is critical that we acknowledge even the harrowing facets to history and regard these violations moving forward. This could be accomplished through respectful compensation for Indigenous endeavors and educating ourselves on Native American culture.

The 2021 theme of Native American Heritage month is "*Gifts of Our Ancestors*", celebrating the cultures passed down throughout Indigenous bloodlines. To enlighten ourselves on Native American culture, this month showcases books like "*There There*" by Tommy Orange, "*Where the Dead Sit Talking*" by Brandon Hobson, and "*We Are Grateful: Otsaligeliga*" by Traci Sorell. People were also granted the opportunities to learn about Indigenous cultures through Microsoft Team discussions hosted by spokespeople of tribes such as Cherokee and Alaskan Natives. Another wonderful way to educate ourselves is through podcasts. "*Young and Indigenous*" on Spotify stands as an outlet to support Indigenous people, specifically pertaining to the Lummi community in Washington State.

As society emphasizes cultural awareness, it is critical we integrate and celebrate the beautiful cultures and traditions of Indigenous people, valuing and supporting efforts to redeem and protect their land, and educating ourselves to understand the true history behind Native Americans and colonialism. While the traumatic history of Indigenous people cannot be rewritten, we must not erase their contributions to America and remain negligent towards their culture. National Native American Heritage Month should continue to be celebrated with increasing emphasis.

Culinary Thanksgiving Luncheon

By Shaneece Griffiths

The holidays are here which means 'tis the season of giving back and giving thanks.

Poinciana's culinary team is certainly in the spirit of giving. Earlier this month the culinary students and Chef Alamo had a wonderful Thanksgiving luncheon for the teachers and staff of the school just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. The luncheon took place during lunches A and B. Food items like turkey, mashed potatoes, chicken, and vegetables were prepped and ready to go.

On Poinciana High School's Instagram page, a thank you post was made for everyone that participated in the prepping and serving of the luncheon. The caption read: "A big thank you to our amazing culinary students and Chef Alamo for prepping, preparing and serving our Staff Thanksgiving Luncheon yesterday, the food was absolutely delicious, and every student did an amazing job on hosting and serving."

Camila Marquez (12th grade) is one of the students that helped out at the luncheon. She said, "I really loved the experience because it gives you a feel for how real life is going to be and the class does help with much needed life skills."

However, the class does not only teach students how to make holiday meals. Over the course of multiple school years students have made things like sushi, pizza from scratch, different pastas and many more. Overall, we are lucky to have such a talented group of students that are willing to full the bellies of teachers, students, and staff at our school.



DECEMBER SECTION

Christmas

By Janaya Barrett

Christmas is a Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Not only is it observed by Christians, but many non-Christians celebrate it as well.

Many Christmas traditions start on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is celebrated because Jesus is traditionally thought to have been born at midnight. Traditions include making gingerbread houses, baking, watching Christmas movies, and telling stories about the birth of Jesus.

When celebrating Christmas, people decorate trees with ornaments, attend church services, exchange gifts, as well as spend the day with family and friends. Gifts are given to show the love and appreciation one has for another. Giving gifts is symbolic to the presentation of gifts given to baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men.

Christmas serves as a reminder for why we come together: to spread joy and happiness to everyone whether you know them or not. It reminds us to cherish every moment we have with our loved ones and to be thankful for the time that we do have with them.

We can spread Christmas joy to others by donating gifts to the underprivileged children and helping volunteer. On this Christmas, help others enjoy their day by doing little things to bring them cheer.



New Years Resolutions

By Cheyenne Pero

Trivialities have occurred one after the other for the past two years, to the extent that resolutions seemed ineffective, especially if the circumstances revolving around us are unchangeable. With the COVID-19 pandemic hitting in the beginning of 2020, the next months were unpredictable. Graduations, concerts, vacations, amongst other events were postponed or cancelled, and educational institutions had to alter methods of learning. Throughout 2021, with the vaccines enabling most things to return to normal, it seemed we were all trying to find our ground again. But the transition back into what we're used to can't reverse all the losses endured in the past two years.

As 2021 comes to an end, many families are moving forward with a hole in their hearts, an empty seat in their homes, and an unseeable future lying ahead. Students are weary of their educational plans being stomped on by another spontaneous tragedy, and many people are reluctant to make plans with the threat of a sudden change happening.

But New Year's resolutions have always been a staple of hope, even if only providing the smallest fraction of it. Resolutions, a withstanding tradition, involves committing to a beneficial goal, whether it be personal or influential. Most people opt to diet or exercise, while others try to change their perspectives on life to improve their mental health. Of course, there is no limit on how many resolutions we can set for ourselves, though the challenge lies in enforcing them into our lifestyle and sticking with them. However, with the past two years clouding our expectations, resolutions for 2022 may look entirely different from what we're used to.

According to *BetterHumans*, "to adopt new behaviors, you need to let go of past ones." As we enter a new year, leaving old habits in the past is a great suggestion towards building a better future for yourself. If you continue to view occurrences in your life from a negative perspective, you are concurrently threatening your mental health. Persevering from an ostensibly dark era, it isn't a surprise that many people intend to construct a more positive approach to various facets of their lives. While instantly changing or preventing the negative things that happen to you isn't always plausible, altering the way you handle them can help to improve your mindset, eliminate unnecessary frustrations, and deem you more prepared for any other challenge that may await.

With a new year, a new facet of life awaits. There is plenty to look forward to, such as graduations for Class 2022, new opportunities, and perhaps a brighter future beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Although many may not find importance in New Years' resolutions, it isn't entirely futile to attempt setting goals that have the potential to help you in becoming the person you wish to be.

Trivia Night

By Arelise Vasquez

The Student Government at Poinciana High School hosted their very first Trivia Night! The night consisted of food, games, music, for the price of one dollar! A special shout to English teacher Mr. Malfara, who puts in effort to ensure all grades enjoy their after-school activities to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Trivia

There are no limits to the trivia genres, which give everyone a wide range of questions and answers, bringing a community of different personalities together. While the event is after-school, questions must be school-related. Mr. Malfara creatively incorporated outside genres with whom we think the staff and administration at Poinciana High School would fit best. Questions such as: “Who’s favorite artist or favorite movie” with clips of the songs or movies played to then transition to normal questions such as: “Who played Darth Vader in Star Wars?”



Teams

The teams consist of two or more people. Students were given the option to join a group once they arrived or came with a crew. This allowed students to create new friendships whether they came with a crew or solo.

Winter Trivia Night

The first Trivia Night was a success, and the promotion was so eye-catching that the Student Government was able to host their second night of fun in celebration of Christmas time and winter break. Excitingly, the crowd grew and a lot more students were able to experience the fun. Such success will leave Poinciana High School hosting trivia nights for more generations to come.

The Trivia Mission: “Trivia, a time to unwind, build, bond and have fun!” — Mr. Malfara.

Choral Winter Concert

By Janaya Barrett



Our Poinciana High School Chorus team put on a Wacky Tacky Winter Concert to celebrate the holidays coming up. Directed by Mx. Cintron, choirs performed songs they learned during the semester and showcased it to friends, family, and students.

The choirs opened the show by singing “*A Wacky Family Christmas*” while also joining in on a Christmas carol: “*Merry Christmas to you all*”, conducted by Marquise Nivose.

“*Carol of the Bells*” was conducted by Yesenia Artiles while other students transitioned on stage to perform. Cintron’s 6th period choir sang “*O Sing Out, Be Joyful!*” by Patrick M. Liebergen. This song featured seniors Emily Chestnut and Alexa Dominguez on the flute.

The traditional Christmas carol “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” was conducted by Shyann Kamrath. PHS choir member, Princess Cherenfant said, “Singing this song was great and Shyann did a good job conducting!”

“*Snow on a Moonlight*” was then performed by 5th period. A group of selected students performed “*Stille Nacht*”, German for Silent Night, which was conducted by Emilisa Josile. Period 4 performed “*A La Nanita Nana*”, a familiar song that brought back memories from the Disney Channel movie, Cheetah Girls. They also performed A Jubilant Christmas. Joined with them was 3rd period while singing “*On My Way*”. A song African American slaves sung on the journey to freedom. Jania Barrett said, “I believe the concert was good and it showed the dedication to learning and reading music.”

Last but not least, 3rd period sang “*Love Came Down At Christmas*” before closing out the concert with a joyful song called “*Holiday Road*.”

Chorus students have worked extremely hard on every piece brought to the concert and every minute was enjoyed by the people who came out and showed support.

ATHLETICS

Girls Varsity Soccer

By Arelise Vasquez

Poinciana High School takes pride in “*repping the P*”, and the girls’ soccer team is a prime example. The girls on the team execute great sportsmanship, teamwork and dedication. Throughout the season, they are faced with great challenges, but it is their effort that triumphs in the face of adversity.

The team is diverse, welcoming all students willing to put forth the grit to succeed together all season. Practice is from 3pm-5pm every day after school, consisting of various workouts for agility, stamina and tactics.

Coach Logan and Coach G put their all into this program each year to leave students with a lasting impact. The program allows girls to be themselves, work hard, play hard and overall have fun. Life skills, such as time management and remembering the “Student” in “Student Athlete” comes first. Prioritizing academics to illuminate the students inside the classroom and out on the field is critical.

“The Girls varsity soccer team is an opportunity to create new friendships, build life skills and give an escape for students seeking a place to feel at peace, comfort aside from being in the classroom.” - Girls Varsity Soccer.

