

# Peninsula Heritage Connects

Peninsula Heritage School Newsletter



Sept./Oct. 2023

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



What is orange, exciting, tasty, and highly anticipated each fall by PHS students? It's the annual **PHS Harvest Fair**, coming to our main campus on **Saturday, October 21, 2023**, and presented by the PHS Parent Association (PA) and our wonderful parent volunteers!

"We're looking forward to welcoming our PHS students, families, and extended families," invites PA Co-Presidents Jen Gregorio-Clinton and Audra Hoynacki. "We have a number of new features this year and, of course, many of the old favorites!"

Among the inaugural Harvest Fair items will be The Habit catering truck, bringing its grilled goodness to burgers and fries! Another feature is the teen zone in the Courtyard, with ping-pong, lawn activities including cornhole toss, and board games, giving students in 6th Grade through alumni a place to gather and enjoy.

Returning with a new name honoring its baker extraordinaire (and former PHS teacher and parent), Mrs. Janice DeMarti, will be 'Janice's Country Kitchen' filled with delectable goodies.

The day will kick-off with our traditional Alumni Breakfast at 10:30 AM in the Courtyard. All alumni are cordially invited to attend and reconnect with fellow alums and PHS teachers. Please be sure to RSVP! With their wristbands, alumni can join with Harvest Fair attendees and enjoy all that Harvest Fair offers this year including:

- The ever-popular Cake Walk
- Giant Slide and inflatable sports games
- Traditional games in the Amphitheater
- Popcorn, cotton candy, and face painting
- DJ sending out tunes throughout the day
- Water balloon toss and field games
- The Pumpkin Patch

"This day is designed for having good, old-fashioned fun, and we're excited to have this year's newly designed Harvest Fair t-shirts for all students! No separate tickets needed; once you enter and receive your wristband, the day is yours! Play the games as often as you like and enjoy, enjoy, enjoy!" concludes Jen Gregorio-Clinton.

*Tickets are available with the form at <https://www.peninsulaheritage.org/community/harvestfair> until October 13th, or purchase the wristband at the entrance to Harvest Fair on 10/21/23!*



**Saturday, October 21, 2023**  
Alumni Breakfast from 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Harvest Fair from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

After the Alumni Breakfast, enjoy Harvest Fair and a burger from The Habit, all complimentary!

**Please RSVP**

(310) 541-4795  
[jbehrens@peninsulaheritage.org](mailto:jbehrens@peninsulaheritage.org)



We welcome **Coach Taylor Costin** who joins the PHS faculty this fall as Athletic Director, bringing with him 12 years experience in private school physical education instruction. A native of the San Fernando Valley, Coach Costin graduated from Cleveland High School and Cal. State University, Northridge and earned a master's degree from American College of Education.

"These are my biceps," declared a proud Kindergartener, "And these are my abs," joined in his classmate as they proudly demonstrated their new-found knowledge learned in Coach Costin's PE class.

Taylor teaches Kindergarten through 8th Grade students and begins his classes with 10 minutes of warm-up laps and stretching. He emphasizes skill development in a game-based approach and ensures that teams and groups are equitable, within the students' range of skills.

Since his parents have been Dodger season ticket holders for many years, Taylor has attended Opening Day every year (except for the Covid year) since he was four months old! He pursued his love of baseball, playing from Little League through high school, and he remains an avid Dodger fan!

Look for upcoming sign-ups for Coach Costin's After-School Sports program!

Alumnus **Aaron Mearns** (PHS Class of 2016) continues his musical journey, initially ignited here at Peninsula Heritage School.

One of the offerings in the Middle School's elective wheel is "Genius Hour," in which students select a project they wish to complete. Aaron decided to learn to play the cello. Beginning with online lessons and a rented cello, he soon studied with a private teacher and continued playing cello with several groups at Vistamar School. Aaron is now majoring in computer science at Loyola Marymount University and is currently spending more time playing bass. He is also composing music for game designers and others through his online business. With several internships, Aaron is exploring careers in either the music industry or technology.



## What's Happening Next?

Wed., Oct. 4 through Fri., Oct. 6—5th Grade Outdoor Education trip

Wed., Oct 4 through Fri., Oct 6—8th Grade Outdoor Education trip

Wed., Oct. 11 through Fri., Oct. 13—7th Grade Outdoor Education trip

Sat., Oct. 21—Alumni Breakfast at Harvest Fair, 10:30—11:00 AM; RSVP to [jbehrens@peninsulaheritage.org](mailto:jbehrens@peninsulaheritage.org)

Sat., Oct. 21—Traditional Harvest Fair/School Carnival, 11:00 AM—3:00 PM; Games, Rides, Lunch—The Habit

Tues., Oct. 31—All-School Assembly, 8:20 AM, presented by the Second Grade; Character Quality: Self-Control; all PHS parents and grandparents invited!

Tues., Oct. 31—Halloween Parade

Tues., Oct. 31—Noon Dismissal

Wed., Nov. 1—Pajama Day, All Grades

Tues., Nov. 14—Phonathon for Annual Giving

Fri., Nov. 17—Grandparents/Special Friends Day 8:30—12:00 Noon; 8:30 AM, All-School Assembly

Mon., Nov. 20—Fri., Nov. 24—NO SCHOOL; Teacher In-Service/ Thanksgiving Break

Tues., Nov. 28—Giving Tuesday for PHS Annual Giving

Fri., Dec. 15—Final Day of 100 Days of PHS Annual Giving

Mon., Dec. 18—Tues., Jan. 2—Winter Break; School resumes on Wed., Jan. 3

# Book Buddies and The PHS Library!



The buzz of excitement in the School Library was palpable on September 7th as parents participated in PHS's first-ever **Book Buddies** event. This new program at Back to School Night significantly increased our Library's collection of

reading choices for our students, as parents purchased and donated the new volumes beautifully displayed on Library tables.

Adding to the ambiance of this event was a generously designed charcuterie board with beverages, selected by our Parent Association. Attendees enjoyed visiting with other parents and staff while also selecting books to first share with their families and then donate to the Library.

"We are extremely grateful to our parents for these lovely new additions to our Library," relates PHS Librarian, Mrs. Kat Bañales, "as this allows more choices within the literary genres." During this past summer, she reorganized the Library so that books are now divided and shelved by genres.

"For example," continues Mrs. B, as she is called by students, "in this 'genrification' system, we've divided Fiction into the subcategories of Adventure, Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Realistic Fiction, Science Fiction, Spooky, and Sports." Mrs. B has seen a marked increase in actual reading in the Library, as students can easily search for an interesting book based on their own personal interests.

As School Librarian, Mrs. B. welcomes each PHS class once per week for its Library Time, which begins with a song or movement activity for the younger students, followed by Mrs. B's read-aloud, which is centered on the Character Quality or theme for the month. The children then proceed to a hands-on activity associated with that day's lesson in the read-aloud, with time set aside to select books for personal reading. Older students follow approximately the same format during their Library Time, with a longer component of discussion after Mrs. B's read-aloud selection. This well-designed period in the Library is an additional aspect of the PHS curriculum that is designed to enhance each student's ability and appreciation for reading and for literature of all different genres.



**Mr. Jason Lechuga**, (left) PHS Director of Technology and math/coding teacher, with the computer that he and last year's Middle School students constructed during "Genius Hour." Starting with a discussion of all parts of a computer and their uses, students worked within a budget to theoretically design their own computer.

Later, in conversation with Ms. Shirley Omori and her computer needs in the School Office, the class selected the actual parts, ordered the materials, and built the computer at left, complete with RGB lights to give a rainbow effect. It is now being happily utilized by Ms. Omori.

Taking this knowledge home, one of the class's students worked with his father last summer and built his own computer—another product of PHS's hands-on learning!



This year's **Annual Report** will be arriving in your mailbox! The publication thanks each participant in last year's **Annual Giving Fund** and includes a Giving Envelope, inviting participation in this year's Annual Giving. Please join us in reaching our goal of 100% parent participation in 100 days, concluding on December 15, 2023.

In addition, this report includes articles from individuals in the PHS community sharing why they "Value Peninsula Heritage School."

We invite all recipients of this Annual Report to take a few minutes, relax, and enjoy this publication, which exemplifies so much of what is PHS!



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 Peninsula Heritage School  
 Kindergarten—8th Grade  
 Phone 310.541.4795  
 26944 Rolling Hills Road  
 Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

