



# DE EQUITIBUS

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## Project C.U.R.E. improves health throughout world

By Nina Lin

Have you ever wondered where all the unused medical supplies and equipment go? In the garbage. What a waste of money! Introducing Project C.U.R.E., the largest non-profit organization that collects donated medical supplies and provides them to thousands of hospitals in 132 developing countries. They touch so many people all over the world.

They go to all the hospitals around the world, collecting all the supplies that the hospitals do not need or have too much of and deliver them to people that really need them. If Project C.U.R.E. does not come to get involved and get the supplies to doctors and nurses who need them in the hospitals, many people around the world would have died.

There are 17,000 volunteers all over the United States. Recently, the Tempe Prep National Honor Society volunteered at one of the distribution centers located in Phoenix. They helped sort and package medical supplies for shipment, stock inventory, prepare for shipments, and load containers. They



National Honor Society members at Project C.U.R.E.

worked long and hard but learned that it is a gift to be a part of the organization. According to Billie Nagy, a senior at

TPA, "I'm really pleased that Jacob Matsumoto decided to introduce NHS to this amazing volunteer opportunity. It hadn't been brought to my attention where all of the unused medical supplies went, as it's not something we tend to think about. After learning about Project C.U.R.E.'s meaningful mission statement and goals, I feel delighted to have volunteered. They have an incredibly productive facility and the volunteer overseers are really exceptional and enthusiastic about what they do."

For Sophie Kniaz, another senior, "I had such a great time volunteering at Project C.U.R.E. I was on a team of girls assigned to clean up the warehouse. It was hard work but so much fun! It's a wonderful organization and it's really nice to know that all our efforts go towards such a great cause!"

You want to volunteer, you say? You do not have to be a NHS student in order to be involved. Just talk to Mrs. Moffitt about our next session and how to sign up. Come join us and make a difference in our world.

## DON'T MISS OUT!

Time is running out to pre-order your 2016 Tempe Prep Yearbook before it goes to press March 21

Pick up a pre-order form today at the office and save \$5 off the cash-and-carry price

Don't delay - the yearbook sold out two of the past three years!



Yale University

## Secret to successful college interviews is solid preparation — and then relax

By Billie Nagy

Here's something to look forward to when Junior and Senior year rolls around: college and scholarship interviews! Wait! Before you gasp and try to forget this idea all together, I want to tell you that yes, I know, your first college or scholarship interview is something (if you wish to have one) that is just that, a first. Do not worry! When the time comes, I bet you you'll be exceptionally prepared for anything and

everything, and maybe you'll even enjoy it.

Now, it's no secret that everyone is nervous when it comes to firsts, but interviews are something that no matter how much you frighten over, you just have to push through, and they're actually not so bad if you have a few tips and tricks to help you along the way. *De Equitibus* talked with two seniors, Rachel Neglia, who interviewed for the Flinn Scholarship, and Quinn Collins, who interviewed with prestigious colleges Yale, Duke, and Harvey Mudd, to get their thoughts and opinions on the matter.

First of all, "be able to talk about yourself. Know your strengths and weaknesses, and have a good understanding of your resume before you go into the interview," Rachel notes. "Have basic talking points about your academic and personal success," as this will "not only give you internal confidence, but it will guarantee that you can quickly and efficiently respond to general questions, which are often the most difficult to answer."

As Quinn reasons, "it's important to know your interviewers. Know all about the colleges you're interviewing with, and make sure that they're colleges you actually admire and would honestly consider attending." If you do choose to interview for a college or scholarship, "make sure to be well prepared, wear a presentable outfit, and have confidence in yourself and your talents," he says.

Lastly, as Rachel remarks, "Interviews are not as intimidating as they seem. Stressing about them can only harm the interviewee." It's important to always remember to "relax, take a deep breath, and remember that making the interview stage of a scholarship or college process is an accomplishment in itself."

Good luck to all who will be interviewing in the future!

## Nasrynn Chowdhury expands vocal skills in Regional Choir

By Chris Moffitt

As she walked into the first rehearsal for the Southwest Regional Choir, Nasrynn Chowdhury embodied Shakespeare's line:

"though she be but little, she is fierce." During the weekend of February 21, TPA's petite Nasrynn represented Tempe Prep for the fourth year in a row at the Regional Choir. This year, however, she was ranked as the first chair soprano. Out the

21 schools in our region, which includes McClintock, Dobson, Perry, and several other big schools, Nasrynn was the leading soprano.

This amazing accomplishment, however, did not come on its own. It is the result of countless hours of practicing. To get into the Regional Choir, one must prepare a solo to audition with and then sight sing several lines of music. Nasrynn would practice at least an hour a day to improve her vocal technique and sight singing skills. She says that she was able to prepare so intensely by "digging up that love that I have for music! Once I reminded myself of that, it was no biggie having to practice because I loved what I was doing."

Once making it into the choir, you feel like you're walking into a sort of musical paradise. Nasrynn enthusiastically comments, "Regionals is my happy place. I love coming back and learning something different each year. The choir has its own unique sound every year, and it's very cool to see how the style has evolved over the past four years." But perhaps the best thing about Regional Choir is "seeing the passion shared by the entire regional choir. You can tell right when you walk through the door that everyone, whether they're from rival schools or not, are all connected by their love for music."

However, Regional Choir is not only a great experience in the moment, it has an effect that lasts for life. On this point, Nasrynn says, "I've taken away so many wonderful lessons over the past four years. I've gotten the opportunity to meet the most amazing people, and I've gained an undying love and appreciation for music and a sense of camaraderie that I can use for the rest of my life."



## 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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## Robotics Club finishes machine that performs challenging tasks

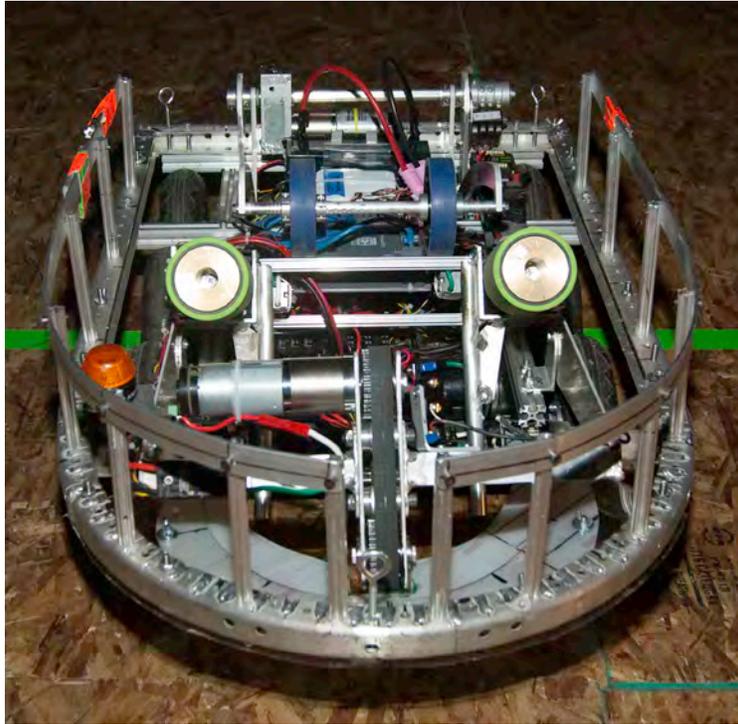
By Rachel Dinh

The robotics season shot off as soon as the 2016 FIRST Robotics Competition challenge was released. Through this three-minute medieval-themed challenge video, the team learned their objective. They must build autonomous or teleoperated (controlled by a person) robots that pick up “boulders,” cross the opponent’s defenses, and score the boulders into the goals, which are towers. Once enough boulders are shot into the opponent’s tower, the robots can surround the tower and scale the tower rungs for additional points. The alliance with the highest number of points wins.

This challenge is quite different from last year’s, where robots had to stack crates, recycling bins, and recycle pool noodles. There was little opponent interaction because teams stayed on their own fields. This year’s robots must be more multi-functional.

Sophomore Olek Piechaczek explains, “Because of the complex problem, we’re going to have to build an agile robot that can act as a defense and take hits. I’m really excited that there will be offensive and defensive strategies and more robot-on-robot interactions, something that last year’s problem lacked.”

Another change in robot design is using pneumatic wheels instead of mecanum wheels, which the TPA team hasn’t done for several years. Pneumatic wheels are



The FIRST Robotics Club demonstrated their creation to family members last week before “bagging and tagging” it for competition.

better equipped to handle defenses with uneven surfaces or different heights.

The team had six weeks to design, program, and build their robot. At the “bag and tag” ceremony, the robot was bagged up and cannot be opened until the competition. That robot cannot be touched, but a replica robot can be built to practice. Now that the new members are all caught up with the basics, they are “doing robot design using computer assisted design software, building the robot, building a practice field with its props out of wood,

wiring electronics on the robot, and coding in Java to run the robot all alongside the volunteer mentors,” says Mrs. DiCaro, one of the team’s coaches. This practice field is the length of half of a basketball court and will include wooden field props of the nine different defenses that will be used in the competition.

Ever since the challenge was released, the team has been extremely busy, meeting for 2-3 hours at a time on weekdays and 4-6 hours on weekends, four times a week. Talk about dedication!

The big question is, who’s driving the robot anyway?

Mrs. DiCaro explains, “We have a driver competition to pick the two drivers. The top two drivers win. So, the backup of driver from last year still has to compete to be the main driver the following year. It is a lot of fun to watch to see who, and the ability to maneuver the robot effectively to accomplish its tasks in a 2.5-minute time test.”

Their competition is April 7-9 at Grand Canyon University. Mrs. DiCaro says, “We would love to have TPA folks come watch and cheer on our All Knights team. This year the audience gets involved in the competition by choosing one of the five defenses put on the field for each match. The selection is made by loud cheering by the audience, very medieval to go with the theme of the competition. So, come on out and enjoy the competition!”



Hundreds of hours of painstaking planning and work go into producing a robot that will perform up to expectations.

# 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!



Challenging practices are helping build stamina that will help compensate for fewer and shorter rests during games.

## TPA softball team is short on players but not spirit

By Carter Sampson

Once, Satan challenged Saint Peter to a softball game. Peter said, "How could you win? All the softball players are in heaven!" Satan responded, "How could I lose? All the umpires are with me in hell!"

While our Lady Knights softball team has not experienced too many evil umpires yet, they have had their share of challenges. Softball requires nine players on the field, and our team only has 10 participants. This means only one player

at a time can rest during games. Luckily, the Lady Knights are toiling in the weight room (pavilion) to ensure they have the strength and endurance to make up for their lacking numbers.

Even with the season just beginning, the softball squad has already started having fun. To start the season, they defeated Bourgade Catholic in a scrimmage, capitalizing on Bourgade's miscues.

Not only have the Lady Knights done well in games, but they also have been

having fun as a team. Sophomore Maria Zello says, "My favorite thing about the softball season is getting to know the girls. I'm not the best at softball, so it's nice to have this great team cheering me on."

In their first game against the Academy of Tuscon, the Knights had to travel hours by bus to reach the game. Despite their fatigue, they managed to drive in five runs and have a great time in their first game.

Be sure to attend the Lady Knights' upcoming games, and cheer them to victory!

## in preparation for another promising season



# James David carries passion for golf to Phoenix Open

By Rachel Neglia

Most popular high school sports, like football, softball, and soccer, follow the same formula. Team A faces team B, and one wins. Sports like golf, however, are more difficult for non-players to visualize at the high school level.

James David, a junior on the team, explains that high school golf “is not necessarily a competition between the teams that play in a tournament (there is no winner or loser declared at each tournament), but an opportunity for each team to post individual scores that contribute to a season-long effort of qualifying for the state championship.” According to James, the goal of Tempe Prep’s golf team this year is to qualify all of its members to the state championship. Fortunately for the relatively new team, this goal is within reach.

James notes that “We have about five new freshmen who moved up onto the



James David at the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

team from the junior high golf team... We have the best chance of qualifying as a team this year out of all the previous years because we [also] have returning seniors and juniors like Carter Marshall and Jacob Massie.” The team’s scheduled 11 matches over the course of the season present many opportunities for qualifying scores.

Tempe Prep’s influence in the world of golf extends past its golf team. Several

weeks ago, James was chosen to report on events at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. “I am part of a golf program called The First Tee of Phoenix through which I was selected to be a Course Reporter for the Phoenix Open,” he says. James received access to areas reserved for the press, and “was able to interview golfers one-on-one as well as pose questions in press conferences.”

“I had the special privilege to interview the Thunderbird Tournament Chairman Dan Mahoney (the director for the 2016 Phoenix Open) and got the chance to

interview some of golf’s biggest names like Phil Mickelson and Rickie Fowler,” he points out.

James describes that the whole experience “was pretty special because, with my press credentials, I was working amongst big names in sports media like ESPN.” Indeed, curricular effort can combine with extracurricular interest to open up amazing opportunities for dedicated students.

## Odyssey of the Mind

### OM pushes participants to solve quirky problems in imaginative ways

Cole Klassen

It’s that wonderful time of year again, time to talk about Odyssey of the Mind. This year, there is only one OM team, a seventh-grade team coached by Roxi Klassen. Although young, they have been having a great time.

Kylie Klassen gave this summary: “We are doing a problem called Furs Feathers and Fins. It is a musical theatrical problem full of complicated twists and turns. We have encountered some problems such as making very realistic animal costumes without any adult help and making the costume in creative ways.”

They have had to learn how to sew and how to build things. Kylie also says, “Odyssey of the Mind has inspired my whole team to grow closer and work on our creative skills. ‘Spontaneous’ helps us work on our verbal skills and thinking. ‘Hands on’ helps us solve problems in weird and interesting ways. There was one instance where we had to cross our backyard with magical shoes on each other’s backs. And everyone has to get across with each person only wearing the shoes at a time and can only wear the shoes once. The shoes can also not be tossed. It is way harder than it sounds as our team soon learned. So I learned how to cross an acid swamp with my friends wearing magical shoes.”

Odyssey of the Mind is a fantastic experience, helping to develop creativity and

other major skills. It is super fun and allows for many different outlets. Although membership at TPA has declined, OM is still a great joy. I hope it continues to be a great experience.

OM members work on props that they will use in upcoming competition with other schools.

