



The Thinker

Issue 5

62nd Session

July 8, 2022

Costume Dance Tradition to Continue

By Lydee F.

The Costume Dance is Saturday at GPGC!

Everyone is encouraged to join. Make sure you have a fun costume to wear to the dance. Don't feel pressured about which one you choose. Besides, no one really cares about how crummy a costume might look; after all, not only are they busy having fun and dancing (it is a dance, after all), but the crummier costumes are much more fun in the long run.

The costume dance will be down in the lobby, just like all of the other dances this summer, where there will be a photo booth (there has to be a photo booth for

this dance!). The counselors have a group costume planned, and Coordinator of Housing Kai Cavell said they will present their costume at the dance. Don't bother asking them what it will be; it's a surprise!

"I'm excited for it," Cavell said. "I think it's one of my favorite dances."

Ryan Byrne is the DJ for the event, so if you have any suggestions for the dance, any songs you would like to hear, let him know.

The costume dance is an overall very fun tradition, according to the alumni, and always will be. It outlines the whole program in just one night; being able to show your true, messy self and not

even being judged by it.

It, just like the program itself, is a beloved treasure, a gift. With that, have fun at the costume dance, and have fun creating the best, and also crummiest, costume out there!



Photos courtesy of GPGC

Tuesday Marks International Malala Day

By Victoria T.

International Malala Day is July 12, celebrating the young Pakistani advocate for



Malala Yousafzai
Photo from Wikipedia

children's education on her birthday.

It is to celebrate Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai. According to Indian news network news18, Malala works to give women the right to education around the world.

She wasn't allowed to go to school as a girl, but she refused to stay at home. Instead, in 2008, she started writing a blog about her life while Swat was under occupation by the Taliban.

Catching public attention, she gave interviews on TV and in newspapers. Then, in

2012, she was attacked by Taliban gunmen who had hijacked her bus. She was shot in the head and neck, at the age of 15.

Nine months later, on her birthday, she delivered a speech at the United Nations highlighting the need for worldwide women's education. She received a standing ovation for her speech on "Every child's right to education."

After the assassination attempt on Malala, Pakistan created a "Right to Education" bill, which, according to RTE Pakistan, creates a responsibility for the state to provide all children of the

ages of 5-16 "free and compulsory education under the fundamental rights chapter of the constitution of Pakistan."

At the age of 17, she became the youngest person to ever receive a Nobel Peace Prize. At 18, she opened an all-girls school for Syrian refugees. In 2020, Malala graduated from the University of Oxford, graduating in philosophy, politics, and economics.

She is currently working as a producer for dramas, children's series, animations, and documentaries according to an article published by the Australian news service SBS.

Meet the counselors: Alex Hoffpauir

By Victoria T.

This is Alex Hoffpauir’s first year as a counselor. He was a student at the program for five years.

His favorite memory of his time at GPGC was, “The Pillow Fight.”

They had a floor-wide pillow fight in his first year. He didn’t win, but strapped pillows to himself.

“I was basically walking armor,” he said.

He got knocked over, given that he was very small at the time. He also fondly recalls a student chucking a laundry basket full of clothes

down the hallway.

Alex’s favorite thing about the program was that, “It was a place to fit in when I didn’t fit in in middle school and high school.”

His favorite class here was either critical thinking or drama: Critical thinking because it pushed him to work well with others, which is useful in his current life. It also taught him how to play within the rules and still win.

He enjoyed drama mainly because of the teacher, Mrs. Angie, but also because, “I got to act and enjoy being around others without having to sing.”

He decided to become a counselor because of a previous counselor of his named Zealon. He was, “a very important part of my experience at the program,” and Alex wanted to provide the same experience for the students here. Zealon passed away in 2021.

Alex is currently job hunting, but does freelance work as a designer.

He said he originally decided to attend the program



Alex Hoffpauir
Photo by Alex Hoffpauir

because Alexis Nixon came to his middle school and gave a presentation.

Meet the counselors: Sydney Brummett

By Victoria T.

This is Sydney Brummett’s first summer as a counselor. She attended the program for four years. If not for COVID, she would have attended five.

Brummett said she became a counselor because she wanted to continue supporting the program in any way she could, and she wanted to experience working with kids in a new way. She hopes it will help prepare her for her job as an RA.

She attends Louisiana State University, and last semester she worked in the

department of philosophy and religious studies. Next summer, she will be an RA for students a year younger.

Her favorite memory of her time at the program was in 2017. She was a sophomore, and it was her brother’s last summer. They danced together at the last dance, and she was sad to see him leave and to know he wouldn’t be there for her remaining summers.

Her favorite part of the program is how self-sustained it is. It has its own government, constitution, and token economy. She also loves how there is a solution

for every problem.

“If you have a problem with something you can make a law,” she said. “If you want to buy something there is a store. If you want to make more money you can do better at your classes or you can get a job.”

Her favorite class at GPGC was Conflict and Diplomacy with Jessica Markstrom. She was very interested in the class, and it is one of the reasons she is going to major in political science.

“I really liked the stuff that we learned and the content that we covered,” Brummett said.



Sydney Brummett
Photo courtesy of Sydney Brummett

She also enjoyed the country project, and enjoyed writing her essay at the end of the summer.

She said originally didn’t want to come to the program. She was sent by her parents because of how much they saw her older cousin and brother evolved after going to the program.

She cried because she didn’t want to come, “and then I ended up loving it... so clearly somebody made the right choice. I’m happy they made me come.”

Thinker Corrections from Issue 4

The Thinker staff would like to make the following corrections to stories from last week’s edition.

New GPGC Government Passes Cell

Phone and Safety Bills

Phones were picked up at lights out all five of Abbie Fruge’s years as student.

Seen and Heard

“Guerilla” from Abe Miller’s quote

Meet the Counselors: Abbie Fruge

The coordinator of housing for the soapilla incident was Joe Holland.

Meet the Counselors: Kathy Barrios

Barrios will be teaching in Opelousas, Louisiana, in the fall.

The staff regrets the errors.

Meet the Alpha: Abram M.

By Lydee F.

Abram (Abe) M. is in his fourth year as a student at the program.

His favorite memory from his previous years is being a part of the stage crew. It was his third year, he said, back when there were stage crews for the musicals. Since this summer's musical only has one set, they don't need a

stage crew.

This year, since he took critical thinking again, he said the class reminds him of his other years.

His favorite thing about the program is "fighting over brain bucks."

He does so as he says this and ends up winning and getting the brain buck.

A little bit of advice he has for the first years is,

"Don't be cringe!"

A fun fact about Abe is that "I have never broken a bone."

Abram M.
Picture by
Victoria
Todman



Meet the Senior: Victoria T.

By Lydee F.

This is Victoria T.'s third year at the program, and she said it's her favorite year by far.

She enjoys the classes and camaraderie more this year. And having her own room doesn't hurt.

Her favorite memory from previous years is "probably at the fifth dance." She said during that dance, one kid was dancing and pulling her along, dancing with her, "and made me feel really included... a part of everything."

A few things that reminded her of her previous years were the dances, and the roommates.

"You're either really close to your roommate," she said, "or you hate their guts."

Her favorite thing about GPGC is really "just the sense of belonging." She says that most kids like us tend to be alienated at school, and end up with very few friends. She said it feels nice "that you're with people who understand you and who you understand."

Some advice she has for

the first years is to "just, you know, be nice to one another... Your memories of the program will be so much fonder... if you're nice to one another."

A fun fact about Victoria is that "The only pets I've ever had were fish... they end up eating each other."

A fun fact about Victoria is that "The only pets I've ever had were fish... they end up eating each other."



Victoria T.
Picture by Christa Bell

Dog of the Week

By Elizabeth B. and Lydee F.

The dog of the week is...

The Akita!

Akitas aren't very lovey-dovey, and definitely aren't very good with other dogs, but are extremely loyal, courageous, independent and are very protective of their family. They are very alert, quiet, and fastidious dogs. Akitas feel free to share their silly and affectionate sides with their family rather than with strangers, and are very loyal companions, according to the AKC.



Image Courtesy of thekennelclub.org.uk

Happy Birthday, Nikola Tesla

By Victoria T.

Nikola Tesla, the man who revolutionized the alternating current system, was born between July 9 and July 10 in 1856. Since he was born around midnight, historians are not sure of his exact date of birth.

During his birth, there was a fierce lightning storm, which was considered a bad omen by some, according to PBS.

Tesla was a Serbian-American engineer and physicist. He invented the first AC motor and developed AC generation and transmission technology, among many other creations, according to History.com.

He immigrated to the United States in 1884 and was hired by Thomas Edison. Impressed with his ingenuity and diligence, Edison told Tesla he would pay him \$50,000 if he would create an improved design for his DC electrical generators, or dynamos.

After months of hard work, Tesla gave Edison an improved design, after which Edison refused to pay him, claiming the offer was a joke.

Soon after that incident, Tesla quit.

After attempting to create his own company and failing, Tesla finally found people who would pay for his research. Then, in 1887 and 1888, he was granted more than 30 patents for his inventions.

Edison's major competitor was George Westinghouse, who had made the first AC power system. Tesla caught Westinghouse's eye and was hired and given his own lab.

In 1890, Edison launched a smear campaign against AC current, arranging for a murderer to be put to death in an electric chair using AC current.

Unfortunately for Tesla, Westinghouse's backers forced him to renegotiate their contract, with Tesla having to give up his royalty rights to his inventions.

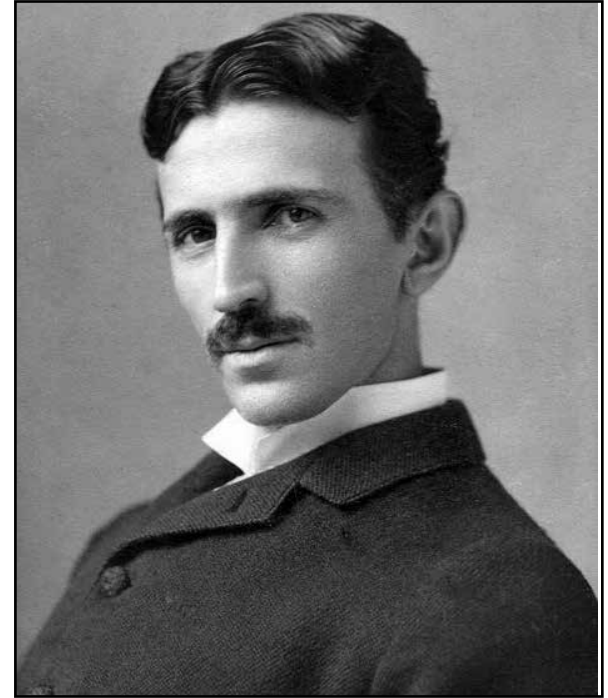
In the 1890s, Tesla invented several things, including the Tesla coil. He also invented electric oscillators and improved lights, and demonstrated radio communication two years before Guglielmo Marconi.

According to History.com, he and Westinghouse

also lit the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago and installed AC generators at Niagara Falls with General Electric.

In 1895, his lab in New York burned down, reducing years of notes and equipment to ashes. In 1900, he attempted to build a global communications network, akin to our modern cell phone technology, but his backer ran out of funds for the project, balking at the exorbitant costs of such an endeavor.

Tesla died on Jan. 7, 1943. The U.S. Supreme Court voided four of Marconi's radio patents after Tesla's death to acknowledge



Nikola Tesla
Image by Martin van Meytes
From Wikipedia

his innovations in the area.

Despite Tesla's brilliant mind, he was never able to create long-term financial success for himself, and suffered throughout his life with mental illness.

He left behind a legacy which would be difficult to forget, championing and improving the AC system which remains the global standard for power.

Meet the New Grad: Gabriel G.

By Lydee F.

Gabriel (Gabe) G. is from Slidell, Louisiana, and has one sibling.

His favorite movie is Star Wars, his favorite color is blue, and his favorite meal of the day is breakfast.

Since he has gotten to the program, his favorite activity has been swimming at P.E.

His favorite morning class is English, while his favorite afternoon class is critical thinking, although, depending on what day of the week it is, he sometimes enjoys P.E. more.

A fun fact about Gabe is "I have two dogs, Arrow and Lucy, and they think they're both five pounds."

Word of the Week

By Victoria T.

Funambulism

[Fyu - nam - bu - lism]

noun

Tightrope Walking

"Protestors of feminism." - Lydee F.

"A fundraiser." - Tyler C.

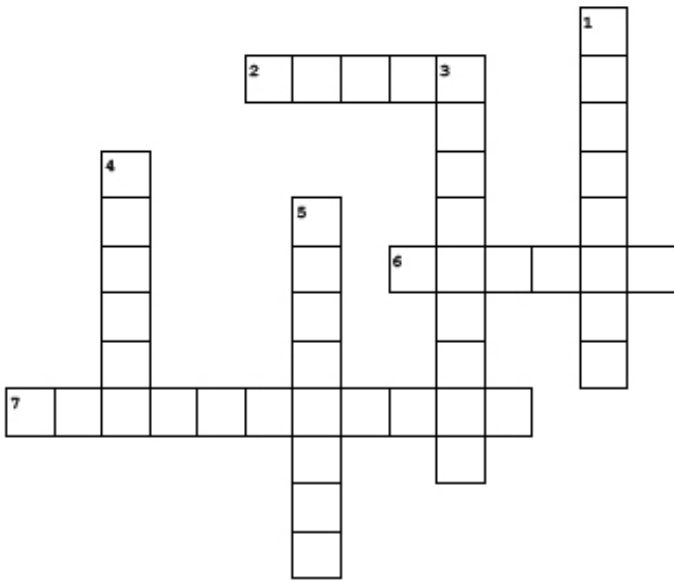
"Really really angry." - Meredith G.

"The state of being on fire." - Maddy W.

"Futile efforts." - Lizzie B.

"Relating to an embolism of some sort." - Alex Hoffpaup

Traditions Crossword



By Meredith Giles

Across

2. Every summer, the Grads go up to a balcony and drop ____.
6. ____ is held every Friday before the movie.
7. "We started singin' Bye, Bye Miss ____" is a line from a traditional song.

Down

1. The last week of the program is called ____.
2. What book was read to break the longest bedtime story world record.
4. What others call the program participants.
5. What starts at 8:00 every Sunday.

Themed Trivia

By Lydee F.

- Question One: What was the Barbie Doll's full name?
- Question Two: What TV show made the game Twister famous?
- Question Three: What was the first Fisher Price toy ever to be sold?
- Question Four: What was the first toy to be advertised on TV?
- Question Five: What Fisher Price toy became the best selling car in America in 1991?
- Question Six: According to Lego, six eight-stud Lego bricks can be combined into how many configurations?
- Question Seven: What was Play-Doh's original purpose?
- Question Eight: Where did Koosh Balls get their names?
- Question Nine: Why did Hasbro give Action Figures the name of 'Action Figures'?
- Question Ten: What was this week's theme?

Crossword Answers

By Meredith G.

Week 4

- The day people celebrate the end of slavery.
Juneteenth
- The month when everything is decorated to scare people.
October
- The day celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.
Thanksgiving
- ____ Day, celebrated on the Fourth of July.
Independence
- The day to celebrate love and affection.
Valentine's
- The first day of ____ is the day people shout "____ fools!"
April

Word Search

By Victoria T.

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

ABBY
 ADDITIONS
 BILLS
 CAMBRIDGE
 FILM CLASS
 FIREWORKS
 HOLIDAY

KATHY
 OUTLET
 PARADOX
 PLAGUEIS
 SAFETY
 SAMOYED
 TANNER

Seen and Heard

“What is this? It looks like a toothbrush.” - Azula T.

“I don’t have nice feet.” - Meredith G.

In a grandma voice “It speaks of the Fortnite battle pass.”
- Meredith G.

“My hair is a community space.” - Madelyn W.

“I don’t know what I’ve been told! Calvin’s gonna kill us all!”
- All of Freshman One

“He has an ear obsession.” - Grace J.

Victoria T.: *Intensely staring at her palm*
Leo K.: What are you doing, palm reading? *laughs*
Victoria T.: *Laughs harder and shows her palm covered in
writing to Leo* “Yes, in fact I am.”

“This is not the US! This is GPGC!” - Gabe G.

“YOU’RE a GIRL, GIRLY!” - Ryan B.

“I’m having difficulty reading my handwriting.” *Giddily
points to her hand, which as writing scrawled across it.* -
Victoria T.

A student: “How much does the killing people ticket cost?”
“10-15... years in prison.” - Alex Hoffpauir

“I got to see Brooklyn in her natural habitat!” - Jessica
Markstrom

Brooklyn M.: “Where do y’all live?” “Why would we tell you?
Coming from you, it’s not a question, it’s a threat.” - Jessica
Markstrom

Jessica Markstrom: “You’re trying to get diabetes.” “Yeah!
It’s like a speedrun!” -Brooklyn M.

“My pockets have actual working pants!” - Samson W.

“I’m very scary... but only if you think about it.” - Calvin
Runnels

Trivia Answers

By Lydee F.

In last week’s trivia, which we hope you completed, we
promised to reveal the answers this week. We would never
break a promise! Here are the answers to last week’s trivia
quiz, and don’t forget to try out this week’s quiz!

Answer one: The smartest president was John Adams.

Answer two: James Buchanan was the only president who
never married.

Answer three: Eight U.S. presidents were left-handed.

Answer four: Barack Obama was not born in New York.

Answer five: Benjamin Harrison’s grandfather was Wil-
liam Henry Harrison, the ninth president.

Answer six: Franklin D. Roosevelt was a cheerleader.

Answer seven: George Washington was the only president
unanimously elected.

Answer eight: Thomas Jefferson was also an accomplished
architect.

Answer nine: The only president to have been born on
Independence Day was Calvin Collidge.

Answer ten: Last week’s theme was U.S Presidents.

Word Search Answers

By Victoria T.

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. . . . . G R A D S . .  
. B G O V E R N M E N T . . . . A C  
. R . . . . M I L E S T O G O D O  
. U . . P R I D E . . . . . O N  
. T . . . . . A N S W E R S P F  
. A A . T R I V I A . . . . T L  
. L . R . . . . S H R U B . I I  
. I . . T . . S C I E N C E U F O C  
. S O F F I C I A L S . . . . N T  
. M . . . . . R Y A N .  
. . . . . H E A R D . . . . .  
. . D I P L O M A C Y . . M C U . .
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Miles to Go

**We need your art,
writing, poetry and
creative works!**

**Send in your submis-
sions to
milestogo@gpgc.org**

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