

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

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.

NOTHING LESS THAN SUCCESS



SOFTBALL SWINGS

BY ELIZABETH DORNEY

With spring sports in full swing, we decided to focus in on one team in particular: Girls Softball. While the team is technically from Constitution, it includes a majority of Palumbo students and has become a tight-knit community for our girls.

We interviewed the team captains, Isabella Raible and Sophia Rando, to get an inside look into what it's like playing softball. When asked what their favorite part of being on the team, both girls did not hesitate to point out the outstanding dynamic and community. With Bella stating, "We all celebrate each other regardless of wins and losses, and that's something I really value." Rando similarly added, "The whole team is there to have fun. Even if we lose a game, our coaches are very positive, and my teammates are good at uplifting others. If I am having a bad game, the support from my coaches and team are what make me want to keep playing."

Being a team captain on any team, especially one as big as our girls' softball team, is a role that comes with great responsibility; however, the softball captains are handling it with ease. Rando told us how it's cool to have a leadership position in a sport she loves, but the most important part is being able to support and encourage her teammates. Bella enjoys helping out new players, and explained how it's an honor to be trusted by her teammates to lead.

Rando and Bella both strongly encourage any girls interested in joining the team to play! Bella's message to prospective teammates is, "We focus a lot on teamwork and getting better as a whole,

regardless of your experience level. So if that sounds like something you'd like then this is the sport for you." Rando's response was no less enthusiastic, stating, "Even if you have never played before, our team takes all skill levels, so you'll be able to pick up valuable lessons by joining. Also, our coaches are never hard on anyone; everyone is super nice and no one is here to judge."

Bella also believes that the softball team is a great environment, especially for beginners. "I think that softball at Palumbo has such an encouraging atmosphere, and anyone that wants to have a role on the team will have one. No one is punished for making mistakes. Errors are important, as they are seen as part of the learning process."

Senior player Rose Semmel echoed this sentiment, saying, "I was new to the team this year so there were a lot of skills I had to learn. No one on the team ever made me feel like a burden." Rose continued, stating, "I had wanted to join a sports team here at Palumbo before I graduated, and the softball team was the perfect opportunity. Everyone was super welcoming and it's been such a great experience."

Bella and Rando also shouted out the team's coaches, Mr. Bouwman and Mr. Kirby, for all of their hard work and dedication to providing support to the team. Rando especially thanked the two for "making practices beneficial but also very fun." When it comes to team members, the captains believe all of their teammates deserve a shoutout. Bella phrased it perfectly: "Everyone that shows up brings something different to the team, which I think is part of what makes us so strong."

THE LITTLE MERMAID

BY UNA CUTRONE

Last month, Palumbo's theater department put on a fabulous performance of *The Little Mermaid*. From the elaborate choreography to the decorated costumes, it was clear that every piece of this ensemble was thoughtfully planned by the cast and crew.

Senior cast member Annabelle Chaing, who has been involved with theater since her freshman year, shared her appreciation for the musical, saying, "this was one of the best productions I have ever done here at Palumbo. Everyone who was involved put all of their time and effort into the show, and it was a joy to be a part of."

While the musical performances only lasted a week, months of preparation went into the production. For the crew, the challenge was bringing an underwater world to life on a dry stage, which was accomplished using clever lighting and fluid movements that made the audience feel as though they were submerged in Ariel's story.

Mark Hopewell, an audience member, found that the musical kept him on the edge of his seat. "I had actually never seen *The Little Mermaid* before, so I didn't know what was going to happen next."

The musical marked a high point for Palumbo's arts program, setting a new standard for future productions. With the final curtain call met by a standing ovation, it was evident that the countless rehearsals had paid off.

CHARMING CHIRP

BY RIANNA YANG





THE FIGHTIN' PHILS: SEASON OVERVIEW

BY ABRAHAM WRIGHT

Looking back to the 2022 MLB season, the Philadelphia Phillies entered the playoffs as the sixth seed in the National League and made it to the World Series. While the Phils unfortunately lost to the Houston Astros in a 4-2 series, the future looked bright for the main cast of first baseman Bryce Harper, designated hitter Kyle Schwarber, and shortstop Trea Turner. Heading into the 2027 MLB season, the Phils are without another World Series appearance. The main cast is only getting older, and with expectations of winning a third World Series being high, the Phils had to have a great offseason.

Once eliminated by the LA Dodgers in the playoffs, decisions had to be made. With several key players on expiring contracts, the Phillies couldn't keep everyone. This includes left-handed pitcher Ranger Suárez, who left the Phillies after 13 years to join the Boston Red Sox on a five-year \$130 million deal. Another loss was outfielder Harrison Bader, who was acquired by the Phillies at the trade deadline because of his ability to hit for contact and his exceptional defense. In the games he played for the Phillies, Bader had a batting average of .305. When it came time for negotiations, he declined his \$10 million option with the Phillies to sign with the San Francisco Giants. These players made a heavy impact last season, but they were necessary to let go because of who the Phillies needed to re-sign.

One Phillie the organization knew to keep was Kyle Schwarber. Last season, Schwarber was on a tear. He hit a career-best 56 home runs, finishing 2nd in the National League MVP, only behind Shohei Ohtani. After this season, it would be a mistake not to re-sign him, so the Phillies kept him on a five-year \$150 million deal. Another player the organization decided to re-sign was catcher J.T. Realmuto. Realmuto has been a cornerstone for the Phillies since he became a Phillie in 2019, and while the defense has fallen in recent years, the batting average has still been good for the Phillies as he hits .257. The 35-year-old was re-signed on a three-year \$45 million deal.

Another player the Phillies signed was outfielder Adolis García. He was signed on a one-year deal worth \$10 million, and he hits for power. Last season, he batted a disappointing .227 for the Texas Rangers, so the Phillies are banking on the potential he could have on the team. Another signing that was made by the Phillies was right-handed relief pitcher Brad Miller, who was signed on a two-year \$22 million deal. Miller played 69.2 innings last year and had a great ERA of 2.07. And finally, the Phillies extended left-handed starting pitcher Jesús Luzardo. Last year, Jesús was a dependable starter for the Phillies, playing 183.2 innings, accumulating a 15-7 record, and finishing 7th in Cy Young Voting. He was extended through 2032 on a five-year \$135 million deal.

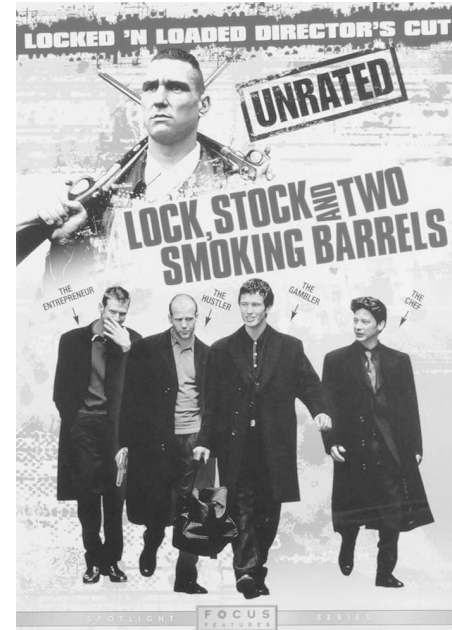
This is yet another season for the Philadelphia Phillies where it is World Series or Bust. Although there were some lost gems on the team, the Phillies are generally the same team with the ability to run it back. Outfielder Justin Crawford, the 17th pick in the 2022 MLB Draft that the Phillies selected, will make his debut in the majors to start the season. If the Phillies can stay healthy and get hot at the right times, they have the talent to make another deep postseason run. Go Phillies!

COHEN'S CORNER GOES GLOBAL

BY AARON COHEN

Take a trip with me to explore some foreign movies

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels: Hailing from Britain, this debut movie from director Guy Ritchie is a dark comedy filled with intense action. The movie came out in the late 90's, a time when directors were trying to make the next *Pulp Fiction*, which is why the dialogue, fast-paced camera movements, and intertwined plot are reminiscent of Tarantino. The film follows Eddy as he convinces his friends to fund a high-stakes poker game against a local crime boss. Eddy and his friends quickly find themselves entangled in a web of criminals, rival gangs, and stolen guns. It's a fun crime comedy that features an ensemble cast such as Jason Statham and Sting. The only issue is how British the film is. You might need to turn on subtitles.



Kontroll: Directed by Nimród Antal, *Kontroll* is a Hungarian "comedy" thriller. The film, made entirely in the Budapest Metro system, is shockingly beautiful. The movie centers on Bulcsú, a ticket inspector who sleeps in the station and never goes above ground. While Bulcsú yearns for life outside of the station after meeting a subway driver's daughter, something is causing people to jump in front of trains coming in. As Bulcsú gets called to investigate these occurrences, he is forced to deal with violent passengers as he waits for his chance to escape. *Kontroll* is a beautiful film that pulls the viewer in as they want Bulcsú to succeed. *Kontroll* has all the qualities of an action movie, but ends up being a more personal look at a man's redemption, or Bulcsú's journey from hell to salvation.



Christiane F: In a 1981 German film, director Uli Edel depicts the horrifyingly true events of Christiane Felscherinow, a thirteen year old drug addict in Berlin. The film showcases how Christiane's life with her Mother turns upside down upon her descent into the Zoo station, a major transportation hub with her heroin-addicted friends. After trying heroin to impress a boy, Christiane gets hooked. As the pair and their friends get more addicted, they try to recover together. This movie feels like *Requiem For a Dream's* edgier older brother. The melancholy combined with the dimmed lighting creates a mood unlike any other. The soundtrack is composed by David Bowie, which is a reason why the movie has achieved such a cult status.



THE DOCTRY DIRECTION

BY AARON COHEN

Mr.Doctry is one of Palumbo’s newest gym teachers, joining our staff this year. He’s not new to the field of coaching, however, as he has been involved in the activity for over 20 years.

Before becoming a teacher, Mr.Doctry was studying engineering at Temple University, but it wasn’t his passion. He wanted to figure out a way to focus his career on something that he loved, sports. During Mr.Doctry’s sophomore year of college, a close friend of his passed away, which made him lean on his community and focus on being an aquatics director for an afterschool program. After college, he worked for the 76ers community relationship department visiting schools and teaching youth, and he continued a career in coaching from there.



Mr.Doctry says he became an athletic teacher because of the journey: “The journey of seeing an individual go from not understanding an activity, to then building a foundation of skills is truly remarkable.” In previous schools, Mr.Doctry grew sports programs from a couple sports to a wide range of activities. At Palumbo, he’s excited to work with the many athletic opportunities our school already has.

Mr. Doctry’s favorite part of the job is the environment at Palumbo and how welcoming, polite, and helpful everyone is. He especially showed admiration for fellow coaches that helped him learn and grow with his role here, as “he’s in the midst of greatness around him.” Even though Mr.Doctry’s only just begun his time at Palumbo, it’s clear he is going to thrive.

Fun Fact: The sport that Mr.Doctry’s been playing the longest is swim. He began when he was only three months old!



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT OF JAYE MACK

BY UNA CUTRONE

Between breaking records on the track team and queuing the music for showcases, Jaye Mack’s senior year has been a sprint from the racetrack to backstage. In an interview, Jaye tells the story of his time at Palumbo, and gives advice to students who wish to juggle both academic and artistic ambitions.

“I joined the track team in ninth grade, with no prior experience,” says Jaye. “I wanted something that would keep me busy and help me clear my head.” While he started off on the team only running, Jaye soon discovered a lesser-known event that he would break records in: long jump.

Long jump, a sport combining both speed and agility, requires athletes to leap as far as they can from a takeoff point. The goal is to land as far as possible from the starting position. While Jaye only began competing in long jump while in high school, he broke our school record for the longest jump this year. “I didn’t go into it knowing how great long jump would be. I just wanted to try something that not many people were doing at the time, and I ended up falling in love with it.”

Jaye’s time on the team wasn’t always smooth sailing, however. “I’ve had many injuries,” he explains, “I’ve hurt my knee, my heel, my everything. It definitely impacted me because it hindered my ability to compete. But I remembered that my injuries were temporary, and just tried to persevere, heal, and keep my mind on the prize.”

While Jaye plans to continue running in college, he will miss the chemistry of Palumbo’s track and field team. “My favorite part about being on the team

here is the environment. Everyone is really supportive and encouraging, and we cheer each other on. It’s like a family,” he says.

Besides running, Jaye also has interests in the arts. “I like plays and poetry. And I love music.” With his love of music, Jaye has become heavily involved in the tech crew for our arts showcases. “I do the music for the showcases, so I queue up and play songs.”

For Jaye, managing the soundboard is about more than pressing play, it’s about what happens after. “I like seeing people’s reactions to the songs I play. I’m a big fan of music—all genres really. I think that it brings people together and creates a fun environment.”

Whether he’s soaring through the air at a long jump competition, or watching an auditorium scream lyrics after a perfectly timed bass drop, Jaye Mack is a lesson in versatility. In the last four years, Jaye has spent his time in highschool proving to students that you don’t have to pick just one lane—you can excel in them all.

Next year, Jaye plans to attend West Chester University, where he will study Computer Science. But for all of the students returning to Palumbo in the fall, Jaye gives the following advice:

“Just be yourself. Too many people in the world try to be someone that they’re not, when in reality, people will like you for just being you. So don’t try too hard to fit in, be the person that people want to fit in with.”

ALBUM REVIEW: HIMIKO KIKUCHI'S *FLYING BEAGLE*

BY VIO DOAN

Can Beagles really fly? Probably not, but this is the title of Himiko Kikuchi's album, *Flying Beagle*, a Japanese-American jazz fusion wonderland of 8 tracks. This album was released in 1987, and it didn't resurface much until an unofficial posting of this album was put on Youtube. I only stumbled across this album due to its cover of an adorable beagle, and I'm glad I did because I've been introduced to such great jazz music.

Look at Your Back! is a very upbeat track. The bass is the most satisfying opener and connects so well with a simple drum. A lot of the build-up only slows the beat for a bit, but allows for the synth melody to shine. The brass parts don't dominate much in this track, but adds that note that the energy is still there. It is very catchy, especially the synth.

A Seagull and Clouds takes it a couple notches down. It's a more quiet piece that is able to incorporate brass instrumentals without the typical loud dynamics when used in music. It has a build up in energy, but it never explodes into one thing. This piece also features a small synth solo. Although it's not the most unique element of this track, it's utilized to change the theme of the instruments for a small moment before pulling back into the main motif. At the end, the instrumentals add a much smaller theme beside this, allowing for this nice fade to occur.



Flying Beagle opens with a gradual crescendo featuring bass, keyboard, and drums. The keyboard introduces the other instrumentals, and the drums also change rhythms at the same time, which creates this upbeat shift of energy. It has a playful sound, and becomes a bit chaotic about midway through the piece with the keyboard. This later reduces to introducing the guitar solo, controlled but still chaotic, and introduces a small drum solo to bring back the main theme. Knowing the nature of beagles, I'm not quite sure if the title is a fit.

Sandstorm is energetic but unique to its own cliché. It has clear distinction within certain instruments, yet the mix is also disorganized in a very good way. About halfway through the song, the influence of American Jazz is pretty distinct—it's a nice shift without ruining the overall theme. The end has a nice classical jazz ending that you simply can't get enough of.

The Second Summer is a softer track, but yet you can almost feel the remaining bass from previous tracks. It has an almost pretty sound to it, especially in the guitar solos and volume. It also has this distinct freeflow that one would expect from improvisational jazz.

Ducky Ducky is unique in the way that the upbeat tempo and rhythm make it sound more actiony. It's energetic with a clear distinction that this probably belongs in a comedic scene of a show. The instrumentation feels a bit rotational, with each instrument getting their own segment. It has a bit of a childish character to it, and definitely deserving of the title of this track.

This album overall is a great find for those new to jazz. I'm very glad that this album resurfaced back on YouTube, otherwise I would've not discovered it. It has such a diverse range of sound but still manages to keep its signature within, so there's definitely a little something for everyone in this album. Happy listening!



PASSION TO PROFESSION

BY KAMANI ELMORE

A common complaint among high school students on the hunt for work is that they are not feeling inspired by their prospects. Students often feel discouraged by the struggle to get a job that will not add to their future or meaningfully build their resume. It's arguably even harder to secure internships that offer professional development aligned with your career goals. With that being said, I've compiled a list of the coolest internships that I've learned about from our Palumbo peers.

Poppyn is a media internship where students are paid to make a film about an issue they care about. Students are provided with equipment, including a brand new canon camera and microphone set. This is a perfect opportunity for media-makers who want to be an influential voice in their community.

The Bloomberg arts internship allows students to work at local museums, theaters, and cultural centers in order to gain hands-on experiences from professionals in the arts. Bloomberg also offers college finance navigation, which ensures participants are receiving the necessary support for a creative career.

If you're interested in wildlife conservation, the Student Conservation Association has the perfect internship for you. Students are paid to participate in experiences ranging from restoring green spaces to cleaning the Darby creek at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

Chosen 1 NFL Flag is a premier sports and flag football internship for students. Participants gain hands-on experience coaching youth athletes ages 4-17. Students are able to add a higher degree of management, communication, and professional networking to their resume, especially in athletic environments.

CHOP-RISES is a STEM internship for rising juniors. Students are paid to work with professionals in labs learning scientific techniques. By observing the day-to-day operations of research laboratories, students see how scientific discoveries that positively contribute to health are made.

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick's Internship allows students interested in government and politics to get involved even before they can vote. Students answer phone calls and respond to mail regarding community concerns. It's a perfect head start for students that want a career involving civics, advocacy and networking.

Internships are not just about adding to your resume. Instead, they offer a real way to find yourself and your career path. By immersing yourself into real world environments, these opportunities can help you navigate the transition from a student to a professional with greater confidence.



MEETING THE MSA

BY AHMED AHMED & ELIZABETH DORNEY

From February 17th to March 19th, many students in our school community participated in Ramadan. Palumbo’s Muslim Student Association, or MSA, played a large role in helping to support students, not only during Ramadan, but throughout the school year as well.

We interviewed the presidents of the MSA, Nihal Mokhtari and Adam Boughanmi, for insight on what it’s like to run this club. When asked what made them want to be involved in MSA, Nihal explained how she joined MSA as a freshman and was able to form close relationships with students in the club. Adam shared a similar story, but explained that he became an active member of the MSA during his sophomore year, when leading prayer during Ramadan inspired him to become more involved with the club.

Nihal and Adam’s goals for the club are to foster community connections. Adam shared that at his previous school he felt that people were not welcoming to the muslim community, however at Palumbo this is not the case. Rather, Palumbo serves as a space for students of any religion to find their circle. So, Adam joined the MSA hoping to help build this community at Palumbo around Islam.

We recognize that many students may be unfamiliar with the MSA, so we asked Nihal and Adam to share how they would describe the club. Nihal shared, “It was a small group of people to start off, but over time, especially during Ramadan, the club has brought members together through lots of shared activities. We held a henna fundraiser this year during Ramadan. The club gives you an

outlet to connect with people religion-wise, which is great.”

Adam made sure to point out the importance that the club’s community has, “At MSA, no matter the number of members, the people who show up always bring 100%. We’re happy to be there and have a shared goal we’re working towards. This is very apparent during Ramadan when MSA members are meeting daily to pray. It fosters a strong community within the club and I think this will continue long after we are gone.”

A major part of MSA is being able to connect with people in your religion and celebrate your achievements together, instead of solely talking about Islam. Adam shared that, “There’s a common misconception about MSA that it’s like a cult, and that if a student shows up we will force religion on them, but it is not like that. It really is just a safe space to experience and learn about something new.”

Nihal shared with us that her role as a member of the MSA community is extremely important to her. “Wearing a cover is a difficult journey, especially in a public school, however in MSA you can see other people in your same boat. It’s a comforting experience and helps you feel more welcome in your community.”

Overall, Nihal and Adam encourage all students interested in joining the club to come check it out. It’s a great opportunity to be a part of an uplifting environment and learn more about Islam.

BADMINTON RECAP

BY SANTINA RAMUNNO

Palumbo's badminton team, coached by Ms.Schad, has become a point of pride for our school over the past three years. With a focus on both skill development and community, the team has created a welcoming environment for players of all levels.

"My favorite part about being the Palumbo Badminton coach is getting to work with our incredible student athletes," says Ms.Schad. "It is a joy to watch them play and to help them develop their badminton skills and strategies, their progress over the years is inspiring!"

The team emphasizes community building, with activities ranging from pre-season bonding exercises to coordinated teal bows for away matches. This unity is a key factor to the team's success. Nina Chen, the team’s captain, stated, "My favorite part of being on the team is the team bonding moments, like when we collectively pool our snacks together on the bus to an away game. I think we’re a very united community, and it feels just like home."

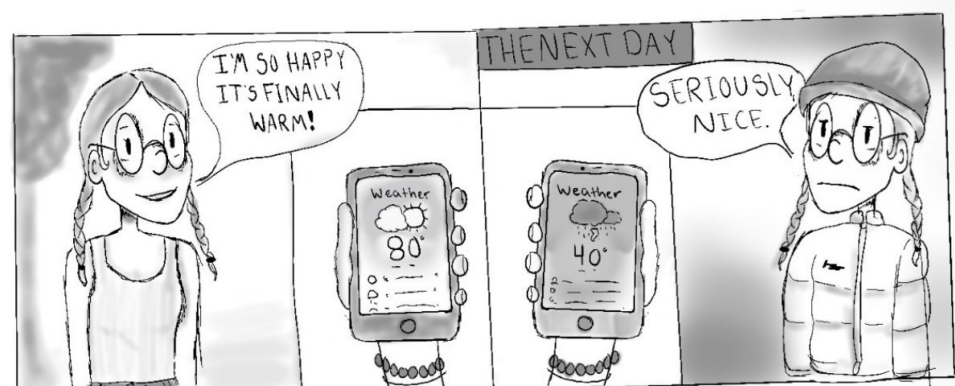


Captain Nina Chen plays a crucial role in fostering team spirit, leading warm-ups and team chants with enthusiasm. "Being captain is fun! I lead warm-ups, team chants, and provide a bit of feedback for other players—though I’m limited to doubles players, since I play doubles myself. I love all parts of being captain, but I particularly love leading the team chants. Go Griffins!"

Ms. Schad encourages anyone interested in joining the team to participate in the Badminton Club, which offers year-round opportunities to hone skills and get to know the team. With a mix of returning starters and new talent, the team is poised for continued growth and success.

FALSE FORECAST

BY CATHERINE DORNEY



PALUMBO PUZZLER

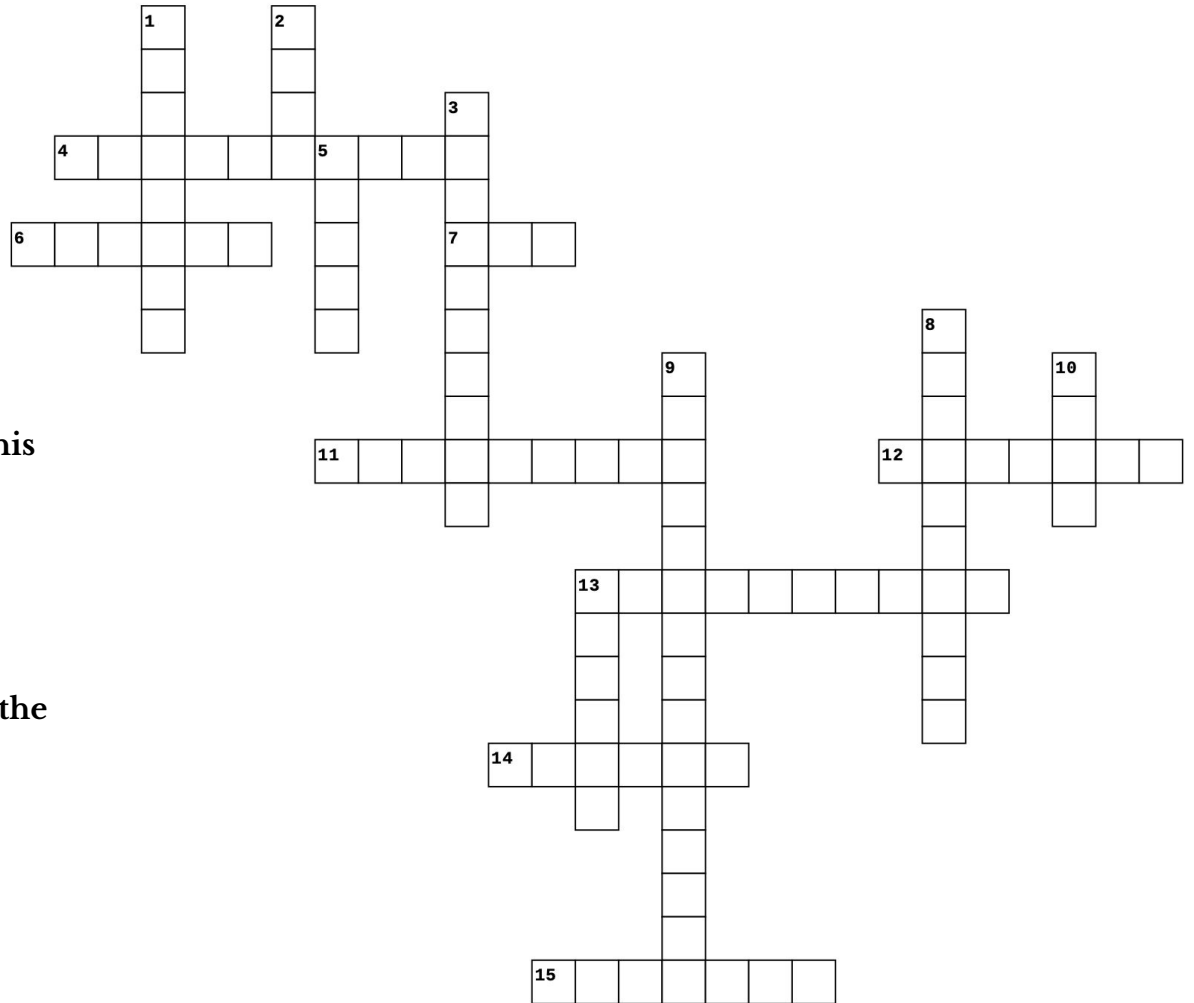
BY ELIZABETH DORNEY

ACROSS:

- 4. Necessity for most math tests
- 6. Ms.Sundeen’s team
- 7. Found in a hospital, or coaching Palumbo’s basketball team
- 11. Personal Finance teacher
- 12. Study of living things
- 13. AP Lang teacher, found in room 2017
- 14. Don’t forget to give your snaps to members of this club at assemblies
- 15. Palumbo’s designated book and capstone room

DOWN:

- 1. Something a teacher might give if you ask to use the bathroom
- 2. School colors: __ and black
- 3. Event where seniors walk the stage
- 5. Senior class president & environmental activist
- 8. Where in the building you would find yourself before 7:50am
- 9. It keeps your writing on point
- 10. This club keeps us on your toes with their outstanding choreography
- 13. Bookclub sponsor & English 2 teacher



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.

	Counselors	Last name starts with W	Went to college in PA
Has tattoos			
Coaches a team			
Last name is a real word			

WORD SCRAMBLE

BY UNA CUTRONE

Unscramble these school-related words. Put together the third letter of each unscrambled word to reveal a secret message!

- ALBEARG = _____
- ARRKEM = _____
- NCIESCE = _____
- OFEIFC = _____
- CEFOEF = _____
- RNIFOUM = _____
- CUNLH = _____

SECRET MESSAGE: _____