

REMODEL IMPACTS PHS



by Greyka Gonzalez & Raymundo Molina

The construction that has been taking place at Perris High School has affected everyone as we know it. A large section of our campus has been taken from us and caused the hallways to be more crowded. It has given us less space to walk around at school and many students have complained that with the crowded hallways its harder to get to class.

The whole construction is five phases. The construction began in June of 2012 with the buildings of 7000 and 8000 for Phase One. Then continued with the demolition of the classrooms that were located in the center of the school in December of 2013 and finished the demolition during the summer of August 2014 which started Phase Two. The construction of Phase Two won't continue until January of 2015, because the construction workers are trying to work around the school schedule so they won't interrupt students with their instructional time with all the noise that will be made with the construction going on.

Phase Two of the construction is going to be separated into two parts, part 2A and part 2B. Part 2A will be completed in two years and will include a new two story classroom buildings, a two story agriculture building, a new boys and girls locker rooms, student quad and outdoor storage. When that is finished, part of the fenced area is going to be opened up so that students can walk through, which will

mean less congestion during passing periods. Part 2B will include a brand new cafeteria, a new kitchen, classroom buildings, band room, weightlifting, and wrestling; if everything goes as planned, it will be finished by 2018. After the whole completion of Phase Two, the next phase that follows will be Phase Three in 2020 which will include the demolition of the administration offices and the extension of the parking lot. Phase Three will include a new library, new administration, career center, science courtyard, outdoor reading area, and visitor parking with 78 spaces. The expansion of the parking lot will allow more cars to enter the parking lot area and it will be easier for students to be dropped off at school as well as more room for the busses to enter and leave the school. It will also decrease the traffic before and after school.

After that, Phase Four will provide new buildings that will be added to the campus such as a new theatre, drama, choir, band, arts courtyard, and service yard; this will dramatically increase the fine arts section.

The final phase will be Phase Five and it will be completed if the government continues with funding the school construction. This phase will have new coaches' offices, ASB, Student Store, snack bar, food court, pool viewing, pool building, dance, home team rooms, tennis courts, handball courts, basketball courts, visitors team room, and maintenance and operations.

The remodel project for Perris High School will result in an educational showcase. Although most of the students are complaining about the construction right now, the future holds an impressive vision for PHS which will be well worth the inconvenience for generations to come.

Above is the bulldozed area between the 8000 building and the gymnasium/ lunch area.

Below are the architectural renderings of the finished remodels of that same area.



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The Challenges of a New Club

by Juan Carlos Morales Chicas

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, surfers in California wanted something to do when the waves were flat. Skateboarding was born. It is an action sport and it's AWESOME to watch and to ride and perform tricks.

Skateboarding has been shaped and influenced by many skateboarders throughout the years. There are 11.08 million active skateboarders in the world—the other half just ride skateboards using them as a method of transportation. Students at school either ride their skateboard to school or activity perform and trick out.

Skateboarding has been a big part of communities all over the world. It has been inspiring ever since Street League, the Berries and *Thrasher* magazine (the best skateboarding magazine in world) started making competitions and events open to kids, teenagers and adults to enter and watch. Many of the events even offer the opportunity to meet your favorite pro skater.

It has been such a huge thing that I've even came up with the idea to start a club at Perris High—an actual skateboarding club, but there have been many obstacles. Permission from the school's principal was granted and I dreamed that skateboarding at Perris High would grow and involve and inspire more students to either join or even learn how to skate.

I researched other skateboarding clubs that had been formed, trying to contact schools that have an actual skateboarding team in their school, asking how well do they do on managing it or how they do to receive sponsors.

Skateboarding has the potential to help the school out more with getting along with other skaters and non skaters (previously, a source of problems for the school). In order to make Skateboarding Club happen at Perris High we need the support and participation of



both students and administration. There are numerous other problems to overcome regarding equipment and insurance for what has been labeled “too dangerous”, but just imagine how gnarly it would be to have a PHS Skateboarding Club!

First step—form a club.

Second step—take skateboarding to the sport level.

Alright Perris High skaters—keep shredding!

Buy your 2015 Yearbook today!

Or put it on your Santa list.

\$75 through 2/28/2015

\$85 after 3/1/2015

Pay Mrs. Hays, the ASB accountant, located in the administrative building.

PHS Goes to the Southern California Fair

by Emily Hamblin

This past October the Perris FFA program offered twenty FFA members the opportunity to take livestock animals to our local fair. These projects included rabbits, five goats, six lambs, and nine swine projects raised here on the school farm. Students raised their animals since the end of May until October, during this time these students cared for their animals by feeding, watering, and training them. This experience teaches the student to be responsible of another living thing that is dependent on them. After all the caring and

training these students take their livestock animals to the Southern California Fair to show and auction them. Many of our students did very well in the showring, Perris FFA took first place in novice showmanship in Goat and novice showmanship in Lamb. These two individuals entered master showmanship and showed goats, dairy goats, lambs, pigs, dairy heifers, and steers. Sophomore Anessa White, novice lamb showmanship winner, talked about her experience of being in master showmanship “I felt confident until I went into the ring because the idea of being judged was nerve racking”. The opportunity to raise livestock is so much fun and a lot of work at the same time, junior Jesus Peguero stated “It's such a great experience to raise livestock, it is a lot of work but it pays off knowing that you're helping to feed the world, and I would highly recommend others to get a livestock projects”. The Southern California Fair was a blast and a huge success for the Perris FFA members, if you are an FFA student and want to raise an animal next year talk to your agriculture teacher.



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What's the Price Tag for a College Education? - *an editorial by Daisy Garcia*

A college degree is just like anything else. You can pay a lot or you can pay very little, and you don't always get what you pay for. A few hundred of the very top students and student-athletes around the country don't pay anything because they manage to win "full ride" scholarships each year. A few hundred more are admitted to the handful of colleges that don't charge any tuition (though they still usually have to pay for their textbook and living costs). About half of all college students get some sort of grant or scholarship to reduce their costs. But the size of the grant is typically modest. The averages range from \$2,200 apiece to community college students to \$7,700 apiece to private university students. But about half of all college students get no free money and have to pay the full price of college by borrowing, working, or withdrawing from their savings. Each college has a different cost.

What Goes into the Cost of College? First of all, there is tuition, the money you pay a college for academic instruction. Then there are "fees," charges for specific services such as Internet access. Many colleges list "tuition and

fees" as one amount without breaking it down. Lastly, there are all the other expenses associated with going to college: housing, meals, books, school supplies, and miscellaneous.

Tuition is what colleges charge for the instruction they provide. Colleges charge tuition by the units that make up an academic year, such as a semester or quarter. An academic year typically runs from fall through spring. Tuition at public colleges is often a bargain for state residents, but not for out-of-staters, who often pay double the tuition of residents. Student fees run the gamut from library access and parking to student government and registration. Colleges usually provide a student fee total, breaking out only the most significant fees. The cost for one year of tuition and fees varies widely among colleges. The average cost of tuition and fees was \$30,094 at private colleges, \$8,893 for state residents at public colleges, and \$22,203 for out-of-state residents attending public universities. The cost of room and board depends on the housing and food plans you choose. On campus housing can come in various sizes and shapes, including dorms or apartment style housing and meal

plans. Most colleges estimate and publish the average costs for books and supplies at their institution. The average cost for books and supplies was \$1,207 at public colleges and \$1,253 at private colleges.

Then there are the expenses that colleges may estimate but don't bill you for: local transportation, clothing, personal items, entertainment, etc. Words that often pop up to describe these expenses are "estimated," "miscellaneous," "personal," and the catchall "other." These can add up. The expenses in this category for ran from \$2,580 at private colleges to \$3,228 at public universities.

Don't Let College Costs Scare You! These costs may seem overwhelming, but there are ways to keep expenses down. Remember that college educations come at all levels of cost, and that financial aid can reduce that cost. If a school is a great fit for you but seems too expensive, it makes sense to apply and then see whether your financial aid offer will bring the cost down. Don't give up on a college because of its sticker price.

Man on the Street

What's your favorite holiday movie? *by Maexty Payan*



"The Nightmare Before Christmas" - because it has skeletons!
Alan Sanchez, senior



"The Polar Express"
Jesse Acuna, senior



"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" because it teaches a valuable lesson.
Annalee Antima, junior



"Home Alone" because... why not?
Martin Loera, freshman



"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
Daniel Rosales, freshman



"Gremlins" because it's funny and action-packed.
Raul Hernandez, senior



"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" because it's about a little boy who believes in Santa.
Lorena Rios, senior



"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" because I like his personality and how he is so different from everyone else."
Rosa Jimenez, senior

Band Winter Concert

by Monica Acosta

That's right Ladies and Gentlemen, it's winter! Do you know what is amazing during this chilly weather? Music! On December 12th, the PHS Band held their Holiday Concert at Perris High School. Their fantastic performance required two weeks of learning and rehearsing a variety of Christmas melodies at the crack of dawn for the big show. If that isn't dedication, I don't know what is.

The Marching Panthers performed their 2014 Field Show, "Disney Spectacular," containing tunes from Aladdin, Mary Poppins, and The Little Mermaid. Their hard work earned them fifth place in the championship competition and saxophonist, Isaac Cruz, a five hundred scholarship. As the night

progressed, the Colorguard and Drumline executed an unforgettable performance that lead to a duet—an adorable duet of John Denver's "A Baby Just Like You" between junior flutist, Natalia Vasquez, and Physics teacher guitarist, Ryan Hays (see photo at right). The band continued with festive holiday songs that summoned snow and the big man himself, Santa Claus!

It was truly a magical night filled with beautiful music, snow, and even Santa Claus. Who would have known that Perris High School had such talented musical wizards?



Photo above: Donald Cerchia, band director, leads the concert band during one of their many pleasurable holiday selections. At right, snow fell to the delight of those in attendance.



Fun Activities for Christmas

by Juan Carlos Morales Chicas

Listen up! Christmas is coming so brace yourselves, because you, yes YOU! - you can't allow for this Christmas to be the same as last year's celebration. Make sure it's ten times as better than the last. Well lucky for you . . I'm here to help! Want to know some ways to make it a better Christmas besides replacing everyone's gifts with bags of coal? Yeah, believe me . . it's not a good feeling (better be good next year).

Have you ever awakened on Christmas Eve wishing you don't find fruit cakes? Yeah, well, wanna learn a fun way how to get rid of them? My friends love fruit cakes (sarcastically), do your friends like them? No? Maybe you might think about wrapping it up and leaving it in his front steps with his name - haha. Okay enough fooling around.

You might have family coming over; you might not like your cousins, but this is the season to be jolly . . so cheer up and treat them differently this year. Maybe buy board games. Do you want to know a good one? UNO. This is a great game even though I always lose and sometimes nobody ends up winning; it makes it way better that way because you could

feel the excitement.

Have you ever heard of Bingo? Of course, who hasn't? Right? It's not just for retirement homes! Well there's this other way you could play without boring pieces of plastic or paper. Get those bingo cards and play with M&Ms or with another favorite candy. Throw an Ugly Christmas Sweater Party and have your family sing Christmas carols. If you don't want to play Bingo in your holiday attire, then you could consider turning on the T.V. and watching some old Christmas cartoons or movies; a really good one is *Home Alone* or *Merry Christmas Drake and Josh*; fun animated holiday favs include: *Spongebob's First Christmas* or *Peanuts*, yeah - Peanuts is the cartoon that features Snoopy and Charlie Brown. One more game for family time - get flash cards and write down the characters from a cartoon or movie your family might like and stick them on your foreheads (inside a head-band if you don't want to put tape on your forehead; try to figure out who you are in the way they act with you - or just ask yes or no questions to figure it out.

Before opening your gifts you might want to consider your blessing and thank your family for all the wonderful times and all that you do have. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's to you all.

DECEMBER - THE MONTH OF MANY CELEBRATIONS!

Some Atheists in the U.S. have begun to celebrate the **Winter Solstice**. This is the day of the year when the nighttime is longest, and the daytime shortest. It is on 2011-DEC-22 @ 05:30 (UT).

Buddhists celebrate **Bodhi Day** (a.k.a. Rohatsu) on DEC-8, or on the Sunday immediately preceding. It recalls the day in 596 BCE, when the Buddha sat beneath a Bodhi tree -- a type of fig tree -- and is believed to have achieved enlightenment, thus escaping the repeating cycle of reincarnation: involving birth, life, death and rebirth. A descendent of the original tree is the most important of four holy sites of Buddhism.

Jews celebrate **Hanukkah**, (a.k.a. Chanukah; "*Feast of Dedication*" and "*Festival of Lights*"). This is an 8 day observance which recalls a miracle in the Jerusalem temple during a war fought by the Maccabees in the cause of religious freedom. Temple candles only had enough oil to burn for a single day. Yet they burned for eight days. Jews light candles on a menorah -- two on the first day, three on the second, to nine on the eighth day. Hanukkah falls between sunset on 2011-DEC-20 and sunset on DEC-28. The first of Hanukkah typically falls between NOV-30 and DEC-26.

Some Native Americans and Aboriginal groups elsewhere in the world also observe the Winter Solstice. They associate different beliefs and rituals with it. For example, the Hopi

tribe celebrations are "*...dedicated to giving aid and direction to the sun which is ready to 'return' and give strength to budding life.*" Their ceremony is called Soyal. It lasts for 20 days and includes "*prayerstick making, purification, rituals and a concluding rabbit hunt, feast and blessing...*" 1

Wiccans and some other Neopagans celebrate **Yule** at the time of the Winter Solstice. Some may celebrate the Sabbat (one of eight days of celebration) on the evening before, at sunrise on the morning of the solstice, or at the actual time of the astronomical event.

A

Iso, in ancient times, Druids and followers of the Pagan and Polytheistic religions of Greece, Rome, and other countries held celebrations at or shortly after the Winter Solstice. Some Neopagans have recreated these religions and are following them today.

Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday honoring African culture and traditions. It falls between December 26 and January 1 each year. Maulana Karenga, an African-American leader, proposed this observance and it was first celebrated between December 1966 and January 1967.

LOOKING FOR SOME NEW HOLIDAY TRADITIONS?

- Holiday food traditions**
1. Make traditional dishes for your holiday meals and include foods from your culture or foods you ate growing up. Ask for recipes from relatives to keep your family food traditions alive.
 2. Organize a cookie-baking party. Invite friends and family, or a group of your kids' friends. Ask everyone to bring their favorite holiday cookie recipe.
 3. Make the same entree for Christmas Eve (such as stew) and Christmas Day (ham or turkey) every year. Or, choose a side-dish that becomes the yearly tradition, even if it's just for laughs.
 4. Make a gingerbread house with your family. Those pre-made sets make it easy and provide you with everything you'll need! Another option is to use graham crackers, some royal icing and candy you've saved for this purpose.
- Neighborhood and community traditions**
5. Get a handful of friends together and go caroling. You'll be surprised by how well-received your singing group is, even if you're out of tune!
 6. Check out holiday lights in your area. Get in the car, turn on your holiday playlist, and find brightly lit houses.
 7. Record local holiday events on your calendar. Most cities have concerts, festivals, plays, and more to celebrate the season.
 8. Walk door to door delivering Christmas cookies after you've made a batch.
 9. Go visit Santa! Do your research and find out what times of the day are best to this, like mid-week during the evening.
 10. Go sledding, ice skating (there's a rink in Riverside), or other outdoor winter activity with your family. A great time to schedule this is on Christmas day, after the gifts are opened, the meal is eaten, and everyone is getting antsy from being inside.
- Giving back holiday traditions**
11. Volunteer your time as a family at a soup kitchen or a food bank that hands out food to families in need.
 12. Go through closets and donate gently used clothing (coats are particularly useful this time of year) to a local shelter.
 13. Deliver cookies and treats to your local fire station, police department, and even the staff at your local hospital. After all, they'll be working through the holiday.
 14. Don't forget senior citizens! Volunteer time at your local senior citizens center or see if there is a giving tree specifically for the residents.
- Christmas Eve traditions**
15. Open one gift on Christmas Eve.
 16. Track Santa's progress across the globe on NORAD.
 17. Make reindeer food on Christmas Eve (oats and candy sprinkles) and toss it on the lawn for Santa's team of reindeer.
 18. Read *The Night Before Christmas* at bedtime.
 19. Leave a 'trail' of gifts from the chimney to the tree so show Santa's route in the house.
 20. Get matching pajamas for the kids to wear on Christmas Eve. Talk about a great photo op Christmas morning!