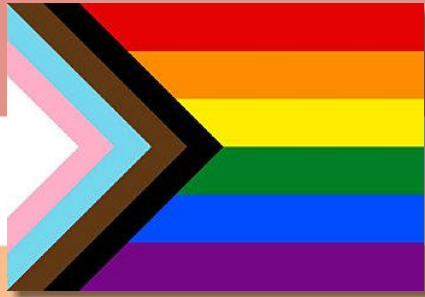


LOVE OVER HATE



PRHS students host their first ever Pride event, a historic evening for hundreds on Oct. 20, 2021

A student-lead pride event was held on campus Wednesday evening on October 20, 2021 at the PRHS PAC to drown out the hate spreading on campus and school decisions that alienated hundreds of LGBTQ+ students.

Two students in September stole a science teacher's pride flags from his classroom. They defecated on the flag, tried to flush it down a toilet, and uploaded a video of their actions to TikTok.

Geof Land, ethnic studies teacher stated "It was definitely an act of hate directed at the LGBTQ community." His quote has been used in numerous articles regarding the incident.

When the flag was vandalized the district took almost two weeks to respond to the issue. Instead of dealing swiftly with the offending students, admin chose delicate punishment and posted pride flag restrictions school wide. They made the LGBTQIA+ community feel isolated and diminished by the district, according to a vast majority of comments.

Board members have yet to respond to the event as of press deadline.

Yet six student clubs and advisers rallied together Oct. 20, 2021 to host an evening free speech forum to voice concerns and "stand up to hate."

Fourteen students took the podium in

front of a standing-room-only crowd. No seats were empty, people overflowed the sides of the theater and people were sitting in the aisles. KSBY News Network covered the event.

Equality Club President Eve Barajas MC'd the evening with senior John Seden-Hansen. Barajas delivered a list of demands for the school to address in the days that would ensue, including a cancellation of the flag controls that stemmed from the incident.

"I am terrified of getting hurt because of my identity," sophomore Lillian Shroyer explained when her turn came

"We've been silenced, despised, vandalized, but no one cares how it hurts in our eyes," freshman Elise Jordan wrote in a poem she recited.

Sprout Aragon (11) declared, "We're gonna keep on fighting!" earning a roar from the crowd.

The audience stormed with applause after each speaker had shared their story. Rainbows waved through the air so fast that they were only a blur of color that meant love and unity.

No one knows what the future will hold for the school or the district but LGBTQ+ students and their allies keep their fingers crossed for what's to come.

Many teachers have taken to hanging the standard 3x5 flags in their classrooms. Rainbow masks have been being handed out for the past few weeks for students and staff to show their support.

Geoffrey Land Ethnic Studies Teacher



"It means that it shows the importance of student voices when they come together for a common cause, and how important it is to listen to our students and include them in conversations about policies that affect them."

Haley Talbert Equality Club Advisor



"This event means a safe space for myself as an adult and as an educator but also knowing that the students in my classrooms feel safe and supported"

Lillian Shroyer

Forum Speaker (10)



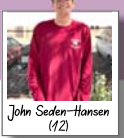
"For years I've been faced with homophobia, I finally have the platform to talk about it, and have people actually listen without brushing me away. So that was very, very important for me."

Basil Bailey

Forum Speaker (10)



"To me personally, it's how I overcame my depression, and how I met all my friends through it. It's even how I met the love of my life through it. So it's very special to me because I am emotionally connected to everyone who is in the community, from what I can tell. It's also how I learned to smile again."



John Seden-Hansen (12) "I didn't feel the need to have my story upfront, which is why I was so glad to introduce others."

Customer is allowed to have objects outside of the margin.

TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE

Pride For All

LGBTQ+ students and allies share stories and rise above the 2021 Flag Scandal



Bravery

Ava Hughes (12) was the first speaker at the forum, sharing her story and objections to recent policy.



Call to Action

Genevieve Grimes (12) ask all in attendance for change to happen at PRHS.



Lending a Voice

Zaira Gomez (12) reads a testimony for a student who wished to remain anonymous.



Speaking from the Heart

Israel Perez (11) shared of strong emotions following campus events.



Looking to the Future

Quinn Calvo (11) looks to a brighter future as she stands at the podium.



Smile for the Camera

Jules Ramos (12) smiles while in anticipation for the evening forum.



Equality Club

The club members organized and made the event possible to make their stories be heard.



Paving the Way

Sprout Aragon (10) and **Eve Barajas (10)** Vice President and President of the Equality Club.



Loud and Proud

Danny Perez (11) waves his colors proudly when he was announced as Homecoming Royalty.

Design by **Elliot Krames**, Photos by **Joseph Taranto**

COMING OUT AGAINST HATE **29**