

THE POINT

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Homecoming Spirit Week

By Janaya Barrett

As we start off the 2nd quarter with the Homecoming Spirit Week, many students got to express their personalities through the different themes.

The exciting week started off with character day, where students dressed up as individual characters and even grouped up with other students. Students dressed up as characters such as Barnacle Boy and Mermaid Man, Spider-Man, Alvin and the Chipmunks, and Dora.

PHS student Judith Nieves dressed up as Disney Channel's Kim Possible. She says, "Kim Possible wasn't my first option, but once I realized I had everything I needed to be her, I pieced it all together and it turned out amazing."

Tuesday was athletic day and the crowd filled up with students wearing their favorite jerseys. Wednesday was decades day and outfits ranged from the 50s-90s. The freshman class represented the 50s, while sophomores were the 70s, juniors were the 80s, and the senior class represented the 90s. Many different styles from back in the day were worn.

The spirit week theme for Thursday was grunge vs preppy.

Asia Connor dressed as preppy but says "My favorite day of spirit week was character day because it was so fun to walk inside school and see all the crazy characters. It was like a surprise each period I went to."



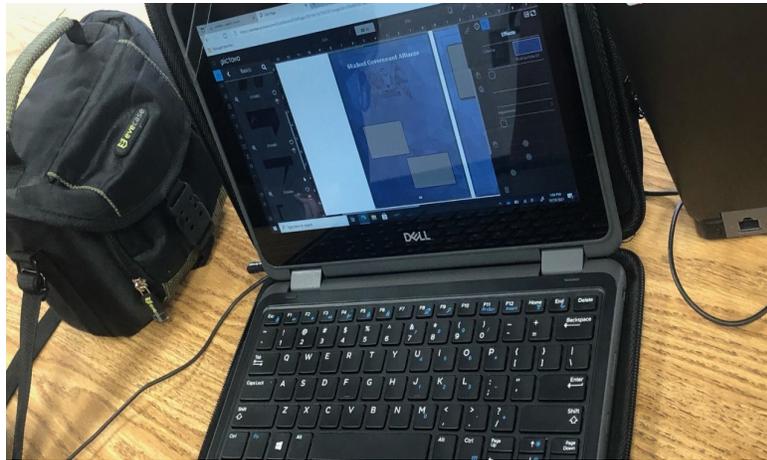
To end this exciting week, the theme for Friday was class colors. Each class was separated by colors for the pep rally. Our freshman class dressed in red, sophomores dressed in navy blue, junior dressed in white, while seniors dressed in all black.

Homecoming week is a fun way to encourage school spirit and culture. It also allows us to celebrate our football team before the homecoming game on Friday. With the participation of many students it creates unity on campus.



One-to-One

By Arelise Vasquez



Poinciana High School is introducing a familiar form of learning, bringing back memories to when the pandemic began in 2020, leaving many students online for a year.

This year, the students at PHS are receiving their very own laptops. This method is anticipated to create a smoother process of turning in and receiving schoolwork. These personal laptops are not only encouraged to be used during technology classes but for all.

The administrators and teachers have come together to create a plan on the submissions of schoolwork throughout the rest of the year.

The students of Poinciana High have opinions that surprisingly differ from administration and teachers. Here are two students who have given their input when asked if the method was a positive or negative move, or a mix between pros and cons.

Generally, students can agree that the concept is a fantastic idea but that it also had its cons. Sofia Guillama, a PHS Senior, expressed that this new form of learning can lead towards more “distractions” and pave ways for “dishonesty” when submitting work. She also stated, “there is a possibility of compromising “basic forms” of learning like writing or manual math.”

Though, these cons are to take into consideration, there is a bright side to the movement and another of our PHS Seniors comes to agree.

12th grader Jamie’s Miranda Guzman says, “These laptops are creating a lenient system that works for students and teachers, in specifically classes that require research and personal devices.”

While the one-to-one system brings in an aspect to learning that students are both used to and unfamiliar with, we are inevitably adapting to the universal dependence on technology.

OCTOBER SECTION

Halloween Horror Nights

By Shaneece Griffiths



It is that time of year again: Spooky Season! This means Halloween decorations, pumpkin carving, new Halloween shows and movies, and of course, annual Halloween events.

Halloween Horror Nights (HHN) at Universal Studios is the most anticipated annual Halloween event in all the state of Florida. People from all over travel to Central Florida to witness the horrors of Universal's most terrifying and most talked about event.

After being canceled last year due to Covid-19, HHN decided to step up their game just in time for its 30th anniversary, bringing reoccurring faces like Jack the Clown, and well-known names like Beetlejuice and The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

This year there are ten terror-stricken haunted houses with Netflix's The Haunting of Hill House, The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, and Beetlejuice just to name a few; along with five frightening scare zones including Gorewood Forest, HHN's personal zone *30 years 30 fears* and YouTube's most horrifying channel Crypt TV.

Junior, Grace Garrison said, "It was really fun I was being chased around by many chainsaws guys and I would have to say that my favorite attraction was the Texas Chainsaw Massacre haunted house."

Halloween Horror Nights will be opened for selected nights from September to October. But remember: ***Never Go Alone!***

Mental Health Awareness Month

By Arelise Vasquez

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, students at Poinciana High express how schools can encourage mindfulness towards the mental health of others within their classrooms.

It is clear, high school students are no longer children but blossoming young adults. A self-finding journey towards the beginning of adulthood is a ball wind of emotions and sacrifice, many adults should understand. There are multiple factors that play within mental health, the biggest being school. The load of academics along with personal situations that unfold throughout the school year can leave students begging for a mental break.

An experiment was done interviewing a few students. Four students in the same grade with a different academic performance level expressed their perspectives on what should be implemented and what is already being used. Students taking regular or honors courses, shared a common view on the necessity of “Building connections, understanding what’s going on in their life, and creating a system that allows students to express how they feel, molding a welcoming/ Safe environment.” (Brandon Fraticeli, 12th Grade).

Both students in the same leveled class agreed that their second period teacher has already begun to implement those tactics, placing a positive outcome on their English class and great impact on their mental health.

Daniel Cotto, PHS senior stated, ”From time to time, we’re asked how we are feeling, how our week has been, showing that he genuinely cares. If all teachers would implement that, I feel as though students would be able to talk about how they feel without judgement.”

It was mentioned that there should be check points teachers offer. There should be a balance between school and home. Speaking in real world terms, businesses have their operating hours. CEOs and managers have their contact hours, as well as schools and the teachers within them. The same concept should apply to students.

Students are sat in a classroom hammered with work for seven to eight hours a day, with an expectation to finish homework, classwork if there wasn’t enough time, and to then perform for any after school activity and come home to responsibilities. Not to mention, many students are assigned work to complete over weekends.

“AP teachers have learned to be more considerate and include mental health chats along with times to unwind because there is a fair understanding of how rigorous the courses are,” says Karina Marero, 12th grade. Students like Marero have also stressed, unwinding can also be a dangerous act. It becomes harder to recover from the work load and discourages you from continuing.

PHS Senior, Evangeline Cuadrado expressed the priority of mental health is in fact a “10”; “Without a great mental state, you are unable to perform and be the best version of you.”

There are students crying out for a mental break! It starts with the students, teachers and staff at Poinciana High School to create a change for this generation and many more generations to come!

STUDENT SECTION

Homecoming Dance

By Cheyenne Pero

After an eventful spirit week filled with thrilling events and activities, Poinciana High School capped it all off with the Homecoming Dance. Themed *Back in Black*, students dressed in semi-formal attire and rendezvoused in the decorated cafeteria from 7-10pm.

The event included food and drinks, a photo-booth sponsored by PHS's Journalism team, and an enthusiastic DJ who interacted wonderfully with the crowd. Students from all grades enjoyed a night put together with help from the Student Government and staff sponsors. The team worked together diligently the day before to bedeck the cafeteria with balloons, dangling stars, and clear plenty of space for the dancefloor.



“The dance was pretty fun,” says Jaleina Torres, a PHS senior. “Personally, the highlight of it was being able to hang out, dance, and take pictures with my friends!”

Plenty of anticipation regarded who would be voted for Homecoming Court. The chosen students of all classes were announced during Friday's Pep Rally, while the Homecoming King and Queen were crowned during the football game that evening.

While the event only lasted three hours, it was a wonderful opportunity for students to interact with one another in a more liberating atmosphere.

STUDENT SECTION

Pep Rally

By Janaya Barrett

To close out spirit week, PHS ended the school day with a pep rally. As each grade level was called down, the Poinciana High School band played as cheerleaders danced.

Our cheerleaders showed their school spirit with a performance to get the crowd wild. Their performance included a cheer, many stunts, and a dance. Principal Schwarz recognized our fall sports such as volleyball, cross country, golf, and our football team before a game of tug of war.

Underclassmen went up against each other and with the strength of our sophomore, they beat the freshman. Upperclassman went against each other and surprisingly juniors won against the seniors.

The pep rally is a way to get football players and students excited for the homecoming game while also celebrating the end of the first quarter. PHS freshman Sephora Charles says, “my favorite part about the pep rally was the band and the school spirit. For my first time it was very good and I’d go again.”

Homecoming court winners were announced as well as nominees for King and Queen. The Homecoming Lord and Lady for 9th grade is Samuel Monjica and Leyandra Lowe. 10th grade Duke and Duchess were Terrance Boland and Valeria Ocampo. The junior Prince and Princess were Seth Mcworter and Victoria Ramos.

This years pep rally encouraged more school spirit for our sports teams. We ended the pep rally off with the dismissal of each grade and the band playing.



ELECTIVES

The AVID Program

By Cheyenne Pero

Poinciana High School is a proud AVID demonstration school, encouraging exactly what the program stands for: Advancement via Individual Determination. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors alike are eligible to join the program teaching skills and practices that will assist students throughout secondary school and life beyond education.

Students benefit from AVID by “learning skills that will enhance their retention,” says Mrs. Holt, one of the three AVID teachers in PHS. “They learn how to be organized, how to write well, how to mark texts when reading in order to retain information, and they learn how to think and question at a deeper level.”

AVID has celebrated the success of many students. The course, which can be taken for four years, enables opportunities such as college campus tours and guidance meetings for the students. This can help shape and influence the decisions students make for their future, for instance, what path they want to take after high school.

With AVID, students learn test-taking strategies that will prepare them for critical exams, such as the SAT and ACT. They are taught how to write essays within the frame of time assigned, and how to determine the meaning of words in a text, along with how to use them to answer questions. These skills are pivotal in succeeding and receiving great scores that colleges will consider. The engagement in the program itself also makes students look suitable for colleges in their applications.

“The curriculum involves skills that students need yet some don’t have access to,” says Ms. Ide, an AVID teacher. “I want to help prepare students for not only a path to a four-year college after high school, but with getting those necessary skills that AVID offers.”

Along with Mrs. Holt and Ms. Ide, Ms. Haderle works to ensure that her AVID students are taught the skills they’ll need to prosper in high school and in their endeavors after graduation.

“Ms. Haderle has taught me a lot,” states PHS senior Valeria Brown. “She taught me how to move forward in my future, as secondary education is my goal. I’ve learned so much about college, how to be a better person, and how to manage myself—which is the whole point of AVID. She reminds us to follow what we want to do and not what others say.”

If you are setting the goal to apply yourself more to education and your future, AVID is the perfect program to look into. The course will prepare you for critical tests, studying strategies, and for life entirely. With help from our three dedicated AVID teachers, Poinciana High School is proud to continue promoting the success of students through their individual determination.

