

# DE EQUITIBUS



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## Donated equipment will be used in new computer lab

By Jasmyn Genchev

Yes, it's true, Tempe Prep is finally getting a permanent computer lab, and it is all thanks to our new information technology director, Mr. Flores, and a donation of 22 monitors and towers from the Arizona Social Security Department's very own training equipment.

The computer lab will be available next school year and will give the students of TPA a room that will provide enough computers to finish last minute touches on an essay or research for a project, anytime during school hours. It will serve as a study hall with access to technology as well as a permanent testing location, all in Room 509.

"As an I.T Director I would like to have students learn and grow with fast paced technology," says Mr. Flores. Not only will this computer lab be a great place to catch up or get ahead on work, but Mr. Flores says he also "would like to have 'How To' workshops on Windows software and workshops on computer components. And, if students or faculty have questions or problems, we will have our own lab to complete the exercise."

This will give students a chance to learn about how the computer's hardware and software work, if they are interested — a whole field of knowledge new to TPA. Plus Mr. Flores would be a very experienced instructor himself; he is currently working on his Bachelor's degree in Network and Communication Management."

Before coming to TPA, he "won national competitions for a networking team with the Future Business Leaders of America" as well as working as a Senior System Technical Engineer for Expedia, one of the largest flight booking companies worldwide. His job there was to "maintain Cisco server switches and routers along with hundreds of HP server blades."

When I asked Mr. Flores how he likes



Tempe Prep's Information Technology Director Mr. Flores shows off some of the donated computer monitors and towers that will be used in the new computer lab next school year.

working at TPA, he simple replied, "It's exciting, I love the commitment of TPA teachers and our headmaster in working for TPA to excel."

Mr. Flores would also like to give big thanks to Mrs. T. Calahan for her great

help by being the source for this set of monitors. This great achievement is just the beginning of helping TPA grow in technology, along with the rest of the world.



### Tax Credit Winner

Ezekiel Shaw shows off the I-Pad he won in Phase I of TPA's Tax Credit Donation contest. The donations benefit extracurricular activities, and donors may get all or part of their contributions back when they file their state tax returns. Meanwhile, students whose parents, friends and neighbors donate are eligible for great prizes. Don't miss out! All the information is on the TPA website.

## De Equitibus

[www.DeEquitibus.com](http://www.DeEquitibus.com)

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The De Equitibus staff meets every Friday morning at 7:30 in Room 509.

Anyone interested in participating is invited to attend.

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## Editorial Opinion

# Campus trash hurts school pride; let's pitch in and keep TPA clean!

By Billie Nagy

I'm going to paint a little picture for you. It's a bright and beautiful Monday morning (because we all know that's the truth) and you're walking into school right past the lunch store. You look up to say "hi" to a friend, and before you've even (as William Prescott famously yelled) seen "the whites of their eyes"... "SQUISH!" You've just stepped on a carton of Nutella from the previous day's lunch that nobody bothered to pick up and throw away. A droplet gushed onto your shoe, and now it's going to be an even better Monday.

Okay, so maybe that's somewhat exaggerated, but in all honesty, it is something we need to address. Everyone, let's talk about trash. Yes, trash. It seems as though everywhere we walk around campus there is somehow and somewhere a little piece of something, whether it be school supplies, leftover wrappers from lunch, or — I don't even know how it's possible — a half squished banana smeared on an outdoor table. Yuck.

It seems as though garbage sporadically sitting upon the ground, tables, benches, and by the lockers from lunch is one of those white elephants in the room. Everyone notices and wishes it wasn't there, but nobody really bothers to do anything about it, and if they do, they're either a great kid, faculty member, or parent, or, they are forced to for five minutes every day for a week as proclaimed by their teacher.

Because Tempe Prep is an amazing school with outstanding faculty where students can receive an incredible education, it seems a bit crazy to me that we (as a whole) do not try to hold the same level of respect and admiration for our campus. Though our campus itself is lovely, it's usually a bit dirty, especially after lunch.

In order to get some opinions on the matter, I talked with the members of the Environmental Club. As junior Nizhoni Saenz notes, "It's quite unfortunate to see trash lying around the school. It damages the reputation our school has and makes us feel, well... trashy."

In agreement, junior Christina Ortiz remarks, "It is a respectable school; as such, we should all feel inclined to make it as clean as Disneyland!"

In an effort to beautify the campus, the club came up with a few ideas for the future on how faculty could possibly help improve students' motivation and how merely moving trash cans around to more efficient and effective positions can lead to improvements in campus cleanliness.

As juniors Marisa Bennett and Claire



Empty food containers and wrappers are often seen littering campus after lunch.

Meacham suggest, "Perhaps there would be a greater incentive among students to pick up the trash around if teachers give accommodations to students when they see them doing the good deed and if a certain amount of accommodations led to a small reward for the student. Or perhaps, accommodations could cancel out warnings." They also believe that "Periodically moving the trash cans around, especially having one in the pit area during lunch and by the basketball court again, would definitely help to solve some of the leftover trash problem. By having a can in the pit, carelessness would decrease and it would encourage students to be more mindful about their choices."

Speaking of trash cans, the club is pondering plans for possibly having a portable compost bin during lunch for students to discard their decomposable wastes. The club has a compost bin already at the faculty house, but they believe that having it out in the main lunch areas would allow for less fruit and vegetable waste lying around.

All in all, we should be proud of our great school, and one of the ways to show our pride and appreciation is to make sure that we clean up not only our own, but any other garbage we see lying around. As a last reminder, if you see that dreaded Nutella carton lying around, please do us all a favor and throw it away. You never know how unintentionally grateful that distracted someone who doesn't step on it might be. And maybe, just maybe, they could be for once happy on a Monday.

# Yearbook staff prepares best-ever memory book

By Chris Moffitt

This is going to be a year to remember. There is no doubt of this fact. This year will never — can never — be forgotten. Why? Because this year's Yearbook staff has made sure of it.

Although it may seem as if the end of the year is still multiple light years away, it is time now to get excited about the yearbook since most of it has already been completed. Senior Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, Sarah Buchert, says, "I am proud of the work shown by the staff and cannot wait to hear what people are going to say about this year's yearbook. My goal was to make this the best yearbook ever. As a senior, this is going to be the last yearbook I will have. I want this year's yearbook to never be forgotten."

One thing that excites the entire yearbook staff is this year's cover. With much enthusiasm, Sarah explains, "This year's yearbook has a completely different style of cover. I have never seen a cover as complex yet stunning as the one this year. This year we decided to use a cover created by a student. I'm pretty sure it will go



Yearbook Co-Editors Sarah Buchert and Connor Will go over plans for this year's book. You'll need to pre-order soon to ensure you receive a book and get a \$5 discount. Order forms are in the front office.

down in TPA's history as a new standard for yearbook covers. Whoever comes after this year is going to have to live up to the 2015-16 cover design."

The cover was hand drawn by TPA's very own artistic genius, Jasmine Antony (Senior). Although the actual drawing for the cover is not yet open to the public and only those with the highest security clearances have been privileged enough to

see it, Jasmine was gracious enough to explain some of her thoughts as she created her masterpiece. She says, "My goal for the cover was to give Tempe Prep the best cover it's ever had. I wanted people to enjoy the entire book, not just the interior. It's a very complex work, with a lot of different ideas within it, so I had to be mindful about allowing those ideas to be ultimately unified. I got a lot of inspiration from the splendor of the Earth. There is something so pure and awe-inspiring about its natural beauty."

When I tried to squeeze more information out of her, she reluctantly continued saying, "It is nothing like the covers in the past, although it does incorporate our mascot, the knight. It is designed less like a PowerPoint cover slide and more like a storybook, with plants, animals, and beautiful scenery."

Being one of the privileged few who has seen this new cover, Senior Co-Editor Connor Will describes it as "exquisite." It certainly sounds like we should all await our upcoming Yearbook with excitement.

# Tempe Prep's new HOPE Crew celebrates peoples' differences

By Billie Nagy

It's been a tremendous year for student start-up clubs at Tempe Prep! Last fall, juniors and seniors successfully created the Environmental and Herstory clubs, and to even further the excitement, seniors Kathy Riffle, Erin Guiney, and Ariana Cardoso have taken up the challenge to start another fantastic club. They call it the H.O.P.E. Crew.

HOPE Crew, which stands for Honoring Others' Perspectives Equally, as Kathy explains, is determined to promote "respect, tolerance, and community through volunteer work and school-wide awareness." Though the HOPE Crew was actually founded several years ago but wasn't continued after those students graduated. This school year the club had somewhat of a rocky start. As the seniors were originally unable to begin a GSA (Gay-Straight alliance), they turned their attention back to the idea of "reinstat-



Some of the members of Tempe Prep's HOPE Crew display posters proclaiming the club's ideals of tolerance and understanding.

ing the HOPE Crew as a more multifaceted safe space with the aim of informing and educating fellow students on a variety of issues that may face discrimination based on a lack of understanding," as Erin describes.

The HOPE Crew's general goal is to "establish unity at TPA," says Ariana. So

far, they've already begun watching TED Talks exploring the harms of Islamophobia and other forms of religious and racial discrimination, created Martin Luther King Jr. posters and placed them around the school "to promote love, acceptance, and just action," as Kathy notes.

They will soon hold two fundraisers: one for Syrian refugees and one for the Flint, Michigan water crisis.

When asked why the club holds significance to her, Kathy sagely remarks, "From Rousseau, we learned that language is required for developing ideas. HOPE Crew is important to me because I want to provide a lan-

guage for students to be able to understand themselves, and in spreading awareness, promote support and information." The more students that join, she says, "the more unified and understanding TPA will become."

If you're interested in joining, come check out the HOPE Crew, meeting Mon-

# TPA's leaders consider several possible changes

By Sarah Buchert

Have you ever wanted to have a different school skirt? A different polo shirt? More tutoring time? More homework time? To explore science more in-depth? If so, you could be getting your wish. Changes have been proposed by the Board of Directors in their latest meeting and are being considered for approval in the next Board meeting.

The first change proposed by the Board of Directors was the extension of the school day by 15 minutes to "provide a time after lunch where students could seek out tutoring help from teachers, work on homework in a study hall, or get involved in various activities that might be presented from time to time," says Headmaster Dr. Porter. The tutoring offered during the day would operate in the exact same way as tutoring after school. The time extension would allow those who have to leave early for sports or other extracurricular activities to "seek out help before the class time they will miss or the day after as well," says Dr. Porter. "This is something we have discussed with the faculty."

The second change being considered is a change to the textbook deposits, making the high school and middle school deposits the same. Currently the middle school textbook deposit is \$180, while the high school textbook deposit is \$160. Headmaster Porter says, "It is mainly

an accounting reason...

Since textbooks cost much more than even the middle school deposit, evening it out seems to make sense." If this idea were passed, it would only affect the incoming ninth graders and none of the other grades.

The third change being considered is changing the color of the school skirts and allowing more varieties of polo shirts to be worn. "A reason for changing the skirt is to choose a color pattern that represents our school colors better... Any change would be put into place to simplify the uniform code," said Dr. Porter. This change in uniforms would only affect the incoming 6th graders and those who have not already bought their uniforms. If the girls uniform is changing, it is possible that the boys uniform could also change.

A definite change to the science curriculum is going to be instituted in the 2017-18 school year, Dr. Porter said. This would allow seniors to choose a science course they would like to explore further. "That is the decision of the Board of Directors. It will provide adequate time to set up the curriculum for the courses," he said.



Dr. Porter says that only changes that would make TPA a better liberal arts school are being considered.

When asked about the changes he will make and his plans for the future of TPA, Headmaster Porter said: "My vision for the future of TPA is to help make it the strongest classical liberal arts school in the Valley. ... We will make no changes just for the sake of making change. To quote an old saying, if it isn't broken, then don't fix it!"

No changes, besides the second course science classes for the seniors, have been passed. These changes have been proposed and may or may not appear in TPA's future.

## Plan and prepare early for SAT Subject Tests

By Lindsay Newfeld

Getting into college is possibly the hardest task a high school student will have to face. It's a road filled with standardized tests, community service hours, and participation in as many extracurricular activities as possible. One of the most important factors in any student's acceptance to college is their standardized test scores. At Tempe Prep, we take the PSAT starting in ninth grade and Mrs. Moffitt constantly reminds students which tests to take, where to take them, and when to take them.

However, some of the more overlooked tests are the SAT Subject Tests. These are hour-long, content-based tests that allow a student to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where they excel. These are the only national admission tests where the student chooses the test that best showcases their achievements and interests.

Many students are focused on the big name tests, such as the SAT and the ACT, and thus don't pay much attention to the subject tests. However, as Mrs. Moffitt says, "Many colleges require or highly recommend that students submit two or

three one-hour SAT Subject Test scores as part of their application (in addition to the regular four-hour SAT or ACT tests). For example, Harvard and MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) require that students submit three SAT Subject Test Scores on their applications."

Because so many colleges actually require the submission of these scores it is extremely crucial to take them. Mrs. Moffitt also provides a very detailed outline of which subject tests are appropriate to be taken after the completion of each grade level. As she says, "It is important to take a particular subject test when the subject is fresh in your mind."

Freshmen should sign up to take the SAT Subject Test in Biology (E) in May and/or June. Sophomores should sign up to take the SAT Subject Test in Literature, Physics, and/or Latin in May and/or June. Juniors should take the SAT Subject Tests in Literature, Advanced Math (Math Level 2), US History, and/or Chemistry. Seniors should take the SAT Subject Test



in their foreign language in October for college admission purposes or in March or May for college placement and/or credit purposes.

Mrs. Moffitt also advises, "Students should only take a maximum of two SAT Subject Tests on a particular test date. The SAT Subject Tests are not taken at TPA. TPA students sign up and pay online to take the tests at one of a few local large schools/testing centers. Simply register and pay online for the SAT tests at [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org).

"Studying for these tests is also critical in achieving the highest score possible. Many companies such as Kaplan, The College Board, and Barron's Test Prep offer entire books on each subject test, complete with full-length practice tests.

"Studying for and taking standardized tests are definitely low on the list of everyone's favorite things to do but they are crucial to college admissions and should be taken very seriously. As long as you start studying early and do your best on each and every test you take, your scores are bound to reflect that and colleges will recognize and appreciate it!"

# Spring musical is shaping up to be something special

By Rachel Neglia

“There’s no business like show business!” proclaims the familiar song from Irving Berlin’s *Annie Get Your Gun*. “Everything about it is appealing!” the ensemble says. But is it really? Though those preparing for a play focus on the final product, the production encompasses much more than merely the glamour of opening night. Before Tempe Prep’s interpretation of *My Fair Lady* will premiere in mid-April, it is important to recognize the cast’s hard work leading up to the performance.

*My Fair Lady*, based on George Bernard Shaw’s play *Pygmalion*, originally premiered on Broadway in 1956. It involves the story of Eliza Doolittle (played by Jacquelyn McIntosh), a poor cockney flower girl who takes speech lessons from professor Henry Higgins (Connor Will) so that she can fit in with high-class society. “It has a very unique love story, which I think plays a big role in making it as interesting as it is,” Connor says. “But most importantly, it’s a very clever musical and the writing is funny, especially because of the chemistry between the characters.”

According to Mr. Sanderson, the director, a prospective school play must fit several criteria. “...Since TPA is a Great Books curriculum, we prefer it to be a classic musical,” he explains. It also must be economical, family-friendly, and enjoyable for the students whose enthusiasm carries the production. *My Fair Lady* fits all of these criteria, and was thus chosen to be performed.

At first, bureaucracy got in the way.



Before a cast performs any play, it must be granted the play’s licensing rights. “We were actually initially denied the rights to *My Fair Lady*, which was very upsetting since Dr. Wolfe, Mrs. Wilkison, and I had been hoping to do this production since early 2014,” Mr. Sanderson recounts. Later, the licensing company inexplicably granted him the rights to the play.

After this minor setback, the real preparations for the show could begin. “We need[ed] to get a lot of people involved,” Mr. Sanderson explains. He and Mrs. Wilkison not only held auditions to set the musical’s cast, but also needed to find a choreographer. Fortunately, many parent volunteers also assist the producers in completing the most “stressful” aspect of the production – assembling the “sets, props, and costumes.”

P.J. Carmody, who plays Colonel Hugh Pickering, highlights a tremendously important part of any musical – the actors – when he explains that “it’s the actor’s

passion put into a character that makes the audience feel immersed.” Character development requires that actors study in order to master their character’s given circumstances, and this can encompass much of the preparation process.

“I think the most important thing to do is consider your character’s emotional state, in order to play them more accurately,” Jacqueline McIntosh says. Along with understanding characters’ emotional circumstances, actors must imitate them physically. “Everyone in the cast must learn at least one, if not two, dialects for the show,” Jacqueline explains.

“Despite being pretty long, rehearsals are actually a lot of fun. I would recommend that everyone be in a production at some point or another in life, just to offer a new perspective,” she says.

TPA does not have the budget to produce multiple performances in a school year, but this certainly does not hamper our school’s creative output. Even the tradition of performing a musical, rather than a play, every year demonstrates the school’s model, which seeks to practice all of the fine arts. “The unique thing about musical theatre is that it incorporates features of all the other arts,” P.J. explains. “From acting to poetry, from choral pieces to dance numbers, there is no end to the amount of inspired creativity that can go into one musical.”

Tempe Preparatory Academy’s interpretation of *My Fair Lady* is still in the works, but in April, as Jacqueline puts it, “You won’t be disappointed!”

# Tempe Prep’s Hospice volunteers learn about life and loss

By Rachel Dinh

Several students at TPA have found one common volunteer opportunity: Hospice of the Valley. HOV is a non-profit organization that provides end-of-life care to patients. HOV’s palliative care units are scattered all around Arizona. They include Central Phoenix, East Valley, Northeast Valley, and West Valley locations.

Volunteers-to-be were interviewed by a volunteer coordinator. They were also required to attend all three days of training (a total of 24 hours), where they learned how to speak to patients, the grief process, and proper safety techniques when in contact with patients.

Due to HOV’s strict privacy policy, the volunteers’ names couldn’t be included in this article. One junior shares her experience so far: “My favorite part of hospice is when a patient comes in that you really connect with, and you are able to spend a couple hours talking with them, and take their mind off of everything that is going



on.”

Besides interacting with patients, a volunteer’s job can also include restocking supplies, cleaning, baking cookies, or just overall being a helper to a nurse or CNA (certified nursing assistant).

But being a volunteer isn’t just about talking to patients and doing small tasks, it’s also about keeping a calm demeanor and a positive attitude in times of grief. “The most difficult part is dealing with the loss of patients. Sometimes the patients are in hospice for a few months. After getting to know them after a while, it makes me sad when I never see them again,” says

another TPA volunteer. She adds, “Volunteering at HOV is the perfect opportunity for me to give back to the community while learning more about the medical field. Sometimes the nurses let me observe how they give medical care to the patients and it is awesome! I would definitely recommend it to other students.”

Although they may be “just” volunteers, these dedicated students are essential to fulfilling HOV’s mission. Says Laurence Sinn, teen volunteer coordinator, “Teens at HOV are contributing big time in our mission which is to provide comfort and dignity near the end of life of our patients. The teens are perfect to give that socialization and companionship that some patients are seeking. The teen volunteers are a huge asset to our interdisciplinary team. I love my teens and I am so proud of each and every one of them!”

Volunteers, we hope you continue dedicating your time to helping others!



Above: Connor Woltz powers past his Gilbert Christian High School opponent.

Right: Connor Bush jousts for control of the ball.

More photos at [www.deequitibus.com](http://www.deequitibus.com)



## Boys soccer team heads to state atop 12-1 record

By Chris Moffitt

This is the best boys soccer season TPA has ever had. It is as simple as that. A team that had most of its players come straight from a football field has evolved into the No. 3 team in the state for Division 4 soccer. With a never-before-seen 12-1 record, we are going to Playoffs!

So many new TPA records have been set by this team. This is the first time TPA Varsity Soccer has ever made it to the state playoffs, and the first time any team in Tempe Prep history has ended a season with 12 wins.

Obviously, such success has really impacted our players. Senior Captain Connor Woltz perhaps puts it the most subliminally, saying that the team's accomplishments "fill me with immense pride, knowing that many, many years from now, when I have children of my own, they will be able to look back onto this TPA soccer team and say, you know, my dad was a part of that."

Connor, however, is not simply a "part" of the team; he leads the team and the state of Arizona in goals scored. Beginning the season by averaging three goals a game

and ending it by scoring in the first seven seconds of a game, Woltz now leads the state with 31 total goals. His energy and skill have been an irreplaceable foundation for the team's success. But when asked about it, he humbly says, "It's no big deal. It's not about me; it's all about the rest of the team."

And he is right. This hasn't been a one-man team. One thing that Coach Potter has enjoyed most about this season is "watching how everyone has performed and developed — not just our top players, but everyone from top to bottom." In fact Coach believes that the game against Veritas was the "turning point in our season because, even though we were missing nine players — four of whom were starters — everyone stepped up and found a way to win. When the game was tied in overtime, a freshman, Tyler Woodroffe, stepped up as a goalie to save a PK kick and literally save our season." Junior Jacob Matsumoto summarizes this team-centered season, saying, "We've really grown together and gotten to work together, and it's just been a pleasure."

Coach also attributes much of the team's success to how they play "with a chip on their shoulder." The memory of last season, when the team was denied a running in the playoffs at the last moment, still remains fresh in the minds of most of the players. Because of this, they did anything to not let that happen again. Senior Captain Jacob Brown stepped up to play a position he had never before played and led the back line. Junior Captain Jacob Cryder battled through injury to play goalie when Senior Captain Nick Bellavia was out with a concussion. Overall, Coach Potter says, "no matter the injury, no matter the twist to our season, we always find a way to adapt."

Looking ahead to Playoffs, Coach says, "Division 4 playoffs is completely different than Division 3 because there is no single dominant team. Anyone can beat anyone. State is wide open to whoever brings their A-game." Well, the Knights are ready to bring their A-game and give everything they have. Nick Bellavia says it best: "All these teams better prepare, we are coming for them."

## Youthful boys basketball team making impressive gains

By Carter Sampson

It is often said, "Winning cures all." The Knights recently discovered the truth of this statement.

After playing many schools with over 1,000 students, the boys basketball team has earned the chance to take on a school of similar size and skill. That opportunity came on Jan. 19 against Catalina Magnet High School.

Led by the rebounding and clutch free

throws of Junior Ameil Jones and lone Senior Quinn Collins, the Knights sealed a victory over Catalina: 59-56.

Guard Ahmad Jones says of the game: "The first win felt great. 'Win for Quinn' was our chant during the game, and it was an awesome feeling to get our first win with our lone senior."

While the players on the court put together a fantastic game, there were also huge contributions from the bench. The team's

many Freshmen found a use for their love of noise by shouting phrases over and over again. The night of the Catalina game, the walls of Tempe Prep Gym echoed with calls of "Anotha' One" and "He Needs Some Milk!"

The Knights have games coming up against Chandler Prep and Wickenburg on Wednesday and Friday. Come support our team as they do their best to finish the season with a bang!

## Girls basketball continues to thrive against tough competition

By Carter Sampson

They've won 7 of their last 8 games. They're fourth in the section. Our Lady Knights are flying.

In a recent game against Northwest Christian High School, the Knights iced a close victory: 34-32. This win was thanks to 23 points from Center CintaTonnesen, as well as all around fantastic defensive effort. The Knights went back and forth with the opposing Crusaders until the final seconds of the game. With less than five seconds remaining, Cinta hit a short jumper to put her team up by two. Northwest failed to get the ball down court for a final shot, leaving TPA with the win.

As was evidenced in the Northwest game, this team has made great strides since the beginning of the season. Freshman Point Guard MaryGrace Brittain says, "Lately we've been putting things together, and we're working a lot better as a

team."

In addition to current success, the girls basketball program can certainly expect greatness in the near future. The team is led by many starters with a year or more left of eligibility. Also, the JV team has been progressing as a unit, using a devastating zone defense to embarrass opposing point guards.

Despite division shifting that left massive schools in Division 4, the Lady Knights have remained competitive. They destroyed Coronado High 44-10, even though Coronado has upwards of 1,200 students.

The next game for TPA are on February 1st and 5th, at Tempe Prep Gym. Come and support your team! We hope the Knights continue their winning ways, and we look forward to watching them finish the season strong.



MaryGrace Brittain breaks out of the crowd and takes it to the hoop.



Left: Christine Hudson challenges her opponent.

Above: Abbie Alford controls the ball. More photos at [www.deequitibus.com](http://www.deequitibus.com)

## Girls soccer team battles inexperience to reach success

By Carter Sampson

Soccer is a difficult sport that can take years to learn, and much longer to master. Our girls soccer team has managed to learn the game in a few weeks. Despite having only three players with prior soccer experience, they have formed a competent team.

Sophomore forward Emily Casey says the biggest challenge was "probably learning the basics since a lot of us are brand new to soccer, and then using our skills together, and just learning to be a team!"

Battling through extremely low numbers (enough for only one substitute) the Lady

Knights have occasionally been forced to resort to unorthodox tactics. For example, goalie Sophie Welter had the idea to draw a pentagram in front of her goal as an extra line of defense (the opposing team never scored while the pentagram was intact).

Even without paranormal assistance, the Knights have held their own. Thanks to two goals from Freshman Morgan Cryder, they came away with a 2-0 victory against Miami Globe High School.

Cryder said, "That game was a big accomplishment for us! We were all very excited and happy to have won a game."

Another great moment was the last game of the season, which happened to be senior night. Emily Casey scored three goals, and the defense secured a shutout. Ending the season in the best way possible, the Knights won 4-0.

This season has been a great experience for all involved. Morgan says she feels like "the team does great with staying positive and has a good attitude... and that's what really leads and motivates our team!"

Our Knights' hard work is paying off, and we are sure to see more success in future seasons.

## 7th grader Mary Elias' hoop future looking bright as she hones skills

By Clara Moffitt

You often hear the phrase, "Talent can begin at any age." Well 7th grader Mary Elias has proven that statement. Mary belongs to a club basketball team called AZ Lady Wolf Pack. This team is an all girls team that is free. Mary says, "I play with other girls that are very talented. The team is mostly Native American and they are like another family to me."

At the end of the summer of 2015, Mary and her team traveled to the Big Island in Hawaii to play at a world championship tournament. Much practice and effort was put in to getting to the championship game. Mary says that getting to the championship was something her team had been working on from even before she joined the team. She says, "Winning meant a lot to us. Not only [would] it show us how great of a team we can be, but it also [would show] everyone else."

Mary played front and center throughout the tournament, showing audiences from all around the world how hard she worked and how well she could play. Her effort paid off because she and her team won. Now, she and her team are the 12U Youth World Champions.

Mary has been familiar with basketball almost all her life. When she was about



Mary Elias knows how to handle the ball.

three years old, she tried it out at the Boys and Girls Club. "It just seemed like something I wanted to do, and continue to do." And continue she did. Mary has loved basketball most of her life. "I love it for the thrill I get during games and the feeling of accomplishing something."

Mary Elias did accomplish something. Her talent showed when she played in the championship. Mary's talent will continue to grow as she balances TPA and basketball stardom.

## Junior High baseball team heads into playoffs

By Hayden Sampson

The junior high baseball team is heading towards the playoffs. They have learned and progressed throughout the year. Their success has all been due to great coaching and leadership. The eighth graders have shown great skill and proficiency in playing and teaching the game. At their recent game against Paradise Honors, the Knights won 10-2.

The team before the Paradise game had been struggling. However, they brought back the excitement by showing what

they could do on the bases. During that game, they stole home about five times. The game has certainly heightened team morale.

After a great game, Coach Kandler told the team to keep it up and to continue to work hard. Coaches can be heard saying that the team is growing and that the playoffs look bright. No matter if they win or lose, the junior high baseball team is progressing and getting better. Good luck Knights!

## Junior High softball team has been on an impressive roll

By Hayden Sampson

The Tempe Prep Softball team is on a roll. Recently they have won some of the most exciting games of the season. Against Phoenix Country Day they brought home an important win. With Coach Waddell and Coach Leathers at the helm, they captured a 15-13 win.

Lexi Reese's pitching has made great strides. Ehsa Murray's first base play kept the game close. Capprianna Sampson's catching did the same.

Not only has the team progressed, but they have learned team work and how to think quickly. With great leadership by the eighth graders, and progressing skills by the underclassmen, the Tempe Prep softball team is moving to great heights.

The team is quickly moving to the playoffs, and is expected to play well. With the team on the move, anything could happen. The Tempe Prep Junior High softball program has grown and flourished because of these girls. Good luck, Lady Knights!

## Jr Hi cross country team makes strong finish to season

By Rachel Dinh

While most people were probably still sleeping in the morning, members of TPA Junior High Cross Country team were running their hardest and beating personal records at the Middle School Championship Meet. The boys race started at 9 a.m. and Coach Granville advised the TPA girls team to spread out along the 2-mile course and cheer them on.

When it was 9:30 and time for the girls to run, the boys did the same for the girls. The cheering certainly helped both teams push boundaries and sprint the last stretch (even when they looked as if they would pass out). During the final mile, one TPA girl started staggering because of her injured knee. Three TPA boys who had finished their race earlier saw her limping. They started yelling encouragement and running beside her, getting louder as she approached the finish line. One onlooker even said, "Now that's true teamwork."

Zack McIntyre, who got 19th place and also does triathlons in his spare time, talks about his time on the course: "I felt pretty good. I got a personal best time! What kept me going when I felt like stopping was the will to win." Zack beat his previous record of 13 minutes and 16 seconds for 2 miles.

"I felt like I was going to die. But I pushed myself harder because I saw the finish line ahead of me," says eighth grader Oliver Ricken.

Allison Youngs finished first out of the TPA girls team and improved her time along the way. She says, "Running felt fun and tiring at the same time. I was distracting myself by thinking of songs. I was also really worried about Mary Elias, because she was breathing so hard when I ran past her." Mary had had some trouble on the course because of her asthma and because she was still recovering from being sick the past week. Mary says, "The race was long and hard. I felt tired and very sick to my stomach at the end. Everyone's cheering helped me finish."

There's no denying the admirable effort given by the whole team and this championship meet was a great conclusion to the season. Coach Granville says, "It was a good season and those who came to all of the practices saw a lot of improvement."



Zack McIntyre