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# The Torch explores the stereotype of economic affluence at Pine View



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

## Income Inequality

by Melissa Santoyo  
Editor-in-Chief

Pine View is generally viewed as an "affluent" institute, a stereotype that follows students throughout their day-to-day lives. The truth to this statement depends on the personal opinion of each individual, but on campus, administration and students alike hold conflicting beliefs regarding whether this stereotype is as trivial as it may seem.

"I think there are some people, both in and outside of our Pine View community, who view our school almost like a private public school. There can be misperception regarding

the affluence of the students if assumptions are made based on the colleges our students attend, the professions of our families, or even the cars driven by students. If people make global judgments or are quick to come to a conclusion based on surface appearances, they do not see the whole picture of our school's community," Assistant Principal Tara Spielman said.

While school officials are not allowed to release data regarding the socioeconomic demographics of their enrolled student body, the Florida Department of Education publishes a yearly School Improvement Plan (SIP) that includes pub-

lished statistics regarding racial minority rates and economic status. According to the 2018-2019 SIP, 15 percent of Pine View's population is reported as economically disadvantaged. In Florida, receiving free or reduced lunch is the qualifying determinant for being considered economically disadvantaged.

This number represents an increasing minority. In 2016-2017, the Florida Department of Education released the most recent School Public Accountability Reports (SPAR), which contained statistics regarding ethnicity, gender and income diversity of the student popu-

lations within specific schools. Pine View's reported economically disadvantaged population at that time was 12.5 percent. Broken down, this number represents 125 females and 13 males receiving free or reduced lunch.

Compared to other schools, Pine View has a small population of economically disadvantaged students. In the 2017 to 2018 school year, Sarasota High School reported that 48 percent of students were receiving free or reduced lunch and at Booker High School, 71 percent of students identified as economically disadvantaged.

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## New school initiative, 'Start with Hello Week,' promotes interconnectedness

by Ella Hechlik  
Web Editor-in-Chief

Throughout this school year, each high school class will be taking preventative steps toward social isolation by educating themselves and those around them through programs such as "Start With Hello Week." Social isolation has become a growing problem in schools across the United States, so the program is designed to educate students in grades two through twelve about creating a culture of connectedness.

This program was created by the Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing violence and victimization in schools. The organization was founded by the family members of victims and volunteers in response to the Newtown shooting of 2012.

"Start With Hello Week" emphasizes inclusiveness and preventing youth violence. It teaches students in all grade levels about skills they can learn and incorporate into



Seventh-graders Juan Pelaez Arredondo and Carlos Rodriguez-Gonzalez sign the Hello Week poster Sept. 28 during their lunch period. Students wrote encouraging statements and signed the poster to promote the new kindness initiative. PHOTO BY ANNA LABINER

helping others who are facing social isolation.

"Start with Hello Week" began Sept. 24 and ran through Sept. 28. The senior class officers began the events of the week with a video that was played throughout third period classrooms, for grades six through twelve. The video discussed the identification of social isolation and how to re-

spond and prevent it. "We will be incorporating the ideas that the SHP has created and will implement them on the Pine View campus throughout the week," senior class president Sachit Gali said.

Each class will continue to implement values such as those of "Start With Hello Week" throughout the year with different events and activ-

ities. This idea was picked up by high school Assistant Principal Tara Spielman, who found the program while reading an article last year. The senior began the year in first quarter the juniors will continue in second quarter, the sophomore in third quarter and finally the freshmen in fourth quarter.

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Student takes on the Big Apple  
Tenth-grader twirls her way to the top

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Student swims for Team U.S.A.  
Eleventh-grader makes a splash in Fiji

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The Impact of "Crazy Rich Asians"  
Increasing diversity in Hollywood

## Pine View lacks financial diversity

continued from page 1

by **Melissa Santoyo**  
Editor-in-Chief

On a superficial level, Pine View's income skew might not seem like a pressing issue. But with yearly suggested classroom donations and academic pressures, such as the advertised SAT prep course (which is offered to high-school students at the price of \$300), students from lower socioeconomic classes may feel overwhelmed and discouraged.

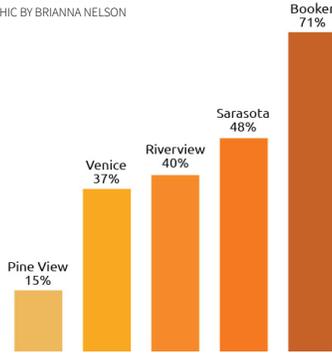
"I have a huge contrast with most people here at Pine View. [Being low income] contributed to me feeling extremely insecure. I found there are definitely times where there are some people at Pine View who are just dismissive, or they don't understand the problems that I have. I just felt brushed off," a tenth grade student, who wished to remain anonymous, said. This student said that their socioeconomic status is not only just a source of personal anxiety, but also a factor of academic insecurity.

"My parents hadn't been able to find a house fast enough and then [with] school starting, I was homeless for the first quarter and a half. And those were the worst grades I've ever had in my life. I might not have realized [the situation] at the time, how it was affecting me, but it always does," the student said.

The student also mentioned feeling that because there are so few students in her situation, her access to resources is not always taken into consideration. Students are often

### Percentage of students per school who are on free or reduced lunch

GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON



required to download apps on their cellular devices, this usually being under the assumption that every student already owns a phone.

Even so, administration ensures that resources will always be available to those who need them. "If we know of a student in need, we can help. There are many resources available at school and many community organizations willing to help students and families in need. The most important thing is that we know of a student's need. It is my hope that any family or student feel comfortable enough to reach out and let their needs be known. Our guidance counselors have tremendous knowledge regarding resources for

students. It is our goal to make sure every student has what they need whether that be school supplies, clothing, and food," Spielman said.

Regardless of facts and figures, the stereotype persists, both on and off campus. "Whenever I used to introduce myself as a Pine View kid, I'd be like 'Oh, hi I'm Jade, I go to Pine View. Sorry about that, I'm not like the others.' When I would say that, I would just kind of try to humble myself. With stating that I'm from Pine View, [people] already have this preconceived notion that I think I'm better than them, I think I'm smarter than them, I think I'm richer. None of these things are true," twelfth-grader Jade Goyette said.

## Crafting a kindness project

continued from page 1

by **Ella Hechlik**  
Web Editor-in-Chief

"At first, administration was going to implement 'Start With Hello Week' ideas into all of the classes. But then I thought about all the students who constantly share with me about how much Pine View means to them, how it is their home, their place and their people," Spielman said. Each class event is primarily student-led and -driven, with student ideas incorporated into the curriculum that SHP provides.

"I think it is a great initiative that is incredibly important to understand in the time we are living in today. Many people mask their feelings and on the outside they may seem okay, but on the inside they



Twelfth-grader and senior class president Sachit Gali sets an example for the middle school students. The senior class placed colorful pens around the poster to encourage students to build each other up with positive sayings. PHOTO BY ANNA LABINER

may be struggling. By having people reach out, they feel included and it could potentially save someone's life," senior class sponsor Robin Melton said.

"Each class can contrib-

ute something back to the Pine View community, to give back something of value. The emphasis is about feeling like you belong. It is such a simple thing, and it really does just start with, 'Hello,'" Spielman said.

## Time capsule set to open in 2069 is re-dedicated



Due to construction, the 1969 time capsule was moved to a new location near the gazebo Sept. 19. Dr. Covert held a re-dedication ceremony with all high school class officers and others. The capsule is set to be opened in 2069 for Pine View's 100th anniversary. To view the video, go to [PVTorch.com](http://PVTorch.com). PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

## IN BRIEF

### Pine View introduces new cell phone policy for middle schoolers

by **Kasumi Wade**  
Sports Editor

As of Sept. 4, middle school students are to power off all electronic devices and keep them in their backpacks for the instructional day. After enforcing a similar policy for elementary students last school year, the Sarasota County School Board has recently implemented a district-wide policy, "Middle School Away for the Day," which they plan to execute indefinitely.

Electronic devices have always been meant to stay out of sight and remain in backpacks during school hours, but with a rise in cheating and other concerns, the district has decided to take stronger measures to enforce this policy. "We hope this will avoid any misuse of electrical devices and will lead students to spend more time socializing with their peers," Assistant Principal Sue Fair said.

While a one to two week grace period is given for students to adjust, there will be repercussions if the policy is not followed. First, a warning will be given, then a second offense will result in the loss of the device for the day and a third will lead to a parent having to personally pick up the device.

Sept. 6, Pine View administration and School Resource Deputy Chris Hudson held a parent information night to notify parents of the new policy. "We want to communicate with parents to make sure they are aware of internet safety, in appropriate websites or apps social and emotional misuse devices, and anything else that could be harmful to students," Fair said.

According to Fair, this new policy is made to keep students safe and healthy, and could possibly be enforced for high school students in the future.

### Club builds school in Haiti

by **Grace Johnson**  
Match Layout Artist

Raising \$34,000 in its first year of establishment, Pine View's buildOn club traveled to Haiti this past summer. Four students: eleventh-graders Mia Hanes, Alexandra Lu and Madeline Smith, seventh-grader Sawyer Grantham and club sponsor and math teacher Summer Grantham helped construct a school in Thomas Elie, a village in northwest Haiti.

The club was brought to Pine View last year by Grantham. The mission of buildOn, an international nonprofit organization, is to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and low expectations around the world. For seven of the 10 days that the students stayed in Haiti, they worked on the construction of the school. They started construction when they arrived and it was finished Sept. 20. The school they built has been

transformed into three rooms stocked with basic classroom supplies. During the trip, they stayed in two of the houses of the villagers. After working on constructing the school, Pine View students would spend the rest of the day attending classes on Haitian culture taught by members of the community who volunteered. "It was eye-opening to see such a new way of life," Lu said.

BuildOn continues to fulfill their mission as they head to Malawi this summer to build another school; they are currently raising \$30,000 to gather supplies.

"[I felt] fulfilled. We had worked so hard trying to raise money and once you go you're like 'Oh my god. I can't believe this just happened,'" Smith said.

BuildOn meets in the Orange Building room 410 from 1-2 p.m. every other Wednesday.

### Speech and Debate students compete at Yale University

by **Lucy Collins**  
Web Sports and Focus Editor

The Pine View Speech and Debate Team traveled to Yale University in New Haven, Conn. Sept. 13 to 17 for the annual nation-wide Yale Invitational. Competing for their seventh year in a row, the team participated in five speech events and three debate events.

The tournament took place in the university classrooms and at Wilbur Cross High School. With about 270 debate teams from around the country competing, and over 1,000 competitors overall, 20 Pine View students competed. This year the team returned with four students advancing past preliminary rounds.

Within speech events, twelfth-graders Kevin Zhu, James Kim and Preetha Ramachandran advanced. Zhu made it to the octo-finals and Kim to the quarter-finals in Extemporaneous Speech. Ramachandran continued on through the quarter-finals in Original Ora-

tory. Out of those competing in debate categories, eleventh-grader Benjamin Nicholson made it to semi-finals in Congressional Debate. This being the first time he advanced past preliminary rounds at competition, Nicholson said, "just had this incredible rush of endorphins when I found out. I felt great because it wasn't just victory for me, but a victory for every person on the team who helped me prepare and gain the confidence I needed to make that moment."

The Yale Invitational only kicked off the Speech and Debate season; the team plans to attend multiple nation-wide tournaments this year. "Our Speech and Debate team is a nationally recognized group because of the effort and skill that everyone puts into it for competitions like this one," Speech and Debate president Kim said "Everyone had a lot of fun at the Yale tournament and the season will only get better."



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# Twins take second place in national history competition

by Ella Hechlik  
Web Editor-in-Chief

From the county level of the National History Day competition (NHD) through states and into nationals, twelfth-grade twins Gopi and Shivni Patel have made their passion for history and social change clear. This past June, the Patels won second place for their project on the Nestle Boycott of the 1970s at the NHD competition.

The theme of the 2018 NHD contest was "Conflict and Compromise." After hours of research last Aug., the twins decided that the topic of their project would be the malnutrition of children in developing countries due to the Nestle formula scandal of the 1970s, specifically, how the western world responded. The title of their project was "Commerciogenic Malnutrition: Conflict and Compromise in the Infant Formula Controversy in the 1970s." Gopi and Shivni had a personal connection to the topic as they have seen infant malnutrition firsthand, especially in India.

"We often travel to India, but last summer we visited my grandparents village where they had grown up. It's amazing how it seems time hasn't changed much there at all. The same poverty and lack of resources exists. In the city areas in India, obesity is a large issue. But when you visit some other parts, malnu-

trition is the elephant in the room," Shivni said. "Children with limbs thinner than my wrists, with little more than a few unripe mangoes and a handful of lentils to eat in a given day, seeing all this and comparing it to our situation, we feel a sense of need to understand the plight and sources of malnutrition and to soon give back, as a sense of duty to our people."

In the 1970s, Nestle marketed their infant formula to developing countries in ways that did not highlight the dangers children could face by consuming their products. Most frequently, Nestle used contaminated water or diluted the product to make it last longer.

This resulted in infants becoming extremely malnourished, contributing to a huge spike in infant mortality rates throughout the latter half of the 20th century. Although there is no way to know for certain what caused the spike in infant mortality, there is a correlation to the Nestle formula, according to the twins.

The Patels support that the best NHD projects explain both sides of the story, so they spent a lot of time pursuing first-hand accounts from boycott leaders, to talking to doctors and others involved. "People in the western world who had no connection to those mothers were voluntarily

spending their nights logistically organizing a boycott and thinking of ways to respond to Nestle," Shivni said.

As for the competition, NHD was highly rigorous, especially as the twins moved up in the ranks over the past school year. The twins traveled to Washington D.C. for the national competition, which lasted from June 10 to 14. They placed second and received silver medals, along with a cash prize of \$500 for their project.

"I think their performance in the National History Day competition foreshadows the many great things that are to come for them," social studies teacher Scott Wolfinger said. As their teacher last year, Wolfinger signed off on their project and mentioned that all the work was done by Gopi and Shivni.

Upon arriving in Washington D.C., the twins noticed other teams included a variety of people from all over the world, such as Singapore, Guam, South Korea and Mexico. According to the Patels, this was intimidating but also interesting because of the different views on history each group had.

During the national competition, each group went through "cuts" in order to make it into a top space. There were two cuts in total. The first cut required an interview with the twins about their specific project. Once they made it past the first cut, a panel of anonymous judges decided the top ten rankings for the competition. "When we heard our names called for second place, it was a huge relief. After almost 10 months of research



Twelfth-graders Gopi and Shivni Patel created an exhibit titled "Commerciogenic Malnutrition: Conflict and Compromise in the Infant Formula Controversy in the 1970s" for the National History Day competition. They placed second this past June in Washington D.C. PHOTO PROVIDED BY GOPI PATEL

and handwork, hearing our names was a huge relief and we were so excited that our handwork had paid off," Gopi said.

From this experience, the twins have decided to apply what they learned to make a difference in the world. With the help from people they had talked to during the research

of their NHD project, they created a non-profit organization called "Before the Bottle." This will soon provide a curriculum both print based and digital, to teen mothers in developing countries. The curriculum will help mothers learn of the dangers that Nestle caused and how they can protect their children in the future.

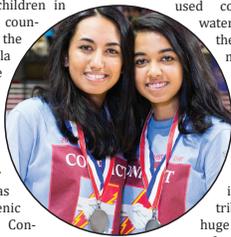


PHOTO PROVIDED BY GOPI PATEL

# PVA revamps event calender for new year

by Cate Alvaro  
Copy Editor

Due to issues pertaining to weather, the annual Pine View Association (PVA) fundraisers, the Peramathon and the Pine View Fair, are switching dates this year. The Peramathon will now be held Nov. 9 and the Pine View Fair will take place March 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Last year the Pine View Fair was held Oct. 8 and Peramathon in the spring; however, the timing of these two events was flipped this year because of problems concerning the weather. According to PVA president and Pine View parent Ben Turoff, Pine View Fair attendees reported the weather being too warm while Peramathon participants reported the weather being too cold to run.

For many years, PVA has been looking to change the Pine View Fair to a cooler date; but, the fundraiser could not be moved to the fall because of another annual school fundraiser: Pinnacle. Last year's Pinnacle date moved to January, as it was originally scheduled during the time of Hurricane Irma. In terms of fundraising, Pinnacle raised more money in January than it has in the past when it was held in the fall; therefore, the event will take place Jan. 26 this year.

While the dates were changed to accommodate Florida's weather, PVA realized the flip will affect fundraising for many Pine View clubs and

events, such as Miss Pine View. This is a large fundraiser that the junior class runs annually. "Miss Pine View relied on the Pine View Fair primarily for the People's Choice votes. The money raised from those votes helped fund the show and ultimately the class that was directing it. However, we're trying to compensate the loss by allowing People's Choice voting at other Pine View events," Shannon Chan, eleventh-grader and Miss Pine View co-director, said.

“Miss Pine View depends on the Pine View Fair... We're trying to compensate the loss by allowing People's Choice voting at other Pine View events.”  
Shannon Chan, grade 11

People's Choice voting is opened to the public to choose who they want to be crowned Miss Pine View. Students vote for their People's Choice winner by donating money in the participant's box.

In addition to Miss Pine View, the French Honor Society is also affected, as they will give a presentation to PVA requesting help in funding their immersion program in Quebec. This presentation includes their previous fundraisers, how much money they have raised so far, and how close they are to their goal. "However, since it's later in the year, the amount of money we have raised toward our goal will be lower and PVA will be less inclined to help us fund need-based scholarships," French Honor Society president and twelfth-grader Elizabeth Bright said. Keeping this in mind, PVA is prepared to help clubs in need, as this is the first year they are trying a change in the timing of annual school events.

## Events

Nov. 5-9	HS Spirit Week
Nov. 9	Peramathon
Jan. 14-18	PV's 50th Anniversary
Jan. 26	Pinnacle
March 2	PV Fair

GRAPHIC BY ODELIA TIUTUYAMA

Check  
PVTorch.com



Scan this QR code to read the story about Model United Nations placing as one of the top 50 teams in the country.

## Pine View greets new teachers for the 2018-2019 school year

*This year, Pine View offers a home for four new secondary level teachers, whose aim is to share their wealth of knowledge. Each of these teachers has a mission to accomplish and a story to share with their new students.*

### Jeffrey Gill

by **Isabella Gaskill**  
Web Entertainment and Features Editor

New to Pine View, seventh-grade civics teacher Jeffrey Gill brings his experience in social studies to campus with over 12 years of teaching under his belt. Having spent time at both Woodland Middle School and North Port High School before joining the Pine View staff, Gill is well versed in multiple subjects.

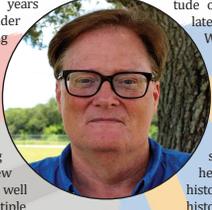


PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

Prior to teaching, Gill worked as a magazine editor for Time Life Magazine and later as an environmental chemist. However, once his youngest child started kindergarten, Gill sought a career that would work well with his children's schedules. To him, teaching was

the perfect fit. Before joining the Pine View staff, Gill taught biology for three years. Switching from teaching in the science lab to the social studies classroom, Gill is qualified in a multitude of subjects. He later moved to Woodland Middle due to personal reasons, winding up as a social studies teacher. Staying with social studies, he taught world history, American history and civics in the gifted program at Woodland for eight years. Now at Pine View, he is currently filling in for seventh-grade civics teacher, Caroline Gannon, who is away for family reasons. Now that his youngest child is in college and Gill has more free time, he made the

switch to Pine View. "I had been wanting to come to Pine View for several years, so this is the perfect time," Gill said. As for on-campus clubs, Gill sponsors the Speech and Debate club and sponsors Mock Trial, a national club that allows students to act out cases in front of judges. He is also incorporating debates into his lessons for his civics students. "Mr. Gill is someone who works very hard to create a positive learning environment for each of his students. Whether he's helping with extracurriculars or teaching his classes, you know he'll give it his all," eleventh-grader Ben Nicholson, founder and president of Mock Trial, said. Gill is looking forward to a great school year at Pine View working alongside his students. "I think he's a very nice teacher who likes to make his students laugh a lot. He makes class fun," seventh-grader Cyrus Kuhn said.

### Maggie Higgins

by **Manny Rea**  
Managing Editor

The student becomes the master as alumna Maggie Higgins returns to Pine View from the class of 2012 to teach sixth-grade Chinese and Chinese IV Honors. Higgins has made her first defining mark back on campus by taking over for former English teacher Bridgid Shannon as the school's PeaceJam club sponsor.

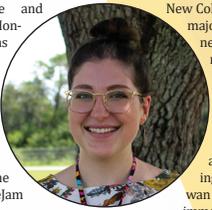


PHOTO BY KASUMI WADE

Attending Pine View since second grade, Higgins endured the same rigor as the students she teaches now. In eighth grade, she began taking the newly-offered Chinese language classes taught by Kitty Wang and Jenny Lin. "I feel I have an advantage compared to

the native-speaking teachers, as I remember what it was like to learn Chinese as a second language," Higgins said. After graduating from Pine View, Higgins attended New College of Florida, majoring in Chinese and International Studies. As a part of her studies in the summer of 2015, she traveled abroad spending time in Taiwan and Shanghai, immersing herself in the two cultures. Before this school year, Higgins taught an SAT preparatory class at IMG Academy. On the difference between her former and current students, Higgins said, "My new Chinese students, since they chose the class, are driven to learn. They

always want to know what the next lesson is." After having Shannon as a teacher in ninth and tenth grades, Higgins maintained a good relationship with her after high school. Higgins was interested in engaging with the local community, so when Shannon asked her to take over PeaceJam, she happily accepted. "Higgins is putting her faith in the students like past people," twelfth-grader Edward Brunicaudi, director of PeaceJam food drive initiative Farmshare, said. "By relying on us [the students], it is encouraging to have the trust of an adult in our club." Now as a teacher, Higgins works behind the scenes at teacher meetings and navigating through portables. "It is like coming home and having all the furniture moved two inches to the left," Higgins said. "But it is still always home."

### Dr. Dylan Bell

by **Nathalie Bencie**  
Focus Editor

Born and raised in Sarasota, it was not long after college graduation that science teacher Dr. Dylan Bell moved back home for his seventh year of teaching. As a high school Astronomy Honors and a sixth-grade Earth Science teacher, Bell is excited to share his enthusiasm for science throughout Pine View's campus.



PHOTO BY GWYN PETERSEN

After graduating from Riverview High School in 2008, Bell attended undergraduate school at the University of Florida to study astronomy and physics. He later graduated from the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) with a Ph.D. in space sciences. His teaching career began at FIT, where he taught Physics I and II for six years, along with studying for his Ph.D.

"I taught physics to [college] freshmen and sophomores throughout graduate school, but decided to come back [to Sarasota] to teach once I finished," Bell said. "My family and friends all live in Sarasota, so it's hard to move away for an extended period of time and not be able to come back."

When asked why he decided to teach middle and high school

students rather than college students, Bell discussed the satisfaction he receives when his student grasp the material he is covering in class. "In college, most of my students had already seen most of the stuff I was teaching. Here, I'm teaching the fundamentals so I get to see the light bulb go off over their heads when they finally understand," he said.

As Bell adjusts to his new job, he hopes to continue helping students learn to enjoy science while he himself learns more about Pine View. In regard to the time he has experienced at Pine View so far Bell said, "It's been great. I really did not expect all my students to be so bright. Coming into here, I expected to have to teach much more in-depth on certain subject areas and that's not the case at all. Also, the teachers here are phenomenal. I've never been in an area where other colleagues are willing to help so much."

Fellow science teacher and Bell's current mentor Hali Flahaven said, "I think Dr. Bell is a perfect fit for Pine View. He is smart, has the enthusiasm and really enjoys what he is doing."

### Pamela Novak

by **Grace Johnson**  
Match Layout Artist

After the unprecedented leave of former English teacher Bridgid Shannon, a silver lining opened up for the newest addition to the department, Pamela Novak.



PHOTO BY GRACE JOHNSON

Shannon, who held the position prior to Novak, left Pine View unexpectedly to become the Director of the PeaceJam Southeast region. With such short notice of the job opening and the strange timing, Novak was hesitant to apply for the job. "I didn't expect that this would happen, but I heard from a couple people about the opening, and at first I thought 'there's no way that I can leave my English teaching position at Braden River High School,'" Novak said. However, after talking to others, Novak realized she should apply for the job.

"I'm happy that [the administration] finally found a teacher, so we don't have to have so much confusion with subs. Now we have more of a consistency with what we're doing in class," eighth-grader Emre Muessemeyer said. Novak has lived in many places; it was in Nepal where she realized she wanted to be a public school teacher. "I knew

that I wanted to teach high school English because I was an English major as an undergrad but I've done many other things I've just always thought that as opened up for the newest addition to the department, Pamela Novak.

When Novak and her family moved to Sarasota two years ago, they were instantly attracted to Pine View and enrolled their children. "When we moved to the area and realized that we had access to this school, it was just amazing," Novak said.

Previously Novak taught at Braden River High School. Prior to that, she was an academic director at a study abroad program mainly for college students. Additionally, she was already involved on the Pine View campus as the coach of the middle school Odyssey of the Mind team last year. Odyssey of the Mind is a club that puts students into situations where they're forced to be creative, and she looks forward to coaching again this year.

Novak is looking forward to a fun year with her English classes. "I was finally like 'Okay This is exactly where I need to be. I know I want to be here for the next 20 years,'" she said. "This is definitely my dream job."

## [an infographic]

### 2018-2019 School Year Changes to the English Department

- Elizabeth Loyer**
  - Shifted from teaching middle school language arts to AP Statistics and AP Capstone Seminar and Research
- Christopher Pauling**
  - Taught English II and IV Honors, in addition to being the part-time AP testing coordinator last year, now teaches English III Honors, AP Language and Composition and Speech
  - Due to teaching an AP course this year, he cannot hold the position of AP testing coordinator
- Bridgid Shannon**
  - Moved to become the Director of the PeaceJam Southeast region and coordinator of Moellerships
- Lori Wiley**
  - Previously taught AP Capstone and was a part-time testing coordinator, however, she is now a full-time testing coordinator
- Jennifer Wise**
  - Moved from teaching fourth-grade language arts and social studies to one class of sixth-grade English and five classes of seventh-grade English

INFORMATION BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY GRAPHIC BY PEYTON HARRIS

Scan these QR codes to check out the new Photo of the Day (left) and to read the full story about Bridgid Shannon becoming director of PeaceJam Southeast region on [pvtorch.com](http://pvtorch.com) (right).



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# PV HOSA goes global

Medical club members rise to the top of the rankings in an international competition

by Tricia Saputera  
News Editor

This past summer six Pine View students attended the international HOSA-Future Health Professions competition, held from June 26 to July 1 in Dallas, Texas. At the competition, twelfth-grader Eva Bayer placed first in Pharmacology, winning the international title for that event, eleventh-grader Alexandra Lu placed third in Human Growth & Development and twelfth-grader Preetha Ramachandran placed fourth in Behavioral Health.

To qualify for the international competition, the students of the club HOSA-Future Health Professions first attended the regional competition in Sarasota last Feb. 9. Out of the 15 that attended, 13 Pine View students qualified for the state competition in Orlando last April 5 to 8, meaning 13 of them ranked first, second or third. Eleventh-graders Madison Halcomb and Alexandra Lu, along with twelfth-graders Natalie Kondos, Winnie Lu, Bayer and Ramachandran qualified at states.

The HOSA-Future Health Professions competition has over 50 events, where each Pine View student competed in a different subject. These events range from competitors simply taking tests to demonstrating their knowledge of the subject by performing presentations. All

but one of the Pine View students, Kondos, competed in a test event.

Kondos completed a Clinical Specialty where she delivered a presentation on cardiovascular surgery in front of a panel of judges, along with answering questions about the topic. "I've always been interested in surgery and I wanted to explore a specific subspecialty and demonstrate that I could actually use a specific operation and conceptualize that in the case of a competitive event," Kondos said. Not only did each event have three students from each state competing, but there were also students from all over the world such as Germany attending the competition.

The international competition was part of a much larger event: the annual HOSA International Leadership Conference. In addition to competing, the students also attended workshops, presentations by guest speakers and met other competitors. The conference has a tradition where students bring pins of their state. As students trade pins with each other, they learn where others are from.

Upon discovering the results of the international competition, Winnie Lu said, "It was really exciting when we were at the awards ceremony, having six people there and having three of us make it onto that stage. Because it is an international competition, that was real-



From left: twelfth-graders Preetha Ramachandran, Winnie Lu, Eva Bayer, tenth-graders Madison Halcomb, Alexandra Lu and (not pictured) twelfth-grader Natalie Kondos attended the HOSA-Future Health Professions competition in Dallas, Texas June 26 to July 1. Each student competed in one of the 50 events at HOSA, which consisted of detailed presentations and tests on the concepts that they studied. PHOTO PROVIDED BY WINNIE LU

ly exciting, and it was kind of a bonding experience for us."

Bayer, who won a gold medal, a plaque, and \$1,000 for winning first place in Pharmacology, studied all year for the competition. "Obviously you work hard for all of your classes, but this was something I was really passionate about, so seeing that I was able to work hard and have it pay off in a way that really interested me — it validated my hard work through exploring my interests," she said.

Pine View students have attended the international competition in past years, but this is the first time as many as six students have attended, previous

years seeing two students or only one Winnie Lu and Ramachandran, co-presidents of the club at Pine View, are also working to expand the club's activities during meetings, as the club currently primarily focuses on studying for the competition.

They plan to bring in guest speakers and introduce hands-on projects, as well as teach members new things, like how to read a patient's blood pressure using a stethoscope and a blood pressure cuff. "I want HOSA to be beyond the competition, for it to be more of an actual learning real-life skills that you would be applying for part of the medical field," Ramachandran said.

## [an infographic]

★

# The Torch's How-To Guide for the Florida Midterm Elections

★

GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

<h2 style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Positions up for Election</h2> <p><small>* Indicates an Incumbent</small></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Governor/ Lieutenant Governor :</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> Andrew Gillum and Chris King</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> Ron Desantis and Jeanette Nuñez</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>U.S. Senate:</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> Bill Nelson*</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> Rick Scott</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>U.S. House of Representatives:</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> David Shapiro</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> Vern Buchanan*</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FL Agriculture Commissioner:</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> Nikki Fried</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> Matt Caldwell</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Attorney General:</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> Sean Shaw</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> Ashley Moody</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FL State Senate District 23:</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> Olivia Babis</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> Joe Gruters*</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FL State House of Representatives 72:</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> Margaret Good*</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> Ray Pilon</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FL State House of Representatives 74:</b></td> <td><b>Democrat:</b> Tony Mowry</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Republican:</b> James Buchanan</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Governor/ Lieutenant Governor :</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> Andrew Gillum and Chris King		<b>Republican:</b> Ron Desantis and Jeanette Nuñez	<b>U.S. Senate:</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> Bill Nelson*		<b>Republican:</b> Rick Scott	<b>U.S. House of Representatives:</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> David Shapiro		<b>Republican:</b> Vern Buchanan*	<b>FL Agriculture Commissioner:</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> Nikki Fried		<b>Republican:</b> Matt Caldwell	<b>Attorney General:</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> Sean Shaw		<b>Republican:</b> Ashley Moody	<b>FL State Senate District 23:</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> Olivia Babis		<b>Republican:</b> Joe Gruters*	<b>FL State House of Representatives 72:</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> Margaret Good*		<b>Republican:</b> Ray Pilon	<b>FL State House of Representatives 74:</b>	<b>Democrat:</b> Tony Mowry		<b>Republican:</b> James Buchanan	<h2 style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Key Florida Issues</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The environment and algal blooms</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• The economy</li> <li>• Gun control</li> <li>• Healthcare</li> <li>• Immigration and ICE</li> <li>• Criminal justice reform</li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Marijuana</li> </ul>
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## Torch Tries: the grayscale phone setting

by Clyde Morgan  
Asst. News Editor

In this edition of Torch Tries, the effect of the grayscale setting on phone addiction will be put to the test. This idea was popularized by technical ethicist Tristan Harris. According to the New York Times article "Is the Answer to Phone Addiction a Worse Phone?" published on Jan. 12, 2018, "the goal of sticking to shades of gray is to make the glittering screen a little less stimulating." When you get hungry looking at the red and yellow colors in the McDonald's logo, the same way you are drawn to your phone screen. The colors on the screen stimulate our brains, causing further addiction to electronic devices. Ideally, grayscale my phone should help lessen the amount of time I spend staring at my screen.



GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

### Day 1

Usually, after I get home from school, I watch Netflix or scroll through Instagram before starting my homework. However, with my phone on the grayscale setting, the display is so colorless that I don't find activities on my phone entertaining. It's also very difficult to take photos, because it's so bland. It's very annoying trying to show my friends pictures that I took.

### Day 2

Today in AP Human Geography class, we played a round

of Kahoot to review material. Using my phone to answer questions with a colorless device was impossible for me, so I turned grayscale off in order to play. Although I wanted to

### Day 4

Today, I have lost so much interest in my phone that I purposely left it at home. I feel better knowing that if I need an electronic device for a class, I can use a school laptop or something else that is easily accessible other than my phone. I also noticed that my grades were much better. Instead of a getting a mix of As and Bs, I received straight A's on all of my assignments over past four days.

### Day 5

Today, I gave in to the challenge and turned off the grayscale, only to show my friend a photo I had taken. I "forgot" for a few hours to turn it back on, and found that I was even more addicted to the colorful screen after not using it for just five days. Once I guiltily caught up on all of my social media and texts, I finally set my screen back to grayscale.

### Results

After grayscale my phone, I slept better and got better grades. To grayscale an iPhone, go into settings>accessibility>grayscale. The setting has a small switch next to it. This feature helps immensely if you're struggling in school or glued to your screen all the time. When your screen is in black and white, the world around you is a lot brighter.

rip my hair out due to the lack of color; I noticed that my urge to check my phone significantly decreased.

### Day 3

Today, I didn't use my phone for Instagram or Netflix. I am only using my phone for my email or checking my English Honors Remind thread. At this point, I am dying to change my phone back to the normal settings and give up.

## Tenth-grader dives into coral restoration

by Alex Roumi  
Asst. Sports Editor

Knee deep in coral, tenth-grader Anne Shiparski spent the bulk of her summer restoring sea life in Summerland Key with the Mote Marine Ecology Lab of Sarasota, Fla. Shiparski spent five days in the keys living the life of a marine biologist from July 30 to

Aug. 3. While spending time in Summerland Key, Shiparski participated in hands on work at the Mote Marine labs. Her primary job at the camp was coral spawning, which simultaneously releases eggs and sperm into the water. Shiparski also had the opportunity to clean testing labs utilized by biologists, plant coral in the ocean and organize underwater nurseries off the coast. "It's like seeing what your life would be like in the future," Shiparski said.

Shiparski is on track to achieve her dream of becoming a marine biologist with a focus in environmental protections via coral restoration at the ecology lab. Demonstrating an interest in Marine Biology since her first camp at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, Shiparski went back for the second year in a row, this time at Summerland Key. However, she had been volunteering, going to events and attending camps with the Mote Marine Lab since fifth grade. "The first year I did the camp was really fun. I didn't know anyone there,

but I quickly made friends. Honestly, everyone gets so close so fast that it was never an issue whether I knew someone or not," Shiparski said.

As her dad is from Puerto Rico, Shiparski holds a deep love for the water. "My dad grew up on the water and it was a really big part of his childhood, so he's always instilled the love for the water in me from a young age," Shiparski said.

Skim boarding and swimming when he was younger, Shiparski's father keeps a family tradition alive by going to the beach with her.

Shiparski plans to attend Hawaii Pacific University, where she will study coral restoration and digital footage. "They have a program there, which is actually perfect for me. I can study marine biology, and then digital footage as a minor. I love digital footage because it's kind of like art for people, like me, who can't actually do art," Shiparski said.

"I am extremely proud of her. I appreciate Anne's ability to communicate with other students, counselors, and researchers on seeking solutions for the challenges facing marine life and the ever-increasing intrusion on their habitats, Shiparski's mother, Betsie, said.

Shiparski looks forward to teaching marine biology to college students after she has had her time in the field, but first, she has to make her own mark on the world as a Marine Biology student.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANNE SHIPARSKI

## A summer spent with STEM

by Joanna Malvas  
Asst. News Editor

Diving into the intricate and captivating world of biochemistry, twelfth-grader Viktoria Mochnacky interned at Selby Gardens from June 12 to Aug. 2. She spent two months volunteering in the mornings and interning in the afternoons, twice a week. As a volunteer, Mochnacky had the opportunity to work in the Greenhouse Department and in the Conservatory. During her internship, she worked in the Botany Department.

In her time volunteering at the Greenhouse Department, Mochnacky learned to properly report and groom plants; she even assisted with moving materials for different exhibits.

At the Conservatory, she served as a guide, facilitating and educating the guests about the plants grown at Selby Gardens.

Briefly after attending a volunteer orientation, Mochnacky decided to apply for an internship at Selby. The volunteer coordinator, Vera Neumann-Wood, conducted the interview. "When I interviewed her, I found her to be a very nice, very mature, young lady," Neumann-Wood said. Throughout her internship, Mochnacky worked as a researcher, experiencing firsthand the action that oc-

curs inside the Botany labs. With this position, she gained knowledge on advanced lab equipment and procedures such as DNA extraction.

One of these projects included an experiment her group was trying to replicate in which they observed two endangered species of cacti. "We used a different species of cacti, but the extraction process was the same. We went to the greenhouses, and outside, they had the cacti collection. We cut off the spines of the plants, three plants per species. We took these into the lab and we sterilized them," Mochnacky said.

Mochnacky's main mentor was Dr. Sally Chambers, one of the researchers at Selby. "I really

As long as you are constantly learning, you can learn to enjoy whatever it is that you're doing. I just learned how important it is to always be learning."

Viktoria Mochnacky, grade 12

wanted to figure out what she was interested in and try to expose her to as much as I could so that I could see what ignited her passion to keep her excited about science. I just really wanted to be a mentor and keep her passion going," Chambers said.

Mochnacky was not interested in biochemistry before her internship. However, after attending the summer program, she is now considering biochemical and pharmaceutical research as a career. "I didn't know what to expect from the internship. As long as you are constantly learning, you can learn to enjoy whatever it is that you're doing. I just learned how important it is to always be learning," Mochnacky said.

### [an infographic]

**SPACE FORCE: WHAT IS IT?**  
Taking a look at the President's new plan

- If passed, the Space Force will be a new branch of the military that oversees commercial traffic in outer space.
- The program would take over GPS and satellites currently manned by the U.S. Air Force.
- President Trump proposed the idea in a speech in San Diego, but both the White House and the Air Force objected to it.
- The Space Force mirrors the Space Core, a concept that was withdrawn from the National Defense Authorization Act in 2017.
- The division's purpose would be to keep ahead of other countries advanced in space operations like Russia and China.
- Its functions would range from reconnaissance and supervision to delivering supplies for the building of orbital structures.

GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO

# Giraldo's got grace

by Elizabeth Hopkins  
Match Editor-in-Chief

Gracefully balancing both technique and artistry, tenth-grader Nina Giraldo has expressed herself through dance since the age of three. She currently dances at the School of Russian Ballet and has remained loyal to the studio since it first opened its doors in 2010.

Initially taking ballet for fun as a little girl, Giraldo has developed a serious passion for the art. "Every little girl loves ballet at three," Giraldo said. "My mom thought it would be just a phase."

Evidently not, as for many years, she has managed to cultivate her abilities. "She's a talented girl and a very hard worker," ballet teacher and Artistic Director Darya Fedatova said.

In regard to her mentors at the studio, Giraldo said that she owes much to their assistance. "They've improved my technique a lot over the years," she said. "They're just really supportive of me, and will work extra hours just so I can feel satisfied with my performance."

Dedicating more and more time to fine-tuning her craft, Giraldo practices six days a week for two and a half hours, and up to four hours when rehearsals for studio productions take place. Additionally, during show season, Giraldo dances for six to seven hours on the weekends. In classes, she concentrates on perfecting her technique, spending time warming up on the barre and executing jumps and turns.

“Every little girl lives ballet at three. My mom thought it would just a phase.”

Nina Giraldo,  
grade 10

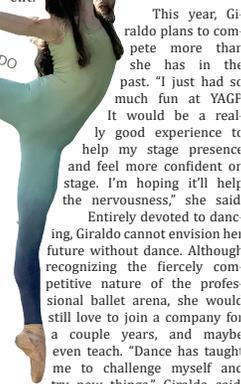
In season, the students practice choreography from the given ballet. "It requires a lot of hard work," Giraldo said. "Not only do you have to be in great physical shape, but you have to express yourself on stage and the finals in New York City chosen out of hundreds. For Giraldo, who was expecting much this achievement, she felt "amazing," serving testament to her talent.

This year, Giraldo plans to compete more than she has in the past. "I just had so much fun at YAGF It would be a really good experience to help my stage presence and feel more confident or stage. I'm hoping it'll help the nervousness," she said. Entirely devoted to dancing, Giraldo cannot envision her future without dance. Although recognizing the fiercely competitive nature of the professional ballet arena, she would still love to join a company for a couple years, and maybe even teach. "Dance has taught me to challenge myself and try new things," Giraldo said.

Giraldo participates in three yearly stage performances at the studio including "Nutcracker," as well as a spring show and a recital. Last year, Giraldo was cast as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the latest "Nutcracker" production. No stranger to the competition circuit, Giraldo has competed three times at the Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP), the world's largest international student dance competition. "[My first competition] was so scary," Giraldo said. "But every year you feel a little more confident, and you don't get as nervous."

Most recently, at the semi-finals in Tampa, Giraldo was waitlisted for

the finals in New York City chosen out of hundreds. For Giraldo, who was expecting much this achievement, she felt "amazing," serving testament to her talent.



# 'Novel' Novels: Beloved Pine View coach to debut new, three-part LGBT+ book series

by Ben Gordon  
Sci & Tech Editor

Breaking boundaries and solidifying her fondness of literature, Physical Education teacher Liz Ballard has been formulating her three-part book series, "Girls, Gifted," for four summers now. What once started as a dream, soon turned into a reality for Ballard when she started drafting her novel in the summer of 2014.

Initially, Ballard planned to write novels targeted towards a younger audience. However, after much consideration, she switched her focus to a more mature, high school-level audience, allowing her to construct a more advanced storyline. "I'd always wanted to be an author and I was planning on writing for younger kids, around fourth grade. As I was mulling over ideas, it came to me — I need to target it toward older kids. It would be easier to talk about reality that way," Ballard said.

Ballard gained insight into how she would center the story after wondering what happened to students who were at Pine View for one year and gone the next, following the economic downturn in 2008. "I tried to imagine what it would be like for one of our stereotypical,

highly-motivated, driven-to-succeed gifted students to get yanked out of a school like Pine View and placed in a rural, sports-centric, mainstream high school 1500 miles away from where they grew up," Ballard said.

The series revolves around two high-school girls from very different backgrounds. The two are fortuitously paired together for a project at school, and their personalities immediately clash. Their relationship begins as a contentious one, but soon transforms into a relationship full of adoration for one another. The two girls perfectly complement each other — one is a

genius, witty girl who previously attended a fictional version of Pine View but moved to New Hampshire, the other is a New Hampshire native who only cares about sports and does not like academics. Combined, the two balance each other out.

The book has been received with warm remarks by fellow Pine View staff members and students. According to attendance secretary Maureen Borden, Ballard's series is unquestionably worth a read. "The book and topic are very relevant in today's world, and were handled compassionately and tastefully," Borden said. "I sat down one Saturday by the pool and finished it all in one sitting."

Ballard has submitted drafts of the books to publication companies, but has recently decided to take the self-publication route. This way, she can release the book whenever she feels it is ready. "It seems to be fairly complicated, but it is definitely possible, and it will be worth it



Coach Liz Ballard has been working on her young adult book series for four years now, and is hoping to publish the books before Christmas. PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

“I'd always wanted to be an author... As I was mulling over ideas, it came to me — I need to target toward older kids.”

Liz Ballard,  
Physical Education Teacher

## OCTOBER HOROSCOPES

<p><b>AQUARIUS</b> (January 20- February 18)</p> <p>There will be a tough problem in your near future but don't panic! Use your creative mind to conjure up a solution; everything is fine!</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b> (February 19- March 20)</p> <p>Semester one is stressful. As an empathetic sign, you're the perfect candidate for organizing a good vent session and helping your friends feel better!</p>	<p><b>ARIES</b> (March 21-April 19)</p> <p>You've had a great idea in the works for a while now, and you've got a lot of energy to devote to another project. Make it happen!</p>
<p><b>TAURUS</b> (April 20-May 20)</p> <p>Get out of bed, and spend some time this month out and about. Taurus! You'll make some new friends along the way.</p>	<p><b>GEMINI</b> (May 21-June 20)</p> <p>Hey, I know it's easy for you to get split in two, but make sure to take a break for once, it'll be good for you!</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b> (June 21-July 22)</p> <p>Cancer, now is the time to unwind, but proceed cautiously, don't let your responsibilities slip away.</p>
<p><b>LEO</b> (July 23-August 22)</p> <p>Leo's are always center stage. But while you're basking in the spotlight, remember not to neglect your friendships!</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b> (August 23-September 22)</p> <p>October is your month. Go ahead and drop your baggage. Whether its stress or toxic friends, now is the time for self-improvement.</p>	<p><b>LIBRA</b> (September 23-October 22)</p> <p>You have a big decision though you're an indecisive sign, it's time to breathe and pick a position.</p>
<p><b>SCORPIO</b> (October 23-November 21)</p> <p>Good at being everyone's go-to for advice, make sure to still trust others to take care of you — it's all right to be vulnerable.</p>	<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b> (November 22-December 21)</p> <p>You find your AP classes pretty fascinating, but don't limit yourself to just those subjects! Don't be afraid to explore.</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b> (December 22-January 19)</p> <p>Always one to stay organized, where others may be struggling, you are soaring high. Take some of your extra time to volunteer or help out at home.</p>

### Gulf Gate Grub

In Pine View's own backyard lies a developing community bustling with life. The Gulf Gate area has been a longtime staple of the Pine View student, offering several spots of sanctuary for those who need to sequester themselves away from possible distractions at home, and instead focus on impending deadlines. We've gone beyond the Clever Cup and our friendly neighborhood Panera in favor of scoping out some of Gulf Gate's more hidden gems. This is Gulf Gate grub.

GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT



Chef-customized vegetarian and vegan tacos are a popular choice at the Screaming Goat. If requested, Chef Parker will custom-make a special dish. PHOTO BY OLIVIA HANSEN

### Screaming Goat

by Olivia Hansen  
Humor Editor

Appealing to foodies of all types, the Screaming Goat (nicknamed "The Goat") is an unconventional approach to Latin street food. The new restaurant in Gulf Gate offers a wide variety of toppings, bases and sauces for its burritos, bowls and arepas — a Venezuelan bread made of cornmeal, water, and salt. Along with

the three standard pork, chicken and beef protein options, The Goat also provides vegetarians with just as many dishes.

The Goat's menu offers three meatless custom tacos — all of which exceed expectations for any form of Latin street food. The first dish, "Roasted Sweet Potato, Red Quinoa, Green Lentil," is a refreshing vegan twist on the traditional soft taco. This contains chimichurri, arugula

and sweet corn relish.

The second vegetarian meal is called "Masa-Dusted Cauliflower," proving that chef and owner, Malin Parker, knows how to work with flavors. To accompany the base is cilantro chimichurri, queso fresco, cilantro and a hint of lime. By combining new and innovative ingredients, Parker created a uniquely compatible and flavorful dish.

The last vegetarian option for a custom taco is the "Vegan Chorizo," which is decorated with scotch bonnet-roasted pineapple salsa, arugula and sweet corn relish. This is a must-try for not only vegans but meat eaters as well; the vegan chorizo itself strongly resembles meat and nearly surpasses the standard ground beef in flavor. With its unique and custom items, The Goat stands out among other Latin restaurants in the area.

Following their well-known chef-customized menu meals, The Goat gives customers complete freedom when creating their dish. However, by request, Chef Parker will put together an ingenious dish himself — guaranteed to

blow you away, bringing you out of your comfort zone as well. Be sure to try out this technique when you visit, you will be pleasantly surprised.

Along with delectable flavors, the restaurant has a comforting atmosphere with genuine employees. It is apparent in their interactions that the staff members love making food for people. The walls are open for guests to write little notes, doodle or even sign their names.

"I love the Screaming Goat because it perfectly mixes great hospitality with

a semi-authentic Mexican touch; enhanced by its Latino music playing and their variety of Hispanic food choices," eleven-th-grader Luis Guevara-Flores said.

The Screaming Goat is a unique Gulf Gate gem, hole-in-the-wall and is a must-try for non-meat eaters and meat lovers of all kinds. It is located at 6606 Superior Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231.

GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT



Rating:  
4.5/5 Torches



### Kazu's 2.0

by William Khabbaz  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

The lively and vibrant atmosphere of Kazu's 2.0 is a treasure to the Gulf Gate community in Sarasota. Kazu's 2.0 is a locally owned sushi hot spot. The establishment offers clientele a wide variety of Asian cuisine, including unique, creative sushi rolls and steaming hot ramen.

After opening their very first location, on Siesta Drive, in 2002, the Japanese owners, Akiko and Kazu Tsuchiya, expanded Kazu's by moving to the Gulf Gate area around 2007.

Upon walking inside, the smell and sensation of fried foods, with the combination of seafood, encapsulates the senses.

The dark décor and the high top tables provide a relaxed and inviting atmosphere for guests to enjoy. When establishing the restaurant, the owners were inspired by the Asian culture and the art symbolized within the culture. The bar's overhead is surrounded by creative images of fish. The small setting creates a space of inclusion for Asian culture, and allowing customers to attain a better grasp of it, while also enjoying a meal.

Twelfth-grader Javier Aramayo recently visited the restaurant and said he enjoyed the overall cultural experience that Kazu's 2.0 offers. "The décor and setting of the restaurant was vibrant and created a great space for my friends and I to hangout in. We don't

have many great Asian restaurants in town, so Kazu's 2.0 was a great find," Aramayo said.

Due to the small square footage in the restaurant, at times, the experience was affected by the heat that circulated through the room. It created an uncomfortable feeling which somewhat detracted from the gourmet and handcrafted food. Heat aside, the main appeal of the restaurant is cuisine. The menu offers a wide variety of gourmet sushi rolls, creative appetizers and playful desserts.

Twelfth-grader Michael Hampton is a frequent customer at Kazu's 2.0 and has enjoyed the handmade sushi for years. "It's such a great place to take your friends and just have a nice dinner, for a decent price," Hampton said.

When peering over the vast menu, customers are surprised by the original and exotic options offered. Kazu's 2.0 has created a menu fit for all kinds of taste palettes. The seaweed salad layered on crispy tortilla chips, for example, fuses a traditional Latin dish with the typical Japanese ingredients, allowing customers to take a global trip. Alongside the appetizers, Kazu's 2.0 hand makes fresh sushi rolls designed to match the creative atmosphere of the restaurant. The KFC Roll combines fried chicken, bacon pieces, avocado and pickled jalapenos into sweet rice, all topped with a spicy, chipotle barbecue sauce. The restaurant also serves vegetarian rolls.



The "KFC Roll" (LEFT) consists of fried chicken, jalapeños, bacon, avocado and chipotle barbecue sauce. The "Castle Roll" (RIGHT) is a flash-fried roll consists of cream cheese, salmon and avocado with siracha on top. PHOTO BY WILLIAM KHABBAZ

After the main meal, the menu provides customers with an extensive dessert list. Kazu's 2.0 offers tempura bananas topped with ice cream and chocolate syrup, mochi ice cream in a variety of flavors and a selection of different teas to wash it all down.

The prices of the meals range depending on the size and time needed to be made. The home-made sushi rolls range from a price of \$4 to \$12, while the rest of the menu ranges around the same prices for meals and appetizers.

Due to red tide, Kazu's 2.0 has taken extra safety precautions in order to serve clean fish to their customers. Server, Paige Miller, described how the restaurant was keeping the high stan-

dards customers expect. "We only use fish that is imported from safe waters and we make sure to clean and sanitize all areas of the restaurant, so customers can feel safe eating the fish here," Miller said.

Kazu's 2.0 is a local staple that provides customers with a cultural experience like no other. The cuisine and atmosphere transports you to the scenic lands of Japan right here in Sarasota. The restaurant opens around 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and closes at 10 p.m. during the week and 11:00 on weekends. Kazu's 2.0 is located at 6566 Gateway Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231

Rating:  
4/5 Torches



### Veg and Grill



PHOTO BY OLIVIA HANSEN

Check [PVTorch.com](http://PVTorch.com)



Read our review about Veg and Grill to further explore the restaurant option in the Gulf Gate area!

# Warriors go to work over the summer

While some students spent the summer traveling on vacation, relaxing by the beach or lounging in bed, these student-athletes used the break as a time to hone their skills. From sailing in the extraordinary waters of the British Virgin Islands to waking up at the crack of dawn to run in the striking mountains of North Carolina, these four Pine View students have exceeded 212° in their sport.

## Gabriella Connelly

by Sarah Hassan  
Asst. Features Editor

Taking LAX to the max, eleventh-grader Gabriella Connelly has been dedicated to lacrosse for six years. To further her abilities in the sport, Connelly attended a lacrosse camp at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. The camp took place from June 18 to June 20, in which she learned different techniques during the six sessions led by the Liberty University team.

Connelly started women's lacrosse in sixth grade, finding that lacrosse intrigued her the most out of the different sports she tested. She particularly enjoys how the game's rules are dynamic and change often, making each game unique.

The camp alternated between two sessions that focused on the offensive and defensive positions in lacrosse. The sessions lasted four hours each day, separated by meals so the players could re-energize and take a break. Connelly's schedule for the camp had the same basic components each day: the players would first have breakfast and then two hours of practice. Later, they would eat dinner and head back to a different session.

"The summer camp was more fast paced, they taught you with the time they had. They taught you the best way they could to accommodate everyone's skills. When you have a team



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GABRIELLA CONNELLY

practice, that coach knows the players and the players know each other, so the team practice focuses more on specific struggles," Connelly said.

She decided to attend the lacrosse camp at Liberty University because of the university's outlook on the sport. "All teams are about winning, but [Liberty University] also really values athleticism over stick-work," Connelly said.

Training with about 40

other girls from different parts of the country, Connelly was excited to meet new players from all around the nation. While at the camp, she took advantage of connecting with the coach of Liberty University's lacrosse team, the Liberty Flames. She received tips and pointers from the coach concerning defensive stances and different foot movements, which she plans to apply in future lacrosse games.

Connelly plays on the girls varsity lacrosse team at Riverview High School in the spring and plays on the Lax Maniax, a lacrosse club, throughout the rest of the year. Connelly is the midfielder, a team member who plays offense and defense.

"I'm extremely proud. I think she has a lot to achieve. She sets herself very high standards for athletics and academics. She seems passionate about lacrosse. And when you are passionate about something, you won't let it go," her mother Cynthia Connelly said.

In the future, Connelly hopes to play lacrosse at Liberty University for the varsity team. She does not intend to play professionally, but she still wants to incorporate lacrosse in her life by helping local teams.

## Jordan Keene and Abigail Steinwachs

by Leo Gordon  
Asst. Match Editor

After participating in one of the most well-known summer sculling programs in the nation, tenth-graders Jordan Keene and Abigail Steinwachs are making waves in their rowing careers. The two attended the Craftsbury Sculling program in Craftsbury, Vt. from July 22 to 27.

Keene and Steinwachs have each been rowing for four years and are both members of Sarasota Crew. On their home team, they are evaluated and ranked in part by their sculling capabilities. To ensure their success on the team, Keene and Steinwachs decided to take part in the Craftsbury program together, excelling their athletic success simultaneously rather than independently.

The six day program involved three practices each day, permitting Keene and Steinwachs to receive sculling training not common among students at their age. On an average day, Keene and Steinwachs warmed up, took part in team building activities and rowed almost nonstop, all while receiving instruction at least three times over the

course of each day.

Both girls received personal feedback from their coaches through videotapes of themselves rowing, which was cited by both Keene and Steinwachs as one of



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JORDAN KEENE

the most beneficial aspects of the program. "I think that being videotaped was my favorite part of the camp because of its effectiveness in improving our rowing skills," Steinwachs said.

Both Keene and Steinwachs believe that the videotapes offered to them by the program were a valuable way to assess their personal goals and accurately self-correct.

In addition to the physical and verbal resources offered at the program, they also enjoyed various light-hearted activities, like paddling boats similar in shape to Venetian Gondola boats and learning more about the history of rowing around the world.

"Abby and Jordan are both extremely dedicated to rowing and have been really successful over the last two years, both having won the FSRA State Competition in the Freshmen 8 two years in a row. The camp Jordan and Abby took part in this summer, Craftsbury, has definitely played a big part in their improvement this year," fellow Sarasota Crew rower and tenth-grader Ashley Pelton said.

As for their future rowing ambitions, both Steinwachs and Keene plan to continue participating in rowing throughout high school, into college, and possibly into adulthood.

"The program improved my sculling abilities mostly because of the one-on-one coaching and the valuable advice offered to me by my peers and advisers, something I'm happy to have been able to receive," Keene said.

## Orlando Cicilioni

by Gwyn Petersen  
Entertainment Editor

Taking strides to perfect himself as a student athlete, tenth-grader Orlando Cicilioni attended a two week session of the Brevard Distance Runners' Camp in Brevard, N.C. This program, tailored for ages 13 to 18, featured instruction including biomechanics, nutrition, goal setting and individualized training procedures.

After moving to Sarasota last summer, Cicilioni tried out for the Sarasota High School cross country and track team, and is making progress to be at the top of his game.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE ATHELETE'S IMAGE

He was first introduced to the sport when he was 12 years old, after winning the steeplechase, a 3,000 meter obstacle race, during a physical assessment at his former school Trinity Preparatory School in Orlando, Fla. "All the coaches told me I should try cross country and track, so I started the following year," Cicilioni said. When he was in seventh grade, he joined the Trinity Preparatory middle school team.

To grow as a runner and as a team member, Cicilioni attended the Brevard Distance Runners' Camp from July 1 to July 14. While at the camp, he

trained on a strict, regimented schedule. This included waking up at 6:30 a.m. to go for a morning run, eating breakfast and then participating in a team bonding activity. Once this activity concluded, the campers ate lunch together and later played tournaments of various sports such as badminton, dodgeball or basketball to focus on stamina.

"Besides getting physically better, the experience helped me mentally. I really toughened myself, which is going to help me to push more in a race," Cicilioni said.

"Orlando is a young runner but his maturity makes him more of an upper-classman," Cicilioni's coach, Edward Sera, said. "He provides a steady head to the other underclassman and his work ethic produces much respect from seniors and juniors. His support of team members makes him a future leader for the Sarasota program."

Cicilioni plans to run for Sarasota for the rest of his high school career and see where it takes him after that. "My favorite part of [the sport] is either the competition or the people on the team. It's just something I really love all around," Cicilioni said.

## Cooper Delbridge

by Sidharth Sharma  
Match Layout Artist

Adrift at sea with nothing but a boat and his fellow sportsman, ninth-grader Cooper Delbridge attended the Action Quest camp in the British Virgin Islands from June 15 to July 5.

The camp encompassed scuba diving and sailing, where participants were left at sea with professionals to learn more about the two activities.

boat, more or less overseeing all the people aboard the ship. Camp attendees would then partake in their activities: which ranged from sailing and diving, to wakeboarding and knot tying, among other tasks.

Cooper also spoke about the various ports that the vessel refueled at and passed throughout his time at Action Quest. "Occasionally we would go to a port and fuel up or water and gas, which would very frequently run out of. At the port, we would get a snack and eat. The building is at the port were mostly gutted with no windows or flooring because of the hurricane [Maria], Cooper said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COOPER DELBRIDGE

Delbridge has been sailing for five years at the Englewood Sailing Association. He was initially introduced to the sport when his parents recommended he attend a sailing camp because of his interest in water sports. Cooper's father, Toby Delbridge, put Cooper in the Action Quest camp. "I think what largely attracts Cooper to sailing is the freedom and ease of having wind power a vessel so efficiently. Plus, the lifestyle and community lending to independence yet strong brotherhood among fellow sailors," Toby Delbridge said.

At the camp, crew members had to participate by working all different jobs on the boat. Some of these jobs included working as a chef, deckhand and skipper. Deckhands perform a variety of tasks including standard house-keeping duties like painting, chipping, transferring rigging, vessel and barge maintenance. A skipper is the captain of the

Delbridge was thankful for the opportunity to go to the camp, and reminisces fondly of his final days at the camp. "I truly felt lucky to be in the British Virgin Islands because they just experienced massive damage from the hurricanes and the day was the best. We had excellent wind and the boat was keeled over so far that the leeward rail was dipping. We didn't win the race, but I feel like we had won the day."

Cooper has learned a lot about knot tying, scuba diving sailing, and about himself too. "You know when you're out on the boat you can really reflect about life and truly experience life," he said. Delbridge wants to continue sailing throughout his life as a hobby.

## Middle school tennis and golf teams reintroduced

*Eight years following financial strain, Sarasota County expands sports program*



**Wayne Robertson**

by **Naina Chauhan**  
Asst. Match Editor

Taking part in a county-wide initiative, Pine View is reviving the middle school golf and tennis teams this year. Sarasota County athletic director, James Slaton, made it his mission to re-implement middle school sports teams, namely tennis and golf, after an eight-year break due to financial strains.

"I thought [the tennis and golf program] was important to bring back because both sports are life-long sports that our students can practice throughout their adulthood, unlike some other sports like football... We [also] have some of the top high-school golfers and tennis players so it is important to get kids involved early so they have a jump-start for the future," Slaton said.

The tennis team had its tryouts the third and fourth weeks of school and has been competing weekly since Sept. 24 through the end of October. Pine



**Mark Thorpe**

View has competed in three matches as of Oct. 3 and will compete in two more matches to end the season. Pine View has hosted three matches so far, and their next home game will be Monday Oct. 15. So far, Pine View has a record 3-0, and hopes to continue crushing the competition. The golf team will commence later in the year around spring-time and will have six tournaments.

According to Robertson, the team is comprised of a separate boys and girls team, but both are coached by Wayne Robertson, an Algebra II teacher at Pine View. Once Pine View was aware of the new initiative, Joe DiGiacomo asked Robertson to coach the tennis team, as Robertson has been a tennis coach in Sarasota County since 1996 and currently coaches varsity tennis for the boys' and girls' team at Venice High School.

Practices take place on Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Since

each team member will have varying amounts of experience and unique skills, Robertson organized different groups of kids with similar skill levels. There will be a group of the more advanced members who have played competitively, and then groups that work on more basic yet crucial skills like volleys, serving, and consistency.

"My main goal is that the kids get to be a part of a team so they have the opportunity to have camaraderie and learn to support and encourage one another," Robertson said.

As for the golf program, it will not start until next year in April of 2019. While the plans for the golf team are still tentative, Pine View Coach Mark Thorpe and technology teacher, Mark Goebel, will be coaching. Both coached the golf team at Pine View eight years ago. Thorpe will be in charge of the competitive golf team, and Goebel will be coaching the intramural kids who will play recreationally. To make the competitive golf team, Thorpe is expecting students to be able to play at least nine holes of bogey golf — making a score of one-over par on a hole. The two coaches are still in the process of organization details, for example, which golf course the team will use, what days practice will be, and what each practice will entail. "It has been a long time since we last had the program and I'm not sure what to expect, but I'm glad to see it return," Thorpe said.

According to Robertson, Slaton and the district are open to adding even more middle school sports, but for now, Pine View is looking forward to competing with their new golf and tennis teams.

### Meet the players

#### Boys Team

- Grant Burroughs 7
- Pranav Mayor 8
- Seth Neitlich 8
- Aravind Rajeev 8
- Jack Scarlett 6
- Charlie Siddons 8
- Joshua Weisman 8

#### Girls Team

- Rose Calleja 8
- Sophie Cottrez 7
- Juliana Divincenzo 6
- Lauren Gross 7
- Marissa Saba 7
- Melis Wiesinger 7
- Megan Xiao 8

GRAPHIC BY NAINA CHAUHAN

## Torch Tries: Scorch Fitness



Torch staffer, Grace Johnson, performs the dead mill in the training room of Scorch Fitness. The dead mill is one of the exercises in circulation at Scorch's High Intensity Interval Training workout classes. PHOTO BY HALEIGH BROWN

by **Haleigh Brown**  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Empowering clients through strength, motion and integrity, Scorch Fitness High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) workout classes will leave anyone feeling the burn and dripping in sweat. With their endurance, strength and power (ESP) approach, Scorch Fitness offers a take on workout classes like no other.

HIIT workouts are comprised of intense bursts of exercise by giving 100% effort with quick recovery time before moving on to the next exercise. By alternating between cardio-based and strength-training exercises, it allows your body to stay in a high-fat burning zone while also gaining muscle. Many athletes will include these exercises, among others, when working out. However, this gym is comprised of classes that are solely HIIT-based.

"The gym really is a family, the owners Ryan and Liz go above and beyond to make sure the class is full of encouragement and positive recognition. I also really love how the class is designed to push you very hard and how helpful they are in modifying it to your personal strength and ability," Sophia Martinez, twelfth-grader and regular client, said.

Upon entering the facility, one is greeted by a small lobby, featuring Scorch Fitness attire, leading to the main workout space. Spanning the back wall is the Scorch Fitness logo, with motivational

quotes to remind the clients reasons to push through their rigorous workout, such as "I want to run a marathon." To the right, the room is supplied with multiple weight racks covering the wall with small mirrors behind them, in order to check your form during the exercises. This area also has several treadmills, rowing machines and stepper machines.

Scorch Fitness aims to have their clients utilize equipment in unique ways, not always aligning with the standard; such as performing dead mills, self-powering the treadmill without turning it on, or connecting resistance bands to the weight racks for extra resistance.

To the left of the facility, a large green space is open for more dynamic exercises based on the routine for that day. TRX bands span the walls on one side, with kettlebells, dumbbells and sandbags on weight racks parallel to them. On the surrounding walls, TVs are mounted in every corner reading off the exercises as well as the repetitions and sets for each so people can keep track of what they still have left.

"I enjoy working at Scorch because it is a total body workout that incorporates weight lifting, functional training and cardio. Not only is it a great workout but it's also a community that feels like family, which you don't get at most gyms around town," owner and trainer Ryan McDonald said.

Upon starting the class, the trainer guides clients through dynamic stretching movements, such as skipping while performing arm windmills or doing butt-kicks and high knees across the room. The trainer then divides the room into groups, based on the class size, and demonstrates each exercise before assigning different groups to different rounds.

The trainer makes it a point to know every person, so throughout the class they are there to help with form and motivate each person individually. One can pay \$25 for each class when they are

wanting a quick burn, or join permanently with a membership for reduced cost in the long run.

Taking only an hour of your day, no matter your fitness level, Scorch Fitness is sure to leave you feeling stronger and healthier than when you came in. Whether one is more advanced in athletics looking to kick-start their fitness journey or even just enjoy a class with friends, everyone's needs are attended to.

Located at 4638 Clark Road, Sarasota, Florida 34233, Scorch Fitness is open Monday through Saturday, times vary per day.

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# Student represents the United States

## Eleventh-grader swims at Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Fiji

by Odelia Tiutyama  
News Editor

Representing Team USA, eleventh-grader Arik Katz was one of 200 competitors to make a splash at the Junior Pan Pacific Championships, held this August in Suva, Fiji. Katz first attended the 2018 Phillips 66 National Championships in Irvine, Cal. from July 25 to July 29 where he placed second with his mile time, allowing him to move on to the championships in Fiji.

Following in his siblings' footsteps, Katz began swimming for the Clearwater Aquatic Team when he was only 6 years old and currently swims for the Sarasota Tsunami swim team. His older sister, Taylor Katz, swam at the University of Florida and his older brother, Austin Katz, swims at the University of Texas.

After qualifying for the Junior Pan Pacific competition at the Summer Senior Nationals, Katz and his team had three weeks to prepare. Most of his training was focused on what he felt needed improvement following his performance at the Summer Senior Nationals. Katz was on a strict schedule to make sure he was able to perform to the best of his ability on the days of his competition.

"I was really nervous before getting into the water to compete because there was a lot of pressure on me to do good," Katz said. However, with his teammates cheering him on, Katz swam his best by placing in the mile and the 800 meters

freestyle. "Every day was pretty much the same. I'd wake up at six in the morning, drive to the pool, we'd do warm-ups and put on our suits, after that we would swim our event and finally we would warm down and go have lunch. After lunch we would

**"But it is his work ethic, his seriousness towards his sport and his desire to succeed that makes all the difference."**

Ira Klein,  
Swim Coach

go back [to the pool] and go through the whole process again before we could finally go back to the hotel," Katz said.

Although he spent 11 days in Fiji, Katz was on a strict schedule to make sure he was able to perform to the best of his ability on the days of his competition.

"I was really nervous before getting into the water to compete because there was a lot of pressure on me to do good," Katz said.

However, with his teammates cheering him on, Katz swam his best by placing in the mile and the 800 meters



TOP LEFT: Eleventh-grader Arik Katz (right) poses with USA Swimming National Junior Teammate Peter Larson. BOTTOM LEFT: Katz smiles for a photo with teammates Emma Weyant (left) and Christin Rockway (right). TOP: Katz pictured (second row, second from the right) with fellow teammates in the stands of the Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Suva, Fiji.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ARIK KATZ

freestyle.

According to Katz, all the training for the Junior Pan Pacific Championships he went through paid off when he was able to receive his medal for the mile. "I've been swimming since I was six and I just felt like all my years of swimming had been leading up to the moment I was standing on stage in front of everyone as they cheered," Katz said.

During the course of the Junior Pan Pacific Championships, Katz was able to grow close to many of the other competitors. He said that just by standing on the bleachers with flags and cheering on other Team USA representatives, the team became close friends and made many unforgettable memories.

"There is no doubt that he has physical attributes

that lead to his success, no all swimmers have the same basic ability. But it is his work ethic, his seriousness towards his sport and his desire to succeed that makes all the difference." Sarasota Tsunami Swim Team Coach Ira Klein said. Just as all his siblings have done, he plans to continue swimming through out high school and in college.

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## Meme of the month



**About:**  
Life with MaK is an eighth-grade YouTuber who specializes in autonomous sensory meridian response (ASMR). ASMR is a phenomenon that gives the listener a sensational or tingly feeling. MaK features a variety of original videos on her channel, a majority of which are ASMR-related.

### Rise in popularity:

Life with MaK began her channel in March of 2018, starting with a generic YouTube tutorial: "Stepdad does my Voiceover." However, with her love of ASMR in mind, she began doing videos specializing in this area a month later. These videos sparked the interest of Twitter users, who turned her iconic moments into memes, as per usual. As of Oct. 2018, her most popular video is an ASMR video in which she is shown eating Aloe vera. Since then, her channel has thrived with close to 1 million subscribers, as of Oct. 2018.

### Popular Derivatives:

me watching my own life fall apart wondering what's going to happen next



3.2M views • From Snolly

me in the break room when it gets busy at work



313K views

me when i'm about to start eating and everyone starts bowing their heads



240K views



Scan the QR code to see Life with MaK's youtube channel!

GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA HANSEN AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TWITTER

## S(r)q Glu 4 U: a student story

by Zoe Merritt  
Asst. Opinion Editor

This upcoming Thursday, chaos is likely to ensue on campus, as students will be once again protesting the dilemma that has swept the student body: glue sticks. Just earlier this month the first rally was quickly shut down; however, after a two week regrouping session tenth-grader Elmer Seglew will once again lead the protest as the driving force behind this school-wide glue madness. After coming to the realization that the circular glue sticks lacked the ability to successfully reach the corners of the paper, Seglew took matters into his own hands by opening a petition for all grades to sign. This coveted document expresses the student body's outrage at the current gluing situation and proposes a radical solution — square glue sticks.

Over 500 students, from grades five to twelve, have added their names to the list. Also, a whopping 672 students have become members of what is now the biggest club on campus: S(r)q Glu 4 U. Members meet every Tuesday and Friday after school to give pro square glue stick speeches, create persuasive leaflets and plan their next move.

"We just need a successful, fruitful, gluing life, you know?" President of S(r)q Glu 4 U, Seglew said. Seglew alongside vice president of the club, eighth-grader S.Q. Air, outlined clear goals in a newsletter they delivered to administration the day after each meeting.

"The corners of our papers will curl up without fail

unless we do something about this faulty school material. Square glue sticks are the way to go. They're hip, they're reliable, they get the corners," Air said.

Several teachers have refused to hang S(r)q Glu 4 U flyers in their room and do not allow meetings to be conducted near their classrooms. Feelings range from annoyance or the growth of the movement to concern, with emails written about the massive numbers of circular glue sticks that will be wasted if square glue sticks are present on campus.

However, not all faculty members are against this glue revolution. The entire high school science department has endorsed the club, believing it will benefit their

classes' interactive notebooks. As the date for the next rally grows closer, administration has been thrown into a frenzy due to the elusive nature of square glue sticks.

"We don't want to let the kids down, we really don't. We can't find these sticks anywhere. I don't want them to think we don't care, but our silence on the matter seems to have been interpreted as opposition," an anonymous from desk volunteer said.

Despite the club's track record and the messages sent out by the office, Seglew and S(r)q Glu 4 U members are hopeful for this upcoming protest.

"We all think it's going to be the push we need to get them to take us seriously. This is a movement that will succeed, and it will do so for the benefit for all the glueers here today, and the future glueers to come," Seglew said.



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

# Clout on wheels: the ultimate guide to the best places to Heely

by Anna Labiner  
Features Editor

The righteous year of 2003 was famously known for producing the hit song "Hey Ya" by OutKast, painfully low-waisted jeans, and most importantly, the iconic yet controversial, Heelys. Gliding on axles of steel, boys and girls alike enjoyed the electric sensation of taking a running start before kicking off and shifting their weight to their heels, producing an effortless glide.

As any master "heelyer" would know, there are specific spots that are prime for the sport. Therefore, being a Heely expert, I have decided to indulge Torch readers with my personal take on the best spots to Heely.

## Lowe's

Any place with cement floors is already a top-notch spot to break out the ol' wheels, Lowe's being one of them. Gracefully whiz past the rows of paint samples and middle-aged men staring at doorknobs, knowing that you are definitely the coolest and most efficient person in the entire store. Remember that people are only staring at you because they know that they are inferior. If you spot an

employee following you shoot them some classic finger guns and assert your dominance by skating away at top speed. Nice.

## Costco

Costco is tricky, mostly because there's usually a big crowd and you have to have an adult with a membership with you, but don't let that stop you from living up to your Heely potential. If shoppers are in your way, run straight into them and use your lightning-fast speed to slide away before anyone catches you. No mercy. Their tiny minds cannot even begin to comprehend the power and grit of the Heely community. Grab a sample of yogurt on the way out for the full experience. Treat yourself.

## The Airport

Everyone knows that the best way to start a vacation is to pull up at the airport with your fresh new kicks. Pro tip: people might be embarrassed to ask for your autograph so bring at least 70 signed pictures of yourself to hand out. Slide past security and into the terminal with ease. Make sure that you slip

past your family and get lost right before your flight takes off — your parents will think it's hilarious — you madman.

## The Beach

Although this site is controversial, there's nothing like feeling the sand between your wheels and getting a nice whiff of that ocean air. Propel yourself across the beach using as much physical movement as possible in order to cause a scene. You will be the most respected person there. The only downside to this location is that the texture of the sand makes it much more difficult to run into young children and elderly people. However, this can be overlooked when taking into account the lovely scenery.

## Abandoned Warehouses

An abandoned warehouse is a prime spot to heely, mostly because it's spacious and there's no one around to tell you that heelying is "stupid" and "not a real competitive sport." Make sure you find the oldest

and darkest warehouse around for a truly relaxed and not at all haunted experience. If you happen to see rusty nails or any-

thing that could potentially give you tetanus, ignore it and keep on rolling — your godly heely powers will protect you.



GRAPHICS BY BRIANNA NELSON

## Student hacks beloved Remind system

### Nefarious cybercriminal takes over Pine View's famous Remind communication system, threatening life on campus

by Melissa Santoyo  
Editor-in-Chief

The Pine View Remind, originally established at the advent of 2016, is the very backbone of information relay within the Pine View community, completely overshadowing other means of spreading announcements. The Remind renders all alternate platforms useless, virtually eliminating the need for a PA system, on-campus flyers, and even The PVTorch.com. But as of Oct. 2, students and staff members alike are reeling from the unprecedented hacking of the school-wide Remind system. With this platform in the hands of a sinister hacker, Pine View is in shambles.

"I remember that day vividly. I hadn't received my usual morning 'Hello' courtesy of Dr. Covert. This shook me, as without those routine texts, how would I know that it was indeed Tuesday, that class started at 9:15 A.M. and that water at 211° is just plain useless?" seventh-grade student, Ima Screem, said.

Instead, what most students received that morning was an alarming text at 4:19 a.m. that read "How big are the shoulders of giants exactly? How wide are these shoulders if every single Pine View student is standing on them? Come on, where is the logic in that, please someone explain."

Unsurprisingly, parents and students were perturbed.

Administration immediately complained to the staffers at Remind, demanding the system be shut down until further notice. The request, however, is still being processed considering the sheer expanse of the Pine View Remind system. In the meantime, administration has instigated a fruitless witch hunt, pinning the blame on various individuals in hopes that the true culprit will come clean. Multiple IT members have been screened and questioned by Deputy Chris Hudson, who claims that the true



Anonymous Pine View student hacks the Remind System with their coding expertise. Students and staff have been astounded to their core due to this shocking scandal.

PHOTO BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY

mastermind must be a student with nothing better to do than to torment the lives of innocent civilians — so clearly, a STEM kid. Engineering students and individuals enrolled in AP Computer Science on FLVS are currently under thorough investigation.

To this day, sporadic texts continue to be sent by this anonymous hacker, sometimes as many as 212 messages in a day. Administration has yet to comment on the situation, advising community members to delete the app instead.

Many have endeavored to simply opt out of receiving messages from the Pine View Remind system, as well, but with each attempt to choose "STOP," the hacker increases

their message distribution by tenfold. "I tried to quit the Remind and this absolute heathen sent me a text in return saying 'DONTSTOPBELIEVING: What is this, every middle school dance since 2010?'" campus custodian, Rey Mined, said.

**I tried to quit the remind and this heathen sent me a text saying "DONTSTOPBELIEVING."**  
Rey Mined,  
campus custodian

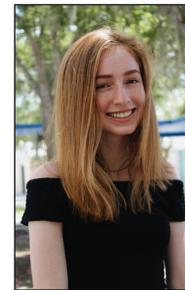
Until further notice, members of the community are advised to avoid downloading the app to begin with and fear is pervasive across campus. Many worry that this hacker will endeavor

to attack the few remaining platforms of communication — heaven forbid — like the television screens in the cafeteria. Under this atmosphere, many stress that they will soon have to resort back to the carrier pigeon method of communication.

## The pinnacle of social media? Facebook groups.

Facebook has evolved from being the epitome of social media when it was first created in early 2004 to becoming an app exclusively for adults from the age of 30-50. Parents utilize this platform to remind their friends and family that their life is superior by sharing family selfies from the Grand Canyon, food pics and updates on how advanced their fifth grader is for their age.

Our generation, though, has given Facebook a Queer Eye makeover, by introducing and embracing Facebook groups: a series of populous "group chats" with up to thousands of members in each one, all of which discuss such variety of topics I could never generalize. Here are a couple I inadvertently joined or was added



Olivia Hansen  
Humor Editor

to by some friends who want to desensitize me: NUMTOTS: The very first group I was ever in — New Urbanist Memes for Transit-Oriented

**Our generation has given Facebook a Queer Eye makeover, by introducing and embracing Facebook groups.**

cat has the potential to go viral or something if I did post about him.

any sort of passion or interest in public transit, but now I am convinced that cars are the debacle of our planet. Join to ultimately determine the meaning of "peak transit."

Please Show this to Jim ha! Ha! Ha! Simply, a group dedicated to making fun of old people. It's mean, but so am I. Welcome to Humor 2018-2019.

Animals in Predicaments: This is so great — my timeline is overwhelmed by videos of dogs and I appreciate it. I have yet to contribute to it — or any group for that matter — but I know that my

**Bug spotting**  
If you're really into bugs this group is perfect for you. I was added to it as a joke. I hope. I and I've just embraced it ever since

The first time I realized I was in a group dedicated to finding worms... was when I saw my friend, now Pine View alumna post a photo of a caterpillar in her house — I just assumed she was sharing it on her regular timeline and I wasn't completely shocked. After it happened two or three more times I became suspicious. It took me so long because I still don't truly understand Facebook, to be honest.

Facebook has hundreds of groups — join one that relates to your interests! It is a great way to meet people with passions as eclectic as yours.

## Normal vs Twitter lingo

by Peyton Harris  
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Amid a 50-year anniversary jubilee of Pine View, Administration is hastily preparing for an all-out-war between the different alumni. Each year has declared that their class is better than the others, sparking intense Facebook fights and hostility. "1974 is acting particularly feisty this year; not that anybody's surprised," said Head of Security Deputy Hudson. He promptly called upon his military comrades to provide security at the event.

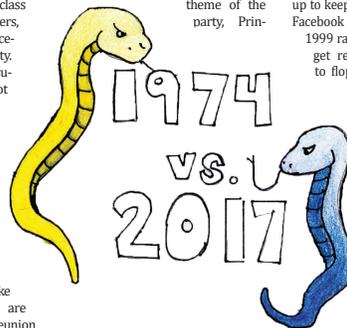
On a post on Facebook, Pine View alumna Ami Stake wrote, "You losers are about to have the reunion of your life! Not! Lol. 1974 is the best year! Just went downhill from there..."

This gave Administration a serious spook, as they have now hired five more ex-FBI agents to keep a watch on the party.

Messages of support for Stake and her insults followed, causing great concern and confusion for the class of 2017. "I guess our class really wasn't as good... My whole life is a sham,"

said Ines Ecuere, an alumna from 2017, said.

Regardless of the unexpected malevolence, administration is determined to continue with the event. When asked about the theme of the party, Prin-



GRAPHIC BY ANNA LABINER

icipal Dr. Stephen Covert said, "This is the time to exhibit our 212 philosophy more than ever. 212 degrees represents going the extra degree, in both schoolwork and extracurricular, which is what Pine View is all about." For the foreseeable future, the jubilee is set to take place on Feb. 31, 2019 in the Student Union.

Okay tea! So Pine View is celebrating 50 years and some classes are ready to snap! 1974 is acting extra shady... like they might try something... but sis we already knew about that them Deputy Hudson called some backup to keep the peace but then or Facebook Stake was like "you 1999 rats are in for a real one get ready for your reunion to flop." I mean go off... but sis you must know that ain't it

Then her pal: were like omg wig! and were all upping her ego smh the deputy got lowkey s p o o k e e so now the FBI mer on it, as if they weren't monitoring u: from that start Then Bea O Problem who's apparently SPONSORING the thing, was like idk I wanna do this. Sis is a whole CEO Ugh her mind. The heads still want to go through with it, ever though it's basically destined to be over. Then Dr. Covert went OFI about 212 degrees or something whew. Winston Churchill is SHAKING. So ig it's still on, and it's like Feb. 31 in the Student Union



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA HANSEN

## The changing landscape of Hollywood films' diversity post-'Crazy Rich Asians'

by **Tricia Saputera**  
News Editor

When the trailer for "Crazy Rich Asians" first released, I was shocked to discover that it would be the first movie with an all Asian cast by a major Hollywood studio in 25 years. The last movie, "Joy Luck Club," first came out when my own parents were in college. With America as diverse as it is, Asian representation should be more prevalent in mainstream media, and that's a simple fact.

"Crazy Rich Asians," based on the book by Kevin Kwan, tells the story of college professor Rachel Chu as she travels to Singapore with her boyfriend only to discover that his family is rich — crazy rich. She struggles to fit in with his wealthy family, being raised in the states by a single immigrant mother. This tension, however, does not reflect the movie as a whole; it ends up being a light-hearted romantic comedy that succeeds as a push for more Asian diversity in media.

Nearing a domestic total of \$150 million when a profit of that size was not even expected, "Crazy Rich Asians" has surpassed all expecta-

tions. According to Forbes, "Crazy Rich Asians" is now one of 69 movies that have opened on at least 2,000 screens and experienced less than an 8 percent drop in their second wide-release weekend. This movie proved that having a diverse cast is extremely profitable, and a sequel is already in the works, solidifying the film's massive success.

This financial success is paving the way for more on-screen Asian representation, as seen with the widespread appeal of "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" and "Searching," all movies with Asian leads, currently making headlines worldwide. Hollywood seems to be experi-

encing its first wave of Asian appreciation in decades, as Huffington Post and other news sources

called it, #AsianAugust.

We see that these movies are making waves beyond the film industry, getting the discussion started about positive Asian representation on social media and in popular culture.

Not only did "Crazy Rich Asians" integrate a fully Asian cast, but it also was able to reflect Asian culture. From its multilingual script incorporating English, Mandarin and Cantonese to its heartwarming scenes such as the family folding traditional dumplings together, the movie

accurately portrayed Asian traditions, as these are hard to find in popular films.

Diverse on-screen representation is needed now more than ever, and the media we consume plays a large role in shaping society's perspectives. Not only is it important to have representation, but also positive, non-stereotypical depiction that shows minority characters capable of filling a variety of societal roles. It's important for everyone to be able to have an inspiring role model they can look up to on the big screen.

This is something "Crazy Rich Asians" does successfully; instead of representing Asian characters as the stereotypical nerds or martial artists, the film shows Asian characters as having a diverse set of goals, lifestyles and life experiences that express the different intersections of the Asian experience.

After years of detrimental stereotyping, "whitewashing" and misconstruing Asian characters, we seem to have reached a turning point. "Crazy Rich Asians" is able to provide a shining light in the much needed world of Asian diversity in Hollywood.



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

## All politics is local, or at least it should be

by **Elizabeth Hopkins**  
Match Editor-in-Chief

In 1982, amid a particularly contentious congressional election cycle, Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill was attempting to push forward a billion-dollar jobs bill, igniting Republican opposition. This bill, branded by Republicans as a shameless attempt to drum up Democratic support, was especially lampooned by House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel, a political rival but also friend of O'Neill's. In response to the Michel attacks, the Speaker's staff began to research Peoria, Illinois, Michel's hometown. Quickly uncovering the names of local roads and bridges which could be repaired using funding from the proposed bill, O'Neill would read this list on the House floor.

Michel bit the bullet. Looking back, this anecdote seemed to have proved O'Neill's most famous and oft-quoted maxim: "All politics is local." Today, however, the political landscape has been radically altered. Although the tide had been turning for quite some time, we have most recently seen half the country plunge into intense nation-

alistic sentiment, spurred on by President Donald Trump, often condemned as a leader without a substantive policy platform, instead exploiting popular prejudices. Republican lawmakers this midterm cycle have clamored for his endorsement, and most importantly, approval from his

by whether the candidate chooses to appeal to the zealous, ill-conceived notions of his base, or the issues that confront ordinary people on a daily basis. Only then can actionable solution be advanced.

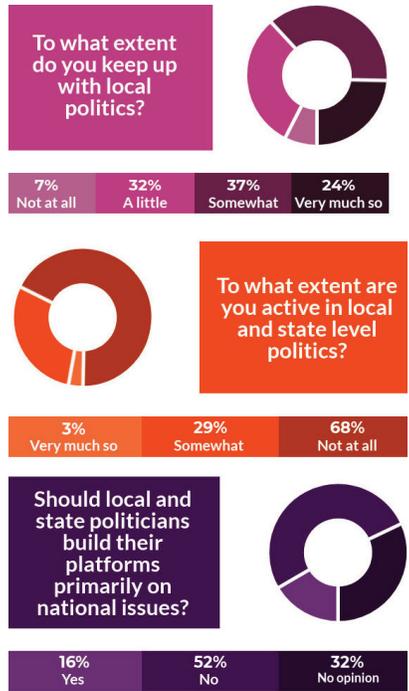
First, however, we need leaders who are prepared to listen, linking that input to their service. For example, when I go door to door canvassing for Representative Margaret Good, who managed to win the State District 72 seat last February, we ask about health care, education, unemployment and how those issues have touched them personally. When politics is real to people and not just shadows on the wall, that's when it means the most.

And while Trump supporters nationwide are riding on the president's coattails, progressive candidates offer a compelling counterpoint, one O'Neill would surely be proud of. This past year, we have seen blue wave candidates, often new to the world of elected office, take up a hands-on, localized approach to campaigning, engaging voters directly about issues that effect specifically them. In this context, it's about the number of doors knocked, the number of volunteers re-

When politics is real to people and not just shadows on the wall, that's when it means the most.

base. Case in point, just before the primaries, Florida gubernatorial candidate Ron DeSantis released a bizarre campaign ad featuring him building a model of Trump's border wall with his children, as well as his infant son donning a MAGA onesie. This blatant pandering is not uncommon, even in local elections, and is a symptom of what happens when a politician is willing to do whatever it takes to get elected, eerily mirroring the president's own rise to power.

This is not what politics should be all about. Today, political courage is defined



GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON  
Based on a survey of 180 Pine View students in grades 7-12

cruited, building a campaign fueled by people empowered to join the political process.

Right now, it has become clear that what we need now more than ever is leadership

that is reactive to the concerns of the people. For at the end of the day, political and local accountability are intrinsically tied together, or at least they should be.

## the Torch

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[student voices]

## Students discuss the impact of the free press

*Notably with the Trump administration, journalism is under serious fire for controversies concerning fake news, censorship, etc. In this issue of the Torch, Pine View students share their opinions concerning the free press post-2016.*



Jennifer Sutcuoglu, grade 9

“It most definitely is [a bipartisan issue] because both sides have an opinion and in today’s world we end up pushing each other out... and if we want to come back together we need to learn to have a free press that has open ideas from both sides, so that we can learn from each other.”

“While it’s important to keep the media in check just like the government itself, everything has its boundaries... keeping both the media and our public representatives accountable for their actions is what makes us America. Fostering democratic ideals and promoting ideas based on the will of the people is what the United States was founded on.”



Max Banach, grade 10

“[Journalism] shouldn’t be but I think it has become a partisan issue. I think specifically Donald Trump — I don’t want to say the rest of the Republican party — but certain Trump supporters have gotten an anti-media sentiment which I think is dangerous for American democracy.”



James Kim, grade 12

[staff editorial]

## Analyzing the increasing importance of student journalism under the current political climate

Not to sound narcissistic but student journalism is important.

Under the current sociopolitical environment, we are constantly suffering the pitfalls of the attacks on the press. President Trump’s rhetoric concerning journalism is caustic and according to him, we are “the enemy of the people.” Prior to 2016, the phrase “fake news” was not common, as opposed to its rampant use in today’s media. With every tweet, and every White House correspondence, we are belittled, pushed to the side and dissed by a man set on dismantling the free press.

Since the 2016 Women’s March, there has been an evident rise in teen activism and involvement. With one of the more recent examples being the Marjory Stoneman

Douglas (MSD) shooting and the subsequent March for Our Lives, more and more young people today are realizing their influence in a democracy with ubiquitous access to the internet and therefore the world. MSD survivor Emma Gonzalez is a prime example of someone upset with the injustice of our current administration, and her words are evident of a changing mentality for youths nationwide:

“Fight for your lives before it’s someone else’s job.”

This is why student journalism is so pertinent. Journalism itself is the study and publication of the truth; student reporters are quite literally fighting for their lives, for autonomy of word and free press. Journalism is the perfect medium for holding an administration as devious as the current one accountable, and the field has accomplished doing so in the past.

After all, Nixon’s resignation came post-Watergate, which of course was unveiled by Washington Post report-

ers Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. As described by journalist Ben Bagdikian, in a 1997 front-page story for the Atlantic, these two “were young, inexperienced, and not particularly promising in the eyes of their superiors... If they could do it, why couldn’t every high school student?”

Both Woodward and Bernstein were beginners to the world of journalism, evocative of student report-

ers much like those on Torch. As Torch staffers, we earn the privilege of covering both local and statewide news in an unbiased manner. It’s a way of remaining informed and involved in our community, while encouraging others to do the same.

The opinion section is the only place for personal statements within the paper, and that too is valuable, because our voices are given an outlet to be heard. Even if all our words are subject to scrutiny and prior approval, for a group of passionate student journalists eager to change the world, there is power in printing truth.

Trump’s comments on free press nationwide have in no way diminished the journalism field. Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications noted an approximate 24 percent increase in journalism applicants for the 2018-2019 school year compared to the year prior, according to The Daily Northwestern. Similarly, MarketWatch denoted that the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California recorded a 19 percent increase in applicants

when compared to the past several years. Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism also documented a 10 percent increase in applicants after five years of relative consistency.

As observed throughout history, we’ve seen the ac-



Brianna Nelson, Opinion Editor

tion of sex during the Monica Lewinsky scandal, the press has always worked to show the truth.

When you actively seek to tear down one of the pillars of democracy in a vye for more power, it should immediately raise suspicion. These attacks by President Trump have successfully catalyzed his vote base into harassing, attacking and demonizing journalists without realizing the harm this brings to our nation as a whole. Whether it be the diminishing trust in our news or the harassment towards journalists just trying to inform us of the truth all of this hurts our country.

This intense fear of fake news and constant aggression towards the free press has only caused people to distrust the media in a time when journalism is needed more than ever: to bring to light the unjust, un-democratic and corrupt actions of our current political landscape.

[a column]

## Grappling with the militarization of the concept of ‘fake news’

When Sarah Huckabee Sanders refuses to condemn calling free press the “enemy of the people” as cited by the LA Times, or when President Trump himself labels journalists “scum” and “slime,” as recorded by the American Civil Liberties Union, we see a common thread within the Trump administration and the Republican party as a whole: the persistent and aggressive attack on both the free press and journalism.

“Fake news” as a phenomena has only recently appeared in mainstream speech and was hardly ever used before the Trump administration. Trump acolytes have militarized the concept of fake news to attack the free press and journalists. They mischaracterize disagreement with the GOP as a direct attack on the truth of the American people, when it simply isn’t. And that’s the issue.

The far right wants to characterize good journalism, bad journalism and commentary all under one negative label to stir unease regarding the media and liberal ideas as a whole. To be clear, this is a deliberate move by conservatives.

It’s also interesting how the Trump administration actively decries any criticism of the POTUS and his associates as fake news. The press has always functioned within the system of checks and balances to criticize lamentable and unjust actions within our government. Whether it be journalists exposing Watergate or the lies of our government during the Vietnam War or President Clinton’s legal defi-

## The Verdict

**Income Inequity:** We are disappointed to see the lack of awareness surrounding low income students at Pine View.



**Hello Week:** We are glad to see social isolation and bullying being addressed by the Pine View community as a whole.

**PV Fair Changes:** We are sad to see the Pine View Fair date changes inconveniencing clubs and fundraisers.



**HOSA Success:** We are happy to see HOSA advance to and succeed at the international level of the competition.

## Taking to the seas

Pine View students engage in local marine research endeavors

by Madi Holmes  
Web Editor

Between administrating cutting edge new technology and crafting a community, no time at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota goes wasted. Mote Marine, a one-of-a-kind upstanding research and education facility, has been dedicated to the well-being and research of marine life for over 60 years.

When hearing "Mote Marine," what first comes to mind are the countless number of field trips from elementary school and the seemingly endless rounding hallways lined with biographical plaques of Mote's unique sea-life residents. However, the educational and community outreach aspects of Mote Marine are only half of their mission statement. As one of the most well-known research facilities in southwest Florida, Mote has been able to amass a huge staff of employees, interns and almost 1,700 local volunteers. Mote Marine's influence has spread across southwest Florida, Sarasota County and even leaving an impact on the Pine View community.

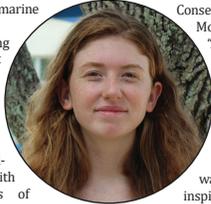


PHOTO BY CATE ALVARO

### Halle Bell

Twelfth-grader Halle Bell is one of many students working to augment the Mote Marine mission. Bell started interning with Mote two years ago as a tenth-grader and has since grown appreciative of marine science and conservation.

Bell's selective internship oppor-

tunity has allowed her to expand her knowledge of marine life through hands-on experience with animals. She devotes most of her weekends to caring and feeding the animals at Mote Marine. Being an intern also entails many community outreach events and projects that Bell consistently takes part in and leads. One of her favorite events is the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit held at Mote annually in December.

"Anybody and every school age can come and spend a whole day at Mote with special workshops in order to learn about different programs and projects," Bell said.

Bell's passion towards ocean conservation inspired her to bring a unique service project directly into the Pine View community. Back in April, Bell brought a service project to Pine View Key Club sponsored by Mote Marine called "Stow it Don't Throw It." The project involved creating storage containers out of old tennis ball containers for anglers to put their lines in rather than the ocean. As Senior Class Director in Pine View's chapter of Key Club, Bell oversaw the donation of about 130 storage containers to Mote Marine. She hopes to initiate more projects this school year to continue her impact on ocean and wildlife conservation awareness.

### Natalie Huertas

As miles of Florida's southwest coast turns into a sea-life graveyard, scientists and journalists everywhere are calling this red tide outbreak one of the worst the region has seen in decades.



A test ozone treatment system manages the red tide in a canal in Boca Grande, Fla. Mote Marine's ozone treatment system is currently being used to remove *Karenia brevis* cells and toxins that cause the red tide in seawater.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MOTE MARINE

The local environmental and economic strain that red tide bears has encouraged the research of red tide across many neighborhood scientists and research facilities — Mote Marine being one. Many Pine View families have felt the effects of the outbreak for weeks now, especially tenth-grade student and Mote Marine intern Natalie Huertas, who is devoted to spreading techniques for preventing and removing red tide.

Huertas devoted most of her summer to working with Mote Marine through their high school summer volunteer program. The program lasted eight weeks, with Huertas volunteering three times per week.

Volunteering mainly included working with educational services through talking with guests and children visiting the aquariums. Through the volunteering program, Huertas became passionate about spreading awareness on red tide prevention.

Mote Marine has been researching red tide for over 40 years and has recently patented a new method for removing

the *Karenia brevis* algae cells that cause red tide in the water. The highly innovative technique, referred to as ozonation involves the release of ozone into red tide infested water in order to combat the spreading algae. The theoretical environment conscious alternative to removing red tide is currently under testing by Mote Marine in small, local canals and bays.

"Mote is primarily a laboratory and the aquarium is just a side-gig. The aquarium is there for showcasing all of the things Mote learns through their research. Mote is receiving a lot of government funding and Mote hopes to implement the ozonation process on a larger scale in the near future," Huertas said.

Mote Marine recently received a \$100,000 grant from the state government in order to continue the testing and the spreading of awareness of the ozonation process. Mote Marine hopes to use this money to safely implement the ozonation process into the southwest Florida community, and promote eco-conscious removal of red tide.

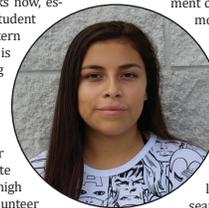


PHOTO BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY

## Walking on the 'wild' side

by Gwyn Petersen  
Entertainment Editor

Saving the world one species at a time, Pine View class of 1999 alumnus Matt Shirley travels around the globe assisting other scientists with the conservation of the world's endangered animals.

Shirley became interested in working in conservation science at an early age. "I was always interested in wildlife and reptiles growing up, and after I figured out that medical school wasn't my only option, I started to pursue [conservation science]," he said.

As a conservation scientist, Shirley's job is largely dependent on where he is in the world, primarily in Florida, Russia and Africa. When he is in Miami, where he lives when he's not traveling, he works at the Florida International University as a postdoctoral research associate, often writing proposals, manuscripts and reports; he also works in communication and logistics. During the month of Oct, Shirley will spend three weeks in the Republic of the Congo to detail game meat programs, working with local communities to study the relationship between food and commerce to make sure everything is sustainable.

Also while in Africa, he'll be trudging through the forests looking for crocodiles, and working with a graduate student on the conservation of pangolins. All of this is part of Project Mecistops, a global program mostly in western and central Africa that began in 2013. The project initially began as a way to protect the 500 adult crocodiles left of the species, to hopefully better understand



Class of 1999 Alumnus Matt Shirley preps a baby slender-snouted crocodile for a stomach wash. As a conservation scientist, Shirley uses this technique to see what an endangered animal is eating and how it may affect that species' health or environment.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATT SHIRLEY

them and implement actions to ensure that they don't face extinction. The project works with the Côte d'Ivoire Zoo to release their breeding program back into wild, and has partnered with the national park service to raise awareness and do conservation planning.

Due to his passion for animal conservation, Shirley became an official National Geographic explorer Aug 28. The program encompasses artists, photographers, adventurers and scientists who are devoted to educating the public and documenting the world around them. "Every one of [the National Geographic explorers] is very passionate about what they do... You're living the dream trying to make a difference," Shirley said.

To become a National Geographic explorer, applicants

must submit a project proposal asking for money to support your cause. If selected, National Geographic sends support in the form of camera equipment and a multimedia platform to expose as many people as possible to your cause. They also provide training for a maximum media impact.

Currently, Shirley is attending the Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) in Russia with almost all of the nations of the world. The focus of the convention will be improving the world's sustainability, meeting with animal welfare groups to make sure that animal species do not go extinct. The hope is to come to a decision about what species will be made illegal for commercial trade in order to maintain their current population size.

"I want the next generation to share the world I live in today. I want to ensure the species that I care about are available in the future. That's why we're developing the capacity with local scientists so they can take care of their own resources," Shirley said.

## [a column]

### Fear is valid, but don't let it stop you

Hi, my name is Melissa, I'm 17 and I still don't know what I'm doing.

The directionlessness I currently face is reminiscent of my time in Torch during ninth grade. I really had no idea what I got myself into at the time; I just really liked writing. Journalism wasn't something I anticipated talking seriously. Torch turned out to be a tremendous commitment, seemingly better suited for extroverts. I was constantly nervous entering Portable 3, fearing the unknown that would accompany each new day.

That first year was truly life-changing. I made friends, albeit with difficulty, and I learned the importance of communication. I'd always been a wallflower but my time as a first year journalism student set the ball rolling for a character development that has persisted into my senior year. I may still not know what I'm doing, but I'm a lot more confident in both myself and that fact.

Now in my final year at Pine View, I've realized that nothing is accomplished without a healthy dose of fear and passion. In my experience, the two are inherently intertwined. We are always told to pursue the things we love. However, what we are never told as kids is that what we love will not come easy.

Often times, the prospect of both success or failure is terrifying.

I've learned that because you love something, your expectations of it will always be daunting. Whether it's the but-



Editor-In-Chief

terflies in your stomach when practicing for first chair or the anxiety when sketching an article, we want to be good at the things we love. We want to be able to grow from the passion of enjoying something.

Besides teaching when traveling for a character development that has persisted into my senior year. I may still not know what I'm doing, but I'm a lot more confident in both myself and that fact.

self — it's natural to be afraid of the unknown. Whether it's your first speech and debate tournament or the last minute of basketball tryouts, uncertainty is omnipresent. It's not something that should be avoided.

So go ahead, deliver that speech. Play your heart out or that poorly tuned tuba. The important thing is not to conquer fear; but rather to revel in the things you love regardless of how daunting they seem. And who knows? In four years, you might find yourself here, in the corner of page 16.

"I want the next generation to share the world I live in today."

Matt Shirley,  
Pine View Alumnus

Often times, the prospect of both success or failure is terrifying.

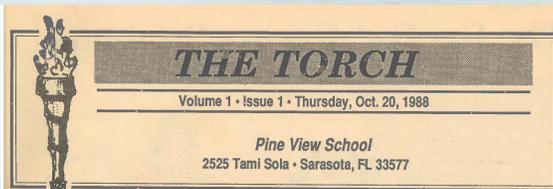
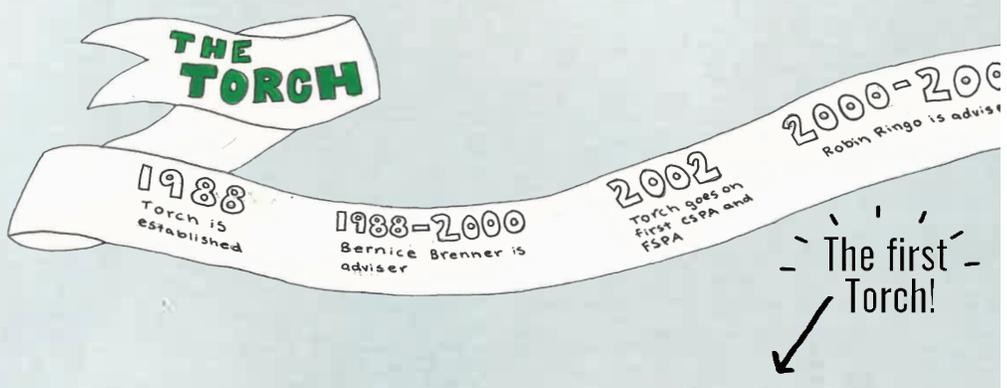


In this Features pullout, we aim to celebrate the Torch's 30-year anniversary. Our publications would not be as accomplished if not for the continuous effort and determination of our previous staff and advisers. Since 1988 when the Torch was established, we have greatly broadened our horizons, and now have three different publications as well as a website. We owe all of our success to our readers and hope to continue the Torch legacy at Pine View for many years to come.

**Dedicated to the memory of Bernice Brenner  
adviser from 1988-2000**

Yes.  
23%

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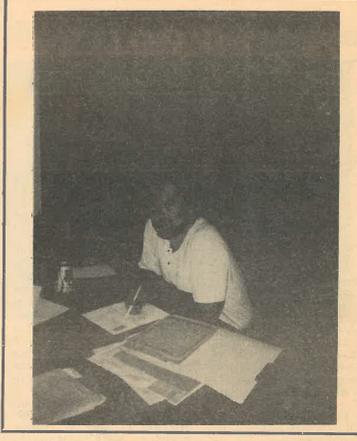


## Principal Largo Joins 'Family'

by Chapman Rackaway  
 "I'm Mr. Largo, your new principal. I'm here so you can put a name with a face. I want all of you to know me, and I want to get to know all of you." With this, new principal Steve Largo, introduced himself to the Pine View students.  
 Mr. Largo has arrived with a list of impressive references. He has been involved with gifted programs for 13 years. During this time, he has taught grades two through eleven and has served as a gifted coordinator in many counties. Most notable of these was his involvement in Fairfax County, Virginia, where he was responsible for over 17,000 students. When our new principal arrived on campus, the one thing that most surprised him was

"...how flexible, supportive, and like a family, Pine View was." While he may have been surprised, he quickly became accustomed to the atmosphere. Mr. Largo brings many new ideas to Pine View. Already he has planned to blacktop 20 feet of the faculty/senior parking lot. Yet, Mr. Largo modestly attributes the idea to our assistant principal, Mr. Danna. Mr. Largo's ideas extend beyond simply cleaning up our campus. He expects to add a third locker pod in the near future, as well as adding new portables to our campus. For the long run, Mr. Largo is looking at a new Pine View campus, centrally located to service the entire county. His plans look towards 1993 or 1994 for the opening of the new facility.

This project is an important personal goal for the new administrator, and he hopes it will set the standard for education around the country. He believes that all America should be bettered, and these improvements include providing opportunity for advancement in classes, and an increasing familiarization of teachers with different teaching styles and techniques. Chairperson, of the English Department, Hilda Downing sums up her opinion of Largo very succinctly: "In a nutshell, I like him," she says, "I think that we (at Pine View) are going to have a continuity with Mr. Largo as principal. It is this positive, forward attitude that one notices first about him, and that is one of the best, most important aspects of our new principal."



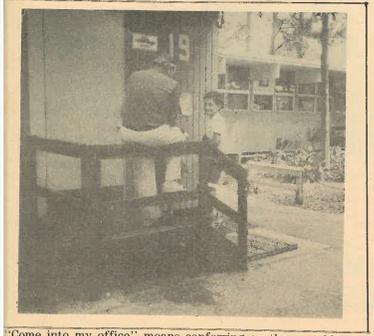
Principal Steve Largo plans improvements for the school.

## Proposed Facility Explores Center County Location

by Daemian Shannon  
 The Class of 1993 could be the first class to graduate from the new Pine View School. Pine View has been situated on the same campus since 1969, while student population has now reached 830. Thus, as Assistant Superintendent Dr. Henry Heusner has told *The Torch*, the school board and the Pine View community are

currently developing the education specifications for the new campus. Teachers, administrators, parents, and students have contributed to the plans for Pine View's future. The staff committee has made several recommendations about the new building. For example, it recently proposed that the school be built in the center of

the county. This would make the campus more accessible to students from the far north and south ends of the county. In addition, the school board is reviewing possibilities for architectural design. Biology teacher, Sol Malinsky, says that he would like "cottage-type classrooms, because it is a means for students to relax between classes."



"Come into my office" means conferring on the portable's steps for Mr. Burrows.

The education specifications should be completed within the next year. At that time, the architect will use the specifications to design Pine View's new building. The classes of 1989 through 1992 should not complain, however. The school board is working with Principal Steve Largo on improvements of the current campus. Dr. Heusner states, "We are discussing with Mr. Largo, things to improve Pine View in the next few years. We plan to improve the media center, food services, and a covered play area." The plans for Pine View are nearing completion. Although it will be a few years before the students can take advantage of expanded and improved school facilities, everyone at Pine View is excited about this future. As eighth grader Chris Ford says, "I'd love it!"

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## 'Ventures' Provides Enrichment

by Joe Feller  
 On Friday, Feb. 16, in 1978, Pine View School started the Advance and Explore program (ADVEX). Those who have been here longer than five years remember such courses as "model making" with Mr. Flynn, and "male cooking" with Mr. Malinsky, two parts of this exceptional study program. History has been rumored to repeat itself and that certainly applies here, for this year will mark the creation of a similar program called "Ventures."

Those who do not have fond memories do have bold ambitions. To quote fourth grader, Cathy Osborne: "It would be real neat getting to do something unusual and out of the ordinary. It would be very interesting." When asked what sort of activity she would enjoy, Osborne suggested: "Getting a group together to figure out ways to save animals and such." The Pine View staff fully supports the idea. Mr. Largo himself will be teaching basketball, and Mr. Danna may do a roller skating program if there are adequate facilities. One Venture program is going to be called "Legos with Legos." Mrs. Katz, who is in charge of the program said: "Ventures is a special enrichment opportunity in a relaxed environment. We hope the students will have fun and learn at the same time."

## Meet the advisers



PHOTO BY SID SHARMA  
 "When I first started doing Torch I wanted to have this one core of people that were schooled in journalism, not just newspaper, and I think that was the impetus for the quality of excellence that is still developing within The Torch. The Torch has just grown so wonderfully, and I am proud to have been part of that so many years ago."

**Robin Ringo**  
2000 - 2005



PHOTO BY CLYDE MORGAN  
 "The Torch is here to tell students stories they don't already know: changes in the way the school operates, unusual people hidden in the crowd, or extraordinary events that need 'just the facts.' It is a privilege to have so much ink with which to speak to the Pine View community, and each Torch journalist is obligated to find unknown stories and tell them well."

**John Schweig**  
2005 - 2012



PHOTO BY MADI HOLMES  
 "Before I became the journalism adviser, I shadowed Mr. Schweig for a year, and I really feel like I was handed a well-oiled machine. The Torch was successful, so the kids did not want to make any changes at first, and it took a while for me to make my mark on it. I have truly learned a lot in the past couple of years and have become quite passionate for journalism."

**Christopher Lenerz**  
2013 - Present



GRAPHIC BY ANNA LABINER

## The Torch lingo

**Beats** (*noun*) Unlike The Torch's favorite vegetable, beats are areas of expertise that each student is assigned. They cover major events both on and off campus.

**J1** (*noun*) Refers to a freshman who is a first year journalism student.

**J2** (*noun*) Refers to a sophomore who is a second year journalism student.

**J3** (*noun*) Refers to a junior who is a third year journalism student.

**J4** (*noun*) Refers to a senior who is a fourth year journalism student.

**Torchable** (*noun*) The sacred portable where all journalism classes take place.

**Section editor** (*noun*) Someone who is the head of a section, not to be confused with the Editor-in-Chief.

**Lenerz** (*noun*) Our FEARLESS leader

**CSPA** (*noun*) "Colombia Scholastic Press Association," a journalism convention in New York that The Torch staff attends every two years to take journalism classes at Columbia University

**FSPA** (*noun*) "Florida Scholastic Press Association" another journalism convention to Orlando that The Torch staff attends every year.

**IT'S 1:01!!** (*noun*) This is exclaimed at the end of each day to signify the end of class.

## The Torch celebrates its 30 year anniversary

by Anna Labiner  
Features Editor

From its humble beginnings in 1988, the Pine View Torch has maintained a committed promise toward reputable journalism across campus. Now celebrating its 30 year anniversary, the paper continues to uphold its longstanding tradition of keeping the community informed while striving for further improvement. In this first issue of 2018, the features section will explore the origins of The Torch as a publication, paying homage to the past.

The Torch has now become more than just the high school newspaper, referring to the high school newspaper program as a whole. It started out as a newsletter, and now includes a website, an elementary school publication, a middle school news magazine and multiple social media pages. The bulletin later developed into a full publication with the help of Pine View alumnus and first editor of The Torch Aaron Stutz, previous principal Steven Largo, and adviser Bernice Brenner. Stutz, in twelfth grade at the time, successfully advocated for Torch as an elective where students could express their love of journalism, thereby playing a vital role in getting the student-run publication off the ground.

"We used to have a non-official newspaper club where we mainly did satirical stories and worked together to create a newsletter. We were always trying to demonstrate to Largo that we could create a student-run newspaper. It was a team effort, and we wound up getting a journalism course established," Stutz said. Soon after initiating The Torch as an actual course, it gained a larger following, and Stutz was unanimously selected for the leadership role of Editor-in-Chief.

Although student journalism is usually encouraged, Largo initially faced some pushback when trying to establish Torch as a class. "One of the things that I heard from some of my fellow principals was not a lot of encour-

agement to have a school newspaper, especially at a school like Pine View where kids can critically think and are aware of things, but I never took their advice because student journalism is so important," he said. Largo's persistence combined with Stutz's genuine love for journalism was a force to be reckoned with. Together they helped produce a publication that would inspire young journalists at Pine View for the next three decades.

The Torch's establishment was a big step for journalism at Pine View and gave students a platform to express themselves, whether it be through a satirical piece in the humor section, or a serious article about local events in news. Stutz specifically recalls a local issue in which there was a dispute between the teacher's union and the administration about giving each school the right to make decisions concerning school policy and curriculum. Although he cannot confirm that he covered the topic, Stutz felt that The Torch was a great way to inform others and to ensure that students were staying up-to-date on applicable local news.

"At the time there was no website, there was no Facebook, and there wasn't a lot of internet, so having the Torch was a very important way of tying a school community together," Largo said.

Since then, Torch has evolved quite a bit but has never strayed from its original goal of providing the Pine View community with timely and reliable content. The Torch even got its name because the first staff wanted to pick something that communicated their desire to "light the way" for Pine View, and thought that "The Torch" would be suitable. From the old campus to the new campus, Torch has upheld this policy and plans to continue to expand the program for many years to come. Journalism means so much to all of staff, and being given the opportunity to provide Pine View with student opinions and stories is an honor. Here's to 30 more years!



TOP: The first Torch staff poses for a group photo. BOTTOM: The current Torch staff pictured in a group photo, now thirty years following the first ever print issue. Since 1988, The Torch has served the Pine View community, providing students and staff alike with relevant news and entertaining content. PHOTO BY CLYDE MORGAN

From all of us on  
Torch, thank you for  
30 years of pride,  
dedication and  
readership. Here's to  
30 more years!

Olivia Hansen  
Tricia E. S.  
Ben Gordon  
William Kelly  
Gwyn Petersen  
Clyde Meyer  
Isabella Gaskill  
Nathan Haber  
Abigail Brown  
Winnie Nelson  
Alyssa Kople  
Madison Hoerner  
Odella Tuutyma  
Zoe Mitt  
Anna Lalier  
Sarah Catalano  
Elise Kelli  
Alex Roumi  
Lidellume  
Frankie Gross-Clay  
May Collins  
Karee Johnson  
Joanna Mahos  
Manny H.  
Sarah Hassan  
Cate Warrick  
Chris Long  
Nana Chantam  
Mathalic Begic  
Yuli Santayo  
Leo Gordon  
Kosumi Wade