

Península Heritage Connects

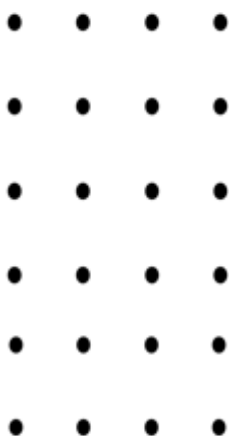
Peninsula Heritage School Newsletter



February 2026

Peninsula Heritage School's CHARACTER QUALITIES:

Caring, Attitude, Respect,
Gratitude, Perseverance, and
Self-Control. Hint: Remember
as CAR, GPS!



"The day I saw you in my backyard was the most magical day of my life," writes one of our 6th Grade students during a **creative writing** project inspired by a fictional "snowstorm of the century." Using rice-filled socks and various trims (see photos of a few 6th Graders with their petite snow-persons), these students created and "adopted" their new friends while also writing their snow babies a letter that blended **imaginative storytelling with emotional reflection**.

This is one example of the **writing component of our 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum** under the direction of Mrs. Eileen Mahoney.

The program is designed to directly connect with students' interests and experiences as they work to enhance their writing skills. Other examples include the following.

Personal and reflective writing are woven through the year-long "The Encyclopedia of My Life," in which students creatively select a meaningful family-centered object whose

name begins with each letter of the English alphabet. For the letter "D," one student selected "Dad" and wrote, "My dad means the world to me. When I see him after his work, it makes my day so much better!" These and other written pieces are placed in each student's portfolio, which is exhibited for parents at our school's year-end Open House.

After the class concludes reading Ellen Raskin's *The Westing Game*, a classic of American children's literature, the students begin a **symbolism project** in which the 6th Graders are asked to identify objects or images essential to the novel's themes. They create framed visual representations of their chosen symbols along with a thoughtful literary analysis that explains the symbols' significance and offers textual evidence to support their interpretation.

In celebration of this year's 100th Day of School, Sixth Graders use the app "Aging Booth" to transform themselves into their 100-year-old image, while also writing **reflective memoirs** (see photos, left) from the perspective of their future selves, imagining upcoming experiences, accomplishments, and challenges. Here again, students are directly connecting with themselves and their imaginations to grow their writing skills!



Joining our staff this past September, **Reinaldo Riera** is now a familiar, friendly face on our PHS campus. Working with Armando Gutierrez under the direction of Mr. Steve Edo, Director of Operations, he is adding to the safety, maintenance, and enhancements of our two gorgeous campuses!



From seasonal floral plantings to the nuts and bolts of smoothly functioning doors, windows, and furniture, Reinaldo provides invaluable service on a daily basis. He is instrumental in preparing for our monthly Assemblies as well as the myriad of other tasks and events that occur throughout the year.

Born in Venezuela, Reinaldo enjoys watching baseball, working out at the gym, and eating favorite dishes from his country of origin, such as Carne Asada Venezolana. He appreciates how our PHS students and staff have welcomed him and made him feel comfortable and valued!



The **Middle School Advisory meetings**, under the direction of Mr. Pedro Jimenez, Assistant Head of School, are a feature of our Middle School experience.

Designed to enhance students' social-emotional growth, foster a positive school culture, and provide an opportunity for students to discuss topics of interest or concern, Mr. Jimenez has also incorporated a "Meet Our Neighbors" feature in the Advisory experience.



A recent guest presenter was **Rev. Joshua Yee** (above), senior pastor of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church (adjacent to our Middle School campus). He shared information about his background, including his love of sports, and the steps in his decision to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena. In his current pastoral work, he functions as the CEO and leads all church committees to operate and produce the in-person and livestreamed church services and reach out to the underserved in our communities. His wonderful family includes his wife, Jennifer Yoshikawa-Yee, PHS 1st Grader Brooklynn Yee, and Brooklynn's younger brother, Hudson Yee!

What's Happening Next?

- Thurs., Mar. 5—8:30 AM. Parent Assoc. Meeting, Library, All parents invited!
- Fri., Mar. 13—8:30 AM, 7th & 8th Grade Assembly, Character Quality of Attitude, All parents invited!
- Fri., Mar. 20—6:00 to 10:00 PM, GALA "Havana Nights" at H.T. Grill, Redondo Beach: Dinner, Live Band, & so much more!
- Thurs., Mar. 26—NOON DISMISSAL, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Fri., Mar. 27—NO CLASSES—Parent/Teacher Conferences Continue; Spring Break Begins
- Tues., Apr. 14—School resumes at usual time
- Fri., Apr. 17—8:30 AM, Parent Assoc. Meeting, Library, All parents invited!
- Fri., Apr. 24—8:30 AM, 5th Grade Assembly, Character Quality of Respect, All parents invited!
- Mon., May 4 through Fri., May 8—8th Gr. Washington DC Trip
- Thurs., May 21—PHS Student Talent Show
- Fri., May 22—NO SCHOOL
- Mon., May 25—NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day
- Fri., May 29—8:30 AM, Kindergarten/1st Grade Assembly, Character Quality of Caring, All parents invited!
- Fri., June 5—6:00 PM, All School Open House for PHS parents & students
- Mon., June 8—Field Day for All Students

- Tues., June 9—NOON DISMISSAL, Last Day of School, Moving-Up Day
- Wed., June 10—10:30 AM, 8th Grade Graduation, Amphitheater
- Mon., June 22—Summer Fun N' Games Day Camp Begins
- Fri., Aug. 14—Summer Day Camp Concludes
- Tues., Sept. 8—NOON DISMISSAL, First Day of Classes; Family Picnic on School Grounds begins at Noon

We send a well-deserved and very sincere **THANK YOU** to all of our giving constituencies for your **very generous and thoughtful donations to this year's Annual Giving Fund!** Your gifts make possible continuous academic and physical enhancements that positively affect each student at Peninsula Heritage School! Thank you, again!





Thank You, 2026 GALA Volunteers!

Thanks to this year's outstanding parent volunteers, our 2026 GALA, "**Havana Nights**," is off to a fabulous start! Save the date postcards have been mailed for this **March 20th** event from **6:00 to 10:00 PM** at **H.T. Grill, Redondo Beach!**

A recent Parent Association meeting in the PHS Library saw the following volunteers planning for the upcoming event: (left to right, above) Camila Santos, Caitlin Boujikian, Tisha Agha (Parent Assoc. Co-President), Jenna Aira-Ventrella (GALA Chair), Diana Choi (GALA Décor Chair), Noran Eid (Parent Assoc. Co-President), Erin Lobo-Marwah, Jill Moran, and (not pictured) Hayley Tumanjan (GALA Auction Chair).

"**Havana Nights**" **invitations** (see preview on back page of this Newsletter) will soon be coming your way in the US Mail, so parents can easily register for this GALA evening that includes: Hosted Bar, Live Music, Exciting Live Auction with one of the world's best (and funniest) auctioneers, a Delectable Three-Course Dinner (and we mean delectable!), and your opportunity to Mix and Mingle with the PHS community!

Early Bird Tickets are \$150 until March 9th, then \$195.
Sponsor a teacher (\$150) or view auction items by visiting the link below:
www.peninsulaheritage.org/havananights



Second & Third Grade's Assembly!

With the PHS Character Quality of **Perseverance** as its theme, the Second and Third Graders presented a "groovy" Assembly, serenading the audience with The Monkees' "I'm a Believer." A Time Machine launched the performers back in time to the 1960's with long-haired Mr. Nick Allen (Third Grade teacher) playing a "far out" guitar solo (photo at right). The student performers also shared their career aspirations including that of a chemist and an Olympic gymnast.

Attired in bell-bottoms, pink tinted wire-rimmed glasses, and flowers in their hair, the student performance was, as Mr. Allen writes, "...the result of many meaningful learning moments, including practicing public speaking, working as a team, showing courage, and truly living out the quality of Perseverance."





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Kindergarten—8th Grade

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