



The Panther Press

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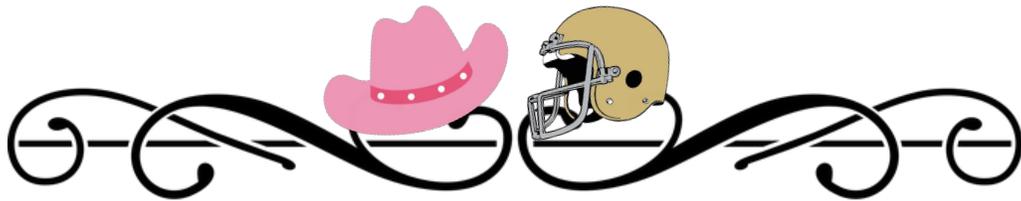
Homecoming

Florin's Homecoming week ran from October 11th to the 16th. These few days brought out our school spirit and improved the atmosphere here on campus. Every day of the week was a spirit wear day. Monday was pajamas or pride wear; Tuesday, band t-shirts; Wednesday, western wear; Thursday, decades outfit; Friday, pink panther or Florin spirit. Due to persistent winds on Monday and Tuesday, our festivities only began on Wednesday, but triumphantly.

Students dressed back in time to the Wild West. Apt for the occasion, line dance took place in the quad at lunch. Groups of eager participants showed off their moves in cadence. Thursday was decades day when students showed up donning decade-specific attire from the past. Lunchtime saw more fun festivities with decorations to match the jubilant mood.

Reports say students thoroughly enjoyed the booths set up by our ASB members. The temporary tattoos and punching balloon booths were the stars of the quad. Students who participated in today's spirit day received delicious candy prizes as well. As if the celebrations weren't enough, this year's Homecoming Royalty Court was a part of the festivities. Here are the names: C/O '25, Lord Taylor Tran and Lady Chelsea Vang; C/O '24, Duke Malachie Dates and Duchess Myah Garcia; C/O '23, Prince Luis Oropeza and Princess Mikayla Her; C/O '22, King Marcus Leon Guerrero and Queen Abigail Thao. Friday was pink panther day; students wore pink or showed off school spirit with their maroon t-shirts. ASB members came to school early to set up the Spirit Tent and lunchtime games for students. Band members, football players, and ASBers were dismissed from their fourth-period class to participate in an exciting parade around school to celebrate the occasion. Afterward, MasterPeace dance company performed a spectacular show on the lawn for an excited crowd. This day's booths allowed every student to dress funky with pink, gold, or silver hairspray and pink scarves to drape around their necks. The celebrations didn't end after the final bell at 3:10. ASB set up posters around Mark Macres Memorial Stadium at Monterey Trail High School for our Panthers' Homecoming game against West Park High School. The Marching Band and MasterPeace performed during halftime, giving the fans a performance they'll remember for the rest of the year. The night saw our Football team play their hearts out on the field. Homecoming Royalty was also announced and crowned during the break.





Pumpkin Derby

Florin again puts on display the celebratory traditions of our community. Pumpkin Derby is one of the lead actors in the ensemble of events this year, offering yet another competitive outing for the crowds to watch. Derby carried with it a great air of seriousness on race day where pairs of students and staffluty battled it out for high stakes: bragging rights. Students and their staffluty partners decorated their pumpkins in the days leading up to race day; some were mesmerizing to look at. Drilling took place the day before the first release on the ramps. The competitors were eager to seek glory, but this step would prove to be the most vital in attaining it. Stern and jubilant faces showed up with pumpkins ready to drill and left either confident or jittery for the races the next day. The early air of October 27th set the scene for the event. "Release!" marked the start of Derby and the rollercoaster of emotions that would follow. Chilly also were the souls of the racers who found their dreams downed after one or a couple of rounds. The last heat of the competition took place before school began at 9, with only several pumpkins still left in contention to win it all. At noon, the final round capped off the event, handing glory to the victors and delivering crushing losses to the others. The pumpkins that raced in the morning were showcased on tables outside the band room facing the quad. Students, teachers, and staff held enchanted gazes upon the artworks before them with compliments given graciously. It was not only a wonderful experience for those who raced but a spectacle for the crowd as well. Spectators were awed by the event and its magnificent pumpkin lineups.





Sports

Mario Perez: Athletics Commissioner

Monday, Sep. 27th: Our Volleyball teams got ready to play a match against Natomas High School tonight on enemy court. Our JV Won but Varsity could not squeak out a victory. The teams however, continue to show great potential.



Saturday, Oct. 2nd: Today was a special one, we played our rivals Valley High School in a long anticipated football bout to secure a stronghold in the region and bragging rights. It's the annual Battle of 99. Our Varsity played valiantly for the Highway 99 plaque, a bright symbol of victory and one of the most valuable and meaningful trophies to our two schools.. We start with our JV teams. The first quarter ends uneventfully 0-0. In the second however, Florin draws first blood with a touchdown and a successful 2-point conversion. Valley manages to score 2 touchdowns in response before the half ends. After the timer started again, the intensity continued. The offensive side of the ball saw gains made by both teams, rushing and passing. Florin ties the game up with a run up the middle near the goal line, scoring a TD. The fourth quarter came by fast, both teams vying to claim the victory. Possessions changed multiple times in this quarter, with comparable play from both teams. Our JV Panthers would get the ball towards the last few minutes and drove up the field dominantly toward the endzone. But, a fumble with just 30 seconds left would seal the game in Valley's favor.

An interception starts off the first quarter of the Varsity game, giving Valley a boost in confidence-something they would need badly throughout this lopsided matchup. Our team would repossess the ball soon after and score a commanding touchdown to take the lead 8-0. The second quarter would spell the end for Valley, just barely to halftime. Florin would score another 20 unanswered points on our rivals, 28-0 was the board going into the half. The third quarter saw one touchdown from each team and excellent play execution. Lastly comes the fourth quarter, the last minutes of Valley's dread. Florin scores another touchdown, making it 41-6. Valley then comes up with a notable effort and responds with another 6 points to the board before the end of the match. And the buzzer sounds! Our Varsity team wins their first game of the season in a firm statement. Victorious, Florin claimed back the Highway 99 trophy. They posed for a special moment every player and the crowd cherished.





Monday, Oct. 7th: The West Campus court tonight saw an entertaining volleyball game between both school's JV and Varsity teams.

Saturday, Oct. 9th: Hiram Johnson vs Florin. This Saturday afternoon, Both our JV and Varsity Football lost to Hiram Johnson in an away contest.

Friday, Oct. 15th: To end this year's eventful and fun Homecoming week, our Football teams suit up to contest against West Park High School on home turf. To our disappointment, neither our JV or Varsity squads could pick up the win. At Varsity's halftime, Homecoming King and Queen were announced and the fans, who were many in number, cheered them and the team on for the next half, exemplifying our Florin Panther Spirit. Our young men scored a touchdown during the second, showing their resilience to stay in the fight, regardless of the scoreboard..



Wednesday, Oct. 20th: Girls Volleyball ends their season with a bout at home against Hiram Johnson, showing out throughout the match. To begin, the Junior Varsity Girls team won an undisputed first set beat-down of Johnson by 10 points. The young ladies however lost the thrilling 1-2 game, almost sneaking by with a victory. Later on, Varsity would clean house with Johnson, sweeping up their hopes of an end to the season win. 3-1 was the final score of the game. Florin and Hiram Johnson put up a magnificent show of athletics this evening, with consistent determination and a prominent sense of teamwork and skill being displayed. Senior Night also took place, drawing in more fans for this notable matchup. The ladies on the team look forward to next year's season, one where Florin is likely to dominate the league. For now, many are beginning to engage in other sports to hone their athleticism and have fun competing in the process.



Friday, Oct. 22nd: This was our final home game of the 2021 Football season against Cordova High School and Senior Night as well. We had to go out with a bang on this one, especially for the seniors. Both Varsity teams put up a show for the fans. Florin's Marching band and cheerleaders made it even more exciting, chanting "Gooo!...Gooo!...Gooo!" whenever we advanced the ball. Throughout the game, our Varsity squad made determined efforts to score and keep Cordova from scoring. They kept it competitive most of the way, that drive showing on our players' faces as a stern, focused stare. The first half went well playmaking wise as we completed some excellent passes and ran the ball dominantly. Cordova jumped ahead with a three touchdown lead, but Florin responded before the half with one of their own and got close to another. The second half was a show stolen by Florin's Band. The Cheer team got the crowd rowdy in support of our team, echoing our pride all the way to the Cordova sideline. Our opponents returned a couple of kickoffs for touchdowns, extending their lead. Florin successfully responded with another touchdown but came up short from making a spectacular comeback. Blood pumped with adrenaline, the whole Florin side of the field and the the fans behind cheered as the final whistle blowed. They congratulated the senior athletes on the team who have now played their last game on Florin home turf.



Friday, Oct 29th: It was the last time the seniors of Florin's Varsity Football team put on their pads and uniform to represent the school. Against Natomas, they gave the field their hearts and souls, though lost in the end. Thank you seniors and those who have and continue to support Panther Football. We cherish these moments and will use them as fuel.

What are teachers up to?

The next feature in this series is a woman with a long resume of notable and bucket list experiences, Ms. Hungerford. Ms. Hungerford is a mother of 3 boys and exemplifies an undying soul constantly in search of adventure, wisdom, and service. She teaches several subjects here at Florin including Government, Ethnic Studies, and Economics. Outside of her love for teaching and mentoring students, she is an avid weightlifter and athlete. Having completed a total of 5 marathons (26.2 miles) and 22 half-marathon (13.1 miles) races, she not only excels when pumping iron but does so when pounding pavement on every run. Oh, and she also drives a race car on our local Willows Raceway from time to time. Isn't that cool? As shown, adventure is never far from Ms. Hungerford. Regularly, she makes outdoor getaway trips with a local outdoors enthusiast group, Ocean to Peak Adventures; from backwoods to shorelines, she's pretty much enjoyed them all. Her insatiable curiosity for the world extends beyond local bounds, with trips to a total of 12 countries currently under her belt. The trip that has made the closest attempt to satisfying this urge was the one she took to Croatia. In her words, this coastal



nation has a deep history rich with cultural intersections and a prominent aura of being within a living time capsule. In her spare time, she also prioritizes the needs of others who are suffering in our community. Volunteering often at the local food bank, her work helps get food to those who would otherwise be left with few options to survive on and thrive. If you've met her before, you'd have surely sensed great honesty and maturity with Ms. H. Much of this is the result of her childhood tribulations and hardships related to being a foster child. She acknowledges this experience as a major factor that has shaped her into the woman she is today, kind and understanding. This tumultuous time period in her life is one she has tremendous gratitude for.

Panther Points sneak peek

Now introducing Panther Points! To grow student engagement, ASB has launched a new reward system. It offers prize incentives to students and staff who partake in our Florin High School community. More information will be feature in the next issue of the Panther Press, but here is a sneak peek of some of the prizes you could redeem with these points.



Interesting local attractions

The Powerhouse Science Center's newly opened SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC) carries on a legacy of education and outreach with a brand new facility that offers over 100 thought-provoking exhibits, games, and engineering activities for all visitors. Its grand opening was held Saturday, November 13th, when the first science enthusiasts to enter enjoyed inspiring displays and hands-on learning experiences covering multitudes of STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts & Math) fields. This several year-long project endeavors to educate students and the community in the different disciplines of science and its impact on our lives. In this pursuit, they hope to inspire the next generation of scientists to take up roles in shaping an ever-changing world. Just a few notable experiences here are as follows: the Health Innovations section, a showing about problems and solutions within a growing healthcare environment; the Space Exploration exhibitions, where one's curiosity about the world beyond Earth can truly run wild; the Design Lab, an interactive working area that will hone countless engineering minds with various challenges; the highly touted domed Planetarium where astronomy lovers can lose themselves to the wonders of outer space. And there is much more! The SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity is open every day to the general public between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm. Admissions to [MOSAC](#) should be reserved online in advance. Ticket pricing is as follows: adults pay \$15, youths aged 2-17 are \$12 each, and educators enjoy a discount at \$13 per admission. There is a parking fee of \$6 per vehicle as well.

