

Student Scoop
December 2015



Lex est ratio ab huius

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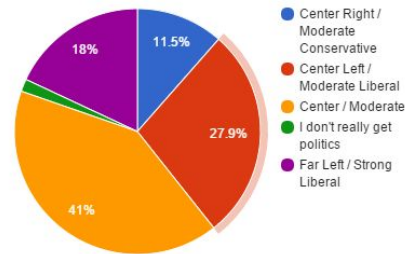
Ryan Strong
7 December 2015

Liberals, Liberals, and more Liberals... American Political Survey Analysis

Recently, the **Gi XchGhd** conducted a survey to explore the political leanings of members of the PASB community, both staff and students. The survey was insightful and revealed the strong liberal opinions prevalent at PASB.

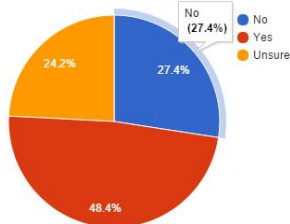
When asked where they sat on the political spectrum, the plurality of members identified as moderate, 41%. However, when combining all categories that could be considered “liberal,” about 46% identified as at least center left. Unfortunately, self identification is often an inaccurate indication of political philosophy. A more accurate view can be obtained by examining which party members of the community prefer. Significantly, 74% of the community plan to vote Democrat in the 2016 election, demonstrating a marked turn to the left from the previous question.

Where do you consider yourself on the political spectrum?



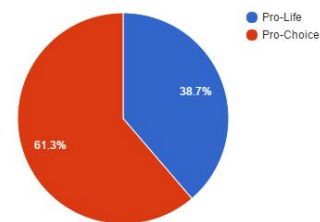
Moreover, when it comes to the legalization of Marijuana, 48.4% of the respondents believe that it should be legalized, versus 27.4% who said no; 24.2% of respondents were unsure of whether they supported legalization or not. On the question of abortion, the responses were strongly pro-choice. Around 61% of respondents, when asked, stated that they were supportive of legally available abortion

Do you believe that marijuana should be legal?



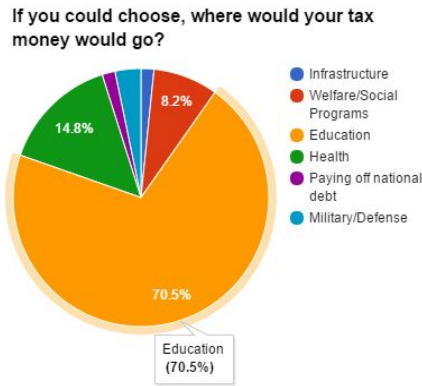
Also, in general, the community was averse to cutting spending, at least on social programs, and to cutting taxes. Support for a corporate tax rate cut was low, with

Do you consider yourself to be...



48.4% of respondents said they would not, compared to 4.8% that said no(to see your correspondents response to these figures, see Scoop’s article on the corporate tax rate). Meanwhile, though not in such a landslide fashion, respondents rejected the idea of cutting spending on Social Security with 43.5% of respondents saying no, versus 14.5%

who said yes. Voters also had a clear favorite for where they wanted their tax dollars to go. With 70% of the vote, spending on education was the clear favorite on where tax money should be spent.



Finally, members of PASB were asked if politics can change the world. Over 62% of respondents stated that they were at least “confident” that politics could change the world, an interesting result considering the current political climates in both Brazil and the United States (respondents were generally either American or Brazilian).

In conclusion, the survey produced interesting results about the political philosophies of members of PASB, and the generally liberal views they hold.

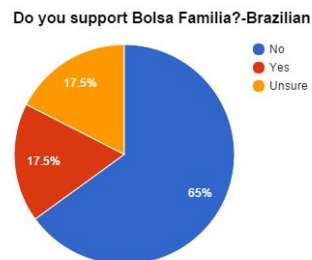
Total Respondents: 62

Ryan Strong
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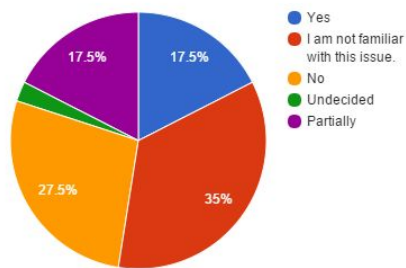
Fora Cunha! And maybe take Dilma with you.
Brazilian Political Survey Analysis

Part of the political survey that the Student Scoop recently conducted was a section on Brazilian politics. Various questions were asked by the **GLBd** “Should Dilma be impeached?”, “Do you support austerity?”, and “Do you support Bolsa Familia?”, to name a few. The responses to the questions were interesting, as it gave **GLBd** insight into the political views of many of PASB community members pertaining to Brazil.

One of the most interesting questions was whether members of the community supported “Bolsa Familia,” a social program. Respondents generally said no, with 48.4% responding negatively, versus around 25% saying yes. Interestingly, when only Brazilian respondents are examined, 65% of respondents said that they did not support Bolsa Familia, versus 17.5% who said they did. In addition, Student Scoop asked about support for Joaquim Levy’s fiscal austerity. In an interesting result, 27.5% of those



Do you support Joaquim Levy's austerity measures?



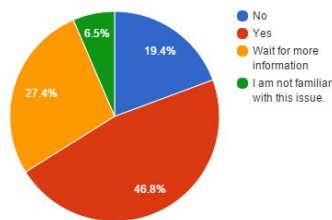
surveyed stated that they did not support austerity. However, 35% of respondents said that they at least partially supported austerity.

GLBd also posed two questions pertaining to Brazilian foreign policy. The first was on a scale of one to five: “How strongly do you support Brazil’s strong relation with China?” The second question was almost identical, except for it asked about Brazil’s

relation with Venezuela. On average, respondents gave a score of 3.23/5 for Brazil’s relationship with China. Venezuela was viewed far less positively, with an average score of 2.5/5.

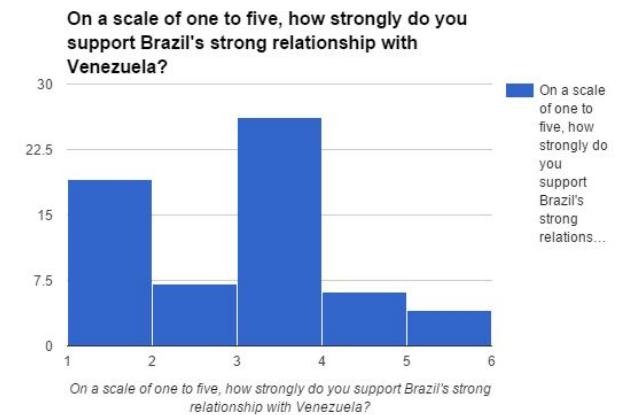
Finally, when it comes to Eduardo Cunha, PASB spoke with one voice. With 69.4% of the total vote, members of the community clearly stated that they wanted Eduardo Cunha impeached. In fact, less than 2% of respondents said that they thought Eduardo Cunha should stay. The rest of respondents believed that more information was needed or were unfamiliar with the issue.

Should the Brazilian Congress impeach President Dilma Rouseff?



Surprisingly, the community was less adamant on the removal of Dilma; 46.8% of respondents wanted to remove Dilma, while 19.4% said they did not believe that Dilma should be removed. This perhaps reflects a more cautious view on the impeachment of Dilma, versus the ouster of Cunha.

In conclusion, the survey gave **GLBd** an interesting insight into the Brazilian political mindset of the school.



Total Respondents: 62

Rubén López
4 December 2015

Interview with Lucca Domingos

With the end of the semester almost here, students are busy with work. This time of the year is also when our seniors are only one semester away from leaving PASB. It is important to know how these students feel about their current and future endeavors as they leave the school that, for some, has been like home for all their lives. **Gi XibhGibcd** had the chance to speak with none other than Lucca Domingos, president of STUCO, vice-president of NHS, an admirable athlete, and overall an outstanding senior.

Gibcd So, to start, please share with us how it has felt for you to be a senior.

@ WUI In my point of view, being a senior is great. It's a very good experience to be the one who people look up to. Also, I think it's very good to be a senior because you have more freedom. For example, I get to wear the clothes I want to. However, as of right now, by being a senior, I feel a little bit stressed because of college applications and IB (International Baccalaureate) papers we have to turn in. Many deadlines for these things are the end of this semester, so I think I can speak for all seniors when I say that I'm very stressed. Being a senior right now is kind of very stressing.

Gibcd How different do you feel now compared to when you were just entering high school?

@ WUI So, it might be funny. When I was entering high school, I think I was pretty excited and happy. I was looking forward to going to school every day, to be on varsity sports, and getting to do every cool thing a high school student can do. However, now I just feel very bored to come here, and I just want to go home every time I'm in school. There has been this kind of shift where I should be very excited now because I am a senior, and I have more freedom, but I feel that I just want to stay at home instead. It's this change in attitude where, before, I was really excited to go to school and, now, I just don't even want to go.

Gibcd Don't we all! Anyway, with you saying that you have been so busy, can you say that you have become the person ten-year-old you wanted you to be?

@ WUI I think I have indeed become the person I wanted to be because, when I was ten, I looked forward to being in high school. I always watched American movies and saw that they had STUCO and many other exciting things. I always wished to run for a position in STUCO and to be in the school's sports teams. So, I believe that, towards this, I've achieved my goal of participating to my fullest potential in high school activities, which is how, when I was ten, I imagined I would be. I think I've achieved this, not only because I'm, like, the "high school president" and an athlete in all of the school's sports, but also because I am engaged in high school and all its activities. This is how I imagined myself.

Gibcd So, you do feel like you have lived your high school years to the fullest?

@ WUI Yes and no. The part that says yes is because I participate a lot in school activities such as NHS, Student Scoop, STUCO, sports, and I have a very loaded school activity agenda. I think that's living high school to the fullest. However, before entering

high school, I imagined that living high school to the fullest would be having more eternal memories like going out to parties outside and inside of school, getting to hang out more with friends, and just having memories that would stick with me forever. Today, I have lots of good memories from high school, but also lots of bad ones, and I wish that I could have many more good ones than I currently have. I think that high school should be more fun and more enthusiastic instead of stressful as it is right now. I think that a big part of it can be blamed on the IB program, which is indeed a program that requires commitment. You have to take a bit of your personal time for IB so that you can complete its tasks. I mean, it was my decision, and I don't regret it. I know that IB will have advantages in the future. However, I also think that, due to IB, I haven't lived my high school years to the fullest as I would have liked to.

GAtd Talking about living and all that, what is the most important lesson you have learned these past few years?

@ WU Well, the most important thing I've learned, especially in high school, is that, if you want something, you have to go for it. You can't be afraid; you must follow what you want and your dreams. For example, when I was entering high school, I was very shy, and I was always afraid of speaking in public, but I talked myself into working to lose this fear. I started to speak to people and noticed that it was not really that hard to speak in public. After overcoming that, I was able to become the NHS vice-president and the STUCO president. Now, I'm more approachable, and I would say that I'm even more social than I was before because I went for it and followed this philosophy that, if you want something, you should go for it. If you're shy and don't like it, you should overcome it and go beyond your expectations to be the person you wish to be.

GAtd How do you think this philosophy you speak of will help you later in life?

@ WU I think this philosophy will help me later in life because it's a motivation for me to succeed in life. I mean, if I follow my philosophy and the way I expect myself to be in life, then everything I want I'll go for, and I will follow my heart. Thus, I will achieve it no matter what.

GAtd Now that we're talking about what is yet to come, do you think the future is scary?

@ WU So, I don't believe that college and adult life will be scary because, as I've heard from many friends that have graduated, in college you get to do what you like. For example, I won't have to take classes that I don't want to. I mean, the workload will be much greater, and the work will be harder, but I will be doing what I like and will be making my own decisions. For me, this is a very relaxing factor about college and adult life, the idea that I get to have more freedom to choose my own life. Also, even being alone will make me more mature and independent.

GAtd It's good to see people who are ready to face life. So, what do you expect from your last semester at PASB?

@ WUI Well, since this is the most stressing quarter, with all of IB work being due at the end of this semester, I expect that next semester will be much calmer and we, the seniors, will be less stressed. I expect this last semester to be memorable and much more entertaining, that we as seniors will get to spend more time together and to spend less nights awake doing homework. I expect to have more fun this last semester, making my experience at PASB memorable, and that we have lots of good memories. It will be our last time together, and it is probably the last time we will have a chance to enjoy such a great high school opportunity and to really be role models for the whole school, leaving a very good impression and mark in this school. I expect that this year's graduating class will be remembered for something we will do next semester and that people have a very good view of us. I expect this last semester at PASB to be a silly and entertaining one, one in which we can have the best time of our lives.

GAbcd Beautiful words. Do you have any advice for younger students who will one day be in your same position?

@ WUI Yes, I do have something to say for the younger students. It's kind of silly, but it's just very good advice. Don't take the ACT and SAT standardized tests in your senior year. Try to study for and do them as early as you can, for example in your junior year, especially if you're doing the IB diploma program. If you do them in your senior year, they will make your life hell because these tests will be in the same period of time as your IB work and when all your college applications are going to be due . . . Also, I would like to tell students to not be afraid of taking a chance and doing what they want to do. For example, if you want to be part of STUCO, NHS, or athletics, just go for it, and be yourself . . . Finally, if you are in ninth or tenth grade, try as much as you can to keep your grades high because, during the IB years, you'll have to cope with lots of things, so it's gonna be a period of time when it's okay for grades to be a bit low. For sure they will drop. So, if you're hoping to take the IB diploma program, please try to have the best grades of your life in ninth and tenth grade. That's going to help your GPA a lot.

GAbcd Well, thank you very much for your responses and your time!

@ WUI Thank you very much for your interest!

F YZ Wcb

And thus, as 2015 comes to an end, it is time to reflect about our life and goals. It is important to know what we want for ourselves and our future, not only during high school but throughout every stage of life. As spoken so truthfully by our beloved senior, regardless of how stressful it can be, we must still be able to take advantage of any opportunity and learn to live it to the fullest.

Beatriz Barros

Internship Opportunities: My Experience

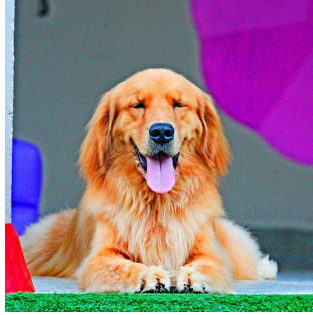
Unfortunately, everyone is not able to engage in an amazing trip abroad or a summer program during break. Due to prices, convenience, or simply logistics, it isn't always possible to take part in one of those opportunities. Although they are awesome experiences, these are not the only activities one can engage in to enrich their summer or winter break. In fact, the key to a fruitful summer or winter can be closer to us than we may think!

During the July break, after traveling with my family, I was disappointed that I could not do a summer program. I still wanted to do something "educational," though, so I thought about either volunteering or doing some other kind of work. Taking a suggestion from my older brother, I decided to engage in a two week "mini internship" at Propeg/ Revolution Brasil. It was an interesting experience for me because the team had just won two awards in an international advertising festival! Everyone was full of ideas, and there was a lot of work to do. Below is a description of an average day at Propeg:



1:30 PM

Since my shifts were during the afternoon, I would arrive while people were returning from their lunch breaks. While they got settled, I would play with the company's mascot, Job, the Ad dog!



2:00 PM

At this time, I would accompany my "mentor-for-the-day" into a meeting. One of the meetings I participated in was about the success of one of the agency's latest campaigns, "Miau, Miau" with the singer Pablo. This campaign was created by Propeg/ Revolution for COELBA, with the intent of spreading awareness to citizens about the dangers of energy theft, known in Brazil as **[UcXYbYf][J]** Although the campaign was a success, they also spent time discussing what aspects could have been better, so that they could be improved upon next time.

Watch the campaign here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sP-r29VYO4c>

3:00 PM

After the last meeting, I stayed in the conference room to watch a presentation by the company's Account and Management Vice President to the members of his department about maintaining a good link between the client and the agency. Basically, this department is responsible for managing client affairs and talking to the creation departments in order to create something that not only suits the client's purposes, but also presents a new, fresh idea.

3:40 PM

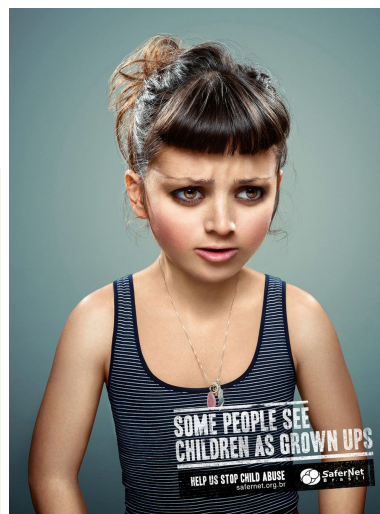
By this time in the afternoon, I'd usually be with someone in their office watching his day-to-day work. One of the craziest situations I experienced was when I was with the head of the production department (responsible for arranging all plans and contacts so that the vision imagined by the creation department actually happens), and she needed to find a specific kind of photographer available to shoot a campaign in Recife only two days later! It was a hectic day, but thankfully all turned out fine.

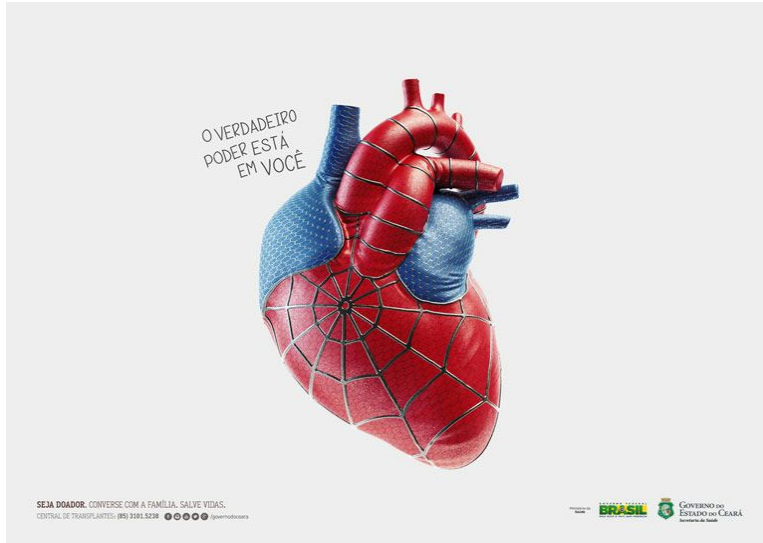
5:00 PM

At around 5 o'clock, I would go to the creation department and observe activities happening there. I especially liked participating in the casting of a campaign with the creation team in which we watched and evaluated over 40 videos of women for a breastfeeding campaign in Pernambuco. The campaign involved encouraging women to breastfeed their children and outlining the benefits that it brings to the mother and the baby. This experience taught me that marketing does not only involves selling, and that it is often used to promote good causes.

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

As the day ended, I would watch the work in each department or go around with my mentor. Also, I would often find myself sorting through piles of advertising yearbooks, looking at everything agencies all over the world have created throughout the years. I loved seeing how they used humor, current events, and other strategies to create reactions in the viewers. I especially liked awareness campaigns, also known as "cause marketing." These are a few by Propeg that caught my attention.





If you are interested in doing something like this during vacation, or even once a week during the school year, be proactive. Make a list of places where you'd like to intern and a list of all the friends, family, and people that could help you get to those places. Then, write an email or make a phone call asking if an internship would be possible. Always be polite and show interest in learning. Keep in mind that according to the Brazilian ***Lei nº 10.097/2000***, all medium and large companies are required to hire a number of apprentices (14 to 24 years of age) equivalent to a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 15% of their staff whose duties require professional qualification (learn more [here](#)).

Now what are you waiting for? Make that call and start learning!

Marina Siqueira

Global Leadership Respect Day

All the work that had been done during the previous weeks in Global Leadership by students in Grades 6 - 12 culminated in the final product presented on October 27th. It is quite difficult to make general statements about the day itself, as it was a truly

personal experience for every teacher and learner, whether they were high schoolers, middle schoolers, or elementary students. Every small group had their own perspective on the presentation as their experience depended on the kids and the lesson plans created. One group featured the kids dancing to "Watch Me" by Silento, which the high-schoolers thought was adorable; however, it is important to question the way in which these various activities relate to the topic of respect.

Preparation was arduous, and there were many opportunities provided to work on the task. An extremely specific rubric was provided and a rigorous lesson plan given to help the student-teachers create their activities. Global leadership mentors were caring and knew what was expected, which caused most lessons to be thoroughly prepared.

The day itself was extremely well planned, with no scheduling details left up to the last second. Students knew what they were supposed to do and when they were supposed to do it all along, so big thumbs up on organization. The preparation time, the assembly, and everything else were well connected and all affairs ran smoothly during the day.

Content wise, it is hard to make judgements because every group had its own experience and their own high and low points. Kids were different, and some groups were quieter and more focused than others. Activities were entirely diverse and varied widely, some involving going outside to throw paper airplanes and others just drawing and talking about dinosaurs. For instance, one class finished 15 minutes early while another stayed behind for ten minutes to watch the kids dance.

In the follow-up days during Global Leadership, there was a generally positive response to the activity, with most comments directed to the kids such as, "They were adorable!" "Oh my gosh, they were so cute!" However, not everyone can say they enjoyed the elementary students' participation. In addition, some Seniors complained about the prioritizing of this project in the midst of college applications and personal statements.

It was significant that Mr. Zalba mentioned we should reflect about what we were saying to the kids to assess ourselves on the principle of respect. We really only talked about that on the day of the presentation, and, truly, if more attention would've been given to the aspect of the teachers of the lesson rather than content and styling, a much greater impact could've been made. In all honesty, it was heart-breaking to have a "Respect for the Environment" group use bundles of paper to draw things like dinosaurs respecting each other and trees dancing, and throw them away at the end of the lesson, or a "Respect for Classmates" group witness pushing and not interfere in the action. Did we as teachers really personify - or even actually care - about the content we were teaching?

Did we truly believe in the value of respect, and do our actions reflect the things we told those kids on the 27th? Did we take all of this seriously? These are the questions I ask of the advisors and administrators of the school. Did the respect lessons actually make a difference: do we see less trash on the floor, or more students mindful of their printing, or less exclusion based on differences? Ultimately, advisors and students should reflect upon how these Global Leadership days could be more effective...

Ms. Fezler's Viewpoint

GMtd What was your initial plan for Global Leadership?

Ag': YhYf. The initial plan was to develop a course that focuses on the school values, and exactly how to do that, not knowing the school, being new, was a little bit of a challenge. I think we have put in good structures, instructions and have provided teachers with resources and lesson plans, so while it is not perfect, we put a lot in place for the first four months of school that were probably beyond the expectations of what the people that came before me thought would be possible.

GMtd Do you feel the Global Leadership goals are being met?

Ag': YhYf. BchYz There are a lot of goals. I wouldn't say we are achieving all of the goals, but we are achieving many. Building a Character Education program into a school takes time. It takes time for students and teachers to see the value, to work out the kinks, to find the best way to create and deliver lessons and change the school climate.. We have made some progress towards our goals, but I think it is going to take time before we can meet them all.

GMtd Do you think global leadership is making a difference at school?

Ag': YhYf. Well, since this is my first year, I cannot compare it to how things were at PASB before. I hope it is making a difference. Teachers are able to connect with students on topics that are not their subject areas, and we are raising more awareness about the school values, and as a result people are talking about the values. There might be more conflicts or problems (in terms of people recognizing they are not being treated respectfully, for example) but that is a good thing because it means people are talking. I would like to ask the students this question, because they would know better.

GMtd Why is Global Leadership graded?

Ag': YhYf. It is a pass or fail grade. It is important to evaluate how well people are doing as well as evaluate the program. We also want to measure the students' engagement and thoughtfulness around the PASB Core Values. This is one of the school's strategic goals. It's not that we are evaluating if the person is a good friend or

not, for example, but we do need to evaluate students in the program, and for that we need criteria. That is why we have rubrics. In the future these will help everyone understand the structure for grading and making that clearer for students and teachers about expectations.

GMbd Do you think students take Global Leadership seriously?

Ag: YhY. I don't know. It would be hard for me to say. There are many factors (1) 20 minutes is not a lot of time, (2) it depends on the lesson and the teacher, for example (3) it depends on whether students open themselves up to the class, etc. . Some people are taking it seriously and some people aren't. I think if you are you will get something out of it. Again, I think that is a question students can answer better. I hope they take it seriously, but I know that it isn't something universally true.

GMbd What do you hope for next year?

Ag: YhY. I hope that our community gets stronger and is keeping each other more accountable, also that we have a safe and caring school culture. One that is free of bullying and mistreatment of others.. I hope we create a climate of kindness and respect, and... yeah... I don't know, I hope the class is more coherent, meaningful and has more engagement. There is a lot of skepticism, and I hope that if people have any ideas they come forward to bring their involvement in a way that can be helpful to make it stronger. There is not a big team creating the lessons, so the more feedback we get, the stronger it can be, so I guess I'm hoping for that-for people to bring their ideas forward. A stronger sense of ownership to review the plans and how we can make them better and more meaningful.

GMbd What do you think were the successes and points for improvements in Global Leadership?

Ag: YhY. I think one of the successes is that everyday the teachers for 20 minutes have a schedule and a structure for what to do. That students have a 'homebase' amongst the fast pace of school. There are lessons and themes that every grade level is doing, so we can build on that in the school. Students have a forum to share their ideas, get information, be recognized for their efforts. The half days have given opportunities to put values into action, and if people are investing, then it is amazing. Grade 11-12 students have time to do IB and College Prep on the half days. Our community comes together every Friday to celebrate successes and build stronger programs.

It is a success that teachers and students are talking about the values, whereas this wasn't necessarily a reality before, which is why the course was designed, so the values aren't just on a placard somewhere. A success is that everyday classes are engaged

conversations about how to be a better, more respectful, more aware of what it means to be a leader. These are not inherent traits. They need to be taught. .

I would like find ways to make it meaningful to everyone and thereby seeing students become more engaged. I guess that would be the biggest thing I would like to see improve. Unfortunately, I tend to hear more critics about the course and less constructive, proactive solutions for how to make it better. We also need more hands and heads to help. The program is new. There are 16 GL classes and nearly 300 students that this program is serving. It is a big task and one that we are passionate about and want to see be successful.

*Scoop would like to thank Ms. Fezler for following up on the interview and clarifying several insights.

Global Leadership Overall

At the beginning of the year, we as students were told that Global Leadership was a time for students to share their thoughts, concerns, and their experiences with the school; however, with an extremely tight schedule that aims to teach the school's core values, this seems not to be happening. The GIN group, SAFE, has attempted to participate in the planning of Global Leadership days; however, it seems like there have been some miscommunications between students and staff so that they were unable to fully implement their proposal.

Overall, it appears the community has mixed feelings about Global Leadership itself. "Take the Temperature Mondays" are fun and relaxing for the students to take a break and connect with their teachers on subjects outside of school matters. Friday assemblies have also proven to be extremely effective in improving communication between the school and the students. Now, students are recognized more often for their efforts in the community and are notified beforehand of schedule changes. Half-days have also been relaxing and some have provided interesting leadership opportunities for the students. However, despite these advances, there is a certain level of skepticism in relation to how effective is the global leadership curriculum. As mentioned earlier, having lessons about respect for the environment didn't stop the group from wasting paper or make them develop an eco-friendly activity. In addition, there is a certain level of vagueness in relation to what exactly students must do or say to demonstrate respect and leadership.

The student community should come forward with their ideas and become more involved in the creation of the lessons. In addition, there should also be surveys and questions for students for their input on how to improve Global Leadership as a whole.

From the interview, it is clear that the planning committee is putting a lot of effort in developing the curriculum and making sure it is implemented. It is evident that they are passionate about the values they are teaching; however, there is definitely room for improvement.

Ryan Strong
7 December 2015

Venezuela's Election: Hope Springs Eternal

It is often said that “hope springs eternal.” There is perhaps no better example of this as of late, except for Myanmar, than Venezuela and its recent election.

To understand the context of the election, one only needs to read Freedom House’s “Freedom in the World” report. In this report, the organization lays out a dreary picture of political freedoms in Venezuela. The report states, “the distinction between state institutions and the ruling party is virtually nonexistent...the media climate is permeated by intimidation...and high courts generally do not rule against the government.” On the economic front, Venezuela suffers from triple digit inflation, unemployment is at 14%, and stores are running out of goods (Venezuela elections: Turning point for world's worst economy?, 2015).

In this backdrop of despair, Venezuela has taken a step into the future. In the election, the socialist party, which has had an unchallenged grip on power for two decades, found itself with only 55 seats in the National Assembly, versus 112 for the opposition (Venezuela election: opposition coalition secures 'supermajority', 2015). The 2/3 majority mark is crucial for the opposition. With a 2/3 majority, the opposition can now initiate a constitutional overhaul, fire the Supreme Court, and, perhaps most importantly, initiate a referendum on the president that could lead to his downfall (Goodman, Dreier, 2015).

So, with possibly that much power waiting in the wings for the opposition, what does the it plan to do? On the economic front, the opposition's proposals are relatively modest: it has promised to curb money printing by the central bank, to attempt to reduce inflation; roll back nationalizations; and encourage private industry. On the political front, the opposition wants to pass an amnesty law that would free political prisoners. The

opposition could possibly call a referendum on the current president, Nicolas Maduro (Cawthorne; China, 2015).

The future for Venezuela will be a difficult, uncertain path. Though hope has triumphed over fear, and democracy over tyranny, the economic and political realities of Venezuela are depressing to say the least. Despite these worries, today is a day for celebration; the people of Venezuela have struck a blow against despotism.

Picture from:

<http://www.economist.com/news/21679691-reviving-countrys-zombie-economy-will-be-hard-oppositionu2019s-rout>

Marina Siqueira

Downing of Russian Plane

On November 24th, a Turkish F-16 shot down a Russian Su-24 jet along the Syrian-Turkish border. Turkey claims that the jet violated its airspace and that it was warned 10 times through the emergency channel before being hit. Russia denies this, asserting that the plane was targeting ISIS in Syria and never invaded Turkey's airspace. The route taken by the plane is still contested by Turkey and Russia; Turkey states that the plane had crossed into its territory for 17 seconds, and that after ignoring the warnings, it fired an air-to-air missile to down the jet. Mr. Putin, on the other hand, maintains that the plane always flew 1 km away from the border and crashed 3 km from Turkey. In addition, the Russian pilot who survived published a video stating that he did not receive any warnings before being hit.

Unfortunately, this incident has turned into a USA-Russia issue. Putin argues that the USA knew about the route the plane took and could have warned Turkey that there would be Russian planes near its border. The USA has denied the claims, saying that they were not notified of that specific flight. American military officials maintain that there are indications of a violation of Turkish airspace and that warnings were sent to the offending jet, asking it to leave the area. Moreover, NATO stands with Turkey on this issue

The situation has gone awry as a Russian air force commander recently called the incident an “ambush” by the Turkish planes, considering the rapid Turkish response, indicating that the F-16s were prepared to attack beforehand.

The two pilots were ejected from the burning plane, and as they parachuted down to Syrian territory, rebels opened fire on them. One died before hitting the ground, while the other was able to land on government-held territory and was taken to a Russian airbase.

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has refused to apologize despite Putin’s requests, saying that the Turkish response was in full accordance with international law and national sovereignty. As a response, Putin has sent S-400 anti-aircraft missiles to the disputed region in Syria as a show of force, these being able to hit targets 400 km away. In addition, Russia has imposed sanctions on Turkish products and has suspended the visa agreements made prior to the incident. Russia has imposed restrictions on agricultural produces and even tourism to Turkey.

Of course, while the superpowers are more interested in fighting amongst themselves, ISIS grows and profits of their bickering.

Image from:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/11/24/middleeast/russia-turkey-jet-downed-syria/>

Read more at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34912581>

Susan Cavalcanti`

H YUyf`GYV]cb

Mi f ZJ cf]Ygi fWZcf bYk gUci hD5G6]XfUa UX6Ufha Ybh

Rehearsals for PASB's new productions took place during this semester, and students are nearly ready to bring two wonderful performances to the stage. These include **H Y -bMta d'YHK cf_gczK]]Ua GU_YgMUFYDUfhi** and the play within a play from **5' A]Xg a a Yf B] \H]8fYUa**. Last year’s performance of **H Y -bMta d'YHK cf_gDUfhi** consisted of **Fca YcUbX>i]Yh H]i g5bXfcb]Mg** and **A UMA** and included crossdressing, plastic swords, actors climbing on other actors, and some exquisite bad acting. To those who are unfamiliar with the play, **H Y -bMta d'YHK cf_g** is a comedy performed by three actors who clumsily attempt to present all of the Bard’s plays and

sonnets, and, somehow, are able able to teach audiences something about Shakespeare's work, however distorted. Those who were present at the last Middle/High School assembly of 2015, where an excerpt of the second part was presented, can confirm that it is certainly a play worth seeing. At the very least, audiences will walk away knowing how **to** act Shakespearian text. This performance's cast is Rubén López, Susan Cavalcanti, and Geraldo Tavaréz.

The second piece, the play within a play from **5A Jg a a Y B I V g j 3 f U b**, will most certainly surprise audiences in its similarities to contemporary comedies like **H Y -b l t h d Y Y K d f _ g** and even Abbott and Costello. Shakespeare wrote jokes such as "PYRAMUS: O kiss me through the \c`Y`cZ h j g j J Y k U`! THISBE: I kiss the k U` f j` \c`Y, not your lips at all" (for those not familiar with the text, the Wall is an actual character, not just an object). This play closely resembles Romeo and Juliet in that it tells the story of a pair of star crossed lovers, Pyramus and Thisbee, whose forbidden love is doomed due to their inability to tell when the other is really dead. This short piece will be enacted by Geraldo Tavaréz, Rubén López, Carol Ribeiro, Susan Cavalcanti, Ivan Gounin, and Gervásio Oliveira.

Both plays are under the direction of the IB theater examiner and teacher Ms. Lord-Ryan, who has been leading multiple creative workshops with the actors. The process for these plays focuses on developing characters' personalities and dynamicity in movements, using theoretical bases we've been learning in theater class. Ms. Metha has also been helping the group by allowing them to meet in her room, stopping by to give a word of incentive whenever she can. The aforementioned IB theater course has just been implemented at the school this year; however, Ms. Lord-Ryan had students captivated and willing to immerse themselves into the class immediately. Theater is not just an acting 101, but includes analysis of lighting, staging, costume design, playwriting, and directing. Students learn acting techniques, such as the Konstantin Stanislavski's method, while becoming familiarized with the process of the remarkable director and a range of theater companies. Students also get to learn about different world theater conventions, becoming more open-minded thespians and individuals. Although we do learn an incredible amount of qualified information in class, the best part is that it is designed **to** be overwhelming and to approach topics in dynamic ways.

This semester's plays look promising, and are comprised of an amazing group of young performers who have been working hard to meet and exceed audiences' expectations. Make sure to keep checking **G i X b h G b d f** for performance dates and more news on PASB's theater.

Brent Strong

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part Two

Director: Francis Lawrence

Starring: Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark

Hollywood is all about making money. And what better way to rake in the dough than to redefine the trilogy. In the desperate days of pre Harry Potter Hollywood, studios were restricted to the meager profits of producing the same number of movies as books in a series. But, with the separation of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part One* into two movies, Hollywood has begun a new era in which 3 has become 4, 5 has become 6, and so on. *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part Two* is the fourth installment of the *The Hunger Games* trilogy.”

Katniss Everdeen is the symbol of the revolution against the Capitol and the embodiment of the hope of the districts, or something like that. But when she’s not spending her time attending to the duties associated with being a living legend, Katniss struggles to decide between two potential lovers: Peeta, the mentally ill young man who has sacrificed everything for her, or Gale (Liam Hemsworth), a sullen dude Katniss liked to hunt with before she became the Mockingjay.

In this film, Katniss struggles to deal with Peeta’s mental illness, the result of the Capitol’s interrogators, and participates in the campaign to liberate District 2. Later in the film, she travels to the Capitol to assist with the invasion by the rebels. *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part Two* is the story of an ill fated to kill President Snow and the end of the war between the Capitol and the rebels.

The decision to split *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part One* into two movies was a poor one. What *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part One* lacks in a climax and resolution, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part Two* lacks in effective rising action and character development. That being said, the film is entertaining and chock full of exciting action and various plot twists. It may not be art, but at least *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part Two* isn’t boring.

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Image from: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1951266/>

Brent Strong

December: The Month of Junky Journalism

Despite the ongoing current events of terrorism in the Middle East, climate change, mass shootings, and, on a more positive note, exciting scientific discoveries, the mainstream media has decided to focus on celebrity gossip, pictures of cute cats, biased reporting, and a general lack of quality journalism for the entire remainder of the month.

“Yep, that’s right,” said ABC’s George Stephanopoulos in an interview with ***Glbd*** “Nothing about rape in India, ISIS, suppression of free speech on college campuses, or mass shootings. Nope, that stuff just isn’t interesting. Instead, every story will be devoted to issues of substance like celebrity breakups and Kim Kardashian’s gluteus maximus. Oh yeah, and pictures of animals doing funny stuff. Won’t it be great?”

“That’s right George, it will be,” chimed in Rachel Maddow of MSNBC. “However, on our network, in addition to showing numerous pictures of furry animals, we’re going to cut the pretense of being an actual news network and instead just devote the remainder of our articles to describing how stupid Republicans are and how totally awesome Democrats are.”

“Aren’t monkeys, like, so adorable,” gushed Fox News anchor Bill O’Reilly. “And Rachel, while you are a Communist, I do have to admire the direction MSNBC is moving in. At Fox we’re trying to do the same thing. In fact, I’ve got a spoiler alert! Fox News will soon be purchased by the Republican party. Isn’t it great? Tell me it’s not great.”

Image from:

<http://www.msnbc.com/the-rachel-maddow-show/rachel-maddow-biography>

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