



The Thinker

Issue 2

62nd Session

June 17, 2022

Blast From the Past: Freshman Friday

By Victoria T.

Freshman Fridays, a gamified combined class for Freshmen, are not planned as part of this summer’s program.

GPGC director Josh Brown said the combined class was not an effective use of class time and wasn’t as useful as originally thought. He also said the academic teachers, all new to the program this year, might have trouble implementing it.

Freshman Friday was a gamified morning designed by the humanities, science, and English teachers to help the Freshmen feel more comfortable being out of their homes

and around their classmates, and to gain more knowledge about the program.

Every Friday, Freshman classes 1 and 2 would gather together in one of the classrooms. The students would compete in their respective teams and play a round of quiz bowl, complete trivia, watch a movie or episodes of the twilight zone, play inventive games, and just to have a generally good time.

It was a topic of conversation, playful ribbing, and most of all, a bonding experience between the freshmen.

Every Freshman looked forward to Friday as both a day free from homework and a way to either redeem them-

selves or keep their winning streak. It was an exciting break from the monotony of classes, no matter how interesting they might have been.

When playing a quiz bowl style game, each class would pick 4-6 representatives (depending on the number of usable buzzers). The two classes would then compete to buzz in and correctly answer questions the fastest.

The trivia, on the other hand, was a classwide contest, where all of the students had the opportunity to answer.

The quizbowl and trivia questions were usually about obscure general knowledge, although they often con-

tained a few questions about GPGC history.

For some, the most enjoyable part of Freshman Friday were the creative games. Each class would compete against each other to pull tissues from a box with one hand, to flip a cup and have it land upright, to blow a cup across the ground, and many other interesting games.

The winners of each day would usually receive two brain bucks, while the losers would receive one. Every person came out of the experience with exciting anecdotes and was refreshed to start the next week.

GPGC on Air!



GPGC student Maddy W. talks on the air at KBYS this week. Photo from GPGC.

Warriors Take NBA Crown

By Julien V.

It’s that time of the year again, when the sun is shining, school is out, and the NBA finals take the courts.

This year the Golden State Warriors and the Boston Celtics fought it out through game six for the championship, with the Warriors coming out on top, 103-90. Giftie Ishan Kuna-da, a Celtics fan, characterized the outcome as “sad” because it was a defeat on the Celtics’ home turf.

The Warriors’ Game Six win saw Steph Curry tied with Celtics high-scorer Jaylen Brown at 34 points each.

This is the Warriors’ sixth trip to the finals in eight years. Boston was in its first final in 12 years.

Please see NBA on page 4.

Guest Column: GPGC Lore - Senior Edition

By Abigail Fruge

There are countless traditions to behold as a student of the Governor's Program for Gifted Children. Whether it be the token economy, mandatory choir, Friday Movie Night, or being thrown into the numerous traditional songs and their seemingly outrageous routines at the first dance, it is no surprise that students continue to uncover new traditions with each day (or Thinker edition). While a majority of these activities are enjoyed by all, there are a few reserved to students who return year after year. Of these, we will delve into the world of the third year Giftie – **The Senior**.

Seniors have many anomalies with which to be associated, but these students still wake up to counselors banging on their doors, add seasoning to their cafeteria eggs, and take the traditional morning classes just like their fellow Freshmen and Sophomores. Their Humanities III, Composition III, and Science III courses are elevated and built upon those from previous summers to include a more rigorous curriculum and the legendary Rat Lab in Science III. These students must also choose a single class in which they will complete the dreaded, yet celebrated **Senior Project**. Science projects are typically the most abundant, where the student will design and perform their own experiment. Composition projects are the most varied as students can submit poetry collections, short stories, and other forms of self-written works. Humanities projects (my favorite) typically build upon the literature of the Sophomore and Senior summers, and apply con-

cepts within them to our own societies. Seniors spend the entire summer working on their projects, along with general coursework from morning classes, and eventually present their papers and findings to the student body, professors, and alumni.

Once dinner is eaten and everyone settles into the famed Collette Hall, the work doesn't end. While the academics are over for the day, there are dormitory tradi-

“...these students still wake up to counselors banging on their doors, add seasoning to their cafeteria eggs, and take the traditional morning classes just like their fellow Freshmen and Sophomores.

tions to be upheld. Canonically, the seniors host a **Senior Store** in the lobby that sells a variety of snacks and drinks at unbeatable prices for students. This, along with a **Senior Carwash, Fun Day, and Dinner** following 4th of July Break (shout out to the dedicated Senior Counselors who came before us), is all to raise funds for their end of the summer **Senior Trip**.

The Saturday after Senior Project presentations, the seniors wake up bright and early, load up the McNeese vans, and embark on their illustrious, overnight trip. These trips include educational and recreational excursions. The previous 2019 session Senior class took their trip to Houston where they went to an art museum and then the Kemah boardwalk (though the numerous Buc-ee's stops added extra fun).

The Seniors return from

the trip the following Sunday just in time to take a quick nap before the final Formal dance. It is here that one last tradition is unveiled. Each summer, the Senior class creates a CD (Spotify playlist now that those are practically obsolete) composed of songs they feel embody their class. Among these is a highly regarded **Senior Song** that becomes their “sappy anthem,” per se. Last session's song was “I Was Here” by Beyonce.

Other songs include the Class of 2015's “Photograph” by Ed Sheeran (truly a Hall of Fame choice). Overall, this song in particular is very meaningful to the session's Senior class,

and it is revealed at the end of the formal dance before “Stairway to Heaven.” While it plays the entire class and their counselors all dance in a large circle and cry.

There are other traditions in which the Senior class partakes, but these are the ones reserved solely for this classification. It is a very important and intense summer – often told by those who have or are currently experiencing – and their renditions can be daunting to the Freshmen and Sophomores. However, where there is more to do, there is always more to become. This summer truly allows students to take what they have learned in previous summers and apply it in ways that are their own. It is a summer looked fondly upon by those who have graduated from the GPGC, and it is one we look forward to returning for our 64th session.

Senior Gamma – Third year students who attended previous summers under the Freshmen and Sophomore classifications

Senior Grads – Third year students who entered Grad classes for their second and third summers. These students do not complete a senior project, but help raise funds, attend Senior Trip, and graduate at the close of the session. Victoria Todman is under this classification for this session, and will be the sole graduate of the 2022 Senior Class

Senior Project - an important paper and presentation each student must complete in order to graduate, and it is typically built upon the culmination of knowledge gathered from current and previous course work within the class of the Senior's choosing

Senior Store – Store put on by the Senior class to raise funds for their senior trip

Senior Carwash – an activity put on by the senior class the weekend before Senior Trip to raise funds

Senior Fun Day – an activity put on by the Senior class the same weekend as Carwash and Dinner. Classic activities include: soapy slip-n-slides, water balloon and shaving cream fights, and paint twister

Senior Dinner – the senior class cooks a Sunday dinner for the entire student body, dorm staff, and any other staff who attends

Senior Trip – An overnight trip the Senior class takes the second to last weekend of the summer

Senior Song – Anthem chosen by the entire Senior class to signify the memories they've made at the program during their time attending

Meet the Freshmen!

By Lydee F. and Julian V.

This is the rest of this year's Freshman class. Check back in next week's edition of The Thinker for profiles of upper-classmen and counselors.

Samson W.

Samson is from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and has one sibling. His favorite color is blue, his favorite meal of the day is lunch, and his favorite movie is Pixels.

His roommate since the start of the program has been Julien, and his favorite thing he has done so far is Werewolf.

His favorite morning class is humanities, his favorite afternoon class is critical thinking.

A fun fact about Samson is he has three and a half cats, meaning one of them goes in and out of the house.

Amelia L.

Amelia is from Mamou, Louisiana, and has a half sibling. Her favorite color is dark purple, her favorite movie is Alice in Wonderland, and her favorite meal of the day is breakfast.

Since she has come to the program, her roommate is Lizze, and her favorite activity she's done so far is Werewolf.

Her favorite morning class is composition, and her favorite afternoon class is drawing.

A fun fact about Amelia is that she is a junior in high school.

Meredith G.

Meredith is from "a random town in Texas no one's ever heard of called Industry," and has one sibling. Her favorite meal of the day is breakfast, her favorite movie is The Hunger Games, the first one, and her favorite color is "either red... or red."

Since she has gotten to the program, her roommate has been Lydee, and her favorite activity she's done so far is Magic.

Her favorite morning class is composition and her favorite afternoon class is mixed ensemble, since she likes messing around with music.

A fun fact about Meredith is that she likes archery and dead bugs.

Madelyn W.

Madelyn, who also goes by Maddy, is from Sulphur, Louisiana, and has one sibling. Her favorite meal of the day is lunch, her favorite movie is "All of Marvel's Avengers movies," and her favorite color is pink.

Since she got to the program, her roommate has been Azula, and her favorite activity she's done so far is "ping pong and the dances."

Her favorite morning class is science, and her favorite afternoon class is musical. "I love Musical," she said.

A few fun facts about Maddy is that she loves archery, she loves volleyball, and she can't draw.

Brooklyn M.

Brooklyn is from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and has one sibling. Her favorite color is sage green, her favorite meal of the day is breakfast, and her favorite movie is Top Gun.

Since the start of the program, her roommate has been Madelyn White, and her favorite activity so far is writing for composition.

Her favorite morning class is composition (at first she hated it, then she thought it was really fun), and her favorite afternoon class is critical thinking, although it was a hard decision.

A fun fact about Brooklyn is that "My hair color is less common than being struck by lightning, twice."

Leo K.

Leo is from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and has one sibling (sister). Leo's favorite meal of the day is lunch, his favorite movie is The Goonies, and his favorite color is blue.

Since he arrived at GPGC his roommate has been Jace, and Leo's favorite activity he has done at the program is Ping Pong.

His favorite morning class is science, and his favorite afternoon class is musical.

A fun fact about Leo is "Leo likes yo-yo."

Ishan K.

Ishan is from Lafayette, Louisiana, and has one sibling (sister). Ishan's favorite meal of the day is lunch, his favorite movie is Top Gun Maverick, and his favorite color is blue.

Since he arrived at the program his roommate has been Tyler. Ishan's favorite activity so far has been "drinking root beer."

His favorite morning class is science, and his favorite afternoon class is critical thinking.

A fun fact about Ishan is that his speedcubing record is 13 seconds!

Tyler C.

Tyler is from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and has 14 siblings! Tyler's favorite meal of the day is breakfast, his favorite movie is Star Wars, and his favorite color is blue.

Since he arrived at the program his roommate has been Ishan. Tyler's favorite activity so far has been eating.

His favorite morning class is science, and his favorite afternoon class is "the musical."

A fun fact about Tyler is that he doesn't eat eggs or fish.

Jace S.

Jace is from New Orleans, Louisiana, and has two siblings. Jace's favorite meal of the day is lunch, his favorite movie is Rango, and his favorite color is teal.

Since he arrived at the program his roommate has been Leo. Jace's favorite activity so far has also been "eating."

His favorite morning class is MG, and his favorite afternoon class is mixed ensemble.

A fun fact about Jace is that his hair grows extremely fast.

Weekly Themed Trivia

By Lydee F.

Every week there will be a fun, themed trivia quiz for you to try to complete. Record your answers and hold onto them until the next week, when the correct answers will be revealed, and a new quiz will be given. There will be 10 questions each quiz, and the 10th question will be the same every week: What was this week's theme? We won't force you to complete the quiz, either. There are only two rules: try your best and have fun!

Question 1: Where is a shrimp's heart located?

Question 2: What can you fracture if you sneeze too hard?

Question 3: If every fingerprint is different, what other print is always different?

Question 4: An ostrich's eye is bigger than its ____.

Question 5: Which is the only known fish that can blink both eyes?

Question 6: How many muscles does a cat have in each of its ears?

Question 7: Which animal has the largest eyes in the world?

Question 8: How long does it take the average human to fall asleep?

Question 9: How many miles long is the circulatory system?

Question 10: What was this week's theme?

NBA

Continued from page 1.

Both teams have faced tough teams to get to where they are. During this year's tournament, the scores were usually between 10 - 20 point differences.

The Celtics took the first game with a score of 120 - 108. In the second game, the Warriors brought it back with a score of 107 - 88.

The Celtics won Game Three by 16 with a score of 116 - 100.

In the fourth game, the Warriors' Curry destroyed the competition scoring a whopping 43 points to the Celtics' best shooter Jayson Tatum at 23!

Even though the players' personal point difference was large, the ending score was not. The Warriors won by a thin 10-point margin. The final score for Game Four was 107 - 97.

The Warriors took Game Five, again with a difference of just 10 points. The final score: 104 - 94.

Next up for the NBA is the NBA draft, set for June 23.

Dog of the Week

By Elizabeth B. and Lydee F.

The dog of the week is:

The American Pitbull Terrier!

The American Pitbull Terrier is friendly and eager to please, according to the United Kennel Club's breed standards. It is a medium-sized dog with short fur, and adults weigh 30-80 pounds.

They are highly intelligent and noted for their love of children. They can be aggressive with other dogs, so owners should carefully train and socialize these dogs.

Photo from dogtime.com



GPGC Word Search

By Victoria T.

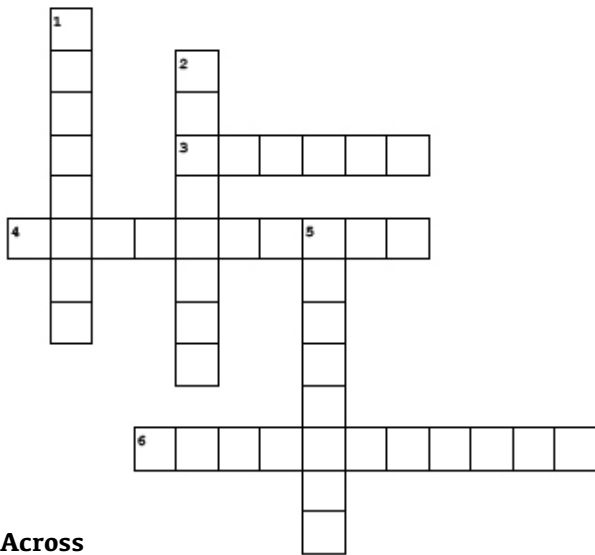
The words in this word search will be key words from the previous The Thinker.

There are 15 words in this edition. It's up to you to find them.

Read last week's edition of The Thinker if you need some ideas!

L X U Q E I T T W U N U S R M G W M Q M Y Q Q
 E D M M N I X M R W Q W M B F U Y N N P O D V
 S O I F R C K J D A N P T C X E H B Z V T H S
 I E E L R H H Z E S D U T R J C C A Y U M N R
 L Z C O F T Q D G A S I T V O N R Z E J E L M
 E J W W J H G F Q P R D T W X A A R E C A A F
 G T C E L Y F T Q V G E Z I M D N D V H T G T
 A H O R L O U A M Y K C W B O F A I N U P D O
 C I G E O F N H H I P I M D O N U P Z M I V P
 Y N I W T A S N V H N W Z X F P S E B B E Y E
 R K F W A U I V K S U O N E G I D N I P F O W
 Y E T O A N E A G X O P R Y U B D E H R V J L
 A R I E F A S K T H E H O B B I T A K E Z F P
 H W E Z Z N B K A R P Y Z H E E Z T Y O H O N
 Z G S H M R E N A D T A E R G K Z C L C G U K
 Z E R A Z Y F D Y N E M H S E R F D W A S X Q

GPGC Crossword



Across

- 3. What we pass around around and read every summer.
- 4. What everyone turns their head for when they hear it hitting the floor.
- 6. The musical this year is The ___ Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.

Down

- 1. The last word in the translation of what is on the back of our shirts.
- 2. The style of government this year.
- 5. Where we live

Word of the Week

serendipity

[ser-uhn-dip-i-tee]

noun

an aptitude for making desirable discoveries by accident; good fortune; luck.

“A gun” - Madelyn W.

“Hello” - Jace S.

“Dip into the calmness” - Grace J.

“Quality of being annoying” - Samson W.

“A state in which you are serene” - Elizabeth B.

Only a few weeks to go for Miles to Go!

Don't forget to submit your art and writing to Miles to Go so we can include it in this summer's journal.

And if you'd like to be on staff, email your application to office@gpgc.org with MTG Staff in the subject line. Include your name, why you'd like to be on staff, and what job you'd like to do.

Stay tuned for interest flyers and meetings with more information.

Seen and Heard

"I think I am just so funny you are going to have to write everything I say down." - Brooklyn M.

"Fortune cookies are good." - Azula T.

"I'm dumb with conversation." - Brooklyn M.

"I come with a lemonade peace offering." - Brooklyn M.

"Yes, Calvin, it's your birthday." -Maddy W.

"Abe, why does your thumb look like a toe?" - Leo K.

"It smells moldy but good." - Maddy W.

"Corn pants. I mean bell bottoms." - Brooklyn M.

"Oui, oui. Oh, no. That's Australian." - Brooklyn M.

Abe catches ping-pong ball "Don't you dare eat it again!" - Meredith G.

"Cheese fixes everything." - Christine B.

"Mohawk people are cool!" - Azula T.

"No holes, no crying, and no crying in holes." - Anna Shuff

holds up picture of llama "Abe, this is you!" - Maddy W.

"You're alive, loser." - Amelia L.

"Amelia's the one who hates Ethos." - Christine Bertrand

"You're gonna get a fine for speaking." - Maddy W.

"Several is at least seven!" - Maddy W.

"My farts are stronger than the wind." - Abe Miller

"I do look up to you... You're taller than me." - Grace J.

"Elizabeth" - Elizabeth B.

"Jesus, I mean Abe, I mean Gabe, I mean Ed Sheeran." - Brooklyn M.

"Me talking to every person I ever meet: you lesser being." - Gabe G.

"What would you like to see on the thinker? Brooklyn: 'You' - Brooklyn M.

"HE-HE"-Julien Vallee -Elizabeth B., Gabe G.

"Power pepper, a.k.a. Power swamp." -Maddy W.

"My tongue is cold" -Amelia L.

"ACTING like you know what you're doing." -Christine Bertrand

Have a few puns!

What do you call a sad strawberry?
A blueberry!

Past, future, and present walk into a bar. It was tense.

Two chemists walk into a breakfast place. The first one says, "I'll have some H₂O." The second one says, "I'll have some H₂O, too." The second one dies.
- Calvin Rannels

One dark and stormy night, two dead men got up to fight.

Back to back they faced each other, drew their swords and shot each other.

A deaf policeman heard the noise; he came and shot those two dead boys.

If you don't believe this lie is true, ask the blind man, he saw it too.

- Old Middle-English,
Appalachian Rhyme

Editorial Staff:

Elizabeth B.
Lydee F.
Meredith G.
Victoria T.
Julien V.

