

The Thinker



Issue 2

63rd Session

June 16, 2023

Juneteenth Festival Trip Planned

By Elizabeth B. and Maddy W.

Gifties will pile into the vans Monday for a trip to the Civic Center to celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday to recognize and commemorate the liberation of enslaved people in the newly formed United States.

Gifties attend Lake Charles' Juneteenth observance every year, after watching a Juneteenth documentary in the lobby to learn more about the holiday. Lake Charles' Juneteenth Freedom Festival is a three-day event that includes a parade, a scholarship presentation, worship service, a

concert and fireworks.

Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19 because the Union Army, in its move west after the end of the Civil War, landed at Galveston Bay in 1865 and announced that Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation applied to the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state of Texas, according to the Smithsonian Institution. The newly freed people coined the name Juneteenth, or Emancipation Day, to celebrate.

President Joe Biden signed legislation into law in June of

2021 making the date a federal holiday.

Although Lincoln declared enslaved black people to be free with his 1863 proclamation, since his declaration covered enslaved people in South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, and North Carolina, emancipation could be implemented in places still under Confederate control. The Civil War ended in April of 1865, and the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified in December of 1865, ending slavery for all in the United States.

According to goldenwestcollege.edu, the Juneteenth celebration is the oldest known holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S.

Two alternate names for Juneteenth are Emancipation Day and Freedom Day. To emancipate means "to free", relating to how people were liberated from slavery.

Ways some people like to celebrate Juneteenth include attending or participating in parades or marches, having

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Giftie Government Elected

By Roman K. and Jace S.

Gifties elected a new government Wednesday, adding three new officials to the two returning justices.

Azula T. is this year's GPGC president. Lydee F. is the secretary, and Jolie F. was elected as the new justice. Jolie joins returning justices Lizzie B. and Meredith G..

Azula said in their platform speech they planned to take their term as president seriously.

"I will make sure everyone has a voice and is equal," they

said. "Even if they aren't that popular or people don't like them, they will be treated just as equally as the rest of us."

The government's main purpose is to make decisions for the better of the GPGC community, said Kathy Barrios, former Giftie and current Coordinator of Housing.

The GPGC government is provided for in the GPGC constitution, and it is usually made up of the president, the justices, secretary, and the vice president. The government also usually includes a legislative branch with a house of representatives made up of students and a senate composed of program faculty.

Because of the lower number of students in the last two years, some parts of the constitution have been suspended.

GPGC director Josh Brown said one change is this year's **See Government on page 2**

Works in Progress



Photo courtesy of GPGC

Blythe H. and Sol C. work with colors in Billy Hogan's afternoon Drawing class.

Results

President

Azula T.

Secretary

Lydee F.

Justice

Jolie F.

Meet the Freshmen

By Maddy W.

This summer's freshmen class is full of character. Here's a little bit about them.

Jolie F.

Jolie heard about the program from Mrs. (Elayne) Gabbert who was also her choir director.

Thus far, she said her favorite class has been Publishing with Mrs. (Christa) Bell because she enjoys writing articles and doing research.

On the weekends, Jolie said she enjoys getting out of the dorm to go to the Rec or getting Starbucks.

Jolie B.

Jolie B., aka JB, heard about the program from Madelyn W., her cousin and now roommate.

Jolie said her favorite class is PE. JB said she likes the physical attributes and the variety of

activities.

Her favorite weekend activity has been visiting the Rec, even though swimming hasn't been an option so far.

Bishop W.

Bishop said he heard about the program from his mom's friend, who is a former Giftie.

He said that his favorite class so far is Drawing with Billy (Hogan), because he enjoys creating works for others to admire.

On the weekends, Bishop said he likes to relax in his room, taking a break from the long week.

Jaci J.

Jaci said she heard about the program from seeing pictures on social media.

She said her favorite class so far has been Musical. Jaci enjoys seeing each cast member,

including herself, take on their role.

According to her, getting out of the dorms to go on little trips like getting sno-cones or visiting shops is her favorite weekend activity.

Sol C.

Sol said she heard about the program from her mom's friend, who had previously attended the program.

She said her favorite class is Composition because she finds it relaxing. Sol said she enjoys playing games with other Gifties, especially Mario Kart.

Roman K.

Roman heard about the program from his mom, who used to live in Lake Charles.

He said his favorite class has been Science with Calvin (Runnels) since he likes learning about how things work and

doing experiments. He said that his favorite weekend activity is movie night in the lobby.

Tori L.

Tori heard about GPGC from her uncle, Alan, who is an alumnus of the program. She said that her favorite class is Drawing with Billy (Hogan), because she feels that there are no mistakes in art, so she gets to be creative with her work. On the weekends, Tori said that she likes to relax and unwind in her room.

Blythe H.

Blythe heard about the program from her mom and uncle, who are both GPGC alumni.

She said that her favorite class is Musical because she likes Mrs. Gabbert. Blythe said her favorite weekend activity is getting sno-balls with Stoney.

Juneteenth

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barbecues, and going to public events that feature raising the Juneteenth flag.

The Juneteenth flag was designed by activist Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation, with the help of illustrator Lisa Jeanne Graf in 1997. The flag was revised in 2000 with the date added seven years later, according to the National Juneteenth Observation Foundation.

The flag itself is full of symbolism. The white star in the center of the flag has a dual meaning, according to a CNN interview with Haith. First, the star represents Texas, the Lone Star State, where the Union soldiers told the country's last remaining enslaved people that they were now free. The second meaning is to represent the



Image courtesy of Wikipedia

The Juneteenth Flag in its current form.

freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

The bursting outline around the central star is inspired by a nova and represents a new beginning for the African Americans of Galveston and throughout the United States.

The arched shape is meant to

represent new opportunities and horizons.

The red, white and blue colors of the flag represent the American flag and a reminder that enslaved people and their descendants were and are Americans.

Government

Continued from page 1

plan for one freshman justice along with two sophomores who were elected as justices last summer. Barrios said seniors and grads would usually fill the upper roles in the government.

Lydee said her attention to detail and open-mindedness would be a plus to her role as secretary.

Jolie said she planned to uphold student values and "bring a new, honest, and unbiased voice to decisions and issues at GPGC, for the current session and for the future."

Becoming a member of the government still starts with giving a speech on why you should be elected and what qualifications you have for your role. After that, all Gifties vote by secret ballot.

Mean Girls Slated as 2023 GPGC Musical

By Jolie F.

This year the musical is Mean Girls Jr., an adaptation of an iconic 2000s movie and a Broadway musical, both carrying the same name.

According to the Mean Girls The Musical Tour official website, the musical tells the story of a girl named Cady, who has been homeschooled her whole life in Africa. In her junior year of high school, her family moves to the United States. The musical focuses on Cady's adaptation to the social scene and high school cliques.

Musical director Elayne Gabbert said she chose this musical because of the amount of girls and the musical's positive message.

"I knew that we would mostly have girls in the program this summer," she said. "Also, the junior version just came out and I knew everyone would be excited about it."

Gabbert said she appreciated the show's message.

"I like how it teaches kids

to think for themselves and do what they love even if it is not a popular choice."

Gabbert, who is directing her 12th musical, said this summer's production is going well.

Blythe H. is the lead, Cady, this year.

"I am very excited to play Cady, Blythe said. "She's very unique and her own person. It's a struggle for me to sing high, so I will have to adapt greatly to that."

This year's GPGC production is her first musical. She said her favorite song is "It Roars."

Madelyn W. is playing one of Cady's two friends, Damien, who guides Cady through the high school social scene.

"Yeah. I'm very excited," she said. "I think he (Damien) is pretty chill and a tad bit fruity. I am trying with the best of my ability to adapt and fully become the character."

This is Madelyn's second musical, and her favorite song is "It Roars."

Azula T. is the second of Cady's two friends, Janis.

"I am incredibly excited," they said. "I love my character because she is original and a bit emo. I have had to tone down my whole personality because I am energetic and loud and my character is to herself."

This is their 11th musical, and their favorite song is "I'd Rather Be Me."

Meredith G. is playing the main antagonist, Regina George. She said she was excited to play a role so different from her own personality.

"My character is very girly and I am not, so I will have to adapt heavily to that," she said.

This is her fourth musical, and her favorite song is "Where Do You Belong?"

Julian V. is playing the main love interest, Aaron Samuels. He said he was excited to play the role.

"Aaron strikes me as the stereotypical jock type, however, he doesn't make everything about himself," Julian said. "I think I will have to adapt to be more confident due to the fact that Aaron is very much so."

This is his third musical, and his favorite song is also "Where Do You Belong?"

(Below) The Mean Girls cast works on blocking and rehearsing this summer's musical production.

Image courtesy of GPGC

(Right) The poster for Mean Girls Jr.

Image courtesy of Twisted Plays



Cast List

Blythe H.
Cady Heron

Madelyn W.
Damian

Azula T.
Janis Sarkisian

Meredith G.
Regina George

Amelia L.
Gretchen Wieners

Lydee F.
Karen Smith

Julien V.
Aaron Samuels

Roman K.
Kevin G
Mr. Heron
French Teacher
Coach Carr

Maddy W.
Ms. Norbury

Jolie F.
Ms. Duvall
Mathletes Moderator

Jaci J.
Mrs. George
Teary Girl
Caitlyn/Dawn

Sol C.
Rachel
Marymount 1 and 3

Jolie B.
Mrs. Heron
Marymount 2
Caroline Krafft
Sophie



Word of the Week

By Jolie F.

Selcouth

[*sel-kooth*]
adjective Archaic

Strange; uncommon.

“When you let something soak in the sink for a really long time.”
- *Jace S.*

“Selling something uncouthly.” - *Elizabeth B.*

“It’s a tiger or a koala. Definitely an animal.” - *Maddie W.*

“I think it should refer to a salty, savory hors d’oeuvres.”
- *Kai C.*

Word Search

Mean Girls

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

Regina
Karen
Gretchen
Cady
Aaron
Norbury
Damian
Janis
North Shore

Plastics
Mathletes
It Roars
Apex Predator
Fetch
Grool
Burn Book
Kalteen

Seen and Heard

“No, no anarchy!” - *Tori L.*

“Let’s not talk about intergalactic babies.” - *Jessica Markstrom*

“Cause I don’t want students putting me in Seen and Heard!”
- *Samantha Holland*

“Looks like a horse with big butt cheeks.” - *Samantha Holland*

“You should give me a red brainbuck if I throw up!” - *Meredith G.*

“He looked at me once, so that means he wants to marry me.”
- *Sol C.*

“Abram Miller is questioning her sanity.” - *The Hunger Games simulation from Critical Thinking*

Dog of the Week

By Jolie F.

The dog of the week is:

Briard

Although the Briard is of French origin, the breed played an important part in the early American economy. According to the AKC, Thomas Jefferson brought Briards to the United States in 1789 to be herding dogs for wool production.



Image courtesy of Dogster.com

During the British rule of the 13 colonies, the British crown laid heavy taxes on the export of many American products, including wool. However, after the Revolutionary War, the Americans needed to produce their own wool. Knowing this, Jefferson decided to supply America with herding dogs. The wool industry grew in the following years, along with Jefferson’s love of the breed.

Today, the Briard may not be as important to the economy as it was, but the breed still holds the same place in owners’ hearts.

Briards are typically 22-27 inches tall and, to this day, are incredibly hard-working dogs, eager to meet the needs of their owners.

Want to Write for The Thinker?

All Gifties and staff are welcome to submit articles to The Thinker. Deadlines are Wednesdays. Submit articles to thethinker@gpgc.org.

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