

SPARK

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**Eighth Grade Memories
FEATURES**

**A Fond Farewell to Staff
NEWS**

**Aidan's Simple DIY
HUMOR**

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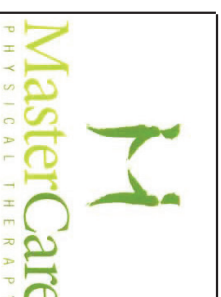


The Torch Website:
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Front Page Photo: Eighth-graders battle for supremacy in tug-of-war during middle school spirit day.
PHOTO BY: AIDAN HOEY



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Farewell Teachers

Jack Francis

by Sid Sharma
Spork Editor

Known to be one of the most enthusiastic, and open teachers here on campus, middle-school English teacher Jack Francis has, in his five years here, left an impression on his students. Feeling it was time for a new challenge and a new environment, Francis made his leaving date official in March after being offered the opportunity to teach at another Sarasota County School Sarasota Suncoast Academy- (SSA).

Born and raised in Florida, Francis grew up with his parents being passionate teachers. Francis knew he would eventually become a

teacher; it was only a matter of when. "I always thought I was good at teaching and, working with kids in general" he said. Francis eventu-

“He was one of the greatest teachers I’ve ever had.”
Blake Lechler,
grade 8

ally attended the University of South Florida for four years, where he earned his teaching degree.

Beverly Templeton

by Rehana Qadmir

Spork Editor

After nearly ten years of dedication and hard work towards her teaching career, middle school teacher Beverly Templeton is leaving Pine View to explore new corners of the world. Templeton was initially a Pine View parent and is finishing off as an influential teacher who will be remembered by the people she taught and worked with.

With her love of science, Templeton went to Wellesley, a women’s college in Boston, Mass. Her fondness of the environment encouraged her to take environmental science classes and, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Biology.

Francis spent his years at Pine View Teaching Language Arts and Civics for seventh grade, and strives to help his students. "I really do love my students, the days go by quickly, and I never dread going to work, he said. The students and I always have interesting discussions, I always loved the back and forth the students and I have. I mean I have the best kids you could want."

In the future, Francis hopes to incorporate a similar teaching style at that which he had at Pine View to SSA. Francis is very excited for this new adventure, and he said the main reason was he wanted to teach with his

the environment with her G3 club. "This year, I am learning the ropes of G3 from her and find that her passion for those causes is contagious," fellow seventh- grade science teacher Hali Flahaven said.

Along with help from students, teachers and parents, Templeton’s work with sustainability at Pine View helped honor the school by becoming acknowledged as a Department of Education Green Ribbon School. This award is given to schools that demonstrate that they are healthy and environmentally sustainable. Many of her current and former students recounted Tem-

pleton’s kind and passionate demeanor. Along with teaching about what she

loves, Templeton enjoyed watching her student excel, grow and apply life science to the real world. "She has a cheerful personality and was helpful to everyone," eighth- grader Sarah Hassan said.

With her retirement, Templeton plans on spending time with her children, taking it easy, and traveling to places like Iceland, and the Baha and Yucatan Peninsulas. When asked what her words to the teacher who follows after her would be she said, "Enjoy your students and always see the best. Come from a loving heart."



Photo By Ben Gordon

but I couldn’t pass up this opportunity."

When asked what his favorite Pine View memory was, Francis said it was when the current seventh-grade class threw him a surprise party. "It was thoughtful of them," he said. "I’ve never had a class do that for me before."

Francis’ former students remember him as a teacher who remained open-minded in his ways of teaching in their learning process.

"He was flexible in his methods of teaching and tailored it to whatever would help his students be most successful," eighth-grader Blake Lechler, said. "He was one of the greatest teachers I’ve ever had."



Photo By Gwen Petersen

2120



STUDENTS GO THE EXTRA DEGREE

Seventh grader keeps it up

By Frankie Grasso-Clay

From taking advanced math classes to running on the Pine View track team, Mahitha Ramachandran has a busy schedule for a seventh grader. When Ramachandran isn't competing at a track meet, she is out volunteering. Whether it is helping out teachers in their classrooms or assisting in events like the Special Olympics, Ramachandran keeps busy.

Mahitha Ramachandran has won many awards since being at Pine View. In the fifth grade, Ramachandran won the 212^o award and earned Proud Python.

"I was surprised that I got the award. I wasn't expecting [the 212^o award]," she said.

In sixth grade she made honor roll for all her classes. This year, Ramachandran won the middle school youth volunteer award. On top of all that, Ramachandran also takes advanced math. She takes Algebra

I, which is usually an eighth-grade course at Pine View.

"They [eighth graders] don't treat me different," she said.

Ramachandran said that the overall experience of being apart of Pine View's track team is great, except maybe the time commitment.

"In sixth grade, it was hard to get up in the morning, but when seventh grade came, it got easier to get up. Also, track meets are on Thursdays, so that can interfere with the time spent to do your homework," she said.

Ramachandran participates in a lot of extra-curricular activities. She recently joined the Korean martial art of Taekwondo. She also devotes much of her time to art. Whether its drawing or painting, Ramachandran says she has a passion for art and considers herself an artist. In addition, Ramachandran is a member of the Pine View's "Build-Or" club.

"We are traveling to Haiti at

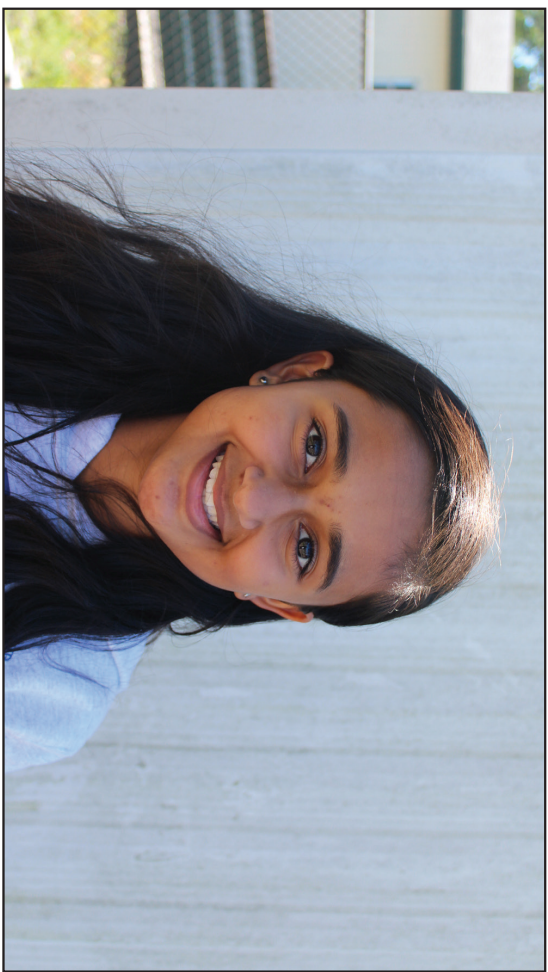


Photo by Frankie Grasso-Clay

Seventh-grader Mahitha Ramachandran keeps up with extracurricular activities in addition to her academics at Pine View. Ramachandran keeps up with advanced classes in addition to extracurricular activities.

the beginning of June. I am excited for it," she said.

Her favorite memory from

all the activities she does is when her Pine View team won every single event at Math Counts, a

math club at Pine View.

"It was really incredible," she said.

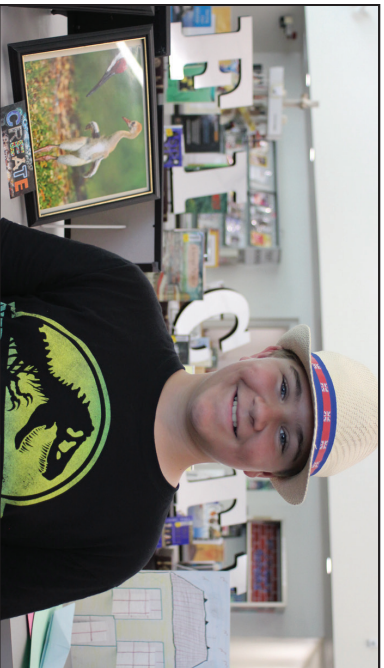


Photo (top left) by Frankie Grasso-Clay and (bottom left and right) Jake Turner

TOP LEFT: Sixth-grader Turner poses with his photograph of a baby sandhill crane, featured in the Pine View Media Center.
 BOTTOM LEFT: A photo of an alligator by Jake Turner. RIGHT: A willet photo by Jake Turner.

Sixth grader takes his shot

By Sid Sharma

Sixth-grader Jake Turner has received the 212° award twice here at Pine View.

The first 212° award, Turner received in second grade. Turner said he was not expecting to win the award. "I had no idea, and it was really cool. My teacher nom-

inated me without me knowing," he said.

Not only does Turner go the extra degree at school, but he also makes effort to participate in his community. Turner participates in wrapping gifts for orphans, which is an event his neighbors launch every year. "We try to make it every year and it's a fun

event that helps others," he said.

Turner's second 212° award was this year in sixth grade. Turner admits he wasn't expecting to win the award again. He earned it for his photography. On his eighth birthday, Turner got his first camera. "I was really excited. I did not think that my parents would buy such a nice

camera. When I first got the camera, I took pictures of everything in the house. I was truly elated," Turner said.

Turner has won numerous awards including the Oscar Scherer park photography contest, and the Friends of Payne's Prairie photography contest twice. Turner primarily focuses

on nature and wildlife photos. "When taking photos I try to capture the essence and emotion of the animals," he said.

Turner also placed first in the best mammal photo, and second best landscape photo. Turner said he would continue to pursue his passion in photography.

“At 211 degrees, water is hot. At 212 degrees,

it boils. And with boiling water, comes steam.

And with steam, you can power a train.”



Upcoming Construction

By Deacon Stanley

Spark Writer

Many new plans have been discussed to improve the school lately.

The biggest project is going to be a new structure behind the Batman bench in the fenced off area. The new three-story building will hold forty-three classrooms. The builders will break ground in 2019-2020 and complete the project in an estimated two years.

This new building will replace all the portables currently on campus. Originally, the plan was a two-story building, and then the plan turned into a three-story building. The middle-schoolers will be using this new structure. However, prior to the

new building being started, the purple science building will be gutted, widened and remodeled. The shell of the purple building will remain, but the lockers will be removed, and the rooms will expand into the old locker area. The school board is unsure if any additional locker space will be added because of the number of unused lockers.

The newly renovated purple buildings will have lab benches and new equipment. Yellow building teachers will move back into their building next year. The original purple science building renovation talk was discussed when the HVAC conversation came about. The goal is to have every class in a permanent structure, so portables will

no longer be necessary.

All the high school science classes will be relocated into the portables. "As soon as you guys get out that gate, [when school ends] we're there," said Assistant Principal Sue Fair, about renovations. The high school science teachers will be leaving their classrooms, so the purple building can start renovation as soon as possible. The teachers in the yellow building will be moved back into their rooms next school year.

Fair said that it is planned that all the current construction will be finished during the winter break of the 2018-2019 school year. Since the high school curriculum is more involved with chemistry, and more hands on, the high school science



PHOTO BY DEACON STANLEY

Photo of the signs of construction around campus

teachers need more room, so "the tech facility" all the and since the high school HVAC will be replaced. All science curriculum requires more equipment, the high school science teachers need more space. In building

Safety First

By Peyton Harris

Spark Editor

This year, the Safety and Security department of Sarasota County was granted \$25 million for new security measures across school campuses. A portion of the money will be used to focus in on mental health in students.

Officials have been undergoing the process of evaluating schools in the district according to the Model Based Vulnerability Assessment (MBVA). According to Michael Anders, director of district Safety and Security, all the schools in the district will

be installing microphones at the entry pads, so visitors can communicate with the front desks. **Editor's note: A previous version incorrectly stated that the district would be installing listening devices. We regret the error.**

All teachers will be required to sign up for a communication app, much like Remind. At Pine View, bullet-resistant glass will be installed in optimal locations to ensure that in a worst-case scenario, there would be enough time for police to arrive and apprehend the threat.

The security and safety

department has hired two criminal analysts to determine individual schools' risk for mental health issues. "If you see something, say something," said Elementary Assistant Principal Alison Rini, who is the head of the Pine View Safety Committee. "The best thing [to be safe] is for students to be responsible. It is important that all students be wary of what they or others say, especially on social media." Rini said the district is always looking for room to improve, and that the school board is setting up an email for parents to contact, with suggestions on safety.

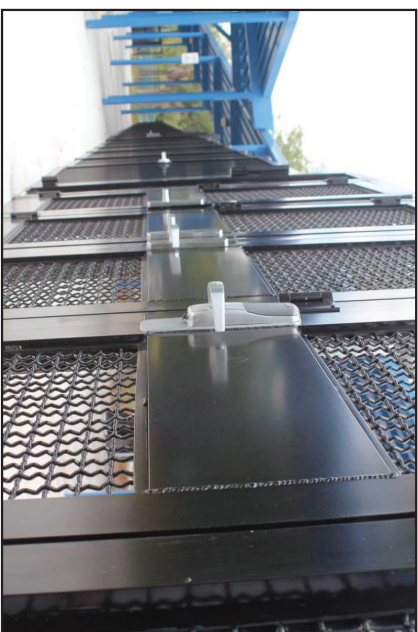


PHOTO BY LEILA MACKENZIE

Photo of the new gates implemented on campus

The Sarasota school firearms at schools. School safety is of the utmost importance to districts everywhere, and schools are trying their hardest to protect their students and staff.

Lady Pythons win Middle School Track and Field County Championship



First row (left to right) : Samantha Fineman, Natalia Twarowski, Susan Lowther, Dahlia Mankovich, Alexandra Roumi, Molly Owens, Georgia Flint, Rylee Volk, Chloe Rathner
 Second row: Nova Pollard, Sophia Chursina, Gabrielle Cannon, Alexandra James, Isabella Nebel, Caroline Deacon, Mahitha Ramachandran, Ella Szmania, Rosario Calleja, Camille Johnson
 Last row: Mini Abeysekera, Misty Tucak
photo credit: Ms. Tuscak

**by Logan Schultz
 Staffer**

The girls' track and field season has been going on for months now, and it came to a close with Pine View's victory. Undeclared in all competitions, Pine View came out on top.

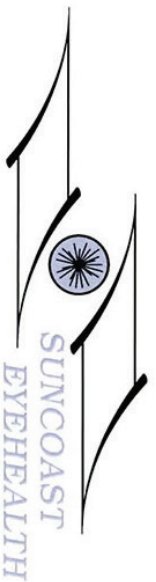
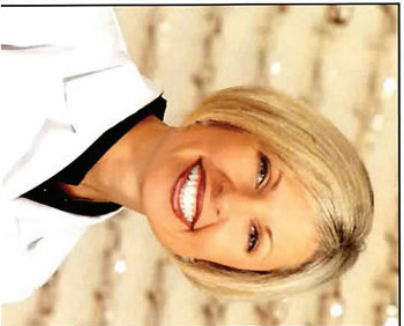
It was well deserved, as training is thorough in the track program. Sprinters concentrate on speed work, distance runners plan their race, and field events require specific practice of the event to produce the best results. They practice running at top speed and pushing their

anaerobic threshold. Their practice consists of sprints and rest. The coaches manipulate their rest time within the workout, keeping their heart rates up and working over shorter distances. Coach Thorpe helps to train the team. "At what point in the race do I want to run my fastest, to push a pace and tire the other runners," Coach Thorpe said.

Notable athletes on the team included eighth grader Alex Roumi who was 6 feet off of the school record in discus. Isabella Nebel ran a 62 second 400, setting the

7th and 8th grade school record. There were consistent wins throughout the season by Sarah Sensebrenner in the mile and eight hundred. Their coaches are proud of the team.

"They set goals for themselves and were able to achieve those goals, better themselves, and in the end the result of their hard work was winning the county championship," Coach Thorpe said. The Pine View Girls' Track Team went undefeated in the championship thanks to talented athletes, good coaching, and hard work.



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Sports and School? These three students are great at both.

Grace Flint, gymnastics

by Leila McKenzie
Staffer

Tumbling and leaping through the air, sixth grader Grace Flint has been participating in gymnastics for nearly her entire life. Flint has been working her way up ranks and winning gymnastic tournaments for years and she isn't stopping now.

Ever since Flint was two years old gymnastics have been a part of her. When Flint was just two years old she took part in a Mommy and Me gymnastics class. When Flint and her mother first took part in these sessions, they may not have known what a big role it would play in Flint's life, but they soon found out. As a child Flint tried playing softball and soccer, but she just made piles in the dirt and did flips. None of the sports Flint tried worked for her. Flint's older sister, Georgia Kate Flint, participated in gymnastics for many years. Flint soon realized that she wanted to be a gymnast like her sister.

Flint currently participates in Lakewood Ranch Gymnastics, located in Bradenton, FL. Her favorite event is Floor, where she

tumbles and dances. Flint has won several competitions and travels all over the country. One particular achievement stands out to her. As Flint said, "I loved making it to level 8. In gymnastics, you vary from level one, which is the lowest, to level ten, which is the highest. Last year I was level seven... [level eight] is more difficult and challenging."

While Flint is already shining in gymnastics, she aspires to reach higher. Flint said "I want to go to college with a gymnastics scholarship. Also, if I could go to any college, I would go to the University of Florida."

I want to go to college with a

gymnastics

scholarship,"

Grace Flint,

grade 6

With success, there comes struggles. For Flint to strive as a gymnast she must make some sacrifices. "I have to leave at 2:00 and take online classes, so I can practice earlier and start earlier," Flint said. "I have more time to do my homework and it also gives me the opportunity to practice with those on my level."

Flint believes a good schedule is important to success athletically and academically. Flint is certain that she



Sixth grader, Grace Flint, beautifully executes a split jump on the high beam. Flint has been competing in gymnastics since she was two years old.

photo credit: Flint Family

would rather be in a physical classroom with her classmates, but she is willing to make the sacrifice to continue to thrive in both gymnastics and school. Although, she believes that a physical classroom would be more beneficial Flint and her family believes that the change has done her well. "Grace has had a wonderful experience with

FLVS thus far. She is able to train the daily required hours for gymnastics and still has enough time when she gets home to do her homework. It is a nice balance. She gets to go to the school she loves! I still do the sport she loves! We are grateful for the opportunity," Flint's mother said.

Since she was two years old, to her soccer days, to now, Flint has always been a natural gymnast. Participating in gymnastics has helped her to establish where she wants to go.

Winning competitions left, right, and upside down Flint has also made many friends along the way. Flint plans on pursuing her dreams as she flips, flies, and tumbles through life.

Carson Roland, discus and javelin

by Logan Schultz
Staffer

The thrill of sports is enticing to many, and eighth grader Carson Roland takes part in a sport that doesn't get much attention. Roland competes in track and field, both at school and at competitions. The sport consists of contests based on the skills of running, jumping, and throwing. Two of these competitions are discus and javelin, both of which Roland competes in. He throws the discus on the Pine View track team, and javelin as an extracurricular activity. He started discus when he was in sixth grade because he wanted to go out for the team.

He only started javelin

100 meters or the long jump.

His plans for track in the future far exceed middle school. Roland plans to participate at another USATF meeting in June, as well as additional meets throughout summer and fall. One thing he wants people to know about track and field is that you should try it. "People do football and stuff, but track and field is just a really good sport."

He has big plans for the future as well. Roland intends on continuing javelin in college. "...and hopefully go to the Olympics." With that in mind, who knows? You might watch him on television one day, holding one of the notorious Olympic gold medals.



Eighth-grader, Carson Roland, spins in the Discus circle at a track meet. Roland has been throwing discus for 3 years and hopes to go farther with the sport.
photo credit: Roland Family

Tristan Parsons, basketball

by Abigail Koester
Staffer

There were mere seconds left on the clock, but they seemed to be ticking by in slow motion. The score was tied, it all came down to this. He dribbles the ball down the court. He shoots and scores as the loud sound of the buzzer rings through the court.

I play because it's fun, and it's exhilarating to be on the

court,

Tristan Parsons, grade 7

Seventh-grader, Tristan Parsons has been playing basketball since he

was 7 years old. Parsons plays basketball for the travel team the Mambas, two days a week

and has games on Saturday mornings. During practice, he focuses on different basketball techniques, but specifically shooting. Parsons works every week to be on the starting lineup. "I play because it's fun, and it's exhilarating to be on the court," Parsons said. Since the age of 7, he has earned many different trophies, including three MVP (Most Valuable Player) awards.

Some of his proudest accomplishments were two awards his coach gave him after a

game his team won because of a play he made. Parsons also plays football, but doesn't worry about his sports conflicting with his schoolwork. He said he manages his time better than most, so he's never stressed.

Parsons' favorite memory of playing basketball was when he helped his team win when he hit a buzzer beat-er (a shot taken right before the buzzer goes off signaling the end of the game). "He's a great basketball player," Jackson Gregory, Parsons' friend said. As for the future, Parsons said, "I want to play basketball for 'Riverview.'" For the moment, he will keep fine-tuning his skills as he prepares for his eighth-grade year with the Pythons.



Seventh-grader, Tristan Parsons, has been playing basketball for seven years. photo credit: Abigail Koester

Pine Views Pigeon Whisperer

By Jack Ries

Pigeons. Many people think of them asyng rodents, or the regular Joe of the bird world, but not seventh-grader Nathan Abbott. Abbott has been the proud owner of a pair of pigeons for the better half of a year. "They're the best kind of bird. They're small and underestimated," Abbott said.

It was a hard road to pigeon ownership. His parents thought this would be a passing interest, but he proved his commitment and his parents supported his idea. There is a large, relatively unknown community in Florida of pigeon racers, people who

breed and raise pigeons

them against other pigeons for money. He contacted a pigeon supplier in Fort Lauderdale and made the purchase.



PHOTO BY JACK RIES

professionally and race

start to associate the coop with home, Abbott will be able to release the pigeons

To house the pigeons Abbott renovated an old playground playset, transforming it into a small coop with straw and nesting boxes, as well as an aviary for the pigeons to fly around in. As a precaution, Abbott covered the entire thing in carpenter's cloth, which is thicker chicken wire, to prevent raccoon assaults.

When the pigeons start to associate the coop with home, Abbott will be able to release the pigeons



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATHAN ABBOTT

50 miles away and they will fly right back. If Abbott trains them right, he will be able to release them up to 600 miles away. The names are not what you might expect. "I named my pigeons Voyager and Cassini, because they were both NASA space probes, and it seemed appropriate to have something flying around in space flying around in my backyard," explains Abbott.

Abbott has multiple daily responsibilities, such as feeding. "I am proud of what good care Nate gives his pigeons. He feeds them twice a day on a schedule and always remembers to close them into the most secure part of their cage before dark. He keeps their cage clean and their water full. He has never once said 'I don't want to deal with the pigeons today.' It's great to see him be so responsible," Nathan's mother, Jennifer Abbott comments.

is cleaning. Abbott has to thoroughly clean the cage twice a week, making sure to clear out whatever gross substances the pigeons leave behind. The pigeons also require fresh straw to nest in. "They are a joy to have around – especially because Nate takes care of cleaning the cage," Abbott's mother said.

In February, Voyager and Cassini laid two eggs. About two weeks later, the eggs hatched into squabs, or baby pigeons. Abbott named them Helios and Mariner. "They're super tiny, you can't see their faces, and they're kind of pinkish. When they feed, one of the parents will regurgitate the food into their mouths," Abbott said. Abbott plans to continue breeding and raising pigeons, and eventually become a racer.

Although it may not be the norm, Abbott pursued his dream of pigeon bliss. This is one dream that won't fly out of reach.



Newborn Pigeon's Helios and Mariner named after past space probes.

PHOTO BY JACK RIES

Eighth grader takes off to China

By Ryan Hunek

While most people, during the summer, take vacations to amusement parks, the beach, or spend their time at camps, eighth-grader Joshua Wang and his family have a different idea. Wang is vacationing to China this summer to see his family, and other aspects of the country. "This is my fourth time going. I'm excited," Wang said.

One reason that Wang is going to China is that he has relatives who live there. "My whole family is there. I'm excited to see them," Wang said. While he enjoys his family's company, Wang also participates in several festivals and holidays. "Normally, festivals are [celebrated] through family tradition," he said. Some festivals Wang will be in China for include the "Dragon Boat Festival" and "Double Seventh." Usually to celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival, families will get into boats and race each other. Double Seventh is the celebration of an ancient love story from China.

There are some special places on Wang's itinerary, including two major Chinese cities: Beijing and Shanghai. "In Beijing, there is also a Forbidden City," Wang said. The Forbidden City is a palace complex in central Beijing. It contains 90 palaces and 980 buildings altogether. "We will go



Eighth Grader Joshua Wang is spending his summer in China to spend time with his family. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOSHUA WANG

to the Gorges Dams. They are

My whole family is there. I'm excited to see them.
Joshua Wang, Eighth-Grader

dams that follow the Yangtze River in the Yilin District, Yichang. They are the world's largest power station with a capacity of 22,500 Megawatts in stored energy.

As well as the Gorges Dams, Beijing, Shanghai, and family, Wang will visit various other landmarks and cities. With his family, he will celebrate holidays, visit very large cities, and see the largest power station in the world. He will experience the night and day life of China and come back with one remarkable and incredible story.

A Trip to Remember

By Harmonie Ziegler

In the summer of 2018, eighth-grader June Ryan will be taking a Celebrity Cruise through Iceland and Ireland for about two weeks. Ryan and her family will be able to explore the geological features of several Northern countries.

Ryan plans on relaxing on the cruise ship when not exploring the countries and seeing what makes them so beautiful. Ryan's parents, Timothy Ryan and Emily June are both quite excited about the trip. June said, "I am most excited about going to a place I've never seen before."

Ryan will visit each destination for a couple hours. She will explore Reykjavik and Akureyri in Iceland; Dublin and Cork in Ireland; and Lerwick in Shetland, Scotland. She's looking forward to learning about the monuments and features she is visiting. Ryan and her family want to

experience as much as they possibly can in their limited amount of time there. Emily June said, "I am excited for staying on the bow of the ship and watching for whales" "I am looking forward to relaxing on the cruise ship and seeing all the pretty places," Ryan said. She will be able to ride different types of horses while experiencing all the geological features. According to Ryan, she will be able to take pictures, so she can always remember this wonderful trip.

Although Ryan and her family are excited for this trip, there will be some difficulties. Both Ryan and her parents will have to endure an eight-hour flight over the Atlantic without their puppy Jack as he cannot come with them on this cruise. The airport process will be time consuming which makes Ryan nervous



Eighth-grader June Ryan excited for her trip to another country. PHOTO BY HARMONIE ZIEGLER

Aidan's Simple DIY

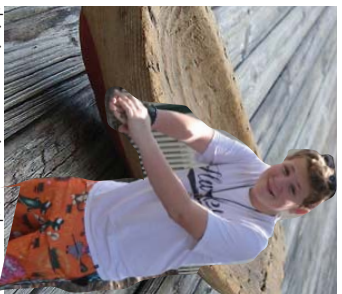
Hello my craft enthusiasts, and welcome to another simple DIY. Today, we're going to make a sailboat to travel the sea, and possibly impress some friends. Our project will be rated a 6/10 on our difficulty scale. So, let's get started!



Me, Aidan Hoey, cutting down a redwood.



Me, Aidan Hoey, sewing a sail.



this is me carving out the shape of our boat.



This is me painting the boat.



This is the final product. Let's go sailing!

Photo art by: Aidan Hoey

Step 1:

The first step is gathering our materials. The body of the ship will be made from a nice, sturdy material, that doesn't sacrifice looks. I'm choosing coastal redwood, but most trees will do. So, as you may have guessed, our next step is to purchase 100 redwood seeds. You also need adequate space to let them grow, so buy an acre of land along with those seeds and save yourself a step. The average time it takes for these trees to reach adulthood is about 500 years, so while you're waiting on that you might want to start on the sail.

Step 2:

Sails can be made from a variety of materials, but the clear winner is carbon fiber. It has a high tensile strength, high chemical resistance, and is lightweight, but it's not so easy to make. First, buy a couple feet of carbon fiber and a sewing machine because the next step is to start the construction of the sail. I can't go into detail about this, but if you need help look on my blog for extra details on this step.

Step 3:

Now, if you are doing this for the first time, you will have to wait the full 500 years for your tree to grow. Thankfully, you know I did this already. So, chop that baby down, and get cutting. The initial block should be about 10 ft. wide, 10 ft. high, and 15 ft. long, but don't worry, we're going to shave away the excess in the next step. Begin carving the wood to look like a boat. Make it oval shaped, with an indent on the top, like an elongated bowl.

Step 4:

Next, start making more precise cuts, with straighter sides and a deeper indent. Repeat this step to a lesser degree until it's to your liking (again, I have a more detailed version on my blog, Aidan Blog).

Aidan Blog

Now we add our details. Add a shaft (varies in size depending on how much excess wood you trimmed off) and an anchor, along with all the other sailing stuff. Along with my sail, I weaved the carbon fiber into a rope to put on my boat.

Step 5:

Next, you can either polish our boat to really make that redwood shine, or you can add a coat or two of white and navy-blue paint, and marvel at your creation! This is the end of my tutorial, but you can take the detail on your boat to whatever extent you want.

DAD JOKES

In an attempt to find the best joke ever spoken, we asked several dads for their best. The jokes made can only be classified as one thing: dad jokes. The result is some of the worst jokes ever told.

Any funny ideas? Know any good dad jokes? contact me at Aidanhoey2@gmail.com



“This is how I swept your mother off her feet”
-John Schweig



Why did the face need shoes? Because it's nose was running!
- Social Studies Teacher Scott Wolfinger



What's Forrest Gump's password? Forrest!
-Science Teacher Neal Gleitz



A SALUTE To Unfortunate Middle-School Trends of the Past

Covering One's Arm with Bracelets

Whether with silly hands, band bracelets, or cord bracelets, this is a great way to make your arm look like a mutant caterpillar.



Bottle Flipping

Thunk. Dab. Oh look, you've balanced a hunk of plastic.



Heelys

Remember those kids who always sped past you, then hit a rock and fell on their faces? No? Good.



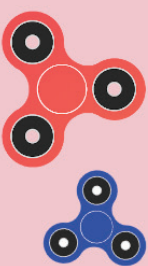
Mirror Selfies

Because why would you use the selfie camera when you could take a picture of you—and your phone—in the mirror? Double the fun, plus an awkward angle for free!



Fidget Spinners

A stylish way to irritate your teachers. Banned in several classrooms, they are useful as egg beaters.



Memes: Pine View VS. Reality

Memes – they are the backbone of this world, and the soul of our community. But, everyone sees memes in different ways. How Pine View sees them and what they really mean is now the new question that needs to be answered.

Kermit Drinking Tea:



Photo by: Alex Roumi



Photo found on Knowyourmeme.com

Confused Mr. Krabs:



Photo By: FrankieGrasso-Clay

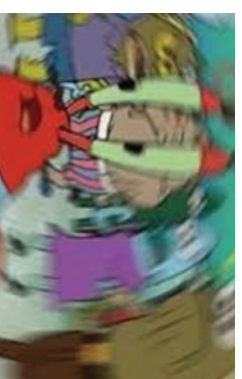


Photo found on Knowyourmeme.com

Distracted Boyfriend:



Photo by: Alex Roumi



Photo found on Knowyourmeme.com

Kazoo Kid:



Photo By: FrankieGrasso-Clay



Photo found on imgflip.com

Dwight First Aid Fail:



Photo By: FrankieGrasso-Clay



Photo found on rebrn.com

Summer Homework: Not so Hot

by **Peyton Harris**
Opinion Editor

When asked to imagine an ideal summer, most students would not picture days filled with extensive workbooks and the headaches that follow. Even the students at Pine View are likely to leave their studies in the classroom if they could. Summer break provides time for kids to make lasting memories with their friends and families; therefore, summer shouldn't be another chance for teachers to assign busywork.

Most students are out of town over summer break, which limits the amount of time and effort they can put forth towards any homework assigned. Students going on vacation may feel impeded by the packets of math review and "good for you" novels waiting for them at home, an extensive workload, some would argue, which only takes away from their

summer experiences.

Advocates for summer homework suggest that students tend to slip into a "summer slide," the idea that during the summer students forget information they have learned during the school year. They claim that summer work provides a way for students to keep lessons previously taught during the school year fresh in their minds.

"I absolutely agree that three months is a long time to not do anything. That said, I'm not sure this idea of giving workbooks and pages and pages of handouts works," Denise Pope, senior lecturer at Stanford University and co-founder of Challenge Success, said in an *New York Times*

There has to be engagement on the part of the students

denents"

Denise Pope, senior lecturer at Stanford

article. "There's not a buy-in from the [kids]. In order for any learning to be retained, there has to be engagement on the part of the students." Pope explains that students need the "ABCs of engagement," which means they're engaged affectively, behaviorally and cognitively. "If they're intrinsically motivated, then they'll want to do [summer work]," Pope said.

expect students to have "systematic practice" with their schoolwork. However, an adult is necessary for supervising that kind of disciplined work. "It's not like a kid can do that on his own," she said. "So, it puts a burden more on the parents." The reality is that many students can't depend on their family for help with summer homework, and they are unable to turn to a teacher for help.

Furthermore, summer vacation is a time for kids to experience the outside world and connect with others, a goal made more difficult to achieve while sitting in the confines of a bedroom with a stack of summer homework. Summer vacation is a time for students to enjoy themselves, not for problematic worksheets and stressful reading lists. It's time to put the homework down and take our summers back.

Middle Schoolers and Phones: Do they mix?

by **Frankie Grasso-Clay**

With an increase in both the use and number of phones in the last few years, it only makes sense that the increase has also affected students. With this increase, comes worry as to whether they should be allowed at school or not. Both sides have evidence backing up their respective sides and can give an argument worth hearing. Here are two views on whether phones should be allowed at school.



PHOTO BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY

"I think that it [the phone] is over-used. Every day I see lots of people texting and calling. It needs to be used less."

-Cryus Kuhn (6)

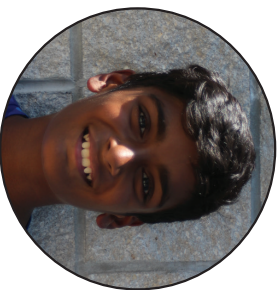


PHOTO BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY

"If they misbehave in class they shouldn't have [their phone], but if they are trustworthy I think they can use it responsibly."

-Arjun Rucker (6)



PHOTO BY HARMONIE ZIEGLER

"Using the phones in school interferes with the school wif, and that needs to be used for educational purposes."

-Wesley McCoy (7)



PHOTO BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY

"I'm ok with middle schoolers having phones and using social media. I really don't care."

-Molly Owens (8)

Should middle schoolers be able to start early?

by Sarah Catalano

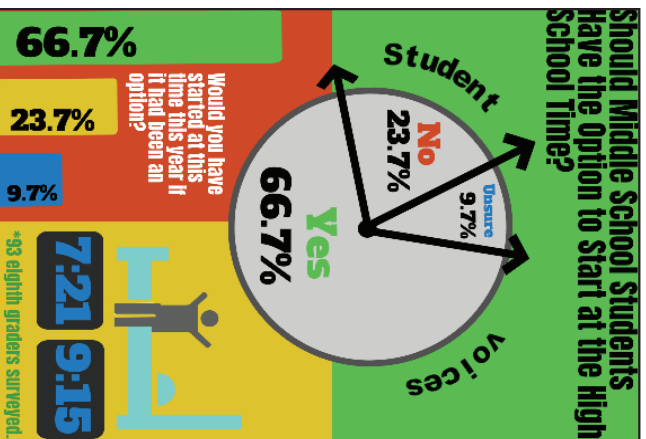
Waking up at the crack of dawn to hurry off to first-period class seems normal for Pine View high schoolers, but what about middle schoolers? Currently, Pine View elementary through middle school students start school at 9:15 am. Upperclassmen (11th and 12th graders) must attend on the early schedule, starting at 7:21 am. However, freshmen and sophomores have the option to attend on either. Should middle-schoolers also have this option? Here's what the students think.



“Yes a lot of kids come to school early anyway with their siblings...When I was in middle school my brother and I came at 7:00 and I was bored. I made friends, but I could have been taking class.”
-Grace Kim, (9)



“No, it is very beneficial to start at 9:00. You get more sleep. I don't get enough sleep to start at 7:00 as a junior, so a can't imagine [having the early schedule as] a twelve-year-old.”
-Megan Hartnett (11)



“No, the transition from middle school to high school is difficult, one of the reasons being because of the earlier start time. Going through that in the transition from elementary to middle school would be too much for 10-11 year-olds entering sixth grade, especially since the younger you are, the more you need sleep. I think it's a bad idea to make it an option.”
-Farrah Cavus (10)

Finals put to the test

by Jack Ries

Finals, the cap on the school year, the goal which the entire educational slog has been training us for, are almost over. The school system may want us to believe that finals and standardized tests are important and valuable, but not everyone agrees on the extent of their effectiveness.

Finals and standardized tests are redundant. Students have to take plenty of unit tests or chapter tests all throughout the school year to gauge their knowledge. Those unit or chapter tests affect students' quarterly grades, which are a sufficient benchmark to tell how well they absorbed the information. A huge test at the end of the year should not be able to affect a student's grade so excessively. In some classes, the EOC counts as 30 percent of a student's final grade! A student's entire year could be in jeopardy because of a single bad day near the end of school.

A huge test at the end of the year should not be able to affect a student's grade so excessively.

In New York felt that levels of test anxiety have risen since the advent of Common Core aligned assessments. As they start feeling the pressure and stress, kids cram and cram, studying around the clock, force-feeding their brains dry information. Many students try to alleviate this pressure with countless caffeinated beverages, rendering them jittery and exhausted.

On top of this, the end of school is stressful without tests. There is usually a multitude of projects or essays, all due in the same month. Combined, this can create a horrible, sleep-deprived environment for the last week of school when kids should be celebrating their achievements.

Finals also don't take into account any external influences, such as home life or testing abilities. Many students may have parents who can't help them study or buy them school supplies.

Some argue that standardized tests provide accurate assessment of a student's knowledge. However, an article from newspaper SeattlePI states that, “According to Mueller, [a professor at North Central College], standardized assessments only require test takers to recognize or recall information. Authentic assessments, on the other hand, often ask students to analyze, synthesize and apply what they have learned in a substantial manner, and students create new meaning in the process.” Standardized tests aren't the best way to judge a student's analytical or interpretive capabilities.

Finals also have a nasty side-effect: stress. Pine View students are already intimately familiar with the concept of school-based stress without adding on top of it a GPA-destroying test. A 2015 study from Harvard cites that 61 percent of responding school psychologists

argue that standardized tests provide accurate assessment of a student's knowledge. However, an article from newspaper SeattlePI states that, “According to Mueller, [a professor at North Central College], standardized assessments only require test takers to recognize or recall information. Authentic assessments, on the other hand, often ask students to analyze, synthesize and apply what they have learned in a substantial manner, and students create new meaning in the process.” Standardized tests aren't the best way to judge a student's analytical or interpretive capabilities.

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