

Peninsula Heritage Connects

Peninsula Heritage School Newsletter



Oct./Nov. 2023

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

Families come in different sizes and configurations, and one of the most unique families that our PHS students enjoy is their **Care Family**. The ten PHS Care Families include one or two students from each grade, for a total of 10 to 14 students in each family.

These Care Families are designed to build cohesion and strengthen feelings of community across the grades. Students establish friendships with older and younger students, which provide a sense of trust and security on campus. This configuration also enhances leadership and mentoring skills with the older students, while offering role models for younger pupils.

Our school calendar provides opportunities for our Care Families to meet together for specific events. This fall, a Halloween activity was enjoyed by the students, which will be followed by a Thanksgiving feast in November.

"I like the time that I spend with my Care Family," relates an 8th Grader, "as I can really get to know younger students and build strong friendships."

The children begin a Care Family event by gathering with their family members in an assigned classroom. They select a book for read-aloud time, which is led by an 8th Grader, followed by a craft project related to the event's theme. Seeing an older student patiently and kindly assisting a Kindergartner with a craft confirms the immense value of our Care Families for all PHS students!

THANK YOU

to the Co-Presidents of PHS Parent Assoc.,
Committee Chairs, Parent Volunteers,
Trustees, Staff, & All Attendees for Making
HARVEST FAIR 2023 such a Huge Success!





This fall, we welcomed **Gracie Edler**, a PHS alumna, as the Associate Teacher working with Mrs. Mahoney in 6th Grade. Gracie graduated from PV Peninsula High School and Cal. Poly, San Luis Obispo with a degree in History and Psychology. Gracie is a published author with her research

focused on post colonialism.

She is currently enrolled at Loyola Marymount University in the Masters program in Clinical Psychology, where she is also on the Council for the Graduate Students in Counseling Association and works managing social media for LMU's School of Education.

Following her college graduation, Gracie volunteered with City Year AmeriCorps as a 3rd Grade Associate Teacher in an elementary school in Watts. Here she gained experience in all aspects of classroom instruction and mentoring. In her free time, Gracie volunteers as an online Crisis Counselor for the Trevor Project.

Here at PHS, she enjoys the current 6th Grade class, noting that, "I love the energy in the classroom—from both the students and the teachers. The children are passionate, highly creative, and love doing their own research projects."

Personally, Gracie grew up in Palos Verdes and has been part of the community her whole life, from sports to school to organizations. She is the oldest of four children (all PHS alums), and these siblings remain very close, no matter their age differences.

When asked about working at PHS, Gracie replies with a smile, "I'm proud to be back!"



Ms. Edler was very pleased to see our new office volunteer, **Mrs. Margaret Benson**, here on campus. Mrs. Benson formerly worked at PV Peninsula High School when Ms. Edler was a student. The two became very good friends, and in her senior year Ms. Edler created an amazing portrait of the two (see photo at right) for Mrs. Benson, complete with a lovely note to Margaret penned on the back of the picture. Mrs. Benson recently brought the treasured portrait to PHS to share again with Ms. Edler.

We are very pleased to have Mrs. Benson join us, as she assists with projects in both the school office and the PHS Library. Thank you, Mrs. Benson!

What's Happening Next?

Wed., Nov. 1—Fri., Nov. 3—Outdoor Education, 4th Grade

Sat., Nov. 4, Midnight—Move to Standard Time (Fall back one hour)

Sun., Nov. 5—PHS Running Club participating in Champions for Children 5K Trail Run, Ernie Howlett Park, RHE, 8:00 AM. Look for our PHS booth!

Fri., Nov. 10—There will be school. (Veterans Day is Sat., Nov. 11, 2023)

Wed., Nov. 15—"Learn About PHS Middle School," for 4th & 5th Gr. Parents, 6:00 pm at Middle School

Fri., Nov. 17—Grandparents/Special Friends Day 8:30—12:00 Noon; 8:30 AM, All-School Assembly: Character Quality of "Gratitude" - Coffee and Refreshments

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

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

Fri., Dec. 1—Spark of Love Toy Drive Donations Collected
Fri., Dec. 1—Noon Dismissal; Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mon., Dec. 4—Parent/Teacher Conferences; NO CLASSES

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

Mon., Dec. 18—Mon., Jan. 2—Winter Break

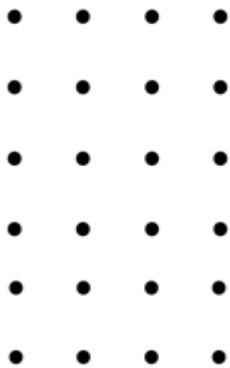
Mon., Jan. 15—NO SCHOOL; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Ping Pong Team & Running Club At PHS!



They are currently among the top two in the West Division and may be advancing to the Playoffs! Are we talking about the National Football League? Actually, no! We are celebrating our **PHS Ping Pong Team**, competing against five other teams from schools in one of three divisions of the LA Ping Pong League!



PHS students on the Middle School campus have been playing ping pong during recess and lunch breaks for several years. One student wished to perfect his skills, so he joined the South Bay Table Tennis training center and introduced his coach to PHS's Pedro Jimenez. This meeting launched the Ping Pong team at Peninsula Heritage School, with Mr. Jimenez coaching.

For those new to the sport, Ping Pong games are played to 11 points, and the team winning the first three of five games is the victor of the match. Each meeting with another team consists of five matches: four singles and one doubles match.

"Our team has flexible practices, and the games fit in with our schedules," relates a team member. "We are a small school, but a team only needs three players to compete. I enjoy the experience of helping and teaching the newer players. Seeing them progress is extremely rewarding!"

Also added to the after-school sports opportunities offered at PHS is the Running Club, begun by Assistant Head of School and Dean of Middle School, Mr. Jimenez.

"Running is a healthy, easily accessible sport that requires little equipment (shoes) or playing surfaces (trails)," observes Mr. Jimenez.. "It promotes our Character Qualities of Perseverance and Self-Control and can be enjoyed alone or with a group. Runners set their own personal goals and then strive to meet or exceed them."

Our PHS Club is looking forward to participating in the "Champions for Children 5K Trail Run" at nearby Ernie Howlett Park on Sunday, November 5th. The run begins at 8:00 AM, and PHS will also have a booth at this event.

"I love to run," relates a Club member, "and I'm doing more since joining the Club. Running with others is great because we challenge each other and also talk! I hope to compete in high school, running on the cross country team."



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- At the City Celebration of Rolling Hills Estates, held recently at the Empty Saddle Club in RHE, attendees enjoyed a beading craft and received information about PHS at our booth.
- Joan Behrens, PHS Director of Advancement, also had the opportunity to talk with LA County Supervisor **Janice Hahn**.





Peninsula Heritage School's **Grandparents/Special Friends Day** on November 17th promises to be a memorable experience for our PHS students and their guests! "Gratitude" will be the focus of our Character Qualities Assembly presented by the Sixth Grade at 8:30 AM in our Amphitheater, followed by coffee and refreshments before guests join their students in the classroom for a morning of interactive experiences in various subjects. This event concludes at noon; guests are welcome to take their students if they wish to enjoy lunch together off campus.



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Kindergarten—8th Grade
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