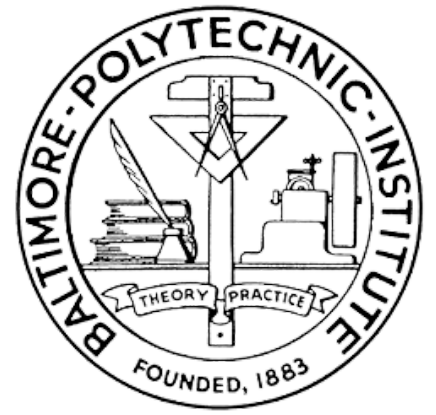
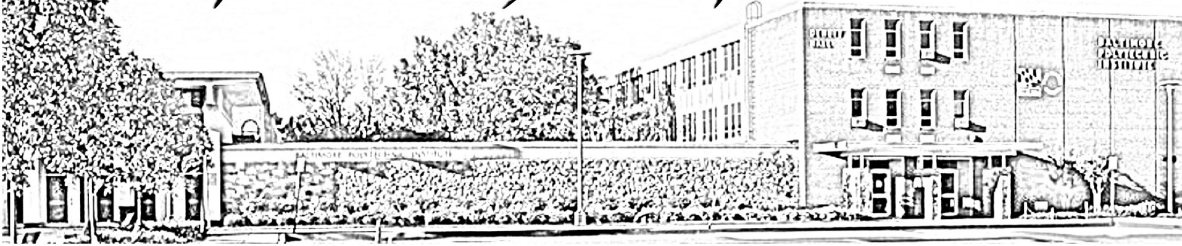


Poly Press



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POLY VS CITY

WILL THE STREAK CONTINUE?

Editorial by:
Amira Taylor, Jace Townsend,
Joshua Fleming, Ziyen Gates



Photo Credit: Joshua Fleming

If Poly's Junior Varsity team strength is any indication, with their October 26th win over City 8-0, Poly should be hopeful about this year's varsity game against City! With many senior players graduating in the off-season, this is a fresh start and a fresh team to start the winning streak on the 135th game. Coming off an amazing season only losing two games last year out of the ten, Poly's football team change the narrative with this new batch of players to see if they have the momentum to live up to the potential and hopefully surpass the team's previous year. A dissatisfying loss against City last year resulted in a violent altercation between Poly and City, continuing the 11-game losing streak between the Baltimore rivals. According to our sources from the Poly team, Michael Robinson #7, a returning player, says the team is in high spirits and confident that this year they can break the unfortunate streak of losing this historic and important game. Kamond Chapman #75 says, "With our five new transfers and two star underclassmen, I am confident that they will make the difference we need. I also feel we can win because we have good corners." Amare Corbin #52 says, "If we work as a team and play smarter, there is no way we can't win." As a collective, the team feels that the losses over the years have accumulated due to little mistakes that can be fixed. On top of the loss in many of our senior stars who did a great job last season, our team now has a lot of weight on their shoulders that they are doing their best at holding up. With the seniors graduating, leaving us with a young core and a couple underclassmen stepping up playing bigger roles to fill big shoes out on the field. We are very excited to see our young guys develop and make things happen as the season progresses.

The media surrounding Baltimore City sports has begun to look down on Poly's football team because of City's winning streak. So most people aren't confident in Poly this year, but that's how teams are built: they are underestimated, but that's how they grow, and that's what they will use to win. With the new faces on the varsity team, there is room for improvement and growth.

Poly doesn't have the same team from last year, and that's evident, but with the new potential the team can reach, Poly's players are confident they can shock the city once again. Currently our team is 3-5 overall with a recent win against Patterson. As long as Poly's team stays motivated, they'll always have the chance to make it to the last whistle.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF HALL MONITORS?

In high schools across the nation, hall monitors play a vital role in maintaining order, ensuring safety and facilitating a positive learning environment. Despite some misconceptions about their purpose, hall monitors are not just a glorified presence; they serve a multifaceted role that is essential for the smooth functioning of a high school. From preventing bullying incidents to ensuring students' safety, hall monitors fulfill a crucial task that impacts the overall school experience for both students and staff. Most students recognize the purpose of hall monitors, but can find them unnecessary.

The hall monitors here at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute come from a company called New Vision. New Vision Youth Services has been serving Baltimore City Schools since 2005 and was founded by Billy H. Standfield. New Vision is a mentor group here to help change the cultural environment of the youth. According to the New Vision Youth Services, the mentors' main goal is to guide youth through "restorative practices, social-emotional training, life skills coaching, peer mediation, character development, and self-esteem building." The adults that students see throughout the halls are here for the betterment of students and to help the youth who are in need of a mentor.

After talking to numerous staff members that were sent to Poly from New Vision, we finally acquired a new perspective. They're more than just hall monitors; they are here for us. Ms. Rice is a mentor new to Poly this year, and she said the mission of New Vision was to support youth and reach goals that students have for themselves. She wants to contribute to the growth of Poly by sharing her knowledge, time, and compassion.

Mr. Forehand, who is going into his first year as a staff member at Poly as well, wants to guide students in the right direction in order to succeed in high school. Mr. Forehand remembers making poor decisions as a teenager. "When I was growing up, I didn't have alot; I was chasing materialistic things. It got me in the street life and it crashed." This is why he wants to help kids make better choices and steer them in a successful direction. Ms.T is returning for her second year at Poly. Her main focus is to mentor students and to keep them on the right track with academics. She also wants to help and deeply encourage youth to go in the right direction, after seeing so many kids go down the wrong path such as "incarceration, drug use, or just not being successful in life." (continued p.2)

By: Kourtney Campbell, Taijah Robinson, Jaden Stokes,
Kayla Wilkins



Photo Credit: Kayla Wilkins

In addition to their disciplinary and administrative duty, hall monitors often become mentors and trusted adults for students. Jaden Stokes, a junior here at Poly stated, "I can talk to them about really anything and it's off my chest." They provide guidance and support to students in need by offering a friendly ear and assisting with minor concerns. Building relationships with students, particularly those who may feel disconnected, creates a nurturing environment where students feel valued and heard. These positive connections contribute to the overall well-being and holistic development of students.

Aside from their predominant responsibilities, hall monitors may also assist with administrative tasks and provide support to teachers and staff. They may run errands, distribute materials, or supervise study halls. Their involvement in these tasks alleviates the load on teachers, giving them more time to focus on their instructional duties. In conclusion, hall monitors are an essential component of the high school ecosystem and their importance should not be understated. Through their vigilance and commitment to safety, they serve as mentors and students greatly benefit from their presence.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

By: Morgan Brooks, Jaden Stokes

Getting to school on time can be stressful for a lot of students, parents, and teachers. Many parents want to drop their kids off and make it to work on time. Teachers want to get into school so they can have time to prepare for their lesson before the first period. Students want to make it on time for school so they won't miss important instruction. All this becomes even harder when trying to get through the traffic at Poly/Western. Students, staff, and parents have expressed their concerns of how bad the traffic is around the school area, especially at the beginning of the school year.

Traffic has been backed up on Cold Spring turning into Poly. Some students have been late at least 4 times this school year. Timothy Reynolds, a senior student at Poly, has expressed that the traffic between both schools makes it harder for him to park his car in the students' parking lot on time. Parents have said that the four way intersection has made it hard for them to maneuver especially when people don't follow the rules for the intersection.

According to a parent of a Poly student, "Cars are all over the place in the intersection because people aren't aware of when it's their turn to turn." A lot of cars are in a rush so the traffic isn't properly managed, and drivers ignore the rules of the four way intersection. They can all agree that the traffic isn't properly managed, and that there are too many cars in such a little space. According to Ms. Webb our community coordinator, the traffic is a good way to prepare students for the real world when they have jobs. She says, "I do think in preparation for the real world students should realize we can't change traffic patterns." She also mentions some ideas that can be implemented in future years that may help students get to school on time such as alternate start times for different grade levels or hiring a traffic director. After talking to one of our hall monitors, Ms. T, she touched on how the traffic can affect students' grades. She says, "One of my seniors experienced being late to first period which made their grade suffer because they were missing those participation points even though the student was completing all work. Ms. T concludes her statement by saying that being late so many times can affect your grade in the long run, so students should prepare for the traffic more seriously."



Photo Credits: Mr. F. Hammet

On the contrary our school police officer, "OT" feels that the traffic isn't a big issue. He says "I do not think that traffic in the morning affects our students' instructional time because it is not as congested as our afternoon traffic. A lot of parents drop their kids off at a good time which gives kids the opportunity to get to school on time, but students go to the stores instead." He also mentions that the traffic is only bad in the beginning of the school year but tends to clear up during the middle and end.

In conclusion, the traffic at Poly is viewed in many different ways, but everybody can agree that it is an issue whether big or small. We as a community need to come together and try to make a change so that our scholars aren't constantly late for school. We also need to make sure we reduce car accidents due to the incompetence of some drivers. By addressing this issue, we seek to make a change and hopefully have a better outcome in the years coming up. However the change won't be easy and we need support from everybody we can get.

IS MY TARDINESS EXCUSED?

By: Kiara Byrd, Ziyon Gates

"It's better to be early than to be late." But what if students have no option but to be late, not because they chose to be late, but the other priorities we have other than school? Is it fair for students to be punished for being late? If students are late a certain amount of times they are threatened with getting certain things and events taken away. Is this fair if it's out of the students' control? One solution that was made to help consider people who are late was by Jarvis. "We should at least have a five-minute grace period, I mean, I wouldn't put all my trust in the bus drivers, they tend to be late picking students up."

There are real reasons why students are late, not just because they're lazy or because they choose not to get up early. One such reason is taking their siblings to school. Jalah P. is a senior who explained, "Sometimes I have to take my brother to school, his school starts later than ours and its not that close to Poly." Even teachers notice the outside priorities students have. Dr. O'Neill stated, "I have a student that has to take her siblings to school in the morning, so she has no choice but to be late."



Other reasons can genuinely be just out of their control, such as traffic. Multiple students have made comments about the traffic, when asked what was the reason for them being late. Timothy R. yelled, "IT'S THE TRAFFIC," while Joshua F. responded, "It's not my fault, it's the traffic!" Friends also see the true reason why their classmates are late, not having the privilege to have a guaranteed ride to school. Ziyon G states, "I have a ride to school everyday and we usually leave out early to beat the traffic. So I am early to school everyday, but many of my friends don't have rides so getting to school early is way harder for them."

A solution to this lateness problem at our school is that maybe the school could add a period in the beginning of the day almost like a another parrot time, so as students arrive late it would not be harmful on them and their grades, because students who get to school late miss class and assignments that are given in the morning. This period will give students the chance to get to school and not miss out on any work.

Being early isn't always as easy as it seems for us students, especially because we have other obligations/ responsibilities we have to meet outside of school. Other times our lateness isn't on us, its others around us. We can leave out early, but that does not mean the bus will come early as well.

So again... Is my tardiness excused?

"BEHIND THE SCREAMS: THE THEATER CLUB'S SPOOKY SPECTACLE - THE HAUNTED HOUSE" p3

By: Max Goodwin, Kendyll Moore, and Natalia Zuniga-Lopez

Every October, the senior lounge undergoes a chilling transformation as Halloween approaches. This spine-tingling metamorphosis can be attributed to a dedicated group of theater and horror enthusiasts who double as the masterminds behind Poly's annual haunted house that features a new theme each and every year. While most people are content with decorating their homes with pumpkins and cobwebs, Poly's Undisputed Theater Club and their sponsor, Mr. Charleston take it to a whole new level, putting together a haunted house that sends shivers down the spines of all who dare to enter. This annual highlight is all attributed to Sarah Handley who originally went to Mr. Charleston with the idea of a Haunted House in 2011.

Preparations for this hair-raising event start months in advance. The creative process starts with brainstorming sessions where ideas flow freely. Members and volunteers draw inspiration from classic horror films, urban legends, and their own nightmares to come up with a theme that will leave guests trembling. Once a concept is chosen, the real work begins.

The creative process starts with brainstorming sessions where ideas flow freely. Members and volunteers draw inspiration from classic horror films, urban legends, and their own nightmares to come up with a theme that will leave guests trembling. Once a concept is chosen, the real work begins. Scholars with various skills contribute their expertise. Set designers transform an ordinary lounge into a nightmare-inducing labyrinth, complete with eerie lighting, realistic props, and hidden surprises to put terror into those who enter. Students turned makeup artists work tirelessly to create terrifying characters to haunt guests as they journey through the haunted house.

Theater club members also write scripts for the actors who bring the chilling tale to life. These volunteers immerse themselves in their roles, delivering spine-chilling performances that make every visit unforgettable. As guests walk through the maze, they encounter horrifying scenes that could easily be found in a Hollywood horror blockbuster. The haunted house isn't just about jump-scares; it's a testament to the club's dedication to their craft. Members painstakingly plan out the timing of each scare, ensuring that every guest has a heart-dropping experience. The attention to detail is remarkable, and it's evident in the loud gasps and high pitched screams of those who brave the haunted house that all their hard work pays off.

While the primary goal of the Theater Club's haunted house is to provide a terrifyingly good time, the event also serves as a fundraiser for future school projects. Each year, proceeds from ticket sales go toward supporting important causes in the school. This unique combination of horror and fundraising has turned the haunted house into an annual highlight that many look forward to attending each October.



Photo Credits: Mr. Charleston

FRESHMEN FEARS

By Morgan Brooks, Morgan Washington

The transition from middle school to high school is a journey filled with excitement, new experiences, and opportunities for growth. However, for many freshmen, this transition is also accompanied by fears and anxieties. These freshmen fears can range from concerns about academic performance and making new friends to navigating through independence. In middle school, teachers can be more hands-on and caring, but in high school, it's up to students to apply themselves and reach out to our teachers for help. In this article, we will dive into some of the common fears that freshmen often face as they go through this phase of their lives and explore ways to address and overcome these anxieties.

Lorena B, a freshman here at Poly, comes across as shy and nice. Some of her fears included getting lost or being unprepared for high school. She says, "Poly is bigger with more people, so I was afraid of getting lost." Other freshmen shared their concerns of being afraid of getting bullied. "Coming to a new environment can be different and overwhelming," says Ah'nya Ellis a Poly freshman. Ah'nya touches on how difficult the class levels are compared to her experience in middle school. "The workload at Poly is greater than the workload in middle school." Ah'nya says. Many shared their thoughts on how they thought that their grades would drop due to the level of difficulty of Poly. After talking to Eryan Benefield, a freshman at Poly, he says, "In middle school, I was pretty much an all A student, but now since teachers are more critical on my assignments, I have a few C's." Other freshmen didn't have many fears but were filled with more excitement. "I didn't have any fears, I was excited to meet new people," says a freshman at Poly. Interestingly, a lot of the freshmen shared most of the same fears.

Timothy Reynolds, a senior, has offered a few words of advice to the freshman classes. He says "It might sound like a cliché, but don't procrastinate because procrastinating can cause more stress compared to you doing it on time." He also talked about the importance of building relationships with teachers and students. "Build relationships with your teachers because you will need those letters of recommendation, and also build relationships with other students because you never know what opportunities could come in the future just because you know somebody." He ends his advice with talking about the importance of being involved during your years at Poly. "One of the biggest mistakes I made was not being involved in many clubs and sports. You want to be involved because it looks good to colleges."

Freshmen fears are natural and are the expected part of the high school experience. The challenges that come with this transition can be overwhelming, but they also provide opportunities for personal growth and development. By acknowledging and addressing these fears, freshmen can pave the way for a successful high school journey. With the right mindset, support system, and desire to step out of their comfort zones, freshmen can overcome their fears and welcome the exciting possibilities that await them in the world of a great education. However, the fears that once seemed very scary can become steps toward a brighter and more confident future.

SENIOR INAUGURAL PHOTO DUMP



Photo: Kayla Wilkins



Photo: Ziaire Ball



Photo: Ziaire Ball

By: Jade Collins, Diamond Mangrum, Tim Reynolds

WHO IS DIRECTOR SAWYER?

Coming into the new 2023-24 school year, there are a lot of changes that have been made. One of the biggest is our newest director. Most of the students at Poly don't know who Director Sawyer really is, despite his having walked the hall of the school for 40 years. Unfortunately, many students haven't gotten the chance to know him personally. On September 15, 2023, Jade Collins, Diamond Mangrum, and Tim Reynolds had the opportunity to interview our very own Director Sawyer. During the interview, Director Sawyer was asked a series of questions to get a better understanding of our leader, who is a true Poly parrot, through and through. He has a great love of math while also playing on the baseball team. Although Director Sawyer graduated in 1983, his love for Poly has never left, as he swiftly came back after his high school career and continues to help make Poly what it is today.



Photo: Dr. O'Neill

Students all around Poly have been curious as to how Director Sawyer has managed to remain at Poly for so long and why he has chosen to do so. Director Sawyer's love for Poly is based on its strong community of students, staff, and commitment to the community. Director Sawyer graduated from Poly in 1983. During his time in college, he was offered a permanent substitute position at our school. After he graduated from college, he was given the opportunity to have a full time math teacher job. He had been an active part of the school community for a long time, naturally climbing the student ladder to where he is today. Being a principal is not an easy job, it is a hard role to fill since he is expected to essentially rebuild our school's administration from the ground up as Poly prepares for a major renovation in 2 years.

Filling the role of former Director Williams are big shoes to fill; what is his course of action in order to maintain a successful school community? He wants to build a strong sense of community within the school, focusing on hope, reflection, equity and consistency with the staff, teachers and students. As far as challenges so far this school year, pushback from students regarding dress code has been a challenge, but he knows all meaningful change takes time and has faith in Poly pride.

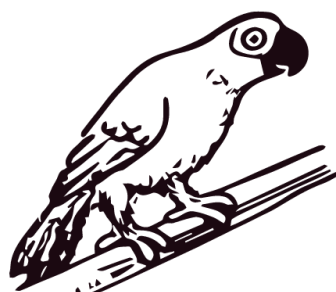
SPIRIT WEEK 2023



“Mathletes & Athletes”



“Throwback Thursday”



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