



**Brooke Strauss, First
Place Winner**

PGMS POST STAFF

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Megan Lynch

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Pine Grove Student Wins National Award

Brooke Strauss, a 7th grader at PGMS, has won first place in the 5th Annual Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group Essay and Video Competition. The staff of the PGMS Post extends to her our admiration and congratulations. Brooke had to write a letter to Henrietta Lacks. The letter had to reflect on her history and why it is important to remember Henrietta Lacks today. Who was Henrietta Lacks? Read Brooke's winning essay to find out more:

Dear Ms. Henrietta Lacks,
What you have done for us is quite remarkable! You have donated so much to modern medicine and affected my life as well. You may not have known it while you were alive, but you have saved many lives with your immortal cells, called HeLa cells. We all thank you for everything you have done for us. You were only 30 years old when you were diagnosed with cervical cancer. It must have been a big change coming from your small town in Southern Virginia to this huge hospital in Baltimore City. Leaving your husband and kids must have been hard too because when you left, there was no guarantee that you would come home.

The doctors treated you, but without you knowing, they took a piece of your tumor, put it in a dish, and sent it to Dr. George Gey down the hall. He was the head of tissue culture research and so he studied your HeLa cells. Eventually, he realized that although your normal cells died (like everyone else's), your cancer cells didn't. He gave most of the immortal HeLa cells to other scientists who wanted to study them. He also kept some for his own research.

Essentially, these scientists and doctors took your everlasting cells in a way that was unfair to you and your family.

You deserved to know what was going on. You have helped our modern medicine in many ways. The HeLa cell line was essential in developing the polio vaccine. They were helpful to the processes of cloning, gene mapping, and in vitro fertilization. They were also taken to space with the first astronauts who found out that the HeLa cells reproduced faster in zero gravity. Finally, they have been a significant factor in the treatment of a variety of health issues including cancer, Parkinson's disease and infertility.

Your HeLa cells have really changed my life by saving loved ones. My great-aunt and great-grandmother had breast cancer. My great-aunt and great-uncle both have Parkinson's disease. My parents struggled with infertility to have my sister. Even though in the end they didn't need In vitro fertilization, they understand the pain and hopelessness of infertility. Your cells helped because they have provided treatment for all of these illnesses. In short, you have left a legacy behind you after your passing, saving many lives and having the first immortal cells ever! I also personally thank you for helping my family, and I hope your family will get the acknowledgment that you deserved. Thank you again for all of your help. Respectfully yours,

Brooke Strauss

Pine Grove Middle School

<https://www.henrietalackslegacygroup.com/read-the-essays.html>

Cast List:

Narrator: Allison Glaser, Ariel Cunningham

Jack: Breen Keeley, Carter Bohart

Stepmother: Julie Davis, Erica Colbert

Lucinda: Erica Hunt, Emma Terveer

Little Red: Phoenix Mack, Grace Kamau

Mother: Ada Glaser, Maya Strauss

Wolf: Devon Machado

Rapunzel: Brook Strauss, Lea Padden

Prince: Jason Smith

Milky White: Brandon Wheatley

Cinderella: Laila Cruz, Grace Rose

Jacks' Mother: Anna Wojciechowski, Asia Stanley

Baker's Wife: Madeline Carlson, Jaiden Shaw

Florinda: Madison Knighton, Carly Cohen

Father: Charlie Weber, Ava Wasik

Witch: Charlotte Harvey, Geneva Flores

Mysterious Man: Charlie Weber, Ava Wasik

Granny: Kara Smith

Rapunzel's Prince: Brendan MacGlaqui

Steward: Kailyn Donahue



Drama Club Holds Auditions for “Into the Woods” by: Sara Chen

The day when the Drama Club Auditions took place was Thursday, January 25, 2018, for the musical “Into the Woods”. The people in charge were Mr. Ward and Mr. Worthington. There were a lot more people than they had expected--the most there had ever been in years! So, Mr. Ward and Mr. Worthington decided to double cast this show, so many people could participate this year. As I said before, there were a lot of people, so they split us into 2 groups. It took a while to get started because we were nervous, confused and excited. But eventually we were put into 2 groups, 6th graders with Mr. Worthington, and 7th and 8th graders with Mr. Ward. Then, we started our auditions.

First, the 6th graders and Mr. Worthington listened or sang along to all the songs to see which ones they would want to sing. The song choices were:

“Little Red Riding Hood”

“Rapunzel”

“Giants in the Sky”- Jack

“Agony”- Princess

“It Takes Two” – Baker/Baker’s wife

“Stay With Me”- Witch

“On the Steps of the Palace”- Cinderella

These are all of the songs that people could choose from. A lot of people chose Little Red Riding Hood’s song, some people chose the Witch’s song, and 1-2 people picked the Baker’s wife’s song. We sang one by one until everyone sang. Those of us waiting to sing were wishing we had brought a snack!

The 7th and 8th graders went with Mr. Ward so Mr. Ward could see their acting skills. They acted out parts of the script. The thing was Mr. Ward picked your parts so you couldn’t pick what you wanted to act out. It was an interesting process. The 6th graders came out of music auditions and the 7th and 8th grade still weren’t finished acting auditions. But they did such a good job.

And then we switched after the 7th and 8th graders finished musical auditions.

The 6th graders did an amazing job on their auditions.

The 7th and 8th graders did a really good job on their auditions too!

The next day after the announcements said that the cast parts were up, everyone went as soon as the announcements finished to see if they got a part.



Teacher Interview: Mrs. Raulerson

1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

"I enjoy working with children, and doing science related work instead of reading and writing. I try to make my classroom as fun as possible. I want to help other students because I had a teacher influence me to teach science."

2. What in the recent years have you brought to our school that makes you unique?

"I run the student council and I help them plan spirit weeks."

3. How do you pass the time on a typical day at home?

"Riding my horses, or playing with them in the barn."

4. Can you tell me about yourself?

"I was born and raised in Maryland. I graduated from Towson High. I went to Villa Julie College for my undergrad and McDaniel College for my Masters. I have one brother & I'm married. I live on a farm."

5. What interests you most about teaching?

It's different every school year. We get new students there are new things to teach, and new things to do.

6. What's your favorite color and why?

"Turquoise, teal. I don't know why... It's just pretty."

Spirit Week February 26- March 3rd

The SCA is hosting a Spirit Week, February 26-March 2. Please join the fun!

Monday, February 26- Sports Day

Tuesday, February 27- Twin Day

Wednesday, February 28- Breast Cancer Awareness Day "Pink Day"

Thursday, March 1- Crazy Hair Day

Friday, March 2- PGMS Spirit Day

Favorite Teachers (this week!)

By Megan Lynch

I asked people from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade who their favorite teacher was and here are the results.

For 6th grade I asked 20 people who their favorite teacher was and these are the results. In 1st place was Mr. Sigmon, because he is funny and nice, and in 2nd place was Mrs. Mullins, because she is nice, and is glad to be teaching.

For 7th grade I asked 20 people also, who their favorite teacher was, and in 1st place was Ms. Kennedy, because she is nice and kind (There was no clear second place).

For 8th grade I asked 20 people who their favorite teacher was and in 1st place was Mr. Faherty, because his class is fun and he makes history fun. (There was no clear second place).

Trash Stash or School? By Gianna Dorwart



Are you aware of all the trash and litter in the school? If you're not, look around you. You might see a candy wrapper. How about a broken pencil or pen? A piece of gum or gum wrapper? However, if you are aware, are you doing something about it? Maybe, maybe not. Every day, people leave trash on the ground or leave trash on tables in the cafeteria. Sometimes, even on shelves or on desks for someone else to clean up.

Teachers and other staff are tired of picking up our trash that we leave behind. Don't believe me? Well, put yourself in their shoes and imagine that you are a teacher or staff member. Students are walking out of your classroom or out of the cafeteria. When everyone leaves, there is a bunch of trash left behind. Would you like to pick up all that trash? Or would you like it if the students put their own trash in the garbage or recycling bin?

This is a problem that we, as a school, need to fix. Our property is our own responsibility. Not somebody else's. Here are some tips that you can do to help:

1. Pick up your trash and throw it away
2. If you see someone litter, say something to them or tell an adult
3. If you see trash on the ground (Like a candy wrapper or something that is not exposed food), pick it up and throw it away
4. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Even if you only do one of these, it will make a big difference. So think about what you're doing if you're about to leave a piece of trash somewhere besides the garbage bin. Take a stand. Fix our school. Be an environment hero!

Would YOU Like to Write for the Post?

The Pine Grove Post is seeking students to join our staff, and free-lance reporters who have a story to contribute.

We are especially interested in 8th grade students to report on 8th grade special events, and members of clubs and sports on ALL grade levels, to talk about what's happening around Pine Grove.

Staff reporters come to our meetings at 3pm on Tuesdays in Room 45.

Permission slips are still available with Mrs. Mullins.

Free-Lance Reporters work on their own, write an article and submit it to Mrs. Mullins electronically over email at kscott@bcps.org.

What's your story? Why not publish in the March edition of

The Pine Grove Post!

Tobacco Doesn't Give You Your Happily Ever After-Big Bad Wolf

By: Grace Kamau

People who smoke or use other forms of tobacco are more likely to develop disease and die earlier than are people who don't use tobacco. Remember that tobacco is a dangerous to use and it can cause many health risks and also can affect your daily living. Here are some ways tobacco can affect you.

- ✚ Coughing
- ✚ Shortness of breath
- ✚ More frequent headaches
- ✚ Increased phlegm (mucus)
- ✚ Respiratory illnesses
- ✚ Worse cold and flu symptoms
- ✚ Reduced physical fitness
- ✚ Poor lung growth and function
- ✚ Worse overall health

Some tips of how to avoid these risks are:

- ✚ When someone offers refuse and then walk away
- ✚ If peer-pressured find a new healthy friends
- ✚ Talk to trusted adults of how you feel when stressed

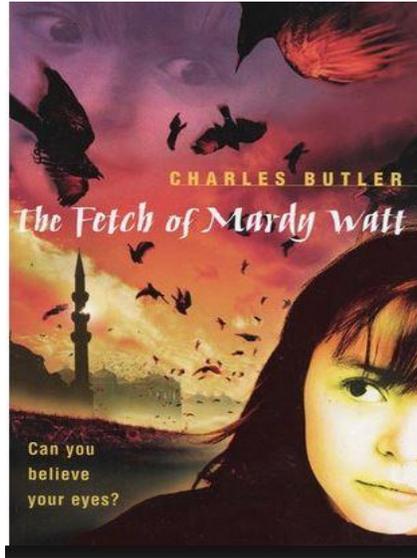
These are tips of how to avoid Tobacco. Remember once upon a time, there was a big bad wolf-but he smoked as a teen, stunting his lungs and ruing his perfect fairy-tale ending.



Book of the Month

By Megan Lynch

The book of the month goes to The Fetch of Mardy Watt. The Fetch of Mardy Watt is a horror book that is about a girl who has a fetch (A “twin” who is trying to take her place). Mardy and her friend try to find the fetch and keep it from taking over Mardy’s life.



For the Series of the Month the winner was Percy Jackson and The Olympians. The series Percy Jackson and the Olympians is a Greek Mythology book in modern times. It is about a demigod named Percy who (in the first book) has to go on a quest with his friends to clear his name from something he didn’t do. In the second book, Percy Jackson along with Annabeth, Grover, Clarisse, and Tyson need to find The Sea of Monsters to find the Golden Fleece and save Camp Half-blood. In the third book, The Titan’s Curse, Thalia and Percy find and save Annabeth and the goddess Artemis who have been kidnapped. On their way they meet some new friends. In the fourth book, The Battle of the Labyrinth, Percy, Grover, and Annabeth find the infamous inventor when they find out Kronos plan to take over Camp. In the fifth and final book to the series, The Last Olympian, the prophecy unfolds around Percy’s 16th birthday just as Percy leads a group of young demigods to Olympus to take down Kronos and his army while the gods are still having difficulty with the rampaging monster, Typhon.

If you are into mystery you should definitely go check out The Fetch of Mardy Watt. If you like thrilling suspenseful books you should definitely check out Percy Jackson and the Olympians (if you finish this series you should read The Lost Hero which also has Percy Jackson and others in it).