

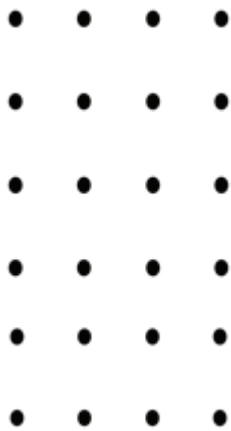
Peninsula Heritage Connects

Peninsula Heritage School Newsletter



April/May 2023

Peninsula Heritage School's
CHARACTER QUALITIES:
Caring, Attitude, Respect,
Gratitude, Perseverance, and
Self-Control. Hint: Remember
as CAR, GPS!



Spring brings Earth Day, National Poetry Day, and additional opportunities for PHS students in cultural understanding, creative art, and literary experiences!

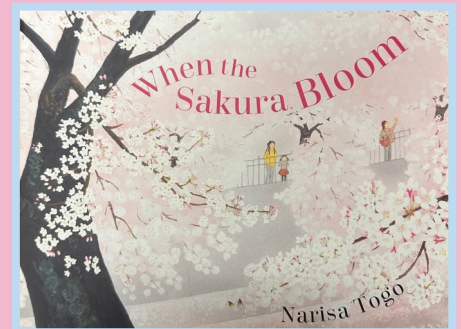
Taking full advantage of the season, our Fifth Graders drew inspiration from the book *When the Sakura Bloom* by Narisa Togo (photo below), which details the Japanese cultural festival of Sakura in which youth and adults celebrate the exquisite beauty of pink cherry blossoms. The brief period of blooming is followed by new, green buds turning into the trees' leaves.

With the direction of Fifth Grade Teacher Mrs. Kimarie Lynn, the students created two art projects. Using various shades of pink tissue paper, these young artists fashioned branches of pink cherry blossoms (above) and then expressed their impressions of this botanical beauty through Japanese haiku poetry. Among the many examples written, one student composed the following: "Cherry blossom trees, Their leaves blowing through the wind, New leaves sprout within."



The Fifth Graders also enjoyed another project in which they created an abstract work of cherry blossom branches (left). In this unique process, the students placed large drops of ink on the bottom portion of each of their papers. With a drinking straw, the children blew the ink toward the top of the paper, creating the black branches. Then, dipping the crowns of fresh broccoli florets into pink and white tempera paint, the students filled the branches with abstract cherry blossoms.

Thank you, Fifth Graders and Mrs. Lynn, for bringing spring into your classroom and sharing your talents with our PHS community through the cherry blossom art in your class's windows!



Yeehaw! Our PHS **Third Graders** recently enjoyed a learning-packed experience at **Rawhide Ranch** in Bonsall, San Diego County.

Arriving on Wed., April 12, these Third Grade ranchers were introduced to the art and science of managing livestock and companion animals. They also learned the basics of Western riding and were paired with their horse!

Horseback riding lessons began with mounting and dismounting on a wooden practice horse as well learning to control their steed with verbal and non-verbal signals. Their riding experience also included introductory vaulting—gymnastics on horseback—first on practice horses and then on (slowly) moving horses!

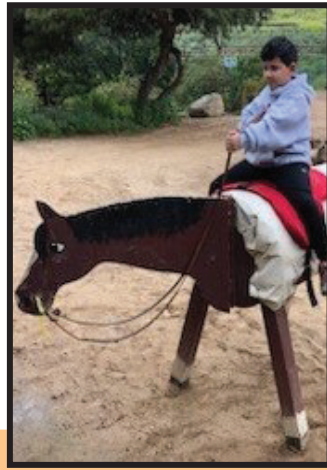
The Rawhide Ranch experience also included feeding, watering, and cleaning not only their horses, but also sheep and goats. These junior ranchers enjoyed archery lessons, sleeping in cabins, and strengthening bonds with classmates.

In the following days back at PHS, the Third Graders expressed their insights into the Rawhide Ranch experience through written reflective essays addressed to themselves.

“Congratulations!” one student wrote to himself. “I will never forget the way you pushed through the fear of vaulting and rock climbing.”

Another Third Graders reflected, “I am proud of you for pushing the limits by doing the rock wall even though you are scared of heights.”

These experiences and insights echo the ongoing value of Peninsula Heritage School’s Outdoor Education program!



What’s Happening Next?

Mon., Apr. 24—Fri., Apr. 28—8th Gr. Washington, DC trip

Tues., May 2—Last day for Early Bird Summer “Fun ‘N’ Games Camp” Discount!

Mon., May 8—Fri., May 12—Teacher Appreciation Week

Fri., May 12—Kindergarten & Gr. 1 Character Qualities Assembly, 9:30 AM; All parents welcomed!

Wed., May 17—Student Talent Show begins at 10:30 AM; Students, See Mr. Miller to participate!

Fri., May 19—Middle School Dance, 2:00 PM

Mon., May 22—Thurs., May 25—Gr. 4 through Gr. 8, Standardized Testing; Regular school hours

Fri., May 26—NO SCHOOL; Teacher Inservice

Mon., May 29—NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day Observed

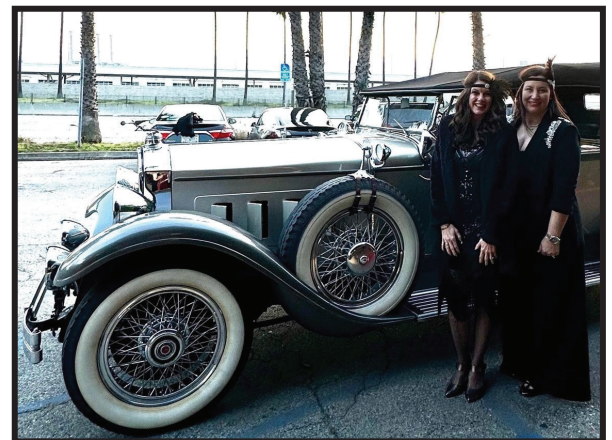
Wed., June 7—Field Day; All grades on campus

Thurs., June 8—NOON DISMISSAL; Moving Up Day; Last day of school for 2022-2023 academic year

Fri., June 9—8th Gr. Graduation; 10:30 am; Main campus

Mon., June 19—Summer “Fun ‘N’ Games Camp begins

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 Sending a sincere PHS **THANK YOU** to Gala Co-Chairs Audra Hoynacki and Jen Clinton and all parent volunteers for March 4th’s fabulous 1920s-themed “Flingala 2023” dinner and live auction!



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 Peninsula Heritage Connects
 Designed & Written by Joan E. Behrens



Mr. Lechuga: Coding Teacher, Math Teacher, & PHS Director of Technology

As with many of our Peninsula Heritage School faculty and staff, Mr. Jason Lechuga wears numerous hats on both of our campuses!

His preparation for these roles dates back to early childhood when he was surrounded by computers and computer parts, as his father was a computer technician for many years with the Palos Verdes school district. Mr. Lechuga’s gentle and focused skills in working with students in Kindergarten through the 8th Grade were honed while employed part-time in the district’s after-care program while he attended college. After earning certifications with CompTIA in A+ and N+, Jason worked for four years in the IT department at PV Peninsula High, managing his own school lab, plus three Mac labs, four PC labs, and hundreds of devices.

Here at Peninsula Heritage School, Jason teaches coding to all students, Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Younger students work on iPads while older students use Chromebooks, with all grades utilizing the Tynker coding platform. This approach enables students to be fully engaged and to successfully progress through specific levels within the various courses of the program. Older students bring a wider variety of coding experience, and Tynker enables Middle Schoolers to learn the Python programming language as well as create their own computer games.

Mr. Lechuga is also one of the Middle School math teachers. Since PHS offers various levels of mathematics, Jason joins with Mr. Ahn, Mrs. Judd, and Mrs. Behrens in providing various levels of Middle School math. In thinking back over the last few years, Mr. Lechuga recalls that he has taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II classes.

Another of Mr. Lechuga’s key roles at PHS is Director of Technology. In this capacity, he assists with any technology needs from a malfunctioning printer to managing the school’s router and server. Recently, he directed the school’s change-over of email and active directory to Microsoft’s cloud service. In instances when a system may be down or other challenges arise, Jason remains very calm and finds it extremely gratifying to “solve really tough problems.”

Thank you Mr. Lechuga for sharing your considerable mathematical and technological expertise with all of us at PHS!



Peninsula Heritage School will be participating in the PV Library District’s “Doors Open Peninsula” on Saturday, June 17, 2023. The community is invited to tour our school and learn about PHS and the history of our buildings, dating back prior to our school’s 1976 purchase of this property.

For instance, the first structure was an “L” shaped building (left), constructed in 1950 that first served as the Rolling Hills Primary School. This is currently PHS’s 5th Grade, 4th Grade, and Office buildings.

We’ll be sharing further historical updates in coming issues!

SUMMER FUN N' GAMES CAMP



at
**Peninsula
Heritage School**

June 19 – August 18
8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Ages 5–15 Years Old

Join the Fun!

Our camp provides a safe, confidence building space for children to learn and enhance their team-building and problem-solving skills.



Campers have fun both inside and outdoors with activities that include a multitude of **games, water play, ice cream breaks**, and more!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER

www.peninsulaheritage.org/community/summercamp

26944 Rolling Hills Road, Rolling Hills Estates
(310) 541 – 4795



Click the QR code above to view our video of PHS "Summer Fun N' Games Camp"!

Access our website (see left) to register for Summer Camp!

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April/May 2023

Peninsula Heritage School

Kindergarten—8th Grade

Phone 310.541.4795

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Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

