



FEEL the BEAT

Music blasts as students dance at the back-to-school dance.

Photos by Tate Hardy



DANCING HER HEART OUT (top) Junior Kaliope Hendershot rocks to the beat with her friends at the back-to-school dance. "With all the love in my heart I can say that the back-to-school dance reminded me of middle school dances in the best way possible," Hendershot said.

3, 2, 1, POSE! (bottom) Freshmen Ivanka Kumar, Audrey Mi, Aeshaan Singhal, and Hannah Lee stop for a glam shot. "What I will remember most about this dance is that everybody was stiff at the first part of the dance, but then as the music kept playing, people just started to loosen up," Kumar said.

"I will remember most how few upperclassmen there were that night. Honestly while the turnout was disappointing, I had an amazing time dancing with people I had never meet before. It gave me the ability to dance my heart out without having to worry about what people might say. It truly was a place where people could be as corny as they wanted without trying too hard to be mysterious or unapproachable."

KALIOPE HENDERSHOT ('25)

capturing the camo

Senior Brooke Hudacek loves capturing memories with her digital camera.

Photos courtesy of Brooke Hudacek



MAKING MEMORIES (above) Seniors Kyle Li, Sienna Dunn, Adam Clancy, Aidan McGraw, and Dhruv Shetty celebrate the beginning of their senior year together with a photo on the quad.



Why do you like taking digital camera photos?

"I like using a digital camera over my phone because it feels a lot more informal and is a fun way to capture memories with my friends. Once I started to consistently bring out my camera, people started to recognizing it and ask for photos with their friends. Other seniors started to bring out their own digital cameras, it is a fun way to be connected with my class."

TWINNIN' IS WINNIN' (top) Hudacek and her friend Eliza Gaither ('24) pose for a digital in the classic first-day outfit, Nike Pros and camo.

SENIOR SZN (bottom) Ellie Roth ('24) poses for a photo with the camo senior flag that is also waved for Spirit Week and all the other rallies.



Design by Meredith Glasson and Zora Wakelee

SHOUTING WITH SPIRIT (right) Seniors Lily Daniel and Nina Smith shout their class chants with all the other spirited seniors.

MIC'D UP (cutout) Ella Bishop ('24) amps up the senior section's energy during the rally. "It is really cool to see the whole school's energy rise as the rest of us get hyped up," Bishop said. *Photos courtesy of Naveen Narayanaswami*



MAKE some NOISE

The first pep rally of the year welcomes students back to school.



As the lunch bell rings, hundreds of students rush to the Big Gym, anticipating the first pep rally of the year. Students excitedly fill the bleachers and anticipation buzzes through the air.

Amongst the roar of students cheering on their respective classes, freshman Tiam Maurstad confidently chants for his grade during the first rally of the year, even taking a controversial stance by challenging the upperclassmen.

"It was really fun, especially beating the sophomores," Maurstad said. "And we're coming for the seniors as well."

Shifting the focus to the opposite bleachers, upperclassmen unite their spirit through energetic shouts and cheers. Feeling proud, junior Charlie Chen enjoyed the experience and bonding with his classmates.

"The final outcome doesn't really matter," Chen

said. "As long as everyone worked together and had fun that's the purpose of the pep rally. The final result doesn't mean anything."

Senior Miya Joshi was especially excited about this year's pep rally and encouraged underclassmen to participate.

"Be spirited!" Joshi said. "It will make your first years here so much more fun if you dress up for the spirit days, attend rallies, learn cheers, and learn your class dance. My advice would be to just really immerse yourself in it — it's cool! I promise. And time will fly by so make the most out of it."

With the entrance of a brand-new freshman class this year, the pep rally was a great way for under and upperclassmen to unite through collaborative games and memorable activities.

The playful competition made for a spirited start to the year, instilling sparks of class pride that will continue for years to come.

Story by Lillian Chen and Lina Ruan

"My advice would be to just really immerse yourself in it — it's cool! I promise."
MIYA JOSHI ('24)

HANDS UP HIGH (top right) The gym was filled with energy for the first pep rally. Tiam Maurstad ('27) cheers loudly for his freshman class. "I'm probably going to go to the other ones [rallies] just for the experience," Maurstad said. "I hope the other ones are just as good." *Photo by Hannah Oh*

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK (middle right) Juniors Evin Steele, Sam Janik, Charlie Chen, and Sohan Sengupta to lead their class to victory. *Photo by Hannah Oh*

SENIORS' SUPERIOR (bottom right) Seniors Miya Joshi and Zoe Hayward smile for a photo on the senior deck. The deck, historically reserved for seniors, holds a special significance to students. "I have been at Paly since freshman year and I can safely say that putting on the camo pants for the first time is a great feeling," Joshi said. "It's an iconic and honored senior tradition that feels great to finally step into." *Photo courtesy of Miya Joshi*

sunrising TOGETHER

Seniors rise at the crack of dawn to watch the sunrise on the football field together.



KEEPIN' IT COZY Senior Siri Schaefer Bastian enjoys the sunrise with her friends on the football field. "I loved senior sunrise," Schaefer Bastian said. "It was super fun and relaxing to just listen to music and hanging with my friends and classmates. It kinda felt like a coming-of-age movie!" *Photo by Tate Hardy*

what's your THING?

What is something you always have in your bag?

"A hairbrush, so I can keep my hair detangled throughout the day."

EMILY STELL ('26)

"Chocolate because I really like it."

DYLAN LIAO ('26)

"Airpods: listening to music helps me focus in class."

KENNEDY DO ('25)