

The Thinker



Issue 1

66th Session

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Gifties Learn about Government

By Lucas J. C.

Gifties learned about opportunities to serve in this summer's government at a meeting on Tuesday.

The GPGC government will reintroduce some pre-COVID guidelines as set out in the GPGC Constitution, with a few minor changes, said Kathy Barrios, coordinator of housing at the meeting.

This summer, the government will again include the vice president position, justice positions, which now have lower seniority requirements, and the secretary position, which now has an increased seniority requirement.

This year, there are 10 open positions. To

run for president, Gifties need to be a Senior or Grad. Vice Presidential candidates must be at least a Sophomore, and there is no age requirement for candidates who want to be Secretary.

In the Judicial branch, there is one open position for justice. All Gifties are eligible to run for that position.

For the Legislative branch of government, six slots are open for representatives, two for each classification, but Seniors and Grads count as one group.

The Representatives will represent their classification in government meetings and will be the only students speaking

in meetings aside from the executive branch of government.

To run for a government position, Gifties must first be nominated. Candidates for the Executive or Judicial branch need six nominations, and candidates for the Legislative branch need two nominations from their class.

Once candidates have been nominated, they must run for office. Campaigns included candidate speeches during which candidates introduce themselves, tell why they are running for the position and state their goals for the office.

Gifties will vote during Friday Bank.

US Hosts World Cup

By Alanna G.-J. and Arav P.

The U.S is set to host an expected 5 million soccer fans over the next several weeks for the World Cup, the international men's soccer tournament played among the 48 national teams of the FIFA.

Official matches kicked off Thursday, with Mexico defeating South Africa 2-0 in the opening match. The tournament will run through July 19 and include 104 games in the expanded tournament format, FIFA said.

The South African team had a lot of friendly experience, but their lack of World Cup experience meant Mexico was favored to win. The South African team last played in a World Cup in 2010, when South Africa hosted.

FIFA, the International Federation of Association Football, is a nonprofit founded in 1904 in France by French journalist Robert Guerin. He wanted to unite nations around the world and create agreed-upon rules of soccer to help organize the global tournament.

Ever since, many traditions been formed, **See FIFA on page 2**

Giftie 101: Advice from Now and Then

By Patrick M.

It is the first week of the 2026 session of the GPGC, and there are some tips that some of the Counselors and previous students would like to share with all the freshmen and first-year students.

First, don't spend a lot of time in the dorm room. If someone is bored, they should go to the lobby and hang out with the other students. Yes, the dorm room is comfy, and yes, there probably is not any particular reason to be in the lobby, but spending time with people is one of the best parts of the program.

Now that being said, any homework does need to be done; grades are important. Which actually leads into another tip: if

someone has a lot of homework, they should go to study hall so they can lock in, get their homework done and dusted, and go hang out with their friends. Because, as the sophomore Jude Y. advises,

"Have as much fun as you can because time passes quickly," Jude said.

Gifties should also get out of the dorm when possible on the outings. For example, attend a music performance, go on a mall run, go to Albertsons, or go Paper Heroes.

"Even if you think you're not going to like an activity, go to it open-minded," said Kathy Barrios, coordinator of housing for the program.

From the 2025 Thinker staff (Elizabeth B., Lucas C., Henry C.)

Greetings, future freshman, grads and seniors. We are writing this article in 2025, so we don't know any of you, and you might not know us yet.

We are writing this as a kind time capsule to future publishing students and freshmen in general.

I am the current layout editor and one of the grads, Elizabeth B.

For freshmen, this is a nervous time, I get it, I was there once. Don't be skittish, everyone is exceedingly nice. You'll be fine, just don't be a jerk and don't be a hermit.

Don't worry too much about classes that are not too difficult,

but please don't procrastinate or the work will pile up fast.

If you are in the musical, memorize your lines and practice in your dorm because seven weeks is not as much time as it feels like. When you have to be off book it's going to be hard if you haven't practiced.

The first week always feels stressful, but as soon as your second week is over, we promise that you will wish to have more than five weeks left.

Make sure you connect with the people, because if you're here, you've probably not met many people like you. This place is a collection of people who you will most likely share a lot of interests with.

FIFA

Continued from page 1
both inside and outside of the field.

On the field, a tradition that started in 2002 was when football players escorted kids onto the field to help promote the partnership between FIFA and UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund. The partnership promoted children’s rights.

The World Cup Trophy was created in 1970 by Silvio Gazzaniga for the champions of the game to hold at the award ceremony, according to History.com.

Other traditional elements include chants created to support various national teams. Famous examples include the Brazilian “Ole, Ole, Ole,” chant.

The World Cup’s cultural

influences extend to music and fashion, as well. Shakira’s “Waka Waka,” and “Hayya Hayya,” by Trinidad Cardona, Davido, and Aisha are two examples.

Besides the tournament, FIFA has other purposes. The organization uses the profits from the World Cup for programs that promote equality worldwide. These include training, infrastructure, equal rights, and many more causes.

According to FIFA, even though the World Cup is all about competition, it still brings communities together, promotes equality and educates kids like us on life lessons that correlate with football.

**Favorite to win as of today:
Spain, France, England,
Portugal and Brazil**

Poll: Ice Cream, Cookies or Cake?

By Stella D.

Ice cream, cookies, and cake are well-known desserts.

In the United States, companies sold an estimated \$54 billion in confectionery retail sales in 2024. According to the IDFA, a website about dairy statistics, ice cream has a \$11.6 billion impact on the economy.

But which one of these three is the reigning champion of the Governor’s Program?

Ice cream is a beloved cold treat that comes in many flavors, some very popular ones being vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, and cookies and cream. Ice cream received 7 votes.

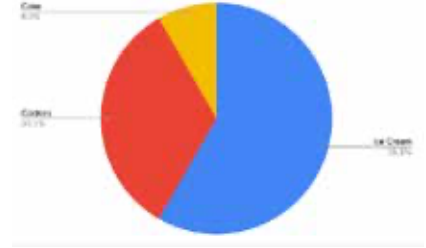
Cookies are delicious, the most famous being a chocolate

chip cookie. Cookies received 4 votes.

Cake is the perfect dessert to enjoy after an awesome party, coming in many flavors and having frosting as well. Cake received 1 vote.

Observing the data, it looks like ice cream won, having a total of 7 votes.

There you have it, thanks to everyone who entered their vote.



Giftie Hobbies: Magic the Gathering

By Patrick M.

Magic: The Gathering is a popular hobby among Gifties here at the Program.

According to the official Magic website, it came out in 1993 making it the first trading card game. Teachers, students, and counselors have learned Magic either before their time or during their time at the Program.

A reason why someone at the GPGC would want to learn magic is because there are people at the program like Henry

Crawford that said “it’s fun and helped me connect with my current friends.”

There are also teachers like Robert Markstrom who teaches Critical Thinking that has a couple of reasons why Gifties should learn magic. For starters, it can help “develop math skills” through “balance of your deck, life tracking, and damage dealing.” It also helps develop “social skills” through “communication with other players and being a good winner or loser.” Strategy skills

are also developed through “deck building, bluffing, how and when to attack and defend, and when to play cards.” More of the skills that are developed are “awareness, adaptation to changes, and value.” which are developed through “mind games, patience, and detection of cheating.” along with “card pool, metas, personalities, and listening to advice.” and finally “buying and selling cards, protecting cards, trading, and collecting.”

During this first weekend, it will be an option to go to Paper Heroes, a gaming store. In this store people can buy Magic packs that can be used to learn how to play. It is suggested to get 2 or 3 “Jumpstart” packs, which have 20 cards that follow a theme, which makes it very easy to slap together a somewhat operational standard deck.

Most importantly, if someone wants to learn but is saving money or is hesitant to spend money, they can ask to use someone else’s standard deck so they can teach the other person.

Would you Rather?

By Cruz W.

Bake anything in the world?
or
Cook anything in the world?

Bepuzzlement Answers

Put the keys in groups of three and weigh two groups against each other. If one group is heavier than the other, take that one, and if they are the same, take the third group. Weigh two keys from your chosen group and if one is heavier take it. If they are equal, take the last unweighed key.

Logic Puzzle Answer

Riddle Answers
His son.
Three.



Source: The Magic the Gathering website.

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Saradha J.

Ever since I read Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray," he has been one of my favorite authors. Naturally, I had to read his other works, one of which included the play "The Importance of Being Earnest." As expected as any of the characters he writes, everyone in this play is dramatic.

[warning for spoilers]

The play follows Jack Worthing, a man who lives a double life. On his country estate he goes by Jack, but he goes by Earnest in the city of London. For some time, he visited the city under the guise that he was helping his impulsive, delinquent brother Earnest. Except here's the catch – Earnest

doesn't exist. He never has. Jack intends to keep his lives separate. In the city, he's just secured an engagement with Gwendolen, the girl of his dreams.

His city friend, Algernon, nicknamed Algy (pronounced like the plant), grows suspicious of Jack's behavior, and he visits Jack's estate pretending to be Earnest, the brother Jack fabricated. Cecily, Jack's niece, is overjoyed by Algy/Earnest's arrival. According to Cecily, she has already been engaged to Earnest for months. (And, unbeknownst to Algernon, he had already proposed to her, sent her letters, and broken off the engagement once.) Algernon, having fallen in love with Cecily, does not correct her.

Gwendolen decides

to visit her betrothed at Jack's country estate, and she talks to Cecily only to discover that both women are engaged to an Earnest Worthing. When Jack and Algernon return to the manor, their covers are blown; Cecily knows Jack's real name, and Gwendolen knows Algernon's. The men inform their fiances that they are to be christened Earnest, but it's only at the end of the play that they discover that Earnest truly was Jack's assigned name at birth.

In all, I will admit classics are fairly difficult to read and interpret, and they can be very long-winded, but this play was surprisingly entertaining. Since the entire script is only about 70 pages long, this is a super quick read, perfect for an afternoon.

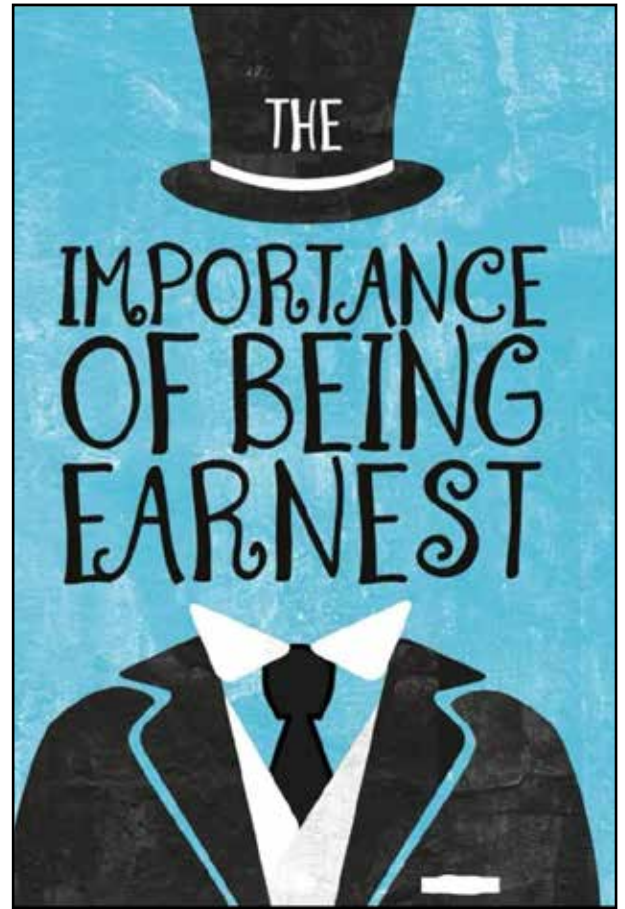


Photo from Amazon.com

Weekly Weather Forecast

By Emma M.

Heeeeelllllooooo, everyone! Are you ready to learn about the weather for next week? Well, let's get right into it.

Saturday: It will be mostly sunny with a few clouds, some lasting overnight with a chance of a passing shower during the day. The high will be 91° with a low of 77°. The humidity will be 67% during the day and 85% at night with the winds being around 11 mph.

Sunday: It will be cloudy with thunderstorms, especially in the afternoon, with scattered thunderstorms overnight. The high will be 90° with a low of 77°. The humidity will be 78%

during the day and 90% at night with the winds around 11 mph.

Monday: Throughout the day, there will be variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms. During the night, there will be isolated thunderstorms that will become more widespread as the night progresses. There will be a high of 88° and a low of 78°. The humidity will be 78% during the day and 91% during the night with the winds being around 12 mph.

Tuesday: Throughout the day, there will be scattered thunderstorms, thunderstorms likely being in the evening with a chance of showers later on. The high will be 84° and the low will be 74°. The humidity will

be around 76% during the day and 92% at night with the winds being around 9 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the afternoon and partly cloudy at night. The high will be 88° and the low will be 76°. The humidity will be about 71% during the day and 85% at night. The wind will be around 9 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms possible during the day with scattered clouds and the chance of an isolated thunderstorm developing overnight. The high will be 88°, and the low will be 77°. The humidity will be 74% during the day and 88% during the night with the winds around

13 mph.

Friday: Scattered thunderstorms in the morning then partly cloudy skies late during the day that gives way to cloudy skies overnight. The high will be 89°, and the low will be 77°. The humidity will be 77% during the day and 87% at night with the winds being around 14 mph.

Always remember to bring your rain gear with you this next week and remember:

*Whether the weather is cold,
whether the weather is hot.*

*We'll whether the weather
whatever the weather;*

Whether we like it or not!

Source: KPLC 7News

Art Prompts

By Henry Crawford

Weekly theme: Ruined architecture

Saturday

Overgrown Pyramids

Sunday

Destroyed Colosseum

Monday

Crumbling Castles

Tuesday

Ruined Cities

Wednesday

Sunken Ships

Thursday

Collapsed Futuristic Structures

Friday

Nature Overtaking Buildings

Word of the Week

By Henry Crawford

helical

he-li-cal

Any shape that is made up of curved objects spiralling around a cylindrical center, such as DNA.

"Air molecules"

Jonah C.

"the stairway to heaven"

Lucas C.

"A spiral shape"

Patrick M.

"Discribing something helix shaped"

Madelyn W.

"The hue of the color of the organ (the instrument)"

AJ T.

"Too many syllables for me"

Cruz W.

Seen and Heard

"Oh my god, my jacket is on fire!"

- Amelia L.

"You were fingering your trumpet."

- Juan G.

"I think she called me uninteresting loser."

- AJ T.

"Oh, Miss Landlines."

- Jonah C.

"Even he could fall in love with me."

- Alanna G.-J. (pointing at Jonah)

"And I ate the baby turtle."

- Henry C.

"That sounds capitalist as freak."

- Madelyn W.

Happy 15th Anniversary, Jessica!
-Robert Markstrom

Bepuzzlement

By Henry C.

Riddles

A man shows you a portrait and says "Brothers and sisters I have none, but this man's father is my father's son." Who is in the portrait?

You have 20 red socks and 20 blue socks in a drawer. If you pick at random, what is the minimum number of draws for a matching pair?

Logic Puzzle

You have nine keys and a scale. Every key weighs the same except one, which is heavier and is the only one that can open a door.

The difference in weight is only discernible by using the scale. The scale can only be used twice or it explodes, and the door will explode if you insert the wrong key, blocking your path. How do you find the heavier key?

Dish of the Week

By Cruz W.

The dish of the week is Mozzarella Sticks

Mozzarella Sticks originated in the late 1300s in France, according to the website U.S. Dairy, a website created by farmers to promote dairy in the U.S.

They are inspired by the Italian mozzarella Milanese, which is an Italian dish made by taking a square of mozzarella cheese and coating it in batter and bread crumbs. The cheese sticks are then deep fried.

These crispy, cheesy, and chewy sticks are super tasty, have cheese pulls, and yes, Sonic does have marinara sauce.

Jokes of the Week

By AJ T., Cruz W., Patrick M.

What do you call a smart fish? soFISHticated

What do you call a duck-fish hybrid? A QUACKen

What do you call a lazy kangaroo? a POUCH potato

Editorial Staff:

Lucas C.

Aahan C.

Henry C.

Stella D.

Alanna G.-J.

Saradha J.

Emma M.

Patrick M.

Arav. P.

AJ T.

Cruz W.

