

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

The Griffin Gazette is The Academy at Palumbo's student-run newspaper, dedicated to keeping our community informed about news and events in our school and across Philadelphia. We aim to amplify student voices and spark meaningful conversations.

The Griffin Gazette

NOTHING LESS THAN SUCCESS

WANT TO JOIN?

The Griffin Gazette welcomes any interested students to join our team of dedicated writers, editors, and photographers. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month in room 329.

PALUMBO'S FIRST-EVER HOMECOMING



BY AHMED AHMED

For the first time in our school's history, Palumbo held a homecoming dance. The event, which was organized by the Outreach Club, is also doubling as a fundraiser for Women in Transition, an organization that that supports survivors of domestic violence.

Finley Morris, the President of Outreach Club, shares that Palumbo's homecoming has been in the making for a long time. "Ever since my freshman year, I was jealous of the homecoming traditions that so many other schools celebrated, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to welcome the new students to our school community and foster school spirit."

Now, Finley hopes that this year's success lays the foundation for more homecomings in future years. "I can only hope that homecoming will become a Palumbo tradition."

GIRLS SOCCER HEADS TO PLAYOFFS

BY ELIZABETH DORNEY

As the girls soccer team prepares for playoffs, we spoke with the team captains about how the season has been going so far. This year has been especially meaningful for the players, as it's the first time they've officially represented Palumbo. In past seasons, the girls played for Constitution High School. After years of effort to establish their own team, the girls are proud to finally compete as Palumbo.

We asked the Senior captains how it feels to represent their own school during their final year on the team. Nina Ramunno shared, "Pretty freaking lit! I love wearing jerseys with our own colors and getting to represent the school. Now when we win, we're winning for Palumbo." Bea Kaeli reflected on how it felt being a Constitution team for years, saying, "It felt unfair having a team that

wasn't recognized as ours being made up of primarily Palumbo students." She added, "Now that we fought for it and have a coach from Palumbo, who I've known since my freshman year, it feels amazing!"

Both Nina and Bea stepped into their roles as Co-Captains this year, and when asked about about the highlights of leading the team, Bea tells us her favorite part is "having the opportunity to encourage, empower, and advocate for my team. I try my best to support my teammates, motivating them to try harder next time and reminding them that it's okay to make mistakes."

Nina shared that her favorite part of being Captain is forming close connections with her teammates. "The team consists of such an amazing group of people. I always look forward to practices and games because I know I'm going to see my people," she said. When asked about the responsibility that comes with leadership, Nina added, "While I'm definitely not perfect all of the time, knowing that I'm a leader has been amazing. I love being able to set an example for my team, and I appreciate how much my teammates tell me they look up to me."

Currently, Palumbo sits second in the conference, just one game behind Franklin Towne, with playoffs right around the corner. The team holds an impressive 7-1 record, having lost only once this season! Last year, the girls made it to the playoffs and finished fourth in the city, and this year, they're determined to go even further. With a strong lineup and plenty of team spirit, the Palumbo girls soccer team is ready to take on the postseason.



Palumbo girls celebrate their victory over Southern on Senior Night. Photographed by Sidney Leach.



CITY'S NEW LAUREATE

BY MELISSA GOLDING

One of Palumbo's own, senior Rashawn Dorsey, has been named this year's Philadelphia Youth Poet Laureate. Along with this title, Rashawn will work closely with Kai Davis, Philadelphia's Adult Poet Laureate, and will be performing across the city.

Rashawn originally discovered poetry during his sophomore year as a way to make change within his community and through his voice. When asked what his goals are as Youth Poet Laureate, he answered that he wants to be a voice for teenagers throughout Philadelphia by ensuring that the struggles of the youth are heard clearly and creatively. When it comes to his future, Rashawn wants to be "a world-renowned poet," and being named Youth Poet Laureate is just one step towards that.



When looking back at her time on the team, Eva shares that her favorite moment was winning the Philadelphia championship last year. “The seniors last year wanted to win it for so long, so being there to win it with them was really special,” she shares.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: EVA TRUONG

BY UNA CUTRONE

Eva Truong, a senior at Palumbo and captain of the volleyball team, has played a key role in leading her team on and off the court. In an interview, she reflected on her growth as a player, her recovery from an injury, and her plans for the future.

Eva, who started on the volleyball team as a freshman, reflected on her progression as a player over the years, saying, “playing on club teams definitely helped me get better. I also took a lot of advice from my coaches, which helped me improve.” Now, Eva adds that she shares those same lessons with new players, by coaching youth volleyball in her free time.

Last week, Eva made her 1,000th assist in her volleyball career, breaking the School District’s record for all female players. It wasn’t without challenge: “Earlier this season, I got an injury that kept me from playing for three weeks. It taught me a lot about appreciating more of what’s around me. I used to always be so exhausted from playing, and now I’m so glad to be back.”

Beyond the court, Eva keeps busy with many other clubs and projects, being a part of Medical Club and writing for Citizens Climate Lobby, a climate advocacy group. Last year, she served on the Junior class council, stating, “I had a really fun time planning events like prom and other fundraisers. The council is a really supportive, understanding group of people, and together we had a very successful year.”

After graduating, Eva plans to study microbiology and chemistry in college, on a pre-medical track. “Helping people, whether it’s through volleyball coaching or on council, has taught me a little bit about what it’s like to be in the medical field. Even though I didn’t do the medical stuff, I’ve spent a lot of time helping others, which is what I plan to do with my career.” Looking ahead, Eva reflects on the gratitude she has for the people she’s met at Palumbo: “I’m definitely going to miss my friends and teachers here, they’ve always been my biggest supporters, and I’m very grateful for all of the help they’ve given me along the way.”

SENIOR CLASS ELECTIONS

BY SIDNEY LEACH

The senior class of 2026 at Palumbo had a record breaking number of students who ran for president and vice president with fourteen pairs of students running. This number was narrowed down to just five through a primary. These five pairs were Adele Baumet-Mebus & James Felix, Aster Chau & Ezra Tjia, Eva Truong & Gwen Stevanus, Hamin Muhammad & Zeinab Doumbia, and Rose Semmel & Jen Cepele. On Friday, October 3rd, these pairs debated in front of the entire senior class to display their goals and values for their potential presidencies.

The questions asked during the debate were submitted by students, and spanned topics such as plans for senior activities, inclusion of student input, and personal traits or connections that would make each candidate the best representative for their class. Adele Mebus stated “We listen to your concerns and speak them to the administration so everyone will have a voice in this school.” The candidates reiterated their commitment to the Palumbo community and their dedication to the senior class during the debate.

All of these candidate pairs have different values and main goals for the class. Rose Semmel and Jen Cepele vowed a campaign centered around “advocacy, affordability, and organization,” while Eva Truong and



Senior class presidential candidates preparing to give their closing speeches. Photographed by Sidney Leach.

Gwen Stevanus’ promoted their vision for “a school where every student feels supported.” Hamin Muhhamed promised his peers, “I’ll represent you. I’ll speak with you. I’ll let you see my vision and I want you all to be a part of it.” The debate was respectful, with every presidential candidate focused on showing their class what they and their partner would bring to the table. Hamin made a goal to keep supplies stocked in the bathrooms. Aster and Ezra emphasized their overall objective for everyone to make it to graduation. The senior class voted in their history classes the same day as the debate. The council, which is made up of the three pairs with the most votes, was elected that day with the top two pairs being put in a run-off election for president and vice president held on Monday, October 6th.

Following the election, we welcome our new senior class council of Adele Mebus, James Felix, Rose Semmel and Jennifer Cepele, as

well as our new senior class president and vice president, Aster Chau and Ezra Tjia.

The duo promises they are “ready to make sacrifices” to help the seniors achieve their goals this year. Class President Aster Chau stated in the debate, “I want you guys to walk across the stage feeling proud of this class.”

After the announcement of the election results, Aster and Ezra shared a thank-you to their campaign Instagram, stating, “We are so incredibly honored and grateful for everyone who participated in the election, no matter the vote. This election has strengthened our resolve to make this year THE year.”

From the competitive campaigns to the spirited debate, the Senior class has shown what true Griffin pride looks like. With new leaders in place, the Class of 2026 is ready to make their final year at Palumbo their best yet.



MEET MR. YU

BY SANTINA RAMUNNO

Palumbo welcomes a new face to its math department this year—Mr. Yu, who teaches both Algebra and Geometry.

Mr. Yu grew up in upstate New York and attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he explored his passions for math, as well as education. After working at schools in West and South Philadelphia, he became inspired to connect with youth and help students develop their math skills. Though he also taught at private schools such as Germantown Friends, Mr. Yu always knew he would return to the public school system to address the challenges he had seen firsthand within the district.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Yu has already made his mark by starting a breakdancing club at Palumbo. His interest in breakdancing began during his time at Penn, and has enjoyed it ever since. He encourages all students, experienced or not, to join Palumbo’s breakdancing club, and the group is already planning a performance for this year’s Fall Feast.

Mr. Yu shared that he is thrilled to be part of the school community and looks forward to connecting with students from across the city. With his enthusiasm for both math and creativity, he’s ready to bring fresh energy to Palumbo.

NO COSTUME? NO PROBLEM.

BY CATHERINE DORNEY

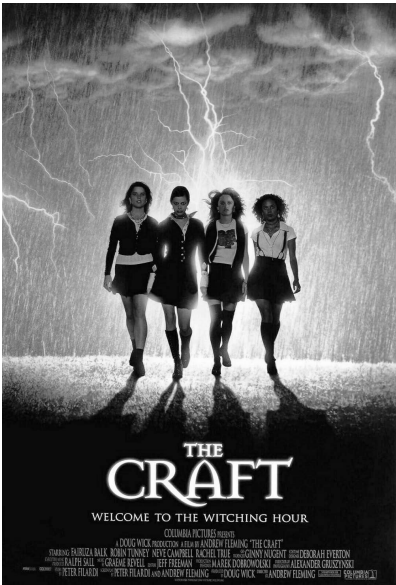


COHEN’S CORNER: FALL MOVIE RECS

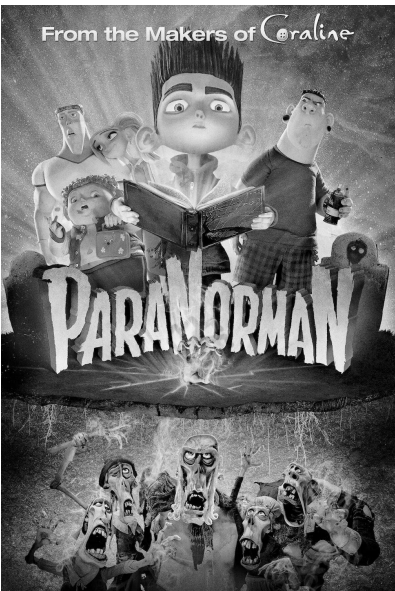
BY AARON COHEN

It’s officially Halloween season, and here are my recommendations for some scary movies to get in the holiday spirit.

The Craft: After finding out she has powers, Sarah, a new girl at catholic school, joins a group of wannabe witches. It’s a fun coming-of-age movie involving witchcraft and teenage problems



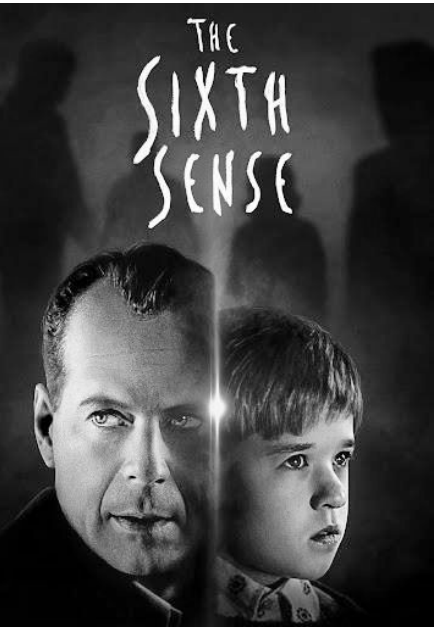
Monster House: D.J. Walters and his two friends believe that his neighbor's house is possessed and is a living creature. The trio set off to find a way to stop the house from ruining Halloween. It’s a fun, clever animated movie that still hits after many years. The animation still holds up today and is a solid watch.



ParaNorman: An eleven-year-old outcast, Norman, can see dead people and animals. The director, Chris Butler, worked on movies such as The Corpse Bride and Coraline (also good watches). Paranorman has its funny, scary, and sad moments, and overall is a great movie.

Poltergeist 1982: A classic horror movie of the eighties, an average Californian family moves to a new house, and strange and supernatural events start happening. Despite being somewhat dated, the movie holds up and is considerably better than the 2015 remake..

The Sixth Sense: In one of M. Night Shyamalan’s first movies, a psychiatrist played by Bruce Willis must help a boy with his eerie problem. It’s a suspenseful supernatural movie that has a lot of heart.



Arachnophobia: When a photographer dies on the job in a foreign country, the deadly spider that bit him hitches a ride to rural California. Soon, an outbreak of venomous spiders spreads panic through the town; until a newly arrived doctor, who happens to be terrified of spiders, realizes what’s happening as people begin to mysteriously die.



Sleepy Hollow: Ichabod Crane visits the small town of Sleepy Hollow following the recent decapitations of the citizens. Crane must use his detective skills to find out how to stop the curse of the headless horseman.

Fright Night: A teenage horror-junkie, Charley, believes his new reclusive neighbor is a vampire. No one believes him, and as the neighbor befriends his mom, Charley must fight against the new intruder in his home. It’s a worthwhile watch for anyone who likes suspenseful movies.

NOTHING LESS THAN REFRESHED

BY AARON COHEN

This September, as part of a community initiative called the Hometown Refresher Program, Dunkin’ launched six new drinks in partnership with Philadelphia high schools. The initiative, which renamed popular drinks after nearby schools at various locations across the city, unveiled several refreshers such as Ben Franklin’s Benjamin Blue, SLA’s Rocket Fuel, and the Perkiomen School’s Tribal Breeze.

Palumbo’s very own drink, the Lumbo Juice, which is strawberry dragonfruit flavored, was sold out just days after it was announced. The name, Lumbo Juice, was voted on by the Palumbo student body amongst other options such as the Griffin Gulp and Lumbo Punch. To learn what people thought of Palumbo’s new signature drink, *The Griffin Gazette* interviewed several students who tried the Lumbo Juice soon after its release.



Freshman Ben Mitchell photographed by Aaron Cohen

Junior Sophia Rando rated the Lumbo Juice a 9/10, stating, “it had a good flavor and tasted like pink lemonade.” Freshman Ben Mitchell also enjoyed the drink, adding, “the drink was pretty good, a little too sweet though.”

A similar opinion was shared by several other students, notably Eva Facciabene, a Junior, who shared, “It’s good, probably my favorite Dunkin’ refresher. It is really really sweet, though.”

On the other hand, Senior class council member Rose Semmel won’t be a repeat customer of Palumbo’s signature drink: “The Lumbo Juice tastes like fifteen packets of Splenda in a cup of water with one droplet of fruit flavoring. It’s horrible.”

Whether loved or not, the Lumbo Juice has definitely made an impression on Palumbo students. One thing’s for sure, Dunkin’s Hometown Refresher Program has brewed up some serious school spirit, one sip at a time.



Students performing at the Hispanic heritage month assembly. Photographed by Chacko Scarpelli.

HISPANIC STUDENT UNION

BY JADE POTTS

Every September, Palumbo hosts its annual club fair, where all student-run clubs advertise themselves to attract new members. This year, one club in particular stood out from the rest. With lively traditional music playing, students dancing, and plenty of claps and cheers, the Hispanic y Latinos Unidos club drew a crowd and brought lots of excitement to the event. The club fair also happened just in time for Hispanic Heritage Month, which started on September 15th. After hosting and performing in countless showcases over the past few years, the club continues to thrive and grow stronger each year.

Junior Hannah Puma is President of the Hispanic y Latinos Unidos club. “The club is young, and we still have so much more to bring, but I’m really proud to represent this club along with my Vice President, Allison,” Puma said. She has been a part of the club for three years and was finally elected president of the club in her junior year. When asked about Hispanic Heritage Month, Puma was able to fully express her love for this

time of year. “It is truly so important to me. It brings pride in our language, food, music, traditions, and culture overall.” Puma’s aspirations for the club are high. She expressed looking forward to the Hispanic Heritage Month assembly, as well as keeping inclusivity throughout the club. “In past years, we didn’t have as much of a chance to get out there and show everyone who we are; however, we are looking forward to making our mark in the upcoming years.”

Puma has also mentioned the success that the club fair has brought to the club, as they got many new members. Additionally, the club is open to all, not just those in the Hispanic and Latino community. “Our club is here to educate anyone who is interested in our culture. We are all kind and open people, who are far from judgmental,” Puma expressed. The energy of the group is unlike any other. If you wish to expand your horizons, meet new people, and surround yourself with positive vibes, be sure to stop by room 321 on Wednesdays! There is no doubt that this club has many things planned.

THE GRIFFIN GRID

BY AARON COHEN

Fill in each box with a Palumbo teacher that meets both qualifications. Answers can be found on the Griffin Gazette bulletin board outside of room 329.

	Coaches a team	Temple Graduate	Is a Parent
5th Floor			
4th Floor			
3rd Floor			