

Duveneck Newsletter

2nd Duveneck Newsletter of school year 2025-2026



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OPINIONS

Rising Waters in Palo Alto

By: Emmy Li

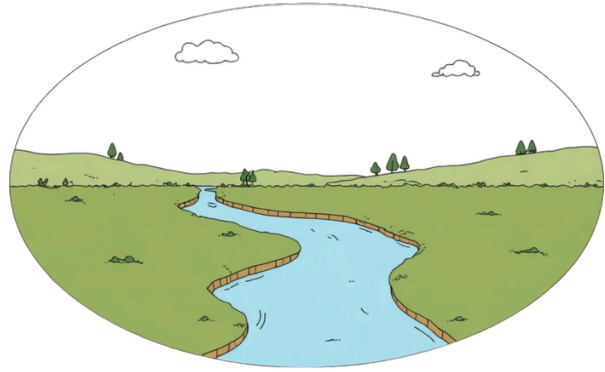
Every several years, Palo Alto experiences floods and they are a huge problem to our community. It disrupts schedules and activities, and it creates unnecessary chaos. It also creates more work for us. People had to go out into the flood waters to get sandbags to make sure that water couldn't leak into their homes, while they could have been hanging out with friends, or just simply enjoying their day. Because of this, floods take away the safety of our city and the ability to enjoy the day.

Palo Alto has flooded over 13 times since 1910, and the most recent occurred 4 years ago, on December 31st, 2022. The most catastrophic floods happened in 1955, 1958, 1967, 1982 and 1998. Why was all of this happening? Turns out, the San Francisquito Creek is the cause of every single one of these floods ever since 1910. This was because every time we had major storms and heavy rainfall, the creek would overflow its banks and flood our neighborhood. Overall, the repeated flooding in Palo Alto shows that San Francisquito Creek has been the main cause of the neighborhood's floods during periods of heavy rainfall and major storms.



What can we do about this? The San Francisquito Creek JPA proposed a solution that has many parts and are currently working on it in hopes to make flooding less harsh and severe. First, the Newell Road Bridge will be rebuilt. This is because the bridge is too low and too small when big storms come, so it blocks the flow of water, forcing the water to get out of the space in the creek. This is the same as the Pope Chaucer Bridge, as it is going to be rebuilt too. This means that once the bridges are rebuilt, water will flow more easily through the stream, and there will be a little less likely for floods to arrive.

Next, the channel will be made wider at strategic locations. In places where there is not much space to work with, strong walls will be added to hold the sides of the creek up, but in places where there is plenty of space, the sides of the creek will be sloped and gentle. If the creek gets widened, the amount of water it can hold also will increase, so instead of water going over the banks, a lot of the water will stay in the creek.



The San Francisquito Creek JPA also says that the floodwalls we have currently are old and aging, with many cracks and dents in them. This prevents the walls from functioning as intended, proving them useless. Doing this will be a major improvement to the neighborhood, and floods in the neighborhood will not be as extreme

To wrap things up, Palo Alto has experienced numerous floods over the past century due to the San Francisquito Creek. However, people have been offering smart ideas and careful planning to solve this problem, and these solutions could potentially help reduce the severity of future flooding. The smart solutions are on track to make the community safer and happier.

Stricter rules on playground balls

By: Kayla Liu

We should have stricter rules on who gets to use who's playground balls. The other day when we, (Ms. Peng's class) had buddies, we used their playground balls to play 4 square and 2 square, and we saw at least two 3-5th grade playground balls at the little kids' ball closet. Something else is that 2nd graders use a yellow playground ball when playing 4 square at lunch, which leaves big kids with zero playground balls to use. We are dismissed at 12:01-12:05 so by the time we get to the ball closet there are none, and at most 1 ball left, which is a basketball. If we have stricter playground ball rules, its more fair so everyone can have a ball to play with.



FACTS

Homework: Help or hurt?

(A continuation of “Should homework be banned?”)

By: Rhiya Vijai

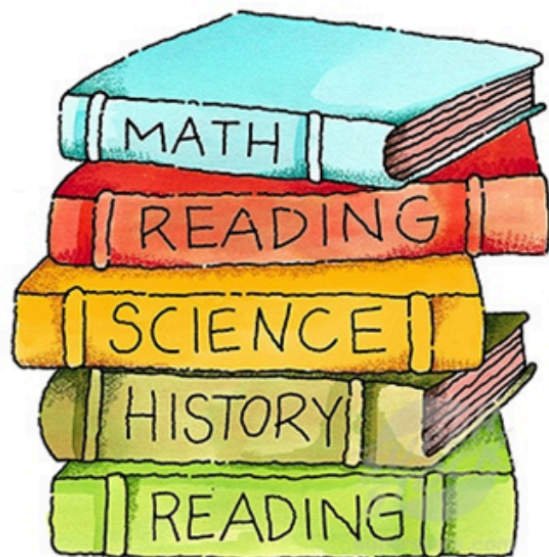
Homework. A debate spread upon many students in the Duveneck community. Some argue homework is useful and helps in life. But, a majority says it wastes brain cells and time. Let's see what both sides of the debate say and why.

Believe it or not, some students (such as myself) find homework helpful to everyone. First, it helps you practice managing time. Some people deal with procrastinating. Doing this early in life will create a habit to do your work first. A 5th grade student says, “Homework helps with not procrastinating because if you return it after the due date, you will face consequences, which also helps you return things on time.” They have a point. Also, this way of education helps you remember what you learned that day.

But, others say that homework is a real pain and that it is a waste of time. I can agree with that too. If a student does not have time because of extra curriculums, homework becomes too much to do. It can even take away time from a student's sleep! That can affect health and the students' performance for school work. This is why some argue that homework hurts our students.

So the next time your teacher assigns you a giant workload of homework, think about it. Is homework a help or a hurt?

Credits to Eloise Keith



Goldfish

By: Ruoqi He

Goldfish. You've probably heard about this little common house pet. You would probably think: Goldfish? No big deal! But if you dive deeper into this floppy world of fish goo, you will find out this simple aquatic pet really is something truly special.

Did you know that all goldfish are the same species? I bet not! It's just that there are many breeds of goldfish! They also come in many different colors like: Gold, white, black, and red. There are many different breeds of different goldfish and to name all of them is just so insane! But, some common ones are: Comet Goldfish, Ryukins, Shubunkin Lionchus, Ranchus, Waking Fantails, Veiltail, Celestial eye, Black Moorand, and tons more! So, you see, these goldfish are not colored the same as the same breed, they are cool and really unique!

Do you want to care for a goldfish? Well then this is for you! Goldfish, depending on the breed all need at least a ten gallon tank for each of the fish since they enjoy space. You should have filtery clear water, not tap water since it contains harmful microbes. There should be gravel and optionally plastic or aquatic plants. They should be fed with food once a day with fish food.

In a fishbowl (nutshell), goldfish are glorious, awesome, and just stunning pets. So, now that you have read this, the next time you see a goldy, take a moment to realise how amazing it really is. Goldy!



Greatest achievements in swimming

By: Evelyn Fei

Swimming is a very popular sport all around the world especially in the United States. This versatile activity ranges from essential survival skills to competitive Olympic sport. As both a popular fun activity and a competitive sport, it allows for freedom of movement in the water while reducing body weight muscles without putting stress on joints.



Born in 1985, Phelps was introduced to swimming by his mother for safety, though he initially disliked putting his face in the water and swam backstroke. Diagnosed with ADHD at age nine, he found swimming to be a vital outlet for him, channeling his energy into exact, focused training rather than relying solely on medication. By age 10, he already held a national record for his age group. Phelps swam in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and won six medals! When he competed, he won five gold medals and one silver medal. He won those golds in 200m Butterfly, 200m Individual Medley, 4x100 Freestyle Relay, 4x200 Freestyle Relay, and 4x100 Medley Relay. However, he won silver in the 100m Butterfly in the 2016 Olympics.

There is also Katie Ledecky who began swimming at age six in Bethesda, Maryland, and trained with Nation's Capital Swim Club. Known for her unusual endurance, she holds the top 19 fastest times in the 1500m freestyle, often finishing over 20 seconds ahead of competitors. She competed in many different Olympics such as the 2012 London Olympics where she won gold in the 800m freestyle. On the other hand, in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics she also won gold in 200m free, 400m free, 800m free, 4x200m relay, and silver in the 4x100m relay.

In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, she got gold in 800m free, 1500m free but she got silver in the 400m free, 4x200m relay. Ledecky also swam in 2024 for the Paris Olympics. In the 800m free, 1500m free she got gold while she got silver for the 4x200m relay and in the 400m free she got bronze.



Without a doubt, swimming is a global exercise offering physical and mental health benefits, from cardiovascular endurance to stress reduction, all while being low-impact. From improving posture to lightening stress, swimming remains one of the most effective, rewarding activities one can undertake.

PET PARADE

Part 1 of Ace

By: Amit Milman

Once upon a time, there was a dog and his name was Ace. Ace was a golden doodle and he didn't know his dad because by the time he was born, his dad wasn't there. On August 2, 2022 it was his lucky day. A family wanted to get a dog and they picked him. They named him Ace. Ace was cute, kind, but not that intelligent. The years passed and he was now 3, so of course he tried to escape. Every time his family went somewhere, he would always start whining when they got back. Ace was a very special kind of a dog.

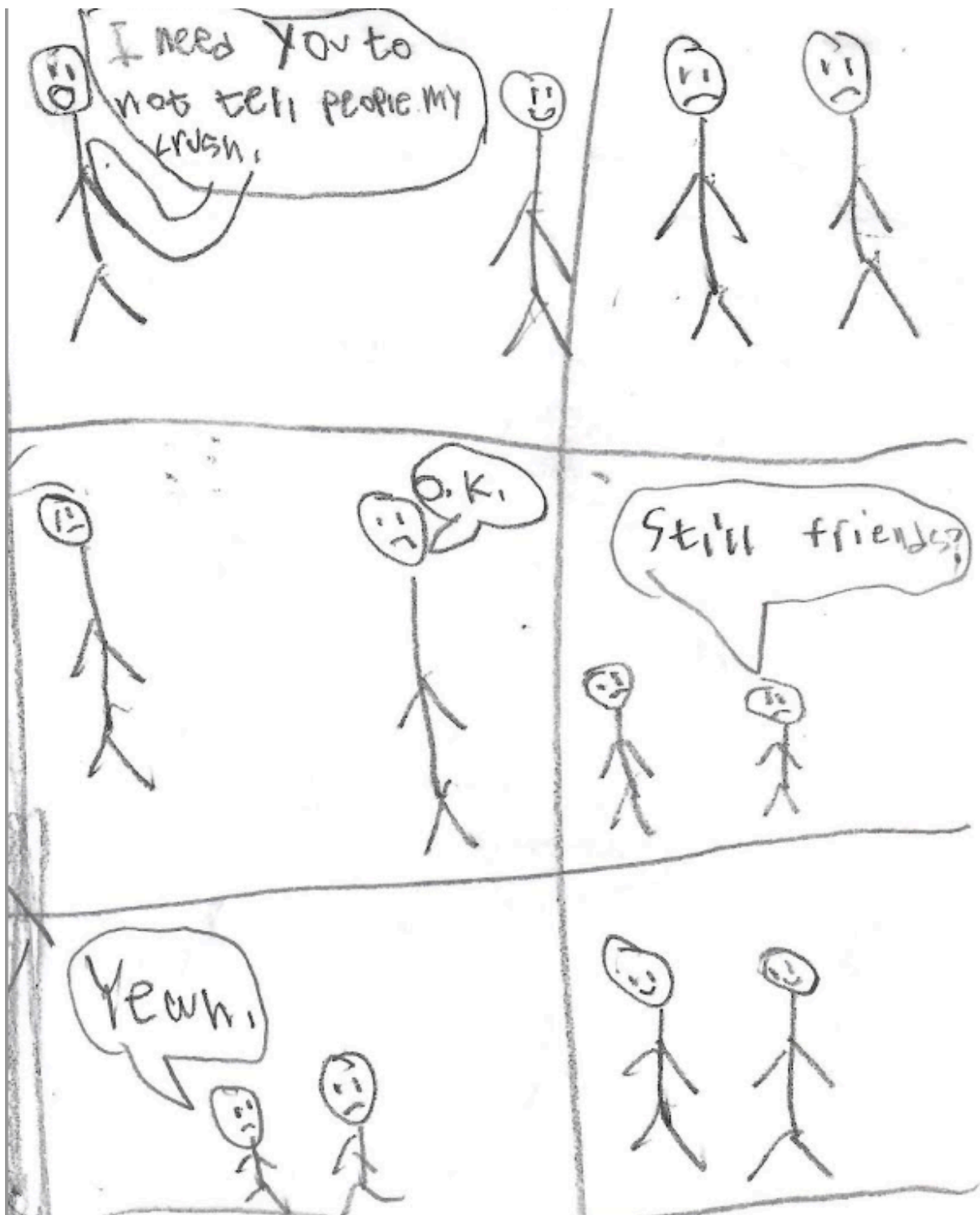
Sneak peak at Part 2 of Ace

I woke up thinking about how my dog loves this pillow that's white with black dots. Then I thought, "Does he really love it?"...



COMIC CORNER





Comic by: Brian Chen

AMAZING ARTS



Capybara Drawn By: Amit Milman



Chinese Anime Girl Drawn By: Ruoqi He

STAFF SESSION

Interview with Ms Hauer

By: Rhiya Vijai

Q: Why did you become a teacher?

A: I taught swim lessons and I like working with kids.

Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: My favorite is going to have to be the racoon. They're so cute!

Q: What's your favorite subject to teach?

A: Math because I know students will use it in their future classes and it's fun to see 3rd graders learn multiplication and division.

Q: What is a fun fact about you?

A: I love watching and playing basketball.

Q: What's your favorite part of Duveneck elementary school?

A: The community because it's very supportive and the parents help keep the students thrive.

