New school initiative, ‘Start with Hello Week,’ promotes interconnectedness

by Melissa Santoyo

Pine View School is a private, co-ed, college preparatory school located in Osprey, Florida. One of the school’s major values is its focus on interconnectedness. In the age of social distancing, this value becomes even more important.

The Florida Department of Education released the most recent School Public Accountability Reports (SPAR), which contained statistics regarding diversity of the student population, in the 2018-2019 school year. According to the report, 15 percent of Pine View’s student body is economically disadvantaged. In Florida, receiving free or reduced lunch represents 125 females and 132 males receiving free or reduced lunch.

In order to implement values such as those of “Start With Hello Week,” senior class president Sachit Gali said.

seventh-graders Juan Pelayo 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.

The Torch
explores economic
affluence

The Torch
the stereotype of Pine View
by Ella Hechkik

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 interconnectedness.

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 grades levels about skills they can learn and incorporate into their daily 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 misinformation regarding the affluence of the students if assumptions are made based on the colleges our students attend, the professions of our students 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 released the most recent School Public Accountability Reports (SPAR), which contained statistics regarding ethnicity, gender and income diversity of the student population.

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 population. In Florida, receiving free or reduced lunch represents 125 females and 132 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.

seventh-graders Juan Pelayo 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.
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 school 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 make students 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. Students can expect to receive a written or verbal warning, be given a second offense, or be given a third, which can result in the loss of the device for the day and a third word will lead a parent to having personal property taken. Sept. 6, Pine View administers School and 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 mental health 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
Web Editor-in-Chief

Raising $34,000 in its first year of establishment, Pine View’s buildOn club traveled to Haiti this past summer to build a school for students: eleventh-graders Mia Blaas, Alexandria La and Matthew Smith; seventh-grader Benjamin Nichol; and senior Taylor 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 disease to help students and families in need. “The most important thing is that we know of a student’s need and if they need to know about a student's need and if they need comfort and want to reach out and let them know. Our guidance counsellors have tremendous knowledge about resources for students. It’s our goal to make sure every student has what they need whether it be school supplies, clothing, and food,” Spielman said.

Regardless of facts and figures, the stereotype persists, both on and off campus. “Whenever I would like to introduce myself as a Pine View kid, I’d like ‘Oh, I’m Pine, I go to Pine View. Sorry about that. I’m not like others,’” Spielman said. “I just want to be like others.”

The whole club went to Thomas Elie for a week and stayed in two of the houses that were provided. “It was eye-opening to see such a new way of life,” said Spielman.

BuildOn continues to full fill their mission as they hear to Malanje, another school; they are currently raising $30,000 to gather materials. “[I felt] fulfilled. We have worked so hard trying to raise money and once you go you’re like ‘Ih 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 the annual nation-wide Yale Invitational. Participating for the seventh year in a row, the team participated in five speech events and three debate events.

The tournament took place in the university classroom 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-grader 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 Oratory.

Out of those competing in Original Oratory, eleventh-grader Benjamin Nichol made it to semi-finals in Congressional Debate. At the beginning of the first debate, he advanced past preliminary rounds, at the competition, Nicholas said, “just had this incredible rush of endorphins when I found out, I felt great because it wasn’t just a victory for me, but a victory for everyone personally, for everyone 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, as the team will continue 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,” Spielman said.

“Everyone had a lot of fun at the Yale Invitational and the weather will only get better.”


during the Sarasota County School Board's 100th anniversary. To view the video, go to PVTorch.com.

PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

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Twins take second place in national history competition

by Ella Hechluk

From the county level of the National History Day competition (NHSD) through states and into nationals, twelfth-graders 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 NHSD competition.

The theme of the 2018 NHSD contest was “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 firsthand malnutrition firsthand, especially in India.

“We often travel to India, and 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, malnutrition is the elephant in the room,” Shivni said. “Children with limbs thinner than my wrist, with little more than a few urine rags and a handful of lentils to eat in a given day, seeing all this and comparing it to our situation, I 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 its infant formula to developing countries in order to prevent the dangers children could face by consuming their products. Most frequently, Nestle used contaminated water to dilute the product to make it last longer.

This resulted in infants being extremely malnourished, contributing to a huge spike in infant mortality rates through the latter half of the 20th century. Although there is no way to know for certain what caused the spike in infant mortality, we feel a sense of need to understand the Nestle formula, according to the twins.

The Patels support that the best NHSD projects explain both sides of a story so they spent a lot of time pursuing first-hand accounts from boy, 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 spending their weekends setting 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 foreshadowed the many great things that are to come for them,” social studies teacher Scott Wollinger said. As their teacher last year, Wollinger 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 researching and handworking, 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 NHSD project, they created a non-profit organization called “Before the Bottle.” This will soon provide a curriculum both print based and digital, to teach mothers in developing countries. The curriculum will help mothers learn of the dangers that Nestle caused as well as how they can protect their children in the future.

PVA revamps event calendar for new year

by Cate Alvaro

Due to issues pertaining to winning the annual Pine View Association (PVA) fundraisers, the Pera-mathom and the Pine View Fair, are switching dates. In terms of fundraising, The Peramathom will now be held Nov. 9 and the Pine View Fair primarily for the People’s Choice voting at other Pine View events," Shannon Chan, eleventh-grader and Miss Pine View co-director, said.

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 about their project and help in funding their immersion program in Quebec. This presentation includes their previous fundraising, 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  Peramathom
Nov. 9  PV’s 50th Anniversary
Jan. 14-18  Pinnacle
Jan. 26  March 2  PV Fair

Check  PVTorch.com

Twelfth-graders Gopi and Shivni Patel created an exhibit titled “Commercioergic 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 SHIVNI PATEL

**NEWS**

email the editors at news@pineviewtorch.com
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 Gusell
R&B Entertainment and Features Editor

Now to Pine View, seventh-grade Chinese teacher Jeffrey Gill brings his experience in social studies teaching and a love 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.

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 history for three years. Switching from teaching in the science lab to the social studies classroom, Gill is qualified in a multi-subject classroom. He later moved to North Port as a middle school teacher due to personal reasons, winning up as a social studies teacher. Staying with local schools, 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 a seventh-grade Chinese teacher, Caroline Gammon, who is away for a few 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 an on-campus club, Gill sponsors the Speech and Debate club and sponsor 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 Chinese 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 extracurricular activities or teaching his class, you know he’ll give it his all,” seventh-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 Kahn said.

Maggie Higgins
by Manny Bea
Managing Editor

As 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 mark on campus by taking over for former English teacher Bridgid Shannon as the school’s PeaceJam club sponsor.

Attending Pine View since second grade, Higgins endured the same excitements and challenges the students teach now. In eighth grade, she began talking the newly-offered Chinese language classes taught by Kitty Wang and Jenny Brunicardi, director of PeaceJam.

“Higgins is putting her faith in the students like past people,” twelfth-grader Edward Br Secunda, director of PeaceJam food drive initiative Farm Share, 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 portelettes. “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 Dylan Bell moved back home for the seventh year of teaching. As a high school Astronomy Honors and a seventh-grade Earth Science teacher, Bell is excited to share his enthusiasm for science throughout Pine View’s campus.

After graduating from the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) with a Ph.D. in space science, his teaching career began at FIT where he taught Physics I and II for six years, along with teaching some IT classes.

“I taught physics to [coll-] freshmen and sophomores throughout graduate school, but decided to come back for my Ph.D. to teach once I finished,” Bell said. “My family and friends all live in Sarasota, so it’s hard to remove away for an extended period of time not be able to come back for the fall.”

When asked why he decided to teach middle and high school students rather than college students, Bell discussed the satisfaction he receives when his students grasp the material is something he loves.

“I’m teaching the fundamentals so I get to see the light bulbs go off over their heads when they finally understand,” he said.

As Bell plans to continue helping students learn to study science and life himself, he hopes to continue helping students learn to enjoy science while he himself learns more about Pine View in regards to the time he has experienced at Pine View so far. “It’s been great, I really did not expect all my students to be so bright, engaging and hard. I expected to have to teach much more亲身 in the student’s subject areas and that’s not the case at all. Also, the teachers here are phenomenal. I’ve never been so involved in our school’s work as helpful to me.”

Welcoming teacher and Bell’s current menti Shavonov said, “I think Dylan is a perfect fit. He brings the enthusiasm and really enjoys what he is doing.”

Pamela Novak
by Grace Johnson
Focus Editor

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

Shannon, who held the position for several years and unexpectedly became the Director of the PeaceJam Southeast region, with such short notice of the job’s opening and the strange timing, Novak was hesitant to apply for the job. “I didn’t expect that this would happen,” she said. “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.’”

However, after talking to others, Novak realized she should apply for the job.

“I’m happy that [the administration] found a teacher that we don’t have to coach again this year 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 undergraduate but I’ve done many other things. I’ve just always thought that sometime in my life I’d be an English teacher,” Novak said.

When Novak and her family moved to Sarasota two years ago, they instantly attended 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 council of the middle school Odyssey of the Mind, a social club that unites students into teams to create a project or invention, and she looks forward to coaching again with the students.

Novak is looking forward to a fun year with her English class. “I was finally like ‘Okay. This is exactly where I need to be. I need 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 Foye
Teaching English

- Shifted from teaching middle school language arts to AP Statistics and AP Capstone Seminar and Research
- Christened Pauling

- Taught English IV and V Honors, in addition to new genre and approval AP class (AP World History) for current year, now teaches English III Honors, AP Language and Composition and Speech.

- Due to taking an AP course this year, he cannot hold the position of AP testing coordination

Brigid Shannon
- Moved to become the Director of the PeaceJam Southeast region and coordinator of PeaceJam clubs

Lori Wiley
- Previously taught AP Capstone and was a part-time testing coordinator, however, she is now a full-time testing coordinator

Jen Williams
- Moved from teaching fourth-grade language arts and social studies to one class of sixth-grade English and five classes of seventh-grade English
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 really 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 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.

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
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 tech- nical ethicist Tristan Harris, according to The New York Times article “Is the An- swer to Phone Addiction a Worsen Phone?” published on Jan. 12, 2018, “the goal of sticking to shades of gray is to make the glittering screen a lit- tle less stimulating.”

When you get hun- gry looking at the red and yellow colors in the McDonald’s logo, you are being drawn by the color, the same way you are drawn to your phone screen. The colors on the screen stimulate our brain, causing further ad- diction to electronic devices. Ideally, gray- scaling your phone should lessen the amount of time I spend staring at my screen.

Day 1

Usually, after I get home from school, I watch Netflix or scroll through Instagram before starting my homework. However, with my phone in the gray- scale 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, I didn’t use my phone for Instagram or Netflix. I am only using my phone for my email or checking my En- glish Honors Brendan thread. At this point, I am trying to change my phone back to the normal settings and give up.

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 En- glish Honors Brendan thread. At this point, I am trying to change my phone back to the normal settings and give up.

Day 4

Today, I have lost so much interest in my phone that I purposely left it at home. I feel better knowing that I don’t need an electronic device for a class. I can use a school lap- top or something else that is easily access- ible 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 As on all of my assignments over past four days.

Day 5

Today, I gave in to the challenge and turned off the gray- scale, only to show my friend a photo I had taken. I “for- got” for a few hours to turn it back on, and found that I was even more addicted to the colorful screen and now use 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 strug- gling 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.

Tenth-grader dives into coral restoration

by Alex Roumi
Asst. Sports Editor

Key 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 lagoon, which is already a part of her 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 oppor- tunity to clean testing labs utilized by biologists, coral in the ocean and organize underwater nurseries off the coast. “It’s like seeing what your life would be like in the future,” Shipar- ski said.

Shiparski is on track to achieve her dream of becoming a marine biologist with a focus in environmental protec- tions via coral restoration at the ecology lab. Demonstrating an interest in Marine Biology since her first camp at Mote Ma- rine Laboratory and Aquarium, Shipar- ski went back for the second year in a row, this time at Summerland Key. How- ever, she had been volunteering, going to events and attending camps with the Mote Marine Lab since fifth grade.

“I really didn’t know anyone there, but I quickly made friends. Honestly, ev- eryone 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 wa- ter. “My dad grew up on the water and it was really big part of his childhood, so he’s always instilled the love for the water in me from a young age,” Shipar- ski said.

Skin boarding and swimming when he was younger, Shiparski’s fa- ther keeps a family tra- dition alive by going to the beach with her.

Shiparski plans to at- tend Hawaii Pacific University, where she will study coral restoration and digital footage. “They have a program here, 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,” Shipar- ski said.

“I am extremely proud of her. I appre- ciate Ann’s ability to communicate with other students, counselors, and re- searchers on seeking solutions for the challenges facing marine life and the ev- er-increasing intrusion on their habitats, Shiparski’s mother, Bethie, said.

Shiparski looks forward to teach- ing marine biology to college students af- ter she has had time in the field, but first, she has to make her own mark on the world as a marine Biology student.
Giraldo’s got grace
by Elizabeth Hopkins
March 14, 2014

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 just be 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.

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 have the artistry. It’s very difficult to have all these different components at once.”

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 very 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 of hundreds. “I was expecting much this achievement,” 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 YAGP. 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 teach. “Dance has taught me to challenge myself and try new things,” Giraldo said.
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 get 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.

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 gourmet sushi rolls, creative sushi rolls, and steaming hot ramen.

Due to the small square footage of Kazu’s 2.0 it 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 gourmet sushi rolls, creative sushi rolls, and steaming hot ramen.

After opening their very first location on Siesta Drive, in 2002, the Japenese owners, Alkiko and Kazu Tsuchiya, expanded Kazu’s by moving to the Gulf Gate area around 2007. Upon walking inside, the smell and sensation of fresh 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 inspired the décor, so as not to lose the meaning 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 throughout 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.

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.

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 homemade 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.

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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 perusing over the vast menu, customers are surrounded by the original and exotic options offered. Kazu’s 2.0 has created a menu fit for all kinds of taste palletes. The seasoned salad layered on crispy tortilla chips, for example, features a traditional Latin dish with the typical Japanese ingredients, allowing customers to take a global trip. Alongside the appetizers, Kazu’s 2.0 hand make 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 barbeque sauce. The restaurant also serves vegetarian rolls.

The “KFC Roll” (LEFT) consists of fried chicken, jalapenos, bacon, avocado and chipotle barbecue sauce. The “Castle Roll” (RIGHT) is a flash fried roll consists of cream cheese, salmon and avocado with sriracha on top.

The Torch
Friday, October 12, 2018

Kazu’s 2.0 is a must-try for non-vegetarians with just as many dishes. The Goat menu offers a wide variety of gourmet sushi rolls, creative appetizers and playful desserts.

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, avocados and sweet corn relish.

The second vegetarian meal is called “Masa-Dusted Cauliflower,” prepared by 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 sock husked-roasted pineapple salsa, avocados 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 Latin music playing and their variety of Hispanic food choices,” eleventh-grader Luisa Garvaca-Flowers 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 34243.

Rating: 4.5/5 Torches

The Torch
Friday, October 12, 2018

The Screaming Goat (nicked named “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 tacos — a Venezuelan bread made of cornmeal, water, and salt. Along with the three standard pork, chicken and beef protein options, The Goat also provides vegetarian options, with just as many dishes.

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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

Participating in one of the most well-known summer sailing programs in the nation, tenth-grader Gabriella Connelly and Abigail Steinwachs are making their progress as part of their rowing team. The two attended the Action Quest camp in Cape Coral, Florida this summer.

Connelly and Steinwachs have both been rowing for four years and are part of Sarasota Crew. The two are working hard, training in part by their sailing capabilities. To enhance their success on the team, Connelly and Steinwachs decided to take part in the Bradley Sculling program together, excelling their athletic success simultaneously rather than independently.

The six-day program involved sailing and training with qualified coaches, as well as participating in various team building exercises and workshops, all while receiving instruction and coaching. After an average day, Connelly and Steinwachs would return to their training and programs, tailored for ages 13 to 18, featuring instruction in basic biomechanics, nutrition, goal setting and individual training procedures.

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

He was first introduced to the sport when he was 12 years old, after winning the state championship in a 3,000 meter obstacle race, during a physical assessment at his former school Trinity Preparatory School in Orlando, Florida. “All the coaches told me I should try cross country and track, so I started the following year,” Connelly said.

In the future, Connelly hopes to play both lacrosse at Liberty University, and crew for the school’s varsity team. He does not intend to just play crew, however, as he wants to incorporate lacrosse in her life by helping local teams.

Cooper Delbridge

by Dallan Sharma

Abhilash Dalvi and Abigail Steinwachs, 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, as well as training for the participants were left to work with sea professionals to learn more about the two activities.

Delbridge has been sailing his boat since age 5, at the Englewood Sailing Association. He was initially introduced to the sport when his parents recommend him to attend a sailing camp because of his interest in water sports. Cooper's father, Toby Delbridge, put Cooper in the Action Quest camp in the British Virgin Islands this summer.

While at the camp, he had the opportunity to work with different classes and sail different types of boats. He was also able to meet new people and learn from others.

Delbridge said that he enjoys sailing because it is a great way to relax and unwind. He also enjoys the social aspect of the sport, as well as the challenge of working with a team and competing against others.

Delbridge said that the most important thing he learned from the camp was to work as a team and to be patient. He also learned how to read the wind and the weather, which is crucial for sailing.

The camp was an opportunity for Delbridge to experience something new and challenging, and he is excited to continue sailing in the future.
Middle school tennis and golf teams reintroduced

Eight years following financial strain, Sarasota County expands sports program

Wayne Robertson
by Naina Chauhan
Assistant Editor

Taking part in a county-wide initiative, Pine View is reviving the middle school tennis program. 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 strain.

"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 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 springtime 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. 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. Robertson has been 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, Wednesdays, 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 is 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, 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.

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

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 going 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 smalllifting feature and Scorch Fitness attire, leading to the main workout space. Spanning the back wall is the main workout area, 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 lifts, 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.

Upcoming 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 costs in the long run.

Taking only an hour of your day, no matter your fitness level, Scorch Fitness is sure to have you feeling stronger and healthier than when you came in. Whether or 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.
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, Calif. 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 Championships 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 swam every day for two to four hours in preparation, even swimming longer distances for further practice.

From Aug. 23 to 26, Katz competed in Suva, competing from 6 a.m. to sundown as he participated in the mile, 800 meters, 400 meters and 100 meters freestyle. He placed second in the mile and fourth in the 800 meters freestyle.

"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

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, not 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.
S(r)q Glu 4 U: a student story

by Zoe Merritt

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 re-grouping 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 fully reach the corners of the paper, Seglew took matters into his own hands by opening a petition for all grades to sign. This document expresses the student body’s outrage at the current gluing situation and proposes a radical solution — square glue sticks.

Over 500 students, from freshmen to twelfth grade, 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, glueing life, you know?” President of S(r)q Glu 4 U, Seglew said. Seglew alongside vice president of the club, eighth-grader S.Q. (for the full experience. Treat yo self across the beach using the electric sensation of taking the wave. The righteous year of 2003 was famously known for producing the hit song “Hey Ya!” by OutKast, painfully low-waist-ed jeans, and most important, the iconic yet controversial, Heelys. Gliding on sides of steel, boys and girls alike enjoyed the freedom of taking the wave — your godly heely powers will protect you.

However, this does not mean the graduates have brought the square glue sticks to a halt. As any master “heelyer” knows, there’s no one around to tell you to slide away before anyone catches you. No more. Their tiny minds cannot even begin to comprehend the power and gift of the Heely community. Grab a sample of joy on the way out for the full experience. Treat yo self.

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 lining up in 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 merry. Their tiny minds cannot even begin to comprehend the power and gift of the Heely community. Grab a sample of joy on the way out for the full experience. Treat yo self.

The Beach

Although this site is controversial, there’s nothing like feeling the sand between your toes and getting a nice whiff of that ocean air. Propulsion 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 anything that could potentially give you tinnitus, ignore it and keep on rolling — your godly heely powers will protect you.

The Orchard

Every time that you leave to start a vacation it is a big deal for your family and yet lost right before your flight takes off — your parents will think it’s hilarious — you madman.

The Torch

The Torch readers with my personal expert, I have decided to indulge

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 be at least not have 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 fight takes off — your parents will think it’s hilarious — you madman.
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 to by some friends who want to desensitize me:

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY: What is this, every 15-year-old school dance since 2010?" campus Custodian, Ray Mined, said. Until further notice, members of the community are advised to avoid loading the app to begin well and fear is pervasive across campus. Many concern that this hacking of the school-wide Remind system will severely eliminate the need for a platform useless, virtually platforms useless, virtually eliminating the need for a PA system, on-campus flyers, and even The PVView. 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 “Hullo” courtesy of Dr. Covert. This shook me, as without those routine texts, I wouldn’t know that it was indeed Tuesday, that class started at 8:15 A.M, and that water at 211’s is just plain useless! seven grade student, ima Screem, said.

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

Normal vs Twitter lingo
by Peyton Harris
Art 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 hasty this year not that anybody’s surprised," said Head of Security Deputy Hud. He promptly called upon his military comrades to provide security at the event.

On a post on Facebook, Pine View alumna Aimee Stank wrote, "You losers are about to receive the reunion of your life! Not just any reunion, it’s the time to exhibit our 212 philosophy more than ever. 212 degrees represents being under the 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.

The pinnacle of social media?
Faceook grouops.

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 2015, is the very backbone of information relay within the Pine View community, completely overshadowing other means of spreading announcements. The Remind renders all alternative platforms useless, virtually eliminating the need for a PA system, on-campus flyers, and even The PVView. 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.

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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 many of our 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 he is truly — 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 in pushing 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 expectations according to Forbes, “Crazy Rich Asians” is now one of 69 movies that have opened worldwide 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 diverse 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. If only we seem to be experiencing its first wave of Asian appreciation in decades, as Huffington Post and other news sources called it, #Asian暑期.

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 heart-warming scenes such as the family bonding rite of passage—things to do other than; the movie seems to be experiencing its first wave of Asian appreciation in decades, as if it were here to stay.

Does “Crazy Rich Asians” do success fully, instead of representing Asian characters as the typical nerd or martial arts master, the film shows Asian characters as having a diverse range of goals, histories and life experiences that express the different interactions of the Asian experience.

After years of being stereotyping, “white-washing” and misconstruing Asian characters, we all should 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.

by Elizabeth Hopkins

Managing Editor

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 Majority Leader Robert D. 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 seems 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 title has held, the substance for some time, we have most recently seen half the country playing into the same sentiment, watching whether the candidate chooses to appeal to the cynical, ill-conceived notions of his base, or the issues that confront ordinary people on a daily basis. Only then can actionable solutions 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 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 have a compelling counterpart: 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 the hands-on, localized approach to campaigning, engaging voters directly about issues that affect specifically them.

In this context, it’s about the number of doors knocked, the number of volunteers recruited, a building campaign fueled by people empowered to join the political process. Right now, it has become clear that what we need now is leadership that is reactive to the concerns of the people. For at the end of the day, politics and local accountability are intrinsically tied together, and at least they should be.
[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.

“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.”

— Brianna Nelson, Opinion Editor

[staff 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 “sleazoid” and “criminal,” 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” is a phenomenon that 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, had 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 decry 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 difficulties.

Brianna Nelson, Opinion Editor

[staff column]

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

Not to sound narcissistic, but student journalism is important.

Under the current socio-political 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 today in the media. With every tweet, and every White House correspondence, we are belittled, pushed to the side and discredited by a man set on dismantling the free press.

After all, Nixon’s resignation came post-Watergate, which was course was unveiled by Washington Post reporters 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 reporters 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, 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 ascension change journalism car trigger and involvement at a student level is often the first step toward resolution. So yes, student journalism is important — it is at the forefront of democracy and the well-being of our country, as a whole.

James Kim, grade 12

Jennifer Sutcliff, grade 9

Max Banach, grade 10

[staff column]

The verdict

Income Inequality: 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
Ink Edit

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 unpaid research and education facility, has been dedicated to the well-being and research of marine life for over 65 years.

When hearing “Mote Marine,” what first comes to mind are the countless number of field trips from elementary school to the seemingly endless rounds of people lining up for the biogeographical plaques of Mote’s unique sealife 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, including 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.

Halle Bell

Twelfth-grader Halle Bell is one of many students working for the Mote Marine mission. Bell started interning with Mote two years ago as a part of the Mote Marine mission. Bell started to pursue Marine science “because I knew this was what I wanted to do ever since I was little,” Bell said.

Bell’s passion towards ocean conservation inspired her to bring a unique service project directly into the Pine View Classroom. 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 large 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 a research scientist at Mote Marine, the Pine View community is impacted through educational services through the aquarium. 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.

The local environmental and economic strain that red tide bears has encouraged the research of red tide across many of the world’s cities — 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 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.

Class of 2019 Alumnus Matt Shirley propels a baby slender-snouted crocodile for a school lunch. As a conservation scientist, Shirley uses this technique to see what an endangered animal is and how it may affect that species’ health or environment.

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 middle school. I really had no idea what I wanted to do at the time. I just really liked writing. Journalism wasn’t something I anticipated taking seriously. Torch turned out to be a tremendous commitment, but my time in Torch allowed me to improve my writing skills.

That first year was truly life-changing. I made friends, I learned a lot, with difficulty, and learned the importance of community. I was a little late to the party, I’ll admit. I was a good writer, but not a great writer. However, I’ve since learned that I’m a good writer, but I’m not a great writer.

Now in my junior year at Pine View, I’ve realized that nothing is going to happen without a healthy dose of fear and passion. In my opinion, the two are inherently intertwined. We’re all afraid to pursue things we aren’t confident in. I’ve always been afraid to do things that aren’t something I’m capable of. However, I’ve learned that we are capable of fear and passion.

“Fear is valid, but don’t let it stop you.”

Matt Shirley, Pine View Alumnus

Walking on the ‘wild’ side
by Gwyn Peterson
Entertainment Editor

“Saving the world one species at a time. Pine View class of 1999 alumna Matt Shirley travels around the globe assisting other scientists with the conservation of the world’s endangered animals. Shirley is 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,” Shirley said.

As a conservation scientist, Shirley’s job is largely dependent on where he is in the world, primarily in Florida, Russia and Africa. That’s because Shirley was born 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 October, 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 everyone is sustainable.

Shirley works 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 Macoisa, a global program mostly in western and central Africa that began in 2013. The project is focused on helping as a way to protect the 5,000 adult crocodiles left of the species, to help better understand, to ensure the survival of the species, and to help take care of their own resources.

them and implement actions to ensure that they don’t face extinction. Shirley said. The project works with the Gite ’D’Ivoire Zoo to release their breeding program back into the 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 National Geographic explorer. August 2018. The program uncomprises 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 requires a lot of work. Shirley 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 the Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) 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,” Shirley wanted to share with the people who have shared this world with me. It’s not something that should be saved. So go ahead, deliver that speech. Play your heart out, or that poorly tuned tuba. The important thing is not to conquer or fail, but rather to even be there. The things you love regardless of how dorky or stupid they are, to those who knows? In four years, you might find yourself here, in the corner of your self — it’s natural to be afraid of the unknown. Whether it’s your first speech and debate tournament or your last, I learned that you’re capable of facing anything. Because it’s the hotness, uncertainty is omnipresent. It’s nothing new that you know.

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

twists in your stomach when you realize that anxiety is just a part of life. You are not alone when you feel anxiety when sketching an art piece, we want to be good at the art piece, we want to be good at painting, drawing, skateboarding or whatever you’re passionate about. I’ve learned that you’re capable of facing anything. Because it’s the hotness, uncertainty is omnipresent. It’s nothing new that you know.
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
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

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.

Meet the advisers

Robin Ringo 2000 - 2005

John Schweig 2005 - 2012

Christopher Lenerz 2013 - Present

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.
The Torch celebrates its 30 year anniversary

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.

**Lenzer (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 101!! (noun)** This is exclaimed at the end of each day to signify the end of class.

By Anna Labiner

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 fully published newsletter, with the help of Pine View alumni 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 encouragement 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 event 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 us and having the opportunity to provide Pine View with student opinions and stories is an honor. Here’s to 30 more years!
From all of us on Torch, thank you for 30 years of pride, dedication and readership. Here’s to 30 more years!