

# The Knight Times

ACP Knights take on August!

Vol. 1

In the Knight Times' very first monthly newsletter, we look at the beginning of the school year with our highly anticipated club fair, a spotlight on Academic Decathlon, a report on the Funtastic Foam party, and so much more! Everything you need from the past month all in one!

## - BEHIND THE ARMOR -



RiddleMeGupta: \_\_\_\_\_

Pratham Sreekantan, Shubham Gupta, William Jackson, Suhani Karkra, Daniela Serna

On Friday, August 8th, ACP Academic Decathlon hosted their second annual "Knight of Trivia" At this event there were 5 different categories that would be discussed. These categories ranged from science topics to Pixar. (Continued on Page 05)



What time is it?

# Knights During AUGUST

## - FAIRES AND FESTIVALS -

Food, Foam, and Fun, what do these all have in common? The Foam party! On Friday August Second, ACP's StuGo came together to host the first event of the school year on the East Field by the Performing Arts Center... (Continued on Page 11)



Foam is where the heart is.

# What's Inside?

The Club Fair	.....	Pg. 03
Perfect ACT Scores	.....	Pg. 04
Trivia Night	.....	Pg. 05
Honor of The Prep	.....	Pg. 06
Fall Sports Assembly	.....	Pg. 07
Badminton Tryouts	.....	Pg. 08
StuGo	.....	Pg. 09
Purple and Black Scrimmage	.....	Pg. 10
Foam Party	.....	Pg. 11
Kaden Wong	.....	Pg. 11
Link Crew	.....	Pg. 12
Staff Spotlight	.....	Pg. 13

# THE CLUB FAIR

Article by: Aurelia Deleon and Natalie Ascunio



At the beginning of every school year here at ACP we host the annual Club Fair. One of the big things that is encouraged here is to pursue your passions and interests. Over the years the student body has taken this to heart, resulting in ACP having over 100 clubs that take place in and out of school.

Throughout the Club Fair, people could see a mass variety of clubs they could join and participate in. These clubs ranged from rigorous, academic organizations to fun, niche groups. What these clubs have in common, despite their differentiating goals, is their ability to provide a safe place for students to get involved in hobbies they love.



While walking around some of the clubs focused on niche passions that could be found around the school were Anime Club, Disney Club, Taylor Swift Club, and more. These clubs all are focused on bringing people who have a specific interest together. This allows students to find not only people who relate to them, but people who might share either interests through the club.

Some other clubs that were present were clubs that support rigorous academic organizations. There is a mass variety of academic clubs ranging from Computer science to History Club. These clubs allow for students to expand on subjects that they find rather enjoyable. Not only do we have clubs focused on expanding on certain academic topics, we also have clubs that are focused on learning about topics such as medicine, business and technology. Some examples of these clubs would be Youth Medical Association, Mock Trials, Computer Science, Robotics, Neuroscience, and Business and Technology Club. All of these clubs have the ability to help students expand on their knowledge for careers they may want to explore.

Another category of clubs at ACP are the clubs that have helped our communities and have brought awareness to more people about social topics. So many of these clubs are run by students who have a lot of passion for these clubs. Some examples of these clubs would be Thirst Project, Bracelet Project, Girl Up, and so many more. Students have dedicated their time to supporting charities that have helped many people and environments to be able to be more successful.

Overall the Club fair was a pop off for all the students. People could be seen leaving with smiles on their faces, candy and treats in hand. An event that was intended to share passion and interests brought our school community together more than before.





Article by: Shelby O'Donnal and Hailey Hodges

The dreaded ACT, a standardized test used for college admissions that rises above all others. The almost three hour test consists of four main sections: math, english, reading, and science, and only around 0.19% of all students who take the ACT get a perfect score on the test. To achieve a task like this it requires a combination of strategic preparation, consistent practice, and a deep understanding of the test material. The fact ACP already has reported 7 students this year who got a 36 on the ACT is more than impressive. We want to commemorate these students who worked very hard and achieved such a difficult goal; Katie Stefanovski, Michael Stevenson, Gwen Aron, Ohm Patel, Zahara Khan, Jishnu Nyak, and Sidharth Kanderi are part of the 0.19% who were able to achieve a perfect ACT score.

To get a look into their process we asked some of these students some questions about their score. For starters we wanted to know how they prepared for this, a common answer was that they took practice tests in order to see what they got wrong to improve on it. Along with test prep, we got some advice from Michael Stevenson about preparing for the ACT; “..make sure you know good strategies to deal with multiple choice questions, and just make sure to put in time and effort into studying. You can study a lot of different things such as websites, but just make sure you understand the mistakes that you make when practicing and how to not repeat them during the test.” When asked how to achieve their goal of getting a perfect ACT score Katie Stefanovski explained that “receiving the news of her perfect score was relieving and as if a weight had been taken off my shoulders. Now I can go through the entire college application process without having to worry if my score is good enough”. The entire college application process is a very grueling and stressful experience, however by achieving a perfect ACT score can help an application stand out, and it can also greatly increase the chances of receiving a merit-based scholarship, which can significantly reduce the financial burden of college. Finally, we asked what they are hoping to do with their score and Sidharth Kanderi revealed that he is hoping to get into MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) with the help of his perfect score.

We are proud of all of these students who were able to obtain a perfect score, and we wish luck to all the current Juniors who will soon have to also take the ACT. We hope that by getting the perspectives of those who have conquered such an enormous feat, the ACT doesn't seem as daunting as before.



Ohm Patel



Katie Stefanovski



Mikey Stevenson



Gwen Aaron



Zahara Khan



Sid Kanderi



Jishnu Nyak



# Trivia Night

Article by: William Jackson and Xiomya Tobo



On Friday August 8th, ACP AcDec hosted their 2nd annual “Knight of Trivia”. At this event there were 5 different categories that would be discussed. These categories ranged from science topics to pixar. After 5 rounds of 7 questions each, teacher-team Agatha Quizte won, but decided to defer the prize (a crochet octopus) to the students. The event had a good turnout, and everyone had a fun time. After trivia night, we were able to talk with Ms. Turner and a couple of the participants on how the event went.



## Mrs. Turner QnA:

Q: What is it like hosting Trivia Knight?

A: “So much fun I love hosting this and watching people have fun and get excited when they know the answers to questions”

Q: Would you consider hosting again this year?

A: “I would definitely consider doing it again, we are a competition team so we spend a lot of time preparing for competition during the spring semester, but I wouldn’t be opposed to it if we had time. If we did it would probably be in April or May.”

Q: What would you say your favorite part of Trivia Knight is?

A: “My favorite part has got to be just watching people getting excited when they know the answer to a question, you see a light blink in their eyes and they get all excited.”

Q: What made you host Trivia Knight?

A: “We’re an academic competition team, and we wanted to blend the academic spirit of the decathlon with the fun of a trivia night.”

Q: What would you say the best part of Academic Decathlon is?

A: “The family that we create they’re so good at working with each other and making each other better consistently, watching people who like to learn, learn. there’s nothing like it. My teams from prior years still stay in contact to this day. ”

Q: What was your favorite team name tonight?

A: “My favorite team names were probably “Agatha Quizte” or “Tropic of Answer”.”

-- More can be found on our website! --

Every year, ACP is always growing whether it be our students, clubs, or our staff, it is endlessly growing which goes to show our diverse community we all love. ACP has about 2300 students and each and every one of them are unique in their own way. With an ambiance of school pride and positivity, our community is overflowing with many students who are involved in the community or always are trying to find ways to become involved. Our esteemed school has a multitude of diverse individuals with different backgrounds who have an opportunity to be recognized for their stellar character. Something new that the Newspaper staff is doing this year is that the Knight Times will be recognizing ACP's students, teachers, support staff, and admin for exemplifying the ACP prep way and being a great example of what values students should display at school. Many students throughout all classes are all people who have the PREP way in the bag. ~

## Mrs. Mungia -Passion



Ms. Mungia has been chosen for Honor of the PREP for displaying passion everyday at school by being kind, doing what's best for kids, and making them feel important. She is under Mr. Roth as the Administrative Secretary aiding in clubs and activities around campus. As Ms. Mungia has officially started her third year as a member of the Knights Community; she can confirm that the best part is "hands down, the kids on campus". Throughout the day she gets to connect with students and uses her big heart to show students that they are welcome and important. It's not uncommon to see Ms. Mungia talking to students around campus with a smile making an impact while connecting with them, which just adds to the fact that she is a perfect representation of passion on the ACP campus. (ArticleBy: Shelby O'Donall and Donya Fournier)

Teachers are one of the most important parts of school. Without them, we couldn't learn or even attend our classes. Teachers do so much for their students, but one major aspect is by fostering relationships with the student body. The members of the Knight Times sat down with Mrs. Patterson, the AP Literature and Yearbook teacher, and asked her how she ensures her students are thriving both in and out of the classroom. (Article By: Wren Slivka and William Jackson)

Q: How do you maintain relationships within the school? Both with faculty and the student body?

A: It's important to establish relationships and make sure you go out of your way to connect with others. To me, maintaining relationships is one of the most important things in my life and I want to ensure that those are with me for life. With Faculty it's all about spreading joy with everyone no matter who they are. For parents the most important thing is ensuring that they understand that I am there both for them and their kids, to make their kids perform the best they can in all facets of their life. As far as students are concerned, it's definitely to get to know them and respect them. I always try to teach and guide instead of just standing up in front of everyone and lecture at them, instead holding a discussion with them all. If you respect the students they will respect you in turn.

## Relationships - Mrs. Patterson





# Fall Sports Assembly

By: Shelby O'Donnal and Clariet Riesgraf

On the 23rd of August our school community came together for the fall sports assembly, where the excitement of the upcoming season was recognized. Students, staff, and athletes gathered in the gym in their best tropical outfits, to celebrate and showcase the hard work and dedication of our varsity teams. Varsity Girls Golf Coach Castro was the host of the assembly, to start off this fall season with a bang. From golf to swim and dive, cross country to girls' flag football, football to badminton, and spiritline, each sport took the mic highlighting their goals and preparation for the months ahead. With team captains, sharing their expectations for the season and when their big games are encouraging people to come out and support them. The assembly ended with a spiritline performance and our fight song led by the band. It was the perfect kickoff to fall sports.



During the assemblies students had the opportunity to compete against each other in a fun ring toss race, where one contestant was throwing the rings and the other was trying to catch the rings on their heads, then finish with a sprint through the finish line. This competition helped let out the students' energy and helped channel their competitive spirits.

One of the highlights of the assembly was the “So You Think You Can Dance” competition. Where three of our Varsity sports coaches took the stage in blow up costumes, and had a dance off where three of our administrators: Mr. Bickes, Mr. Roth, and Mrs. Osborn voted on who was the champion of the court. The three contestants were Coach Bartz, dressed as a bald eagle, Coach Jordan, disguised as a bull, and Coach Ortey, sporting a leprechaun suit. The gym erupted with laughter and applause as each teacher tried to outdo the other, but in both assemblies, it was the leprechaun, Coach Ortey, who stole the show and claimed victory in the competition. However in the second assembly both Coach Bartz and Jordan were accompanied by some of our varsity fall sports athletes, which helped bring together the sports even more.

The fall sports assembly was a fantastic way to ignite school spirit and rally support for our athletes as they prepare for an exciting season ahead. With the energy and enthusiasm displayed by both students and staff, it's clear that our Knights are ready to take on the battlefield. Whether it's on the field, in the pool, or across the course, each team is determined to make this season one to remember. As we look forward to cheering them on, one thing is certain: our Knights are ready to conquer whatever challenges lie ahead.





By: Rahaell Ikran and Hailey Hodges

Birdies and rackets: ACP's Girls' Badminton season is beginning on a high note! This exhilarating sport is a favorite among many individuals and is a physical activity that requires a certain mix of speed, hand-eye coordination, and the ability to trust and let go. Badminton fosters a sense of community that is built off of teamwork, corporations, and communication, which go hand in hand with displaying what this sport is really about. This dynamic sport of badminton is a wonderful way for students to use it as a means of outlet beyond the classroom. Our school has many sports students can choose from, which displays our diverse community. To start the 2024-2025 Badminton season, tryouts took place during the week of August 12th which went off without a hitch. Now the season fully takes off with the very first practice session, which took place on August 19th. The Knight Times introduces the Girl's Badminton team!

These fearless girls are ready to dominate another badminton season just as they did the year before. Last year these girls went undefeated in the regular season, making them best in the D2 division. First we interviewed one of the individuals on the Badminton Varsity team, Aarna Patel who is a senior. To begin, we asked her about what inspires her to push themselves to the limit to which she responded, "The team itself, every match, every practice they really push me to do my best and the same goes for me to them, which is what is going to make this a great season." Aarna started playing badminton when she "was little and when I was growing up. When I saw that ACP had a team, I knew that this is definitely an opportunity I should take." We asked Aarna what characteristics she had developed while playing badminton, to which she responded, "I am thrilled about how fast-paced this sport is and how electrifying each game is."

Furthermore, we also had the opportunity to interview Sumedha Balwadgi, a senior and a member of the Varsity team as well. She chose this sport because "I found a tremendous family in my team and I came to enjoy the sport." We asked her what characteristics she developed while playing badminton to which she responded, "I've become more aggressive as a player and I also learned the importance of teamwork. I never used to think that badminton was a team sport but being here really shows that this sport revolves around unity. It really is beautiful when it all comes together." As a final question for Sumedha, we inquired about what her goals are as a player in this sport to which she responds, "Some goals I have for myself is to do my absolute best, give the team everything I've got and help others grow while being able to grow with them."

The importance of badminton in these people's lives is that it teaches you a lot about maximizing communication, fast decision-making, concentration, and achieving great sportsmanship. All of these things can also be reflected and assimilated into the regular lives of these players. Which can teach lessons about life itself and can be carried throughout the rest of their high school years and so on. Sumedha Balwadgi and Aarna Patel are just two of many of the badminton players this year who are thrilled to play and give it their all. The ACP's family wishes the Girls Badminton Team good luck and looks forward to the achievements they will obtain. Go Knights!

**\*We have a special interview with Coach Klauer on our website featuring tips for new badminton players, and an insight on being a badminton coach!\***

# Student Government

By: William Jackson and Clairet Riesgraf

ACP's Student Government (StuGo for Short), is a dynamic force behind many of the community events that we see over the course of the year, without StuGo we wouldn't have a Homecoming Dance, Prom, Foam Party, Spirit Weeks, and tons of other events, the Knight Times had the honor of interviewing the Señora Noriega, the advisor for StuGo, on what it's like to run and watch the ACP community grow.



Above: ACP StuGo at Student Government Spirit Conference | Gilbert High

## Señora Noriega QnA:

### Q: When did you become the StuGo Advisor?

A: I became the StuGo advisor in the 2022-23 school year for ACP, but before that I had 5 years experience at two different High Schools.

### Q: What is the best StuGo event?

A: "The best StuGo event is hard to choose because each one brings fun memories. However, if I had to choose one, I would pick Homecoming, it stands out because of the energy, participation, and sense of community it fosters. We kick off homecoming with campus decor, as we decorate the hallways to the theme and show off our school spirit. Students stay late on campus working hard to make our homecoming theme come alive, throughout the week we have different events planned. This year Hoco will be a little different with the Assembly scheduled on Monday, Dig Pink, Knight Games, & Battle of the Bands. StuGo plans these events to create a sense of community as we support the girls' volleyball team and seek other clubs and ACP students to participate in all our Hoco events."

### Q: If you could bring back an old event/activity, what would it be and why?

A: "If I could bring back an old event, it would be MORP because it would bring back a traditional high school dance. Back when I was in High School, MORP was always a fun dance. Its PROM spelled backwards, so this dance should be the opposite of PROM, where the girls ask the boys, it's not a formal dance. It's just a fun dance, and who doesn't like to dance."

### Q: Why is StuGo important to the culture of ACP?

A: "StuGo is important to the culture of ACP because it fosters a sense of community, and school spirit. It gives students a voice and empowers them to make changes that impact our school."



By: Shelby O'Donnal and Sophie Chen

The Purple vs. Black Football scrimmage is the start to the 2024 football season. The journey to success didn't just start at the beginning of the school year, rather it started late last year after the Knights were knocked out of the playoffs in the second round by Canyon Del Oro. This devastating blow only made the Knight's hunger for the next season stronger. Over the last couple of months ACP's football program has undergone multiple coaching changes and philosophy changes in order to revive the football program. Starting this year the football program has 6 new coaches, and 4 coaches that have had the chance to take on a new role on the field, including Head Coach- Steven Vaught, Offensive Coordinator- Robert Ortiz, and Defensive Coordinator- Cody Bartz. Even throughout all this change the Knights have shown adversity and are now gearing up for the 2024 season, one that they have the potential to win it all.

After the scrimmage we had the opportunity to speak with the Varsity team's new Head Coach, Steven Vaught, and ask him some questions about the season and how he's feeling. We also had the chance to talk to one offensive player, Ashton Sanchez, along with one defensive player, Noah Montoya, to give us a little insight on what the lead up to the season is like and how they think the season will go.

Coach Vaguht focused on how they have been working up to the first game of the season and how they are trying to ready the players. He touched on how through this scrimmage they are trying to replicate a Friday night game as closely as possible, and help build up players' confidence in time for the first game of the season. Whereas, Noah and Ashton both touched on all the work they have been putting in throughout the offseason and preseason, leading up to their first game this season against Crown Point High School. They also explained the team goals and the respective offensive and defensive goals for this upcoming season.





# Foam Party

By: William Jackson and Xiomya Tobo

Food, Foam, and Fun, what do these all have in common? The Foam party! On Friday August Second, ACP's StuGo came together to host the first event of the school year on the East Field by the Performing Arts Center. Students were able to play kickball, dance in the foam, and eat great food. If the foam wasn't enough, there were two waterslides to choose from to really make a splash into the new year. There was also a DJ playing music for people to sing along and dance. With vendors such as Kona Ice, Wetzel's Pretzels and Estero Beach tacos, students were able to buy a variety of food after enjoying all the activities that were offered. The event really brought people together, and allowed for them to make new friends and have fun.



## Knights in the Spotlight: Kaden Wong by Zakaria Ayoub

ACP Volleyball is ready to start another thrilling season. Among these talented students is one particular student who made the national volleyball team - Kaden Wong. Kaden was recently selected to represent Arizona's high performance team in a tourney against other states.

Kaden, who has been playing volleyball for five years, is ready to begin another season with his teammates. "I'm excited for the upcoming season, I think we are gonna do good," he shares. This enthusiasm reflects how confident the team is as they get ready to take on the new season.



Kaden Wong



By: Xiomya Tobo and Sophia Erickson

Link Crew is more than just a club on campus; it is an organization to help new students become more involved and accustomed to life on campus. Being In Link Crew not only means a position of leadership but it means being there for new students looking for friends who share the same interests. A Link Crew leader has a huge responsibility to make new connections with students on and off campus. They are an amazing group of students on campus that will make you feel not only included but feel the importance of your presence. Every student in Link Crew develops a voice to speak out and learn how to communicate their ideas and feelings amongst the community. These distinguished leaders mentioned earlier believe communication and reliance is the most important and effective way for a high school community to thrive.



Mrs. Michaelson is a sponsor of ACP's Link Crew and she has a huge impact on these students' lives. She loves how Link Crew allows students to be open to a friendly and welcoming environment for their next four years of high school. Mrs. Michaelson has a history in STUGO and being a leader in that field so being a sponsor of Link Crew was right up her alley. She enjoys seeing all of the students who play a part in Link Crew grow up into amazing young men and women who are leaders in our community. She believes that ideally the biggest impact that Link Crew will have on freshmen and new students is creating connections with both themselves and other potential friends; as well as help facilitate relationships with students in their grade levels. She encourages juniors and seniors to join Link Crew because they have so much knowledge of high school and understanding of the new students coming into ACP.



Ms. Weber is a sponsor of ACP's Link Crew. She has a history with going through Link Crew as a freshman at Basha so she wanted to give freshmen here at ACP the same experience and opportunities she was presented with at Basha. In her words, the best thing about Link Crew is getting to see all students grow their leadership skills and seeing how excited they are to see the freshman succeed in high school. She understands that transferring to a new school can be a scary and nerve wrecking experience since she too experienced it herself. She is grateful that Link Crew gives you the foundations to feel comfortable at ACP and allows you to make new friends along with getting comfortable with the campus. Ms. Weber is thrilled to oversee the amazing students leading Link Crew and watch them display different aspects of the organization that teachers couldn't bring to the mix.

# Staff Spotlight



## Hailey Hodges (12), Newsletter Editor

### Fun Facts about Hailey:

- My favorite movies are “Amelie”, and “Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure”
- I enjoy traveling
- One of my favorite bands are “The B-52’s”
- I’m in yearbook as well as newspaper
- I have 4 dogs

## Shelby O’Donnal (12), Staff Writer

### Fun Facts about Shelby:

- I am elite at pickleball
- I am a part of SLAC which is a sub-committee of the AIA
- My mom is a counselor at the school
- I tore my labrum swimming my freshman year which caused me to quit pitching in baseball
- I love watching TV and movies

