



"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." -Babe Ruth

College Prep Meet the Gladiator Teams Hispanic Heritage Month Teacher Quotes and more...

Cross Country Gladiators Takeover!

Gladiators Take on Twilight

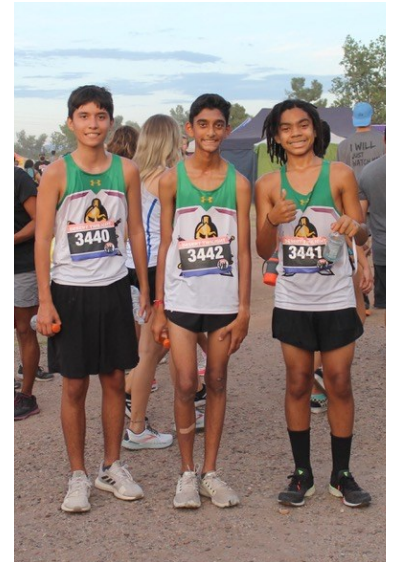
By Kendall Kartler '22

By Harry Standley '24

Our amazing Cross Country team has been very successful going into their 2021 Summer-Fall season. Last week was their annual spirit week. Monday the 13th was hat day where they wore fun hats during practice. Tuesday was stuffed animal day, Wednesday had them wearing all neon clothes, Thursday was twin day, and on Friday they dressed up as animated characters. They were sure to go out of their way to show off their Gladiator spirit; even Coach Curtis participated and made for some great laughs.

On another note, the high school boys have done exceptionally well this season: At the 29th Annual Los Mezquites Invitational in Tucson, they claimed 2nd in the varsity race. With NPX senior Sam Johnston taking 1st, senior Thomas Koska taking 2nd, and sophomore Kaden Duryea in 32nd, our Gladiators were sure to defeat our competition. Sophomore Jonah Pearson was asked what it's like being top 20 out of a hundred competitors and said, "At that point, it's just a race with yourself. Especially the last two minutes; every placement matters, and the difference between 20th and 21st is ultimate satisfaction, or letting yourself down. I had already applied all of my skill into my run; it was time for the mental game." Jonah got 13th place in the race. It was true perseverance that granted our teams well-earned success. Our Middle School warriors dominated as well, competing against 16 other teams at Freestone Park in Gilbert with the girls placing 4th and the boys taking 7th. Phenomenal job, middle school!

On September 24th, our Cross Country team had the opportunity to compete at the Desert Twilight meet in Queen Creek. It was one of the biggest races of the season. In fact, each athlete ran a 5k. Schools from all over the country come to compete at this race, and our Gladiators made their marks and represented our school well. The high school girls kicked off the night with some new personal and seasonal records including sophomores Aleksandra Reno and McKenna Martin who both ran their race in under 23 minutes, as well as Dagny McCrory and Raegan Kussnell who also had significant time improvements. On the boys side, senior Thomas Koska ran a 15:34 race and placed 22nd overall with senior Samuel Johnston right behind him with a 16 minute race in 44th place. Additionally, Jonah Pearson placed 18th in the Small School Varsity race with a sub-17 minute race. Our middle school athletes competed as well, with the majority running their fastest times of this season. Way to go Gladiators and keep up the good work.



HS Cross Country team represents NPX at Desert Twilight meet. Photo courtesy of yearbook club.

Volleyball Team Snapshots



High School Girls' Volleyball players in action at home in the NPX gym. On the sidelines, Gladiator sports fans cheer them on. Photos courtesy of yearbook.

Standardized Tests and College Prep

NPX College Counselor Ms. Martin Tells All

By Miranda Waters '22

With the school year back in session, and new school policies regarding the standardized tests students take, we decided to interview North Phoenix Prep's College Counselor, Ms. Martin. Here's what she had to say.

Will the school continue taking the SAT or will we be changing to the ACT?

Testing Update!

As you may have learned, the State of Arizona updated their menu of assessments and removed the SAT from their menu of options. Due to that change we will now offer the following:

- PSAT, National Merit Qualifying Exam (10th and 11th) – October
- Aspire (9th grade) – Spring 2022
- Pre-ACT (10th grade) – Spring 2022
- ACT (11th grade) – March 2022

In addition to these changes, the new state exam for 7th and 8th graders is the Arizona Academic Standards Assessment (AASA). AzSCI will still be administered to 9th and 11th graders. You can read more about these changes [HERE](#).

What are your tips for the SAT or ACT?

Know the difference between the tests!

SAT

- 154 questions
- Reading test– 65 minutes
- Writing/language test– 35 minutes
- Math test– 80 minutes
- Total test time– 3 hours

ACT

- 215 questions
- Reading test– 35 minutes
- English test– 45 minutes
- Math test– 60 minutes
- Total test time– 2 hours, 55 minutes, optional writing test stretches to a little more than 3 hours, 30 minutes

Colleges accept both tests and one test is not better than the other. They are both equally challenging in their own ways. Take the practice test and see which one you test better on and go with that test to improve your score.

Why should you look into colleges that you are not particularly interested in?

I would say give the college a chance before you just write it off! A lot can change in a year with an institution. For example, one particular college that came to visit this month let us know that they are building out a computer science major that they will offer starting fall of 2022. Another university is offering an additional

study abroad trip for undergraduates.

Also, don't go solely off what people say about a school. Be your own person and make that decision based on your own perspective of the university. If you don't like a school, make a list of non-negotiables and stick with it. For example, maybe a non-negotiable is that the cafeteria must stay open all night for you to grab a snack or you want to for sure double major within four year or you want to continue theater, so they must offer a theater club. Don't settle—sometimes knowing what you don't want can help guide you to what you do want!

When should you start planning for college?

College is so much fun! You want to get started early so that you can see what colleges are not only out there, but which ones you would be interested in learning more about. NPX is a college prep school, so you have the academic part covered. Get involved on and off campus, develop those leadership skills, and ATTEND COLLEGE VISITS ON CAMPUS!

What are some of your tips for early college preparation?

- Maintain a strong GPA! Many scholarships will use your GPA to determine your merit based aid. If you are struggling, reach out to your teachers, they love supporting you.
- Get involved: find something you are passionate about, try something new, and/or go out for a leadership position.
- Take the practice test for SAT and/or ACT
- Attend college visits on campus. We will have over 40 colleges and universities on campus. Check the announcements, newsletter, and posters near the water fountains for monthly updates.

What colleges will be coming in October?

Because October is a short schedule, I've had to rearrange some of the visits, so the schedule may change.

OCTOBER VISITS:

- 4th: Grand Canyon University campus visit
- 13th: 11th grade workshop- Archway Library 2:30-3:30
- 14th: United States Air Force Academy (during lunch- Mr. Black's Room)
- 14th: Savannah College of Art and Design MPR 3:40-4:40
- 18th: Templeton Honors College MPR 3:40-4:40
- 19th: University of Puget Sound- Tacoma, WA MPR 3:40-4:40
- 19th: UC- San Diego (Virtual) 4:00-5:00
- 21st: University of Dallas MPR 3:40-4:40
- 26th: PSAT for all 10th and 11th grade

Contact Ms. Martin via email at tmartin@northphoenixprep.org.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage in the NPX Community

By Miranda Waters '22

What is Hispanic Heritage Month? Why recognize it? Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15th to October 15th and it is a great opportunity to expand your horizons and learn more about different cultures. It's a time to recognize different Hispanic figures that made marks in history, or to listen to Hispanic music, or appreciate art made by Frida Kahlo and Pablo Picasso. Most of all, it is important to celebrate and learn about Hispanic culture all year round, not just during September and October. If you'd like to learn more or participate in some fun and informative virtual events in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month then visit the link below: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov>.

Giselle Mendoza (NPX Student, Class of '22)



Could you give a brief history of where your family is from and how/why they are here in America now?

My family came to the United States from Mexico: my dad from Obregón, Sonora, and my mom from Xochipala, Guerrero. They both lived with 9 other siblings and lived impoverished lives. My dad moved to the United States for better work opportunities and my mom at only 15 years old—without knowing the language—moved with my grandma and grandpa to work. Their

stories inspire me to be grateful for all the opportunities I was blessed with. They have taught me that I can do anything I put my mind to and I'm thankful for them. I'm proud to be Mexican and I love my family.

What has your experience been like as a Hispanic student at NPX?

Coming from an elementary and middle school with a prominent Hispanic population to NPX was definitely a culture shock and was rough. Throughout the years, in my class, there were few people I could relate to culturally. No one else had the first generation experience that I would have loved to be around and it confused me a lot. Engaging in American pop culture and speaking English to getting home and eating homemade Mexican food and speaking Spanish, disoriented my identity. North Phoenix Preparatory has not done much to change that, but this newspaper article is a step in the right direction and I hope that my voice can help other Hispanic (and Latinx) people to share their experiences as well.

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

Hispanic Heritage month to me means representation and an opportunity for many countries to share their culture. I only recently learned it was a thing but awareness of this month is great especially because of the under-representation in American media. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

Do you have any Hispanic figures that you look up to or who have inspired you?

When I was younger my mom would always put on Selena's songs. I grew up with them and idolized the way she was able to be so widely recognized both in the United States and Mexico. Selena was the Hispanic representation in media that young girls look up to and I'm glad to have been raised with her music.

Mr. Rocky Márquez (Physics I and II)



Could you give a brief history of where you and your family are from?

I am a Phoenician, born and raised. My mother's family is Mexican, but has been in Texas for generations. My father's family is also Mexican. His parents are from Chihuahua, Mexico. My paternal grandmother can trace her family back to Spain, so in addition to being a proud Mexican-American, I am also a proud descendent of Spaniards. I travel to Mexico and Spain with family and friends because I believe it is

important to stay in touch with your roots.

What was it like being raised at home with one culture but being surrounded outside of the home by another? Did you ever struggle to keep a balance between the two?

I have never felt any struggle to balance cultures, and perhaps that is because my family is Mexican. Mexico has many cultures: the one brought to Mexico by the Spanish and the ones that indigenous populations had built generations before the Spanish arrival in Mexico. The beauty of Mexican culture is that it has so many rich sources to pull from. As a Mexican-American, I was brought up to be proud of the rich cultures that made me who I am—to pick from the best of both and pass on their beauty to the next generation.

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

I am a proud Mexican-American, and who I am is the result of a long and rich history. I was brought up to believe that it is important to celebrate where I come from and what makes me different.

If you want to get to know people, then you have to understand where they come from. When people come together to celebrate their differences, they testify to the richness of our shared humanity.

Do you have any Hispanic figures that you look up to or that inspire you?

My grandmother is the most inspiring person I know. Her entire life is a testimony of what is beautiful about Mexican culture. I've learned more from her than anyone else. She taught me to love our food, our music, and our language, but most importantly she taught me to love family. She sacrificed her entire life for family, and she did it all with such joy. Thanks to her, I know the value of family.

Sra. Maylen Pagnone (Spanish I & II)



Could you give a brief history of where you and your family are from?

My family is originally from Venezuela, specifically from the northwest region that borders Colombia. My family's ancestry is very diverse as many Venezuelans would say, it is a combination of European, African, and Amerindian.

What brought you here to America and what was it like getting here and adjusting to living in a new country?

I'm proud to say that I'm a first-generation immigrant to the United States. It was hard to leave my family behind to seek new opportunities in this wonderful and generous country where my children were born, and that I now call my own. One of the main challenges I encountered was the language, as I couldn't speak English fluently when I first came. Fortunately, I always felt welcomed and made many good friends that helped and supported me in the process of learning the language, and helped me get used to the culture and ways of life here in my beloved Arizona.

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

Even though I'm a very proud Hispanic person, if I must be honest, I haven't really celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in the past. I always celebrate my culture, language, and family values and how these are greatly influenced by my Hispanic heritage. However, I like to celebrate my "hispanidad" every time that is possible, instead of on a particular date.

Do you have any Hispanic figures that you look up to or that inspire you?

There are so many Hispanic figures that I admire for their great and selfless contributions to our society. It's hard to pick only one, but to show some Venezuelan pride, I will have to choose Dr. Jacinto Convit, who dedicated his long life to research tropical diseases and created a vaccine to prevent leprosy.

Blood Drives Save Lives

By Yasoa Habbaba '23

The sun shone brilliantly upon that lovely golden Saturday sky on the 18th of September, 2021. Not only were two sports events slated to occur that morning, but so was North Phoenix Prep's Blood Drive: a donation opportunity for the NPX community heavily advertised by the school Senate the week prior and set up by the PSO and Vitalant.

As a non-profit organization relying on donations, both blood-related and monetary, Vitalant collects and donates blood, platelets, plasma, and other blood-related products to those whose health depends on such products. The company operates in nearly 30 states: its 127 donation centers provide blood to approximately 900 hospitals in the United States.

Before the event, the PSO and Vitalant teams, along with some student volunteers, prepared their waiting room, interview stations, and phlebotomy stations; reconstituting the Archway rooms to emulate a professional medical environment. In addition, their variety of snacks and drinks was simply outstanding, including an assortment of chips, cookies, gatorade, and sprite, far exceeding the stereotypical pretzel bag associated with donating blood.

Each potential donor would come in through the Archway side and be directed to the makeshift office to be signed in. If a potential donor was a minor, Vitalant accommodated them as long as they



NPX community members give blood in an Archway music classroom during the school's second annual blood drive. Photo by Yasoa Habbaba.

were at least 16 years of age and had parental permission. The potential donor would then be interviewed to confirm their health and eligi-

bility to donate and then be escorted to have their blood taken by one of the kind, excellent members of the Vitalant team. After a successful blood draw, a visit to the wonderful snack bar was highly recommended to increase the activity of one's remaining blood, and stickers were provided for those who did or attempted to donate.

Although our academy is much smaller than the average Vitalant school partner, having only 17 pre-scheduled donations online, we had many more individuals of our community, students, families, and faculty alike, who walked in and donated. Of the donors who volunteered on Saturday were our very own high school teachers, Ms. Srinivasan and Mr. Marquez.

However, all those in the community who donated should be commended and appreciated for their contribution. That includes the donors who volunteered their blood, the PSO, student volunteers, and administration who helped organize the event, and Vitalant who hosted and conducted the blood drive. One of the primary factors in allowing us to run the blood drive this year was the interest and participation of the NPX community. Future opportunities like this and their positive impacts depend upon that interest and participation, and therefore we thank the community for its involvement in the blood drive and in events to come.

Middle School Gladiator Teams Draft

By Troy Holderby '24

With students having attended the first official meeting of their gladiator teams, The Ludi Gladiatori (Gladiator Games) began for 2021. Last Friday, September 24th, students were assigned to their teams through a video produced and edited by Jacob Kurash, a freshman lanista for Murmillones. Students were welcomed by their upperclassmen, Lanistae, and editors; most teams being a smashing hit among middle school students.

The Gladiator Games have been an important tradition since the founding of North Phoenix in 2012. Originally, 15 teams had existed, barren without any mottos, colors, or mascots; they only met for school field days. Since then, the Gladiator Games have come a long way.

The Gladiator Teams exist as a way for students to build relationships outside of their grades and friend groups. Teams help build school spirit and community. Gladiator Teams only work, however, if students are invested in them and support their team. This program can be one of the best parts of a student's entire middle school experience, or the worst. Students are encouraged to make new friends, rock their team colors, and support others on their teams.

On a Gladiator team, students will encounter three different roles. First, the Lanistae, who are 9th and 10th-grade student leaders- they plan out all the events and lead the team. Then, you will find Editors, middle school teachers assigned to supervise a team and build spirit and community. Finally captains, who are two team members chosen by your Lanistae based on their spirit and motivation to help lead your team. Lanistae and Editors are there to help mentor and support students during their middle school journey, don't be afraid to ask them for help or advice.

To earn points for a Gladiator team, students must do good deeds around campus. At the end of the semester, the team with the most points wins. Points are also earned during field day and other events. Tickets can be put into their team boxes near the doors in the foyer. Gladiator teams meet every other week during Friday Lunch.

Important Dates to watch for:

October 29th - Field Day

October 15th - Next Team Meeting (date not-confirmed)

Do you know the 10 Gladiator teams?

Cestus: A team with zeal, these Gladiators are a loud, spirited team pursuing their dreams with Charisma and defending their beliefs. No one enters a room with a Cestus and does not know they are there. They recently claimed third place in the first semester of last year.

Dimachaerus: A fun and creative team, these Gladiators are also loud and proud, led by the fabulous Mr. Fleming! A Dimachaerus was a gladiator dueling with two swords - a strong presence in the arena. They have held 1st place for 3 Years in a row and are the team to beat!

Equites: A fierce team, an Equites would ride into battle on horseback, launching spears and cutting enemies down with swords. Equites tend to be shy at first, but don't be fooled, they are no joke when put in a competitive setting.

Murmillones: A spirited team - they embody the sea! Murmillones were gladiators armed with a large shield and a helmet shaped like a fish, they most often fought against Retiarii. Murmillones are a creative team determined to win, and don't let the fish catch you off guard: they are not an easy catch.

Provocatores: A team not to take lightly, they represent the battle within, constantly competing against themselves to improve. They are a tenacious team with intellect and creativity. A Provocatores strives for friendship, fun, and victory.

Retiarii: An astute team, they are known for their athletic ability. Retiarii value fun and competition. These Gladiators would battle with a trident and net, they are the tamers of the sea!

Sagittarius: A team with gravitude, Sagittarius were skilled archers often facing several Gladiators at a time because of their ability. The Sagittarius at NPX have intense personalities and an intimidating desire for challenge.

Thraces: A team with spunk, Thraces were gladiators with a special sword and shield. They are an enthusiastic and brave team. Thraces are incredibly energetic and creative, with a strong focus on camaraderie and fun.

Velites: A team of mystery, Velites are the odd-ones out, not often understood by the other teams, but among themselves, they are a strong pack with a powerful character. They are a creative team that takes their competition to the next level.

Teacher Quotes

By Anna Zamora '22

Here at NPX, students and teachers alike are held to higher standards. This is especially true for the teachers. They are expected to have proper conduct, particularly when it comes to how they speak to their students. Although this may bring to mind imagery of teachers using very formal, complicated language, that is not necessarily the case. In fact, many faculty members are quite good at speaking to their students in a way that is both professional and humorous. The mission of this new ACTA Gladiator Newspaper segment is to bring to light the funny moments when teachers do just that!

“What’s ‘sus’?”

-Dr. Avery (Humane Letters IV, Pd. 1-2)

“Where is your SOUL dear student!?!”

-Dr. Bain (Rhetoric, Pd. 4)

“I was standing there.
Like a plant.”

-Mr. Pagani (Greek II, Pd. 5)

If you would like to submit a teacher quote, email the quote to npxteacherquotes@gmail.com along with information about which teacher said it, what class and period the quote occurred in, and any context for the quote (specifically what caused the quote to be said). All submissions will be read and considered for future ACTA Gladiator publications!

Save the Date for
Homecoming 2021:

A Greek Getaway



November 6th

7-10pm

Archway MPR

Comics

Forward by comic section editor Scotlyn Mascarelli '22

Welcome to the first official issue of the ACTA Gladiator Newspaper of the 2021-2022 school year! The comic section is back and better than ever and we are happy to introduce you to some of our new, talented student comic artists and their fabulous work. Keep an eye out for more comics in the upcoming issues.

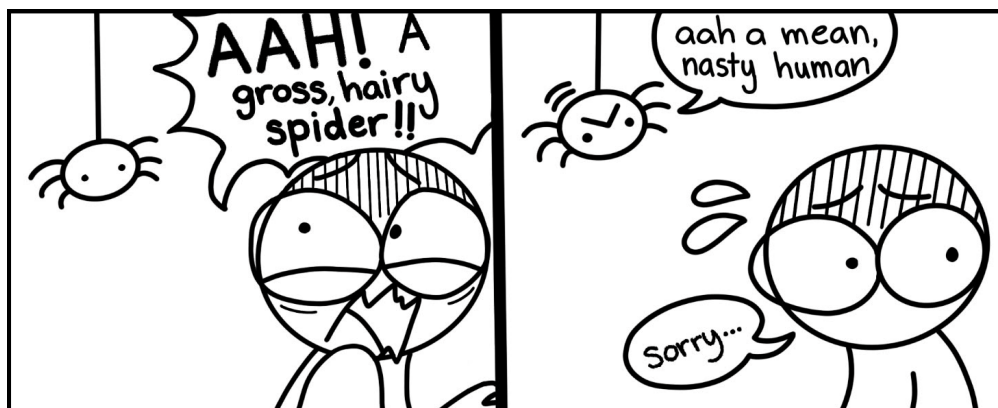
A Friendly Reminder

By Sarah Traore '26



The Eight-legged Enemy

By Lucy Kirkhope '23



Acta Gladiator is on
Instagram!

Go follow
@npx_newspaper for
sports streaming, polls,
publishing updates, and
exciting student news!

Got news? Looking to advertise? Our next expected publishing date is October 29th. Email us at npxnewspaper@gmail.com.

Editorial contributions: Mr. Fleming, Miranda Waters, Saloni Godse, Sophia Braccio, Maximus Pruzinowski, Anna Zamora, Scotlyn Mascarelli, Kendall Kartler, and Anusha Sharma