



PACIFIC COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

## 4th Annual Capstone Symposium

May 17th, 2018

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### Poster Presentations

5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

**Natalie Bramlett, "In With the Tide Jewelry" (VPA)**

Natalie created a jewelry business and continued it this year with a focus on improving her skills, studying other artists, experimenting with new art forms, and bringing in inspiration from traditional Maasai beaded jewelry.

**Chloe Cornejo, "Chloe's Buckwild Illustration Project" (VPA)**

Chloe created posters and other artwork while exploring pen and ink illustration, its techniques, and prominent illustrators.

**Amaya Dennis, "Surfing into Sustainability" (Science/Int)**

Amaya has spent her year constructing a hollow wooden surfboard made of all recycled wood and eco-friendly materials. She hopes that in building this board, she may raise awareness for the lack of sustainability in the surf industry

**Devin Derecho, "Positive Coaching" (Int.)**

Devin has been coaching youth sports for the past five years. The past three years she volunteered to help with the PCS Junior High girls volleyball team and this year she decided to take classes and workshops to better her coaching skills.

**Paige Dixon, "Metalife: A Novel Experience" (English)**

Paige wrote a book. A 40,000+ word manuscript and growing, *Metalife* is a middle-grade/YA novel that takes place in many fun locations like alien planets, outer space, and high school.

**Sylvie Fraley & Gina Gwiazda, "Understanding PCS Culture and the Seventh Grade Experience" (Science)**

Gina and Sylvie created and distributed a survey to seventh graders focused on PCS culture, student life, family life, and mental health. They then analyzed their results and developed a illustrated pamphlet designed for incoming seventh graders that addresses the information and prominent concerns found in the survey's results. They also compiled a report of their findings and proposed solutions for teachers and parents to combat the issues presented in the survey.

**Freda Liu, "Education in the US and China" (History/Int)**

With experience in both Chinese and American education systems, Freda summarizes the discrepancy between the two based on observation and investigation, tracing back to the historical and cultural contributing factors while analyzing the effects they have posed on individuals and the societies.

**Hana Massalski, "Synesthesia: A Colorful Capstone" (VPA)**

In tenth grade, Hana found out that not everybody could see colours when they listened to music. The reason she can is that she has a genetic condition called synesthesia. This year, she did a series of visual art based on the experience of synesthesia to show people what it's like and to promote research on the condition.

**Sofia McMillan, "How We Got Here: Today's Mental Health Crisis" (History)**

Sofia has studied the history of mental health since 10th grade. In that time, she has gathered information on the current state of mental health in America, its causes and effects, and its possible solutions.

**Darius Mozayan & Taylor Foy, "North American Wildlife: A Conservation Endeavor with Photography" (VPA)**

Darius Mozayan and Taylor Foy took a collection of photographs of endangered species from across North America and combined their work into a research catalogue geared towards promoting awareness and conservation of these endangered species.

**Madeleine Payne, "Water Issues Down the San Lorenzo River" (English)**

Madeleine has been researching water issues in the broader Santa Cruz area and their relation to climate change. She wrote three essays and took photographs of local water infrastructure, analyzing and addressing California's water challenges and the future implications for her generation.

**Lily Reedy, "Creating a Makeup Artistry Portfolio" (VPA)**

Lily has been experimenting with makeup for the past six years. This year she delved deeper into makeup artistry, creating a professional quality portfolio composed of photos from 17 photoshoots that will help her begin her career as a freelance makeup artist.

**Ruby Rorty, "Wokeless in Seattle: The Political Evolution of the Romantic Comedy" (English)**

Ruby's capstone focused on romantic comedy movies in both an academic and practical context. She wrote a paper tracking political subtext of romantic comedy during the 1930s and 1940s 'Screwball Era', the 1990s 'Ephron Era' and the 2000s and early 2010s 'Digital Era', and she storyboarded and drafted a romantic comedy screenplay that attempts to deconstruct some of the regressive tropes she observed in watching and reading about historical romcoms.

**AnaLea Varni, "On the Jellicoe Road" (VPA)**

AnaLea decided to take her love of theater to a new level by writing and directing her own play. Her play was written based off the book, Jellicoe Road, by Melina Marchetta which she read in 9th grade. After falling in love with the book she emailed the author and got approval to make it into a play. This project was 4 years in the making and she is extremely proud of the work she and her actors put in.

**Chase Wilson, "Math Textbook" (Math)**

Chase wrote a textbook on combinatorics. It includes most of what would be covered in a first undergraduate course, as well as some more advanced olympiad topics.

## Oral Presentations

**6:15: Mara Baylis, "Examining the College Preparatory Path in California" (Int.)**

This year Mara has identified challenges and suggested solutions to the college preparatory system in high schools. In this presentation she will address everything from student wellness to the difficulty of UC admissions, integrating her research into an Element A (Mission, Vision, curriculum, etc.) of a high school charter.

**6:30: Robin Lambidakis & Brookie Schwind, "Lost in Translation: The Surprising Inconsistencies in All Men Are Mortal" (Foreign Language)**

After reading *All Men Are Mortal* for AP Lang last year, Brookie and Robin decided

to use their AP French skills to retranslate a portion of the book. They have found glaring errors in the only available English version of the novel, and hope that their project will reveal the true meaning of the work.

**6:45: Kaya Wooley, "First Annual PCSMUN Conference" (English)**

This year Kaya led students to Model UN conferences in UCLA and UC Berkeley. She then hosted a two-day conference at PCS, run by club members, for local high schoolers. She has written a guide on how to run the program and the conference for future leaders.

**7:00: Simran Khalsa, "Seeking Sunrise" (VPA)**

Simran has spent the past year writing, directing, producing, and editing a twenty minute short film titled "Seeking Sunrise" starring classmates Ian Silberstein and Tovah Popilsky. It centers on two high school seniors and ex-best friends, Jude and Stella, who adventure through the night of their town seeking sunrise and the possible end of the world. *You are invited to a screening of the full film this Wed the 23rd in the Student Center from 3:15-4:00.*

**7:15: Sarah Madsen, "Student Mental Health at PCS" (Int.)**

Over the past 2 and a half years, Sarah has worked to study student stress and mental health at PCS. Developing an original survey dealing with topics from family life to academic and social well being, she surveyed students and parents over the course of two years. Throughout the course of her study, Sarah has worked with administration to encourage the development of better support systems at PCS, and create a student culture that challenges the stigma surrounding mental health.

**7:30: Andrew Vu, "Building an Electric Bass" (VPA)**

Andrew made a one stringed electric bass and composed a song. Initially, he planned a normal, four stringed bass, and possibly composing a few songs, but over time, he slowly realized, this is hard, and ended up settling for one string and one song.

**7:45: Manu Chopra, "The meGA Visualization Pipeline: A Data-Driven Approach to Identifying Event Associations across Cancers" (Science)**

Manu presents the meGA Visualization Pipeline, which establishes correlations amongst expression profiles of mutually exclusive events, clusters events in 2D-space, and visualizes these associations.