Fourth-graders travel to the World Rowing Championships [News pg. 7]
The Match

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The Match covers topics, issues, events and opinions of relevance to students grades two through six. The Match is published five times a year by Pine View School and maintains membership in the Florida Scholastic Press Association. Press run is 900 copies. Copies are provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff.

Letters. The Match welcomes reader reactions to published content in the form of letters to the editor. Submit typed letters to haleigh.brown@pineviewtorch.com. Letters should be less than 300 words and contain the author’s name and grade, although the author may request anonymity. Submissions may be edited for authenticity, grammar, clarity and length.

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Front page: Fourth-grade students Sarina Sallapudi, Anna Kim, and Jaime Sweiderk (left to right) take a lunch break during the 2017 World Rowing Championships. The Championships took place at Nathan Benderson Park the week of Monday, Sept. 25.

PHOTO BY CATE ALVARO
Student gets her ‘kicks’

[p.15]
Student is on ‘pointe’
Fifth-grader has ‘natural’ talent

features
[p.12 & 13]
Homemade haunting 101
Deck up your home with these spooky decor DIYs

[cont.sports]
[p.16]
Rolling into bowling
Use these reviews to explore some of Sarasota’s bowling venues

[p.18]
Sixth-grader hits it out of the park
Sixth-grader excels in baseball and plays on Sarasota majors
Student shoots for his ‘goal’-ie
Goal! Yeonwoo Kang has been scoring since day one

sports
[p.19]
Sixth-grader swims in ‘synch’
Student goes hardcore with parkour

student corner
[p.20]
You’ve got mail!

[p.21]
Who invented the rocket?

humor
[p.22]
Student doesn’t “show up”
Invisible student makes an appearance, or does he?

[p.23]
It’s Oompa-Loompa approved!

[p.24]
Talking to Mrs. Hawking
The Match interviews Mrs. Hawking, the new sixth- and seventh-grade guidance counselor, to get acquainted with her

Focus
Take time to adjust

TOP: Fourth-grader Anna Jin poses for a professional photo.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHAO JIN
BOTTOM: Fourth-grader Yeonwoo Kang poses with his trophy along side his coach.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUNBOK KANG
New Year, New Teachers

In September, several elementary teachers joined our Pine View community. To this end, The Match is taking the opportunity to welcome these new additions to campus. We’ve made viewing teacher profiles on pvtorch.com a breeze—just scan the QR code and read more about Lisa Rader, Stacy Burkett, Brittany Gieseke, Susan McKenzie, Sara Kolsky and Rachel Lenerz.

Stacy Burkett
fourth-grade teacher

Brittany Gieseke
fourth-grade teacher

Susan Mckenzie
fourth-grade teacher

Sara Kolsky
second-grade teacher

Lisa Rader
fifth-grade teacher

Rachel Lenerz
fifth-grade teacher
Students go beyond the grid

Computer Science Discoveries program implemented

by Tricia Saputera

The sixth-grade computer elective is integrating a new curriculum this year: Computer Science Discoveries. Created by Code.org, this user-friendly program allows students to learn fundamental skills, from designing a website to making an app.

Code.org, a non-profit organization, has a mission to give every student the opportunity of learning computer science. Their new program, Computer Science Discoveries, specifically targets middle school students. This teaching material has been beta-tested by Pine View students, meaning sample audiences weighed in. “I volunteered last year to beta-test part of it, and my kids last year just responded so well to it,” Jo Davidsmeyer, computers teacher, said.

In addition to having the opportunity to beta-test the program, Davidsmeyer also received special training. Over the summer, she flew to Houston with approximately 450 teachers, all who were preparing to teach Computer Science Discoveries in the southeastern part of the U.S. During this intense one week training, the teachers looked at the first semester of the course, and Davidsmeyer was able to have hands-on practice teaching the curriculum.

In the course, there are six units, each divided into two chapters. Chapters also have several lessons. Two units, however, do not involve the computer and are referred to as “unplugged activities.” An example of one of these “unplugged activities” involves students working on their problem-solving skills by creating an algorithm to sort playing cards. The last unit also requires hardware, and students will be able to play with miniature circuit boards.

Before this curriculum, students in the class focused on learning how to use Photoshop and the Microsoft Office products, such as Word and Excel. However, most students cannot work on Photoshop at home, since one has to pay for the software. Now with Computer Science Discoveries, students can conveniently work on the entire course, excluding projects with partners, at home or at school. “It’s totally online, there is nothing to buy at all; it doesn’t matter whether you can afford extra software or not, and it covers so many basics,” Davidsmeyer said. As a teacher, Davidsmeyer can also view students’ creations, like websites, but cannot edit them, so the final product is the students’ original work.

In the future, Davidsmeyer hopes to stay and grow with the program, as it is constantly being improved. While there is a seventh- and eighth-grade computer elective, there is no corresponding Code.org program. Davidsmeyer, however, has hopes that more curriculum will be added, so middle school students can build on what they learned in previous years. “I think this course is great,” sixth-grader Amy Kim said. “This is the course that will change people’s worlds.”
Student shoots for the stars
by Nathalie Bencie

In the aftermath of the solar eclipse that occurred Aug. 21, sixth-grader Adrienne Johnson discovered a clever way to not only reuse millions of glasses that no longer served a purpose, but a way for students around the world to experience a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Teaming up with the California-based organization, Astronomers Without Borders (AWB), Johnson is currently collecting used solar eclipse glasses for students, in less fortunate countries. These students will be experiencing a similar solar eclipse within the next couple of years.

AWB is an organization that focuses on bringing the sciences, experiences of astronomy and space to communities around the world, particularly those in poverty-struck countries. In AWB’s Eclipse Glasses Donation Program, the recycled glasses will be sent to countries in Asia and South America for their 2019 solar eclipse experience.

Johnson originally discovered the project in late August when her mother suggested the idea. "My mom was looking on Facebook when we saw that AWB was doing an eclipse glasses drive," Johnson said. "So then we went to Walmart, bought some baskets, labeled them, and the next day, I was distributing the baskets around school."

The baskets are located in all of Johnson’s classes, as well as in the Administration building and in the media center.

So far, she has collected over 15 eclipse glasses for AWB’s drive from a majority of anonymous donors. In an attempt to advertise the drive more, Johnson has been asking her teachers and friends to share the drive’s information with others. The drive will continue throughout the rest of the year before she brings the glasses to one of AWB’s Glasses Collection Centers located throughout the Tampa and St. Pete area.

"I felt really great about donating my glasses to the drive that Adrienne has," friend of Johnson, sixth-grader Marina Gordon said. "It will really help those in less fortunate countries experience such a cool solar eclipse."

As the year progresses, Johnson hopes to collect over 100 solar eclipse glasses for the students in South America and Asia. Once this drive ends, she plans on searching for another organization that both benefits the community and the environment.

Elementary students are (check)mates
by Ben Gordon

To expose elementary students to chess and friendly competition, fifth-grade teacher Andy Vitkus started the elementary chess club.

Vitkus decided to make a chess club for elementary students due to scheduling conflicts. Previously, elementary students could not participate in chess club because classes end at 4 p.m., and the chess club for middle and high school students meets on Thursdays at 1 p.m. Vitkus decided the perfect solution was to start a new club for elementary, so they could take part in a fun club after school. Students of any skill level can join the club, which meets Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Student Union.

There are plenty of chess boards, provided by Vitkus, ready for use.

During meetings, students will not only improve their chess skills but also improve their social skills and form new friendships through a common interest. Students play friendly games of chess with a partner and are randomly paired to play against each other.

There will be at least three competitions on campus this year, all associated with Suncoast Scholastic Chess, a group made up of parent volunteers and teachers who organize tournaments and exchange teaching methods. The competitions are modeled after the United States Chess Federation competitions, except instead of using an official rating system, they will use an unofficial system assigned to each student where they are given a numerical score. “The whole point of the competitions is basically to have fun,” Dan Jersey, a coach for the club and member’s parent, said.

In the future, Vitkus hopes to increase membership and give more elementary students the wonderful opportunity to learn how to play chess. “I also hope members of a Pine View team get recognized as a club when they go to the tournaments. Many Pine View kids play, but are not part of a recognized Pine View club,” Vitkus said.
October and November Events and Teacher Birthdays

Oct. 27
Kid’s Night Out

Oct. 31
Elementary Fall Parade

Nov. 8
Ms. White’s birthday

Nov. 15
Ms. Barber’s birthday

Nov. 18
Mr. Gardner’s Birthday

Nov. 21
Ms. Greig’s birthday

IN BRIEF
Trip to rowing championships
by Manuel Rea

Fourth-graders experienced the trip of a lifetime Monday, Sept. 25 when they visited the 2017 World Rowing Championships at Nathan Bender森 Park, built specifically to hold regattas, boat races, and other competitions.

Students from local Sarasota County schools were invited to attend the competition throughout the week of Sept. 25. Classes left for the park at 9:30 a.m., where professional teams from all around the world came to participate in the international event.

“There were some countries I [had] never even heard of,” fourth-grader Cole Reuter said.

With their class and chaperones, students sat in the bleachers surrounding the lake where the races would take place. Art from Sarasota County students was also showcased by Embracing Our Differences, the non-profit organization dedicated to spreading diversity through art. The “Adopt-A-Country” program had students produce art that represented a country participating in the championships.

Some murals included the United States, Italy and China in which Pine View students helped to create.

After returning to school at 1:30 p.m., the students were tired from a long day. “Even though we were tired and sweaty, it was a lot of fun,” fourth-grader Dalton Burroughs said.

Sarasota County app for parents
by Allie Odishelidze

In a new application released by Sarasota County schools, parents and students will be able to access a variety of resources from their mobile devices.

Available on both the Google Play Store and the App Store, the app features easy access to the calendar, district social media and notifications from the school.

A swipe to the left opens access to settings, login to the Blackboard portal, a directory, sports news, information about the new superintendent, school news, the district lunch menu, resources and access to the Crosspointe portal.

The app streamlines any information that a parent of a student would need available in one location.

While the app has many helpful resources, a few of the options are mildly cumbersome. To open the Crosspointe Portal, another window opens rather than within the app. Consequently, this means it is not possible to remain logged into the app. The same is true for the “My School Bucks” option. While parents are able to access their child’s account, they must log in to a separate window each time.

As it was released Aug. 12, 2017, the application is fairly new and there will hopefully be more updates to come.
Autumn eats are a tasty treat

This fall, try out some new sweet treats that will leave you wanting more. Fall is the perfect time to gorge on pastries, from pumpkin pies to apple cobbler. You are sure to find a fall favorite at these local Sarasota bakeries referred to you by The Match!

Morton’s Bakery

by Alexa Mollod

With the smell of freshly-baked baguettes and the beautiful display of delicious treats, all it takes is one step into Morton’s Bakery to fall in love. Morton’s Bakery is a cozy, time-honored bakery that has treats to satisfy every sweet tooth.

Morton’s Bakery is a small part of Morton’s Gourmet Market, which has been family-owned since 1969; the bakery was added in 1997. As you walk in, the traditional style is evident, with brown tones making you feel cozy, comfortable and ready to dig into one of their many delicious treats. Since Morton’s Bakery is also located in Southside Village, a pedestrian-friendly part of town, the bakery offers plentiful outside seating so you can enjoy the fall weather and watch the world pass by at your leisure.

The display case is probably the most alluring part of the bakery. It stretches across most of the store and is filled to the brim with mouth-watering desserts. From key lime pie and seasonal fruit tarts to New York-style cheesecake and chocolate truffle cake, there is something for everyone. And, have I mentioned the baskets upon baskets of freshly-baked croissants, scones and baguettes perched on top of the display case? They are too good to resist; I ordered a croissant and enjoyed the buttery, warm rush of flavor flood in my mouth as the treat simply melted away. The prices can get mildly high, but you are paying for quality desserts that are truly made with love.

To really get into the seasonal spirit, Morton’s Bakery offers many different menus—a selection the staff prepares of dishes one can purchase at the store. There is a holiday menu that covers Thanksgiving and the winter holidays, a Valentine’s Day menu, a St. Patrick’s Day menu and many others. A few delicious desserts featured on the holiday menu are pumpkin pie, Jim Beam pecan pie, old-fashioned apple pie and pumpkin cheesecake with a gingersnap crust.

If looking for a bakery that believes in quality rather than quantity and friendliness rather than indifference, Morton’s is your place. A simple trip to Morton’s bakery will make your day and remind you of the importance of treating yourself to something truly delicious every once in a while.

Morton’s Bakery is located 1924 S. Osprey Avenue, Sarasota, FL. 34239. The bakery hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

PHOTO BY ALEXA MOLLOD
Buttermilk Handcrafted Foods

by William Khabbaz

Buttermilk Handcrafted Foods has been serving up southern classics to Sarasota locals since last September. The small, modern restaurant's relaxing environment and comfort food is perfect for a group hangout. This unique restaurant on Palmer Boulevard is family-owned by Jamie and Kathy Otto.

When you first walk through the restaurant, the atmosphere immediately feels like home. The modern wood detailing, made by Jamie, a former carpenter, and the small dim light fixtures give the space a relaxing and cozy feeling. At the same time, Buttermilk Handcrafted Foods gives a modern twist to the decor by adding white tiles to brighten up the restaurant.

The menu is very limited and simple, but packed with lots of flavor. The main item on their menu is their homemade buttermilk biscuits. The buttery, flakey biscuit can be complemented with a variety of options including eggs, bacon, homemade gravy, and other veggies and proteins. The extensive selection of topping options allows customers to have an endless number of combinations to choose from. The cafe also has a $6 toast menu which changes daily. This includes a thick piece of homemade bread, topped with different proteins, cheeses, and veggies.

The cafe serves up freshly brewed coffee, in coordination with another local cafe, Perq Coffee Bar. Alongside the coffee, the restaurant has a dessert menu that will fulfill anyone's sweet tooth. They offer items such as oatmeal pie, cream pie, and an enormous chocolate chip cookie filled with salted caramel. These made-from-scratch desserts and coffee are priced from around $3 to $5.

This small and one-of-a-kind restaurant in the heart of Sarasota is a great spot to take a breather and enjoy some quality southern comfort food.

5520 Palmer Blvd., Sarasota, and is open 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Rating: 4.5/5 Torches

Sift Bakehouse

by Zach Bright

A hidden gem nestled in the heart of downtown Sarasota, Sift Bakehouse takes the cake when it comes to high quality baked goods.

Chef Christine Nordstrom—a graduate from the Johnson & Wales College Culinary School—founded the store after her time spent as a pastry chef at Napa Valley Grill following her schooling. Now she spends her time baking small batch, made-from-scratch artisan goods at Sift Bakehouse.

The small store is full of big flavor. The restaurant is a colorful nook chock-full of sweets which line the shelves with a sweet aroma wafting through the air.

Sift Bakehouse offers a wide range of sweets, from cookies and brownies to scones and biscotti. All of their goods are handcrafted daily in house. Pricing varies, although pastries tend to be between $2 to $4.

If one is looking for a more savory snack, dense oat bars and fluffy cheese and bacon scones line the shelves, ripe for the picking. For people who are celebrating a special event like a birthday, custom cakes are a make a sweet treat.

Their sugar cookies are a multicolored wonder. A sweet outside is decorated with a plethora of rainbow colored sprinkles. The slightly crunchy outside hides a soft and chewy center which is sure to please. Sift Bakehouse hits this classic cookie out of the park with its old-fashioned style of baking.

Sift Bakehouse also sells baked goods at locations aside from their retail store. Feel free to find some of their products at the Sarasota Farmer's Market over the weekend. Additionally, products are available online with shipping to customers across the country.

Satisfy that sweet tooth with a visit to Sift Bakehouse.

1383 McAnsh Square, Sarasota, Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Rating: 5/5 Torches
Student hip hops to the top

Fifth-grader continues to pursue her dancing career after nine years

by Melissa Santoyo

With nine years of dancing under her belt, fifth-grader Katie Lukas is already more experienced than most her age. Having delved into the world of routines and choreography at the age of 1, while living in New Jersey, Lukas has had experience in a wide variety of styles, ranging from her two starter skill sets of jazz and ballet, to a now more diverse dancing arsenal of tap dance, hip hop, lyrical, and more.

It was during her time in New Jersey that she was enrolled in the Performing Arts Academy (PAA), a dance studio open for children of all ages. It is currently run by artistic director, Dawn Laviola-Schaub, and it offers a variety of classes dancers can take depending on their preferred style. “My mom just put me in a dance class and I really liked it, so I stayed,” Lukas said.

As of right now, Lukas regularly practices jazz, hip hop, tap, ballet, lyrical, acrobatic and contemporary at Soul Studios, located in Sarasota. While her routine schedule changes yearly, her current practice regimen runs on a daily basis from two to three hours, except for a short reprieve every Tuesday and Sunday. This is mostly in preparation for the recitals Lukas participates in at the end of each year as well as competitions, which she first started doing at the age of 4.

In the previous year alone, she competed in four to five different competitions. One memorable event for Lukas was during her first solo performance at the national BravO! Dance competition. She performed a mix of lyrical and acrobatic choreography at the BravO! venue in Orlando, where she was awarded with first place for her routine. Lukas was just 9 years old at the time.

For Lukas, the best part about dancing is how it serves as an outlet for her stress, or as a buffer to help fix a bad day. “You can just let out your feelings, like sometimes if you’ve had a rough day you can go [to the studio] and just let it out,” Lukas said. "You can just let out your feelings, like sometimes if you’ve had a rough day you can go there [studio] and just let it out. It feels really good," she said.

Dance is also a part of her life she shares with her friends. “It feels good to dance with my friend. She’s a really good dancer and she makes me happy whenever she dances because she’s good,” fellow fifth-grader and dancer at Soul Studios, Ava Chyorny said.
Ready to have a ‘gourd’ time?

by Haleigh Brown

This Halloween, spice up your simple, everyday pumpkin with the help of The Match. Whether you want decor that is spooky or colorful, these pumpkin ideas offer creative options for everyone. With our easy-to-follow tips, feel free to make somethin’ from pumpkin.

Pumpkin Bouquet

Materials:
• Plant in a nursery pot
• Pumpkin scoop
• Large bowl
• Newspaper
• Pumpkin
• Sharpie
• Knife (with parental supervision)

Steps:
Obtain newspaper and layout a few sheets on a flat surface so there is no mess. Set the pumpkin on top of the newspaper.

Take the plant in the nursery pot and hold over the top of the pumpkin. With the sharpie, draw a general outline on the pumpkin around the planter to get the correct approximate size of the planter’s circumference.

With help from a parent, cut the top of the pumpkin around the outline you have just created and take off the top.

Now that it’s empty, with a parent, cut a drainage hole about 2 inches in diameter in the bottom of the pumpkin. This will prevent water from sitting in the bottom of the pumpkin which would cause it to rot. As an optional addition, draw a face on the pumpkin with sharpie.

Now simply place the plant into the pumpkin and you have a floral piece of fall decor to display anywhere in or out of your house!

Drip Art Pumpkin

Materials:
• White or orange pumpkin
• Crayons
• Tacky glue
• Blow dryer
• Garbage bags or newspaper
• Pumpkin

Steps:
Layout newspaper or garbage bag on a flat surface and obtain your pumpkin. Either orange or white can be utilized, but white may show up better.

Break the crayons in half and arrange them on the top of the pumpkin in the color order you choose.

Pick up each crayon and squeeze a strip of glue underneath each one before placing the crayons back on top.

After the glue has dried, obtain the blow dryer and place it on the highest heat setting. Hold the blow dryer over the top of the pumpkin and watch as the heat melts the crayon’s colors down the sides to make a beautiful, non carved pumpkin!

PLACE: Place a bouquet of flowers inside a pumpkin to create some beautiful decor. Wildflowers are an unexpected complement to your traditional pumpkin.

TOP: Liven up a plain pumpkin by melting crayons. With everyday supplies, it’s easy to get creative.

LEFT: Place a bouquet of flowers inside a pumpkin to create some beautiful decor. Wildflowers are an unexpected complement to your traditional pumpkin.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY COOLMOMPICKS.COM AND ATH-RIFTYDIVA.COM

TOP: Liven up a plain pumpkin by melting crayons. With everyday supplies, it’s easy to get creative.

LEFT: Place a bouquet of flowers inside a pumpkin to create some beautiful decor. Wildflowers are an unexpected complement to your traditional pumpkin.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY COOLMOMPICKS.COM AND ATH-RIFTYDIVA.COM

Mummy Pumpkin

Materials:
• Pumpkin
• Googly eyes
• Gauze
• Hot glue gun (with parental supervision)
• Black sticky foam or black construction paper
• Scissors

Steps:
After allowing the hot glue gun to heat up, with parental supervision, place hot glue on the end of a strip of gauze.

Place this end of the gauze on the pumpkin and wrap it around to look like your desired mummy of choice. Once the pumpkin is sufficiently wrapped, hot glue the other end of the gauze onto the pumpkin.

Next, cut black sticky foam or black construction paper into the shape of the mouth you would like for your pumpkin. Secure the mouth with hot glue or with the sticky side of the black foam.

Lastly, stick the googly eyes above the mouth, and you have a terrifying mummy pumpkin without the mess of carving!

Spider Pumpkin

Materials:
• White yarn
• Plastic spiders
• Glue
• Pumpkin

Steps:
Wrap your pumpkin with white yarn to create the illusion of a spider web and glue the yarn onto the pumpkin as needed.

After waiting for the glue to dry, place glue on the plastic spiders and arrange them around the pumpkin as desired to create a terrifyingly terrific spider-infested pumpkin!
Twisted Treat
Ingredients:
• package of vanilla or chocolate almond bark
• cup orange candy melts
• Optional toppings: Candy eyeballs, M&M's, nuts and any leftover Halloween candy
Step 1: Place chocolate on top of orange melts and swirl with a toothpick. Let cool on a plate.
Step 2: Pour the chocolate over another sheet of wax paper while melting the chocolate and oranges, according to their directions.
Step 3: Place large amounts of orange melts on top of chocolate and swirl with a toothpick.
Step 4: Display toppings on top before chocolate hardens and you have a terrifying treat this Halloween!
Student is on ‘pointe’
by Anna Labiner
Whirling and twirling through the air, fourth-grader Anna Jin can often be seen expressing herself through an activity where she can communicate without saying a word—dance.

Starting her dancing career seven years ago with the intention of finding an activity in which she could convey her feelings, Jin found what she was looking for at Dance Artistry, a dance company located in Sarasota. Jin can be seen doing a range of styles of dance, including lyrical, ballet, jazz, and hip-hop.

Jin has grown as a dancer, and can attribute much of her success to her fellow dancers at the studio, specifically twelfth-graders Kat Gaukhman and Alexa Mollod. “She really opened up and I started to see her personality come out more in her dancing,” Mollod said.

Dance plays a large role in Jin’s life, but the part that means the most to her is the way that it makes her feel. “My favorite part about dance is the part where you get to show your own story without even talking,” Jin said.

Of course, having this much fun also requires hard work and dedication. Jin does a great deal of physical conditioning, including leg lifts and stretching. Clearly, dance takes time to master, but as far as she’s concerned, it is time well spent. She attends dance class 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

However, Jin says all of the hard work pays off. She often takes part in performances such as the annual recitals for her company, Dance Artistry. Jin has also danced in both “Cinderella” and “Beauty and the Beast” themed recitals. Jin was supposed to take part in her first competition this May, but had an unfortunate accident, hurting her arm, which caused her to be unable to attend. Despite this, she is looking forward to a chance to compete soon.

Jin has hopes for a dance career, planning to be a professional ballet dancer. Her goal is to earn a scholarship for dance and attend either Harvard or Yale. Jin has a bright future in dance, continuing to amaze her friends and family with her enthusiasm and dedication for the sport.

Fifth-grader has ‘natural’ talent
by Kasumi Wade
For four long years, practicing violin has fulfilled fifth-grader Ava Nebel’s life. After being inspired by her neighbor in Indiana, who played the viola, she instantly fell in love with music. “I immediately liked it. The sound was so beautiful and calming,” Nebel said.

She discussed with her mom, Kelly Nebel, and decided the violin was right for her. “I suggested the violin because it’s a beautiful, challenging instrument,” Kelly Nebel said. After just a few weeks, Nebel began taking lessons with a violin instructor.

Currently, Nebel practices with Amy Marbut at Elizabeth Farrell Music, who she has been working with for three years. “I have tried working with other people, but I always go back to working with Amy. She makes playing super fun, and I really enjoy working with her,” Nebel said. Nebel takes lessons at Elizabeth Farrell Music once a week for one hour, but practices at least fifteen minutes every day at home.

When it comes to presenting her skills to an audience, she plays at a recital twice a year, having performed at eight recitals in total. Nebel prepares by going through songs with Marbut, and also by herself to make sure she has the notes just right. “My favorite part is always when I finish playing and the audience applauds. It feels like I have accomplished something amazing,” Nebel said.

Fortunately, she remembers things easily. After practicing a song just once or twice, Nebel has the notes down. “Especially when it is a song I really like, I can listen to the song a few times and practice the rhythm of the notes, then I basically know the song,” she said.

Nebel is currently working toward her Christmas recital, where she will be playing “Jingle Bell Rock.”

This young performer’s love of the violin is clearly evident and sure to lead to a bright future in music or otherwise. “I believe the violin gives Ava the opportunity to learn some of life’s toughest lessons. For example, hard work trumps talent, perseverance brings success, and teaches that it is okay to fail because it will make you stronger,” Kelly Nebel said.
Student gets her ‘kicks’

by Riley Board

She may be small, but fifth-grader Nandani Patel is a powerful martial artist. Patel has been participating in Taekwondo for seven years.

Patel began Taekwondo at just three years old after observing her five-year-old cousin practicing. “I would always go and see how he was doing,” Patel said.

Patel practices Taekwondo at Total Martial Arts and Fitness in North Port, under the guidance of instructor Tim Stiger. She is currently a Second Degree Black Belt which she was awarded after promotion tests.

She has had the opportunity to participate in several competitions at her martial arts facility, including breaking boards and poomsae, an arranged sequence of martial arts, in which she has won multiple first and second place awards.

Patel has been inspired by her own challenges to improve in Taekwondo. “I like kicking really high and breaking boards, but the thing is that I’m very tiny so it’s hard for me to kick really high,” Patel said. “But I would always see all of the other people kick really high, and it has always pushed me to try to be better.”

One of the highlights from her time in Taekwondo is also related to this skill. “My favorite moment was when I kicked a board and it flew all the way up and hit the ceiling,” Patel said.

For Patel, Taekwondo is about family and friends. Patel’s mother, Dharmi Patel, has been a supporter of her involvement. “When I first put her in Taekwondo it wasn’t so she had something to do. It was to help her be more disciplined because that’s what it’s all about,” she said. “People’s first impression of Taekwondo is fighting and martial arts, but it encompasses more than that. It teaches courtesy, respect, integrity, perseverance and self control.”

As for the future, Patel wants to continue doing Taekwondo, although she also wants to allow herself to explore other interests. “I really want to keep doing Taekwondo, become a Fourth Degree [black belt], but I also want to do other activities,” Patel said.

Nandani’s mother said, “This is her passion and I can see her progressing in martial arts as she gets older.”

Fifth-grader Nandani Patel (right) is pictured with her fellow competitors. She has participated in Taekwondo for seven years.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DHARMI PATEL

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Rolling into bowling

Whether you’re going out with friends or planning a birthday party, bowling is always a hit. A delight for both advanced players and beginners, this classic game requires accuracy and coordination, as well as a competitive spirit. After the initial fun, you can always relax at the arcade or sip drinks at the soda fountain. The Match has reviewed a selection of venues, each promising the highest-quality experience, sure to be right up your alley.

Sarasota Lanes

by Ella Hechlik

Fun awaits around every corner at the Sarasota Lanes bowling alley with classic foods, comfortable lounge areas and arcade games. Offering features like black lights to create a unique atmosphere, Sarasota Lanes provides a great experience with amazing deals.

Located on Fruitville Road, this bowling alley has loads to offer. Running since the 1950s, it’s a family operated and owned business. Open seven days a week, Sarasota Lanes offers different prices and times for the various services they provide, so it’s important to check the website before planning the trip.

As for the interior, flashing 80s video games adorn the left wall, while state of the art lanes and machinery stretch across the back. No music blares through the speakers and the sound of bowling balls hitting the pins echoes throughout the room. The staff is always there to help with any questions or concerns, and bowling is always a blast. Sarasota Lanes is perfect for a fun family outing, or hanging with friends.

On Mondays, public bowling is from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., while Tuesdays offer public bowling from 10 a.m. to midnight. They also offer “Two dollar Tuesdays” where bowling games are only $2. Wednesday and Thursday both have public bowling from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., but only Very Important Bowler (VIB) lanes, the first 12 out of 36 lanes offered, are available on Thursday. These lanes are lit up and offer seating as well as food and drink delivery. On Fridays, both public bowling and “Cosmic Bowling,” where bowlers can play unlimited games, are offered from 10 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Come the weekend, “Family Fun Night” is Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., which includes two games of Cosmic Bowling and shoe rentals. Regular public bowling is also available on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. While on Sunday, public bowling is open to all from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There are various food options offered and bowling equipment is available to rent. The snack bar, which has been a hit for over 50 years, serves classic foods such as hot dogs, turkey paninis, club sandwiches and BLTs all for under $10. Another great feature is McCorvey’s Bowling Shop, or “The Complete Bowlers Pro Shop.” Located inside Sarasota Lanes, this shop sells bowling equipment, and employees are willing to answer all bowling questions.

The atmosphere of Sarasota Lanes is much like an arcade, with lots to do and great music. With black-lights and big leather couches, Sarasota Lanes is a great place to have fun and enjoy a relaxing day with your friends.

Sarasota Lanes is located at 2250 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34237.

Rating: 5/5 Torches
Upon entering Evie’s Tavern and Grill, you are welcomed with the lingering aroma of pizza and hamburgers, gentle chatter filling your ears, and neon-lit TV screens lighting up your face. Other than the classic food options and the lounge area, Evie’s offers bowling for all of its customers.

With its home on Main St. in Sarasota, this Evie’s location offers two lanes of bowling, unlike its sister location on Bee Ridge that boasts a mini-golf course. The atmosphere of Evie’s is light and sporty with a clean, well-lit interior and an almost rustic feel with its brick walls and wooden furniture. In addition to the usual indoor seating, outdoor seating is offered, featuring comfortable seating for those who prefer the fresh air.

Once ready to order, a variety of classic American foods are offered from pizza to salad to burgers. Contrasting flavors from the sweets of the ice cream parlor to the spice of the chicken wings really exemplify the variety this location offers.

As for the bowling, Evie’s sports two lanes that must be reserved prior to your visit. The two main options are categorized for those who just want to bowl and those who want the full experience. The first option is simply renting a lane for a mere $10 an hour per person. The second option is for those who would like to experience everything, which is renting a lane as well as buying food, drinks, and pizza to enjoy by the lane.

Evie’s can also support larger parties in situations such as birthday events. However, with so few lanes, make sure to book ahead. If you are interested in bowling, Evie’s is a nice place for beginners due to its less competitive feel and a helpful staff who are always available to help and give advice.

Overall, Evie’s offers a nice sports-bar-like experience with a variety of activities and experiences for everyone.

Evie’s Tavern and Grill is located at 1560 Main St, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Related Keywords: Evie’s Bowling, Sarasota, Florida, Dining, Bowling, Food Review

Rating: 4/5 Torches
Sixth-grader hits it out of the park

by Leo Gordon

Running from base to base as the crowd cheers him on, sixth-grader Sawyer Grantham is reaching home plate in his second year of baseball. After hearing about the program from a friend, Grantham decided to start playing baseball at Twin Lakes Park.

Grantham was introduced to baseball by his friend, sixth-grader Brodie Whitlock, who started throwing the baseball back and forth during their free time. Grantham realized he really enjoyed it and signed up for little league. He currently plays with the Sarasota Majors team associated with the Sarasota Little League Program. “Sawyer and I have been friends for eleven years and it’s fun to both play at Sarasota Little League,” Whitlock, who had already been involved in the Sarasota Little League program, said.

The Sarasota Little League, based at Twin Lakes Park, is a non-profit organization in the area. The league is affiliated with the national Little League Association, which has been organizing little leagues internationally since 1939. The league is dedicated to instilling leadership, character, courage and loyalty to as many children as possible through baseball.

Grantham practices for two hours twice a week on Mondays and Tuesdays. An average practice consists of practicing technique and working to improve. Grantham’s team currently plays games on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, with his favorite position being center field, an outfielder who plays defense in the center field.

Grantham’s love of the sport is shared with others too. “I have always enjoyed watching Sawyer play sports. He is very athletic and loves to compete, and I hope he continues to enjoy baseball,” Summer Grantham, his mother, said.

Last year, Grantham and the Sarasota Majors won the Sarasota Little League championship for the AAA division at Twin Lakes Park. “My favorite memory from baseball is when I hit a homerun. It was inside the park. The other team made errors and we ran the bases. It felt pretty good,” Grantham said.

Like many players do, Grantham enjoys following local sports teams and athletes. His favorite baseball player is pitcher Chris Archer, who plays for the Tampa Bay Rays, his favorite team. “I plan to continue playing baseball through middle and high school and maybe even professionally,” Grantham said.

Student shoots for his ‘goal’-ie

by Ryan Wasserman

Fifth-grader Yeonwoo Kang kicks his way into another year on the soccer field. Kang has been playing soccer for seven years, as a forward for four years and, more recently, a goal keeper for three.

He started playing soccer as a 3-year-old and quickly took a liking to the forward position, the offensive player who aims to score the most goals. Kang mostly plays goalkeeper now, enjoying the variety included in the position. “I like that I can actually use my hands and punt,” Kang said.

Competitively or for fun, Kang has proven his soccer skills, as many of his friends have complimented his abilities. “He’s a pretty good player, a great goalie, and just a really nice guy,” fifth-grader Jack Damico, a fellow soccer player, said. Kang and Damico play soccer with a group of fellow students during fields regularly throughout the school week.

Kang has also tried other sports like football, but found he didn’t enjoy it as much as soccer. “I’m better with my feet,” Kang said. He has been playing at Fusion Soccer in Northport for the previous three years, as well as at other locations such as i9 or the YMCA programs before this.

Kang practices from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and plays hour-long games on Saturdays. During a normal practice, the team first warms up with exercises like jumping jacks. The team proceeds to work on activities that sharpen their reaction time and improve general skills. He plays many positions during team practice, but Kang also hones his goalkeeping skills at home.

When Kang was seven-and eight-years-old, his team won second place in the tournament at the end of the season for two consecutive years. Their team placed third a year later.

Kang says he will continue to play soccer moving forward, because of his love for the sport. “My favorite part is just having a good time—passing, good assists, and scoring goals,” Kang said.
Sixth-grader swims in ‘synch’

by Noelle Bencie

Dedication and persistence are just a few of the qualities sixth-grader Maya Velazquez shows through the legacy she carries in synchronized swimming. Velazquez has been in synchronized swimming for the past three years with the Sharks Synchro Swim Team at the YMCA and has won multiple competitions with her team all over Florida.

It comes as no surprise that Velazquez succeeds in synchronized swimming. Her mother was a synchronized swimmer herself for the Brazilian National Team and swam for over 15 years, winning national titles in Brazil.

Inspired by her mother, Maya Velazquez began swimming on the YMCA Sharks team at age 5. However, she eventually wanted to expand her swimming skills and learned to dive. Wanting to follow in her mother’s footsteps, she switched to synchronized swimming four years later. "It is a very creative sport and it helps you with your athletic abilities," Velazquez said.

Velazquez soon became dedicated to the sport. She practices three to four times a week from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. During their practices, the Shark Synchro team performs a series of in and out of water stretches to start the practices. They usually practice a variety of skills needed for competitions or shows.

The Sharks Synchro Swim Team, consisting of 20 to 25 swimmers, competes in various competitions around Florida, and has qualified for Nationals every year since 2008. Competing in Miami, Orlando, Largo, and Ft. Lauderdale, the team has taken multiple first place medals and several high ranking positions. Velazquez and her team compete in the 11 to 15 year old age group, and perform various routines to try to ensure the gold. These consist of solo, duet, trio, and team routines.

Velazquez has the dream of earning a scholarship to Stanford University for synchronized swimming, and, eventually, of joining the United States National Team to compete in the Olympics. "Her dedication and determination to the sport is very high. She is always dedicated to the moment and that is very hard to find in any young athlete," Erin Bacon, the Synchro swim team head coach, said.

Velazquez has big dreams ahead of her, and with a lot of hard work and persistence, she believes she has the potential to live out her dreams to the fullest.

Student goes hardcore with parkour

by Naina Chauhan

Fourth-grader Maverick Interaino is a modern day ninja. Interaino devotes hours each week to practicing parkour, a disciplined sport originating from military level obstacle courses. Interaino has been involved in parkour for four years at Rad Parkour.

Interaino was introduced to the sport by his brothers sixth-grader Max Interaino and eighth-grader Mel Interaino. The three brothers all work with private coach Josh Hill at the gym. "Parkour is really fun on its own, but it's even better since I get to do it with my brothers," Max said.

Interestingly, prior to starting parkour, Interaino did gymnastics for three years, which helped him learn techniques used in both sports.

Every Saturday, Coach Hill works with Interaino and his brothers for two hours. Their practices start with warm-ups such as stretches and rolls before moving on to complex flips. At the gym they use many different types of equipment like cushions, platforms, walls, and mats when practicing.

Interaino’s favorite part of parkour is doing flips. He has learned countless types of flips which he can do off of walls, while jumping and rolling. Some flips that Interaino practices include the Russian front flip, Arabian flip and a dash.

Interaino’s skills have been so impressive that he has convinced some of his friends to join the sport. Fourth-graders Marcus Calderon and Peter Daoud are close friends of Interaino and have joined him in his parkour endeavors. “[Interaino] works really hard and has always been a great friend. He is also determined and focused, but he still likes to joke around,” Calderon said.

In the future, Interaino plans on continuing parkour through high school. His goal is to be as skilled as his older brothers and eventually become even better. He has also found that it is a very useful sport. "Parkour can help you get around. It is also a great form of defense," Interaino said.
[student submissions]

You’ve got Mail!

Pine View’s literacy program, Up with Books, hopes to help low-income families succeed academically. Fifteen Pine View classrooms were matched with an Alta Vista Elementary counterpart to send book donations to. Students involved in the initiative have been assigned a pen pal at Alta Vista, becoming close to their partners, knowing that their donations are making a real impact on the community.

by Kaison Veltri, grade 5
Dear Dominic,

Hi, I am Kaison I will be your Book Buddy. You are one of the few kids to have two book buddies. Do you like reading? Because I do, and my favorite book is “Blood on the River.” You know when you read, you can learn a lot. Also, you can feel like you are going on an adventure with the people in the book. I really like playing sports. For example, I like basketball, football and Jiu Jitsu. I have some questions for you: What is your favorite color, sport and book? Guess what? You are going to get your favorite book, but first your teacher has to approve it. You will also get a letter from Jack, your other book buddy. I am very excited to be your pen pal this year. Write back soon.

Your pen pal,
Kaison

by Katherine Triola, grade 5
Dear Karinah,

My name is Katherine I will be your pen pal this year. I love to read, and I hope I can inspire you to love to read, too. I love to read because reading is an exciting learning experience. I also know that books are a valuable importance in your life, and to be able to read is important especially when you grow older. My favorite book is “The World According to Humphrey.” What is your favorite book? Choose a book you really want to read, and approve the book with your teacher then tell her the book title. We will send the book you want, and you can read and keep it. Something I love to do in my free time is going outside and playing soccer. What do you like to do in your free time? I am very excited to write letters to you. Write back soon!

Your friend,
Katherine
Who invented the rocket?

Question submitted by fourth-grader Niranjana Jayendran

By Elizabeth Hopkins

For millennia, humans have had an instinctual drive to build, to engineer. Our desire to see beyond ourselves and uncover the mysteries of the universe is undeniable. Rockets, defined as flying devices propelled by hot gases released from their rear engines, are a testament to these distinct ambitions.

When examining the history of rockets, one must first look back to Imperial China. According to the University of Washington, gunpowder-powered rockets were developed in the Song Dynasty, a specific series of rulers from the same family, during the 13th Century. These primitive projectiles led to colorful firecrackers, and eventually incendiary weapons such as cannonballs. Spurred by military conquests, the technology spread across Asia and Europe.

By the 16th Century, however, rockets became obsolete as weapons of war, though fireworks, essentially a type of rocket, grew steadily in popularity. According to the Encyclopedia of Alternative Energy, German scientist Johann Schmidlap, invented the “step rocket,” a multi-staged mechanism for lifting fireworks to even greater heights. Basically, the first stage requires a larger rocket to burn out before the second stage, when a smaller rocket continues to advance in altitude. Today, Schmidlap’s process is elemental to space rocket function, in which a smaller rocket is always lifted by a larger rocket.

In more recent times, American engineer and physicist Robert Goddard made critical advances. After significant trial and error, Goddard built and successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket in 1926. When he was a boy, science fiction was all the rage. Driven by writers such as H.G. Wells and Jules Verne, Goddard became fascinated with space travel.

Goddard’s career is marked with scientific achievement, exploring both the exciting potentials and practicalities of rocket construction. Now considered the father of modern rocket propulsion, Goddard inspired the design as we know it today.

Regarding space exploration, most progress has been quite recent. In the 1960s, a competition, the Space Race, ensued between the Soviet Union and the United States based on aerospace capability, the effort which is applied to engineering space flight. In terms of technology, the Space Race was responsible for paving the way for many of these breakthroughs.

According to NASA History Office, the launch of Soviet satellite Sputnik 1 Oct. 4, 1957, was a crowning achievement, initiating the rivalry between the two countries. According to NASA, the satellite weighed only 83.6 kilograms, 183.9 pounds, and was only about the size of a beach ball, taking just 98 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path. Mobilizing this project among others, Sergei Korolev was the lead Soviet rocket engineer during the Space Race and an influential pioneer in astronautics, the practice of navigation beyond Earth’s atmosphere. This time in world history allowed rocketry and space exploration to be legitimized in the public eye, spurring great development in the years to come.

Because of the rocket’s surprisingly early roots, it is impossible to pin the achievement to a single person. The now vital technology was slowly developed over time, relying on the unique and brilliant insights of countless scientists.
Student doesn’t ‘show up’

by Ben Nicholson

Nothing was noteworthy about fourth-grader Cam O’Falaj, but that was only because of his military-grade, camo-pattern cargo shorts. With these shorts, O’Falaj came to realize the true power behind them, and how he could navigate the depths of Pine View completely undetected.

Every morning, O’Falaj strapped on his shorts, comprised with greens as deep and mysterious as Pine View’s own forest, allowing him to blend into everyday campus life. He walked through his day just like every other Pine View student, but not a single soul knew where he was. “Every time I talk to my friends, they jolt at first,” the disembodied voice of O’Falaj said. “They have no clue I’m there.”

O’Falaj first discovered this incredible power just a couple of weeks into the school year. Tired of his usual blue and gold, he decided to switch it up a little bit. To his surprise, he arrived on campus more covert than Pine View’s principal. “I went from class to class just like normal,” O’Falaj said. “Then, I realized no one could see me!”

Unfortunately, soon after, O’Falaj began to abuse his power. Although harmless pranks—jokingly interrupting his teacher, Ms. Bird, and laughing as she struggled to find the culprit—he soon realized the repercussions of his actions. “There was one fateful day when everything changed,” O’Falaj said.

O’Falaj’s class was taking a vocabulary test; horrified, he realized that he had neglected to study. “That’s when I saw that the answers for the test were on the teacher’s desk!” O’Falaj said, “I thought—if I could just get there, then maybe…”

Wearing his cargo pants, O’Falaj dashed to the front. He waited patiently until his teacher got up from her chair. Slowly, he approached. Right when he was about to sit, he stopped, feeling completely ashamed.

“I’ve gone too far,” O’Falaj murmured. “This is wrong.”

To O’Falaj’s surprise, his teacher looked up immediately, as she continued to pace around the room. “O’Falaj, get back in your seat,” Ms. Bird said calmly.

“Wait, you can see me?” O’Falaj gasped.

“Of course, I always could. Teachers see everything,” Ms. Bird said with a grin. “I’ve let it slide in the past—your little antics, but it seems that now I’ve caught you red-handed. Cam, it’s time to hang up those shorts for good.”

So, that night, O’Falaj did just that. “Even though I’ll never forgive myself for what I was about to do, I now know that shorts like those are far too powerful for any man to control,” O’Falaj said.

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Halloween Joke Box

1. Who won the skeleton beauty pageant?
   No Body!

2. Where do baby ghosts go during the day?
   Dayscare centers!

3. What does Tweety say on Halloween?
   Trick or tweet!

4. Where do phantoms go swimming?
   The Dead Sea!

5. What’s a ghost’s favorite fruit?
   Boo-berries!
It’s Oompa-Loompa approved!

by Madison Holmes

Completing school work can be stressful, but for some students, this just got easier. Last month, Sarasota County teamed up with various local stores to create the “Golden Homework Pass Hunt.” This was established to raise funds for upcoming school events, allowing a few lucky students to lighten their work load. Three golden homework passes were hidden inside varieties of smooth chocolate bars from all across the county. Luckily, The Match was able to interview each winner and learn about their journey to success.

Fifth-grader Ree C. Cup was the first student who had encountered one of the mysterious golden homework passes. “I had no idea what it was. The flimsy foil paper was at the bottom of my backpack for about a week until I finally realized its value,” Cup said. He later went on to use his homework pass to alleviate himself of one week’s vocabulary exercises. “I performed poorly on that week’s vocab quiz, but it was totally worth the extra hour of Mario Kart,” Cup said.

As time passed, more and more people joined in on the hunt. Third-grader Tootsy Role, however, did not even mean to discover her homework pass. “I found the chocolate bar melting out of its wrapper in a grocery store parking lot. I was about to walk by when I noticed a golden glimmer coming from it,” Role said. She had recently heard of the hunt on the announcement the previous morning, so seeing the pass the next day brought her excitement.

After only two short weeks, all of the passes had been found and chocolate bar sales in Sarasota County had increased by 200 percent. “I think I bought a total of 11 cases of King-Size Hershey Bars over four days!” fourth-grader Laff E. Taff said.

Unfortunately, the last winner of one of the golden homework passes did not feel comfortable sharing her journey with The Match. This is due to stress-related issues caused by rigorous attempts to find the pass. Although not much is known, it is understood that she has put her homework pass to good use, as have all the other winners, saving it for if she forgets her homework in the future.

Ultimately, this fundraiser was extremely successful—the school board was shocked at the total of $123,456 raised in just two weeks. “Next time, we’ll make sure to choose a healthier snack,” Superintendent Skit Iles said.

Dogs prepare for ‘furricane’

by Annie Hassan

As I opened my eyes and trotted downstairs, I knew that today was going to be different. After three years of living with my owner Mark, daily events were always the same: wake up, eat, go out, sleep and repeat. However, while I was lying on my dog bed, Mark, breaking our normal routine, scooped me up and tossed me into the car, which was jam packed with supplies from home.

While Mark was waiting for the street light to turn green, he looked toward me and said, “Hurricane Irma’s headed our way, so we’re headed to Aunt Jeanine’s. Her house is the safest place right now.”

Drat! That’s where my arch-nemesis, Doug the Pug Jr., lived. Five years ago, he betrayed me when he peed on the trampoline, making me look like the culprit. I shuddered at the very thought of looking at his face; however, I was already strapped into the car and craving a decent kibble breakfast. I barked in reluctant agreement.

After some heavy traffic, we arrived at Aunt Jeanine’s house a few hours later. I had yet to encounter my bitter rival, Doug the Pug Jr., or eat for that matter, and I was famished. “Oh no, it seems as if I forgot your bowl, Biscuit,” Mark said.

My stomach twisted at the terrible news, but not as much as when I heard Aunt Jeanine cheerfully exclaim, “It’s okay. Doug the Pug Jr. and Biscuit can share!” as he came trotting around the corner. Oh, this could not be happening. As the food cluttered into the bottom of the metallic bowl, I realized it was my absolute favorite — generic Walmart brand. “Wait, you like this too?” I asked Doug the Pug Jr. His ears livened up in agreement to my question. Well, he might not be so bad after all.

Finally, the storm had passed, and I had decided to forgive Doug the Pug Jr. for my being wrongfully convicted of peeing on the trampoline so many years ago. I won’t lie that there may have been a cuddle here and there for support. I gave Doug the Pug Jr. one last high-paw and returned to my usual routine as if nothing had happened.
Getting to know Guidance  
by Sarah Mihm  
The Match introduces Kelly Hawking, the new sixth- and seventh-grade school counselor, and she is excited to meet her new students.

**H:** Where are you from? Where have you worked before?

**M:** I am from Pittsburg, Pa. and I worked for Albert Gallatin Area School District in Pennsylvania for fifteen years.

**H:** Why did you move to Florida?

**M:** My family and I frequented this area for the last 10 or 11 years. I have family in Sarasota, so I have been traveling to Sarasota myself since I was 16. We decided before my daughter went into kindergarten that it would be good to move.

**H:** Why did you decide to be a guidance counselor?

**M:** I was a teacher for seven years in Pittsburg. I taught high school English prior to becoming a school counselor, and I found that a lot of students seemed to gravitate towards me when they had questions.

**H:** How are you enjoying the Pine View community?

**M:** It is lovely. I am enjoying the students, the parents, the faculty, everyone is very warm and welcoming. I feel very comfortable.

**H:** What are your hobbies?

**M:** I am very much into health and fitness. I coach part time, and I have been doing that for the last four years. I like to create clean eating recipes and meal plans, and I share those.

**H:** Who is your inspiration?

**M:** There was a specific school counselor when I was in high school. She was the pillar of our school, and I always looked up to her for what school counseling represents.

**H:** If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

**M:** Organized, determined and energetic.

**M:** I would say organized, determined and energetic. I am very organized when it comes to my work and what I am doing on a day to day basis. I have realized over the years that failure is a part of life, so you have to have determination to go the next step and never give up. Energetic [in terms of] taking care of myself, and I am like my daughter in that I am a little bit of a spit fire.

**H:** I hope to achieve in your new position?

**M:** To maintain integrity and a warm environment. I am looking forward to being温暖 environment. I am looking forward to being a warm environment. I am looking forward to being a warm environment. I am looking forward to being a warm environment.

**H:** What do you hope to achieve in your new position?

**M:** I hope to achieve a wonderful rapport with the student body, parents and faculty. I would like to work with the students more on career and post-secondary exploration options because middle school is the prime time to have self-discovery.

**H:** With the beginning of a new school year, many things can change—who you hang out with, the difficulty of classes you take, or even the type of student you decide to be. Your focus from year to year can change, from being academically focused to making extracurricular your priority. Each year is a new opportunity to work on what means the most to you, but it's just as important to make time for yourself.

Being a student at Pine View can put you under a lot of pressure that makes you feel overwhelmed; however, as I grow up, I am coming to realize that it is in my power to control how I feel, in my power to take a step back, and in my power to refocus my responsibilities. It is in my power to feel balanced.

Now as a junior in high school, which is one of the busiest years at Pine View, I have many more responsibilities than I have had in the past. Juggling AP classes, SAT preparation, my job and extracurriculars, on and off campus, can sometimes feel overwhelming. Despite this, it's still important to find a balance between the work and the play, the focus and the relaxation, the time spent on your future and the time you spend enjoying right now. This can be hard to do in a competitive atmosphere but it is also one of the most important skills to learn when you're young.

Mental health is a balance of performing hard work and rewarding hard work. This year I had to make the difficult decision to drop a class I really enjoyed. Not because I couldn't do it, but because I know next year I can make it my priority and do it even better. Now with more time to myself, I can focus better on my other subjects, whereas if I hadn't dropped that class, my other classes wouldn't have received the attention they deserve, but would have suffered from overextending myself. By making this decision I put myself back in control, when it was starting to feel the other way around.

Everyone is different but everyone can find balance. You have to know when to take a break. For your mind to grow, it needs to rest just as much as it needs to be challenged. 

**Haleigh Brown,**  
**Match Editor-in-Chief**