

Annual International Banquet brings a variety

by Ainee Martinez
Staff Writer

On March 1, 2014 Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) held its annual international banquet, where students and teachers recognized different countries represented by the students currently attending the school. The Sophomore class was in charge of the banquet.

Two or three students from each country represented at PPAS prepared traditional dishes for the banquet. Rwandans prepared Ubugali, Ibitoki; Koreans prepared Kimbab; Chinese prepared Dim Sum; Mexicans prepared Cochinita Pibil, Discada, Coctel de Camarones, Arroz con leche and Americans prepared BBQ Sandwich and Hamburgers. Senior Carolina Escamilla said, "I had the opportunity to try food from places I have never been."



Photo provided by: Ellie Perez
From left, Keza Bizumuremyi, Francine Umumaramungu, Brenda Munezero and Hope Inema in traditional Rwandan clothes.

After enjoying all dishes prepared by students and kitchen staff, each country was represented through a presentation to

give a better insight of each country's culture. Six sophomore students were in charge of presenting each country. Keza Bizumuremyi represented Rwanda, Reyna Martinez represented the United

States, Martha Saenz represented Mexico, Anna So represented Korea, Xuemeng Chen represented China, and last but not least, Sarai Lara represented Costa Rica.

"Learning about different countries and listening to the different anthems, makes me feel proud of my country," said Senior Kevin Ishimwe.

When the banquet was over, students headed to a dance held at the Student Union Building (S.U.B.), music from each country was played, letting everybody feel as if they were at home, said Junior Daniela Tamayo.

Besides enjoying a nice dinner at the banquet, students had the opportunity to learn and enjoy the cultural differences.

Pep Rally pumps up

Spring sports

by Maggie Otero
Staff Writer



Photo by: Maggie Otero

The Cheerleading squad performed a routine at the school Pep Rally on March 7 to recognize the spring sport athletes.

The second pep rally of the 2013-2014 school year at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) was celebrated on March 7 to present the winter sports teams and demonstrate the student body spirit. The cheerleaders performed a routine with the help of Cheerleading Coach Sylvia Garza, the cheerleader's managers, Estrella Galvan, Carla Lopez and Alexandra Zavala, and the Captains Yvonne Borrego, Karla Rivera and Teodoro Alvarado.

"I think the cheerleaders did a good job and worked hard for the entertainment of the school," Garza said.

Teodoro Alvarado, senior and cheerleading captain, said he liked the pep rally and that the routine was really good.

"We worked very hard every cheerleading practice to have the routine done," Alvarado said.

The coaches of the several winter sports presented the people that are part of the teams. Coach Armando Navar and Coach Ivan Morin presented the girls' soccer team, Coach Daniel Navejar presented the girls' and boys' basketball teams as well as the track team and Coach Hardy Robertson presented the baseball team.

After the team's presentations, Ellie Perez, school principal, hosted the Flying Cash Game, a class competition that consists in choosing two students from each class, taping their hands together, and putting a plate with money on their hands, ending with a race to the finish line. Freshman Ember Ayala and Freshman Luis Martinez were the winners of this game.

"I had fun playing it," Ayala said. Lastly, Perez led the competition to see what class could cheer the loudest. Judges were chosen and the seniors were the winners.

PPAS soars on accreditation

by Lisset Campuzano
Staff Writer

On February 20 & 21, 2014 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools also known as SACS, visited Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), to evaluate the institution's educational program. SACS is an association that evaluates the improvement of education for the Southern schools through accreditation. An accreditation is a method of quality assurance developed by American universities and secondary schools,

and designed primarily to distinguish schools adhering to a set of educational standards.

"I am amazed because people have a lot of interest in the school and think that ours is a good one," said Daniel Navejar, teacher of world Geography, World History and Economics.

Accreditation process ensures that educational institutions will find benefits from accreditation and that parents can confidently make knowledgeable decisions about their children's education,

knowing their child's school is accredited, said Ellie Perez, School Principal.

"I think that organizations like this do a good job in looking for schools with high standards," said 18-year-old Senior Sebastian Guerrero.

PPAS is known as an accredited school by the AdvancED program, which is a program that means that PPAS has a high Educational Level.

"Presbyterian Pan American as an accredited school is a great

accomplishment. Our teachers work hard and go above their duties to fulfill these students with college

readiness as well as life experiences. I am very proud of the faculty and staff that we have and I know that when students leave our school for bigger and better things they are well prepared.

When you are part of the "Pan Am Family" you work harder, have more responsibility, but do it all for the overall success of the student," Perez said.

Winter Olympics brings intense competition

by Alejandro Herrera
Staff Writer

In February of this current year, Russian Federation hosted the XXII Olympics Winter Games.

For the first time, the inauguration ceremony was in Sochi, where it was full with winter colors and with a wonderful show.

Many nations around the world participated in these traditional games such as United States, Russia, Canada

and France; as a curious fact, Mexico sent a team of just one athlete Prince Hubertus of Hohenlohe-Langenburg.

The United States team won nine gold medals, seven silver medals and twelve bronze medals. The United States positioned in fourth place with a total of twenty-eight medals just behind Russia, Norway and Canada. The athletes who won the most medals in the United States team were athletes Mer-

yl Davis with one gold medal in Figure Skating and one bronze medal in Team Figure Skating and Charlie White also won a gold and bronze medal in the same categories as Davis.

The closing celebration took place in Sochi on February 23. According to cbsnews.com, "The final farewell of the Winter Olympic games in Sochi was full of color, pageantry, and celebration."

Eagles Track & Field compete in Riviera

by Arantza Rodulfo
Staff Writer

On Saturday March 8, the Track & Field team of Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) participated in a track meet at Riviera High School. The PPAS team competed in the categories of long jump, hurdles, triple jump, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, and 3200 meters, shot put, and also relays in 4x400 and 4x200.

15-year-old Freshman Henriette Mbambaw said that the meet was good and fun, and that it was good to co-exist with other teams and get experience in the sport. Also, she said that it was a great

race and that she tried to do her best and had fun.

"This was a really hard race. It required more physical and mental abilities than in other races," said the Senior and Captain Hefzi Jimenez, who ran in 1600 and 3200 meters. Jimenez also said that she did like the race and her next goal will be to get a better place and give everything on the field.

"The race was difficult because it was against varsity, but it was fun. Although, I got really tired," said 14-year-old Freshman Sara Mendoza, who ran in relay 4 x400, 100 and 300

hurdles and participated in triple jump.

One of the coaches Daniel Navejar said that he thinks that the team is improving in every practice and race.

The next race will be on March 27 at Banquete High School.

"It was nice to see some improvement in different events, seems like hard work is starting to pay off. That said, we still have a few weeks until district and there is work still to be done to meet our goals," said Coach Reili Cantu.

First home baseball game ends with a loss

by Merry Kim
Editor-in-Chief



Photo provided by: Frida Monreal

Senior Hyun Suk Choi pitching against H.M. King High School at PPAS' first home baseball game.

Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) had its first home game on Friday and the victory went to H. M. King High School with the score of 10-6. The PPAS baseball team is in its third year. They started with a small unlevelled field on the side of the soccer field, with only their great passion of baseball and Coach Hardy Robertson's experienced training skills. All of the teammates have been working to make the field level, so that they could have a good conditioned field

where they can practice and play games. With that, the first home game on February 28 brought excitement to the school.

"It is really big news for me. As a baseball fan, I had been wanting to see a home game. And finally, I got to see one. I was so excited and curious about the game," said Frida Monreal, senior cheerleader at PPAS. Even if luck didn't come to the Eagles, the game was played with loud cheers and intension. "Zack Duran (senior, center-fielder) was trying to

steal home like a thousand times and I could tell that he was enjoying to do that. Looking at those exciting tries was the best part of the game for me," said Senior Dan Mugisha.

The game only went to the 5th inning. "The game for us is not only about winning. It is about improving. One time we would make a bad score and one day we would make a better score. It is all about enjoying. By the way, this time, it was not that bad," said the Most Valuable Player of 2012 and 2013, Hyun Suk Choi.

Wi-fi to be installed in dormitories

by Alejandro Herrera
Staff Writer

Just one year ago, students from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) struggled with poor WI-FI signal in both the boys and girls dormitories at PPAS but, Principal Ellie Perez announced that the WI-FI signal in the dormitories was going to be upgraded.

The students were excited with the upcoming event.

"I am very happy because now we are going to have Wi-Fi in the dorms. Now I could improve my homework," said Senior Carolina Escamilla.

Thanks to the upgrade of the signal, students from PPAS not only could improve their homework but they could also be connected with their families that live in a distant country.

"With the bad signal that we had, I could not talk well with my parents, but now I think that I am going to Skype with them all day," said Senior Hefzi Gabriel.

For Senior Sebastian Guerrero, the change is coming when he is about to graduate.

"I think that the freshmen are very lucky. They are not going to suffer the same as I did," Guerrero said.

A specialized company began working recently on the preparation of the area where the antennas are located. The PPAS Technology Director, Wen Almanza, said that the culmination of the project will depend on the weather.

Field Day day held after school-wide testing

by Magdiel Alaniz
Staff Writer

Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) have just taken Terra Nova test March 12 and 13. In tradition, the students and staff had a Field Day after a morning of testing. Students had the opportunity to relax on the shade of a tree and read a book, or play sports with their friends, while the Junior class worked on Prom Decorations. "I like the idea of a relax time like field day after a hard test like the Terra Nova," said Junior National



The Freshmen class sold snacks during the Field Day event on March 13.

Honor Society Member Uriel Gonzalez. On Wednesday, the Sophomore store sold nachos with jalapenos, brownies, lollipops, chocolates, popcorn, sodas, etc. And on Thursday, the Freshmen store was offering chicharrones with chile, corn with mayonnaise,

lemonade, etc. Some of the activities were American football, soccer and freesby, outdoors; and basketball and a movie in the Gymnasium. Student Council Member Emilio Vazquez said that he really enjoyed playing soccer with his friends. "I liked that this year they gave us the opportunity to do more stuff, like the use of electronics, play sports, and some people even watched movies. I really liked it this year. It was a lot of fun," said Junior Celeste Moreno.

Student Council Secretary named Student of the Month

by German Penalzoza
Staff Writer

Several seniors have been chosen as student of the month for the 2013-2014 Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) year. The student for March is Campus Ministry Council (CMC) member and Student Council Secretary Alejandro Herrera. Students are chosen by Principal Ellie Perez. "I am very surprised because I did not expect to be chosen as student of the month," Herrera said. He is an 18-year-

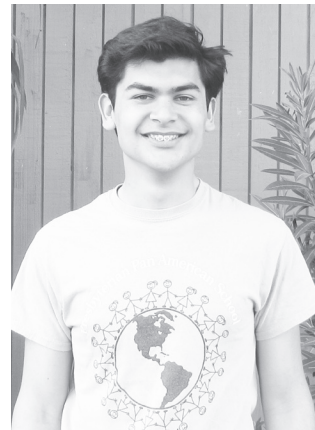


Photo by: German Penalzoza
Senior Alejandro Herrera

old senior and is about to graduate in May 2014. He is from Anahuac, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The subject that he likes the most is economics because he thinks it is one of the most important subjects for a high-school

student, in which he has a perfect score. He has been at PPAS for almost two years. He is planning to attend the University of Texas at Brownsville to study technology engineering. He is also involved in sports; he plays the position of shortstop (position between second and third base) on the PPAS baseball team, a sport that he loves and practice every day. "I really enjoy my time with my friends, but especially with my special friend Susana," Herrera said.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

"Son of God" brings spirit and emotion

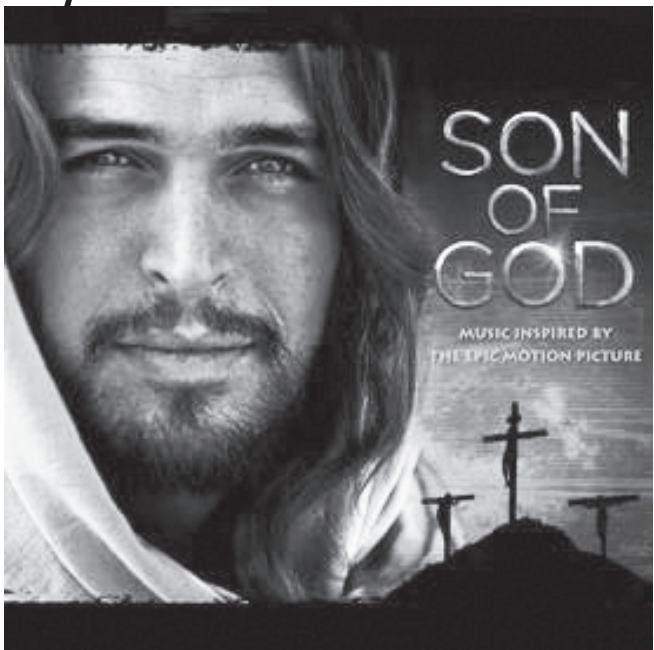


Photo provided by: beliefnet.com

by Fernanda Ibarra
Staff Writer

Son of God is a 2014 drama movie, directed by Christopher Spencer and distributed by 20th century Fox, with Diego Morgado as Jesus. There are many Versions of this story such as "The passion of Christ." Son of God is the most recent movie of this story, according to www.pluggeni.com. Son of God is a spiritual and emotional movie relating Jesus' life which was based on the bible in the New Testament in the books of "Gospels." The movie starts with the words "In the beginning was..." with a vision of the Apostle John who was in a cave waiting for his death. He narrates the story of Jesus' life and the experiences he had with him. He starts with his birth, then he continues his journey with miracles. Some of them were: the feeding of the five thousand, healing paralytic man, raising Lazarus from death. He also narrates the teaching Jesus gave to his disciples and to the people of Jerusalem, then he continues with Jesus exile, crucifixion and death. Finally he concludes with how Jesus was resurrected and how he fulfills all his promises

PPAS Choir prepares for performances

by Abiel Cardenas
Staff Writer

The 2013-2014 school year is coming to the end but Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) choir members are still preparing for performances for the remainder of the school year. The choir coordinator is Joe Garcia. "Yes, they are progressing. They are learning the music better. They are working hard to learn their parts," Garcia said. Chapel is one place

where some members of choir presents songs of God. One choir member, Carlos Camarillo, who sings tenor, said that it is very special to be part of choir. Currently, Garcia said that the choir members are learning a new song named "Praise the Lord Again." The choir members are able to visit other churches and perform during their service. "Yes, whenever we have choir trips, we meet new people,

new churches, and I have a great fellowship with the choir members," said member Ismael Bartolome. Bartolome sings bass voice in choir. He said he likes being in choir to develop his voice. Garcia said there will be new choir trips, beginning with Lake Jackson on March 29-30. There are mentioned future trips to Gonzalez and San Antonio. The choir members are like a family

too, said Camarillo. "They [choir members] are always there to support me and help me," Camarillo said. Garcia agrees. "Yes, they are [choir members] like my children. I get close to them. I feel like a father to them and when you go to a trip, you are learning about them because they are more relaxed," Garcia said.

CMC hosts childhood games as weekend activity

by: Nerina Cruz
Staff Writer

On February 28, 2014, after the first home baseball game, Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) students including Campus Ministry Council (CMC) organized the activity for the weekend. The purpose of this activity was remembering games from your childhood, said Senior and member of CMC Hefzi Gabriel. "The reason for the new activity at the gym was to have a different activity weekend from the others



Photo by: Nerina Cruz

PPAS students participate in the Campus Ministry Activity that brought back childhood games. Gabriel said. provided the students with many kinds of music and games. Also Teodoro Alvarado, senior and leader of CMC activities, was in charge of the music. Alvarado

it is really cool," said Junior Yurim Lee. Freshman Sara Luna was in joy by playing volleyball with her friends and basketball almost the entire activity. "I really liked the activity at the gym," Luna said. On the other hand, the junior class was in charge of the concession stand with sodas, chocolates, and other kinds of snacks, all which sold out. "The Junior class decided to sell Tapatio because everybody likes it," said Junior Celeste Moreno.