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Congratulations tenth-grader Max Banach for being last issue's crossword winner! Use the free app Snapchat (available for iPhone and Android) to scan the QR code below to complete the PV Torch crossword. The first person to do so will win a complimentary gift card.



## index

- 1 News
- 5 Sci & Tech
- 6 Entertainment
- 8 Features
- 10 Sports
- 12 Humor
- 14 Opinion
- 16 Focus



## Pine View community discusses the impact of new security measures

by Madi Holmes  
Asst. Web Editor

As the national issue of school shootings becomes increasingly prominent, fearful parents, district leaders and school communities are enforcing more secure school campuses across the country, Pine View being one of many. The gates began to slowly creep up around campus near the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. Due to the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., the process for the new gate implementation was sped up.

The increase in security is currently being mandated by Sarasota County for all public schools within its jurisdiction. This includes the presence of fencing and/or gating around the campus perimeters, a single point of entry and bullet proof glass, all of which is being funded through a grant from the Department of Education to Sarasota County Schools.

In Pine View's case, the campus needs many upgrades

to meet the county's new safety and security requirements. The rather spread out and open flow of the campus requires more fencing and updates compared to a typical one-building, interior door public school (interior door meaning the individual classrooms do not contain doors leading outside).

"One thing that struck me when I first saw Pine View was how it looked like a college campus, and how open and beautiful it was. This type of blueprint is not used anywhere anymore. Now they are building schools that lack as many exterior doors, and that feature the typical single point of entry for safe-

ty and security reasons," middle school Assistant Principal Sue Fair said.

As fencing is installed and the rules regarding entering and exiting campus are enforced,

Students (pictured left to right) weigh in on the new security measures:

"I like them [the fences] because they're more secure during school hours," fourth-grader Everett Perrin said.

"I feel much safer knowing that our campus is protected," eighth-grader Ava Epstein said.

"I feel that it does compromise mobility and that those compromises don't really come with benefits for our security. There's nothing that these walls can protect us from, all they do is keep us more divided," twelfth-grader Ben Casey said.

PHOTO BY CLYDE MORGAN

"I look at the black barriers around my own Pine View School and I see what is quite obviously a dystopia. We were free, and now the students are behind bars."

Nathan Robinson,  
class of 2007 alumnus

being installed compromise current and future students' individual freedom on campus. "I look at the black barriers around my own Pine View School and I see what is quite obviously a dystopia. We were free, and now the students are behind bars. We

used to wander wherever we chose. Now you need to get permission. How can anyone look at that and not be disturbed by it?" Robinson wrote.

The fencing constructor also attracted the attention of Pine View's original architect Carl Abbott, who was appalled to see his original vision of Pine View completely changed. According to a Sarasota Your Observer article, Abbott designed Pine View as an "academica village" with open borders to support the idea of individual freedom. In the article, "Pine View School fence changes architect's vision for campus design" by Marty Fugate, Abbott said, "Freedom of thought, freedom of association, freedom of every level. I designed the campus to encourage individual thought and development." He later quotes proceed to explain that he believes the new fence installations are compromising the freedom he advocated for in his original blueprint.

continued on page 2

## Student wins third in Chinese competition

by Ella Hechlik  
Web Editor-in-Chief

Twelfth-grader Lauren Teyke's latest accomplishment was placing third at the Worldwide Chinese Bridge Competition in Kunming, Yunnan. Teyke has been studying the Chinese language and culture for the past seven years which encouraged her to participate in the competition. She competed against other teams from around the world in language and cultural skills. The event was sponsored by Hanban, the Confucius Institute Headquarters, and was broadcast on TV in China.

Before the trip to China, Teyke competed in two competitions in America, one in Tampa, Fla. and the other in Dallas, Texas. The first and second place winners in the Texas competition were chosen to advance to the international competition in China, but due to complications with the sec-

ond place winner, Teyke was chosen to advance instead. Following that, Teyke paired up with the first place winner from Texas, eleventh-grader Charlene Brzesowsky.

Chinese teacher Kitty Wang was the teacher who recommended Teyke for the competition. "Lauren is one of the best candidates from my classes at that time. She did several speeches in Chinese and danced a classic Chinese story, 'Butterfly Love,' while she was at the competition in China. I watched all of her performances live or through recording. All of Lauren's performance are exceptional," Wang said.

Teyke flew into Beijing, China, Oct. 6, and after two days, she flew to the city of Kunming, in the province Yunnan, where the competition was held. Returning home Oct. 22, she spent those 16 days not only moving up in the



Twelfth-grader Lauren Teyke (left) and partner eleventh-grader Charlene Brzesowsky of Texas toured various areas of China while there for the Worldwide Chinese Bridge Competition. Teyke was there for 16 days and explored the culture while visiting areas such as the Dounan Flower Market.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAUREN TEYKE

and the entire competitor was recorded for TV. "It was all filmed, just like reality TV so we were being followed by cameras all the time," Teyke said.

continued on page 2

Entertainment, p. 6



Student steals the spotlight  
Twelfth-grader models for multiple labels

Sports, p. 10



Tennis athlete ranks nationally  
Eleventh-grader dominates the courts

Humor, p. 12



Jubilee set list is leaked  
Read to see the 50th anniversary jams

## New gates spark controversy

continued on page 2

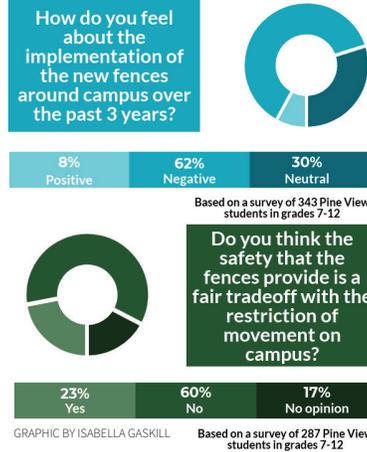
by Madi Holmes  
Asst. Web Editor

The fencing initially brought shock to students and staff, as the once open grounds started to cultivate a different campus ambience. However, as the installations finish, the fencing has started to blend into the daily interactions between students and staff.

Although most have gotten used to the increased amount of security, opinions on whether the fence is beneficial to campus are still controversial. Those who oppose the new fencing take the position that the bars are contradicting the purpose of the original campus' architectural design: promoting academic freedom. This opinion is countered by the idea of increased safety and security for individuals on campus.

Alyson Treadway, a parent of two Pine View elementary students, finds relief at the installation of the new fences and increase in security. "I believe the fencing is providing safety and security for our students, which is the number one priority. I feel much more secure sending my children to school knowing there is a fence," Treadway said.

Social studies teacher John Schweig, who has been teaching at Pine View for almost 15 years, believes the gates are an unfortunate necessity. "I was



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA GASKILL

surprised when I heard what the architect thought about the changes because I never thought that the ease of coming on and off campus was representative of the open learning philosophy of the school. I would have thought that the philosophy was more greatly exemplified by an attitude in the classroom. Thus, while no one thinks the fences are necessarily aesthetically pleasing, I don't believe that anything about open inquiry in my classroom has been changed due to

the installation of the fences," Schweig said.

After conducting an anonymous survey across a pool of 287 seventh- to twelfth-grade students, the results revealed a majority negative opinion — 60 percent of students said they believe the safety the fences provide are not a fair tradeoff with the restriction of movement on campus. For now, as the county-mandated security increases go into effect, schools will continue to implement new safety measures.

## Student masters Mandarin at international Chinese competition

continued on page 2

by Ella Hechlik  
Web Editor-in-Chief

In China, there were 110 teams from 100 countries, with some countries being represented by multiple teams. During the talent portion of the competition, in which Teyke presented a dance to a famous Chinese orchestration, 20 teams were picked to move on, four from each of the five participating continents. Teyke and Brzesowsky then competed against the other teams representing America. That put them in the fifth and final round of the competition, in which they placed third.

After the talent portion, the next round was set up as a game show to show off writing and language skills. The top five round included another talent and game show portion. In the final round, for the top three, a speech had to be delivered.

"I had never been to Chi-



Twelfth-grader Teyke (right) competes in the game show portion of the Worldwide Chinese Bridge Competition held in the city of Kunming, located within the province of Yunnan. Teyke competed against 110 teams from Oct. 6 to Oct 22.  
PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAUREN TEYKE

na before so it was pretty cool to be sent for two weeks for free... It was crazy because I didn't realize how big the competition was there... People were coming up to me and asking for my WeChat which is the main form of communication there. I just didn't know it was such a big deal," Teyke

said. For winning third place, Teyke received a trophy and a year scholarship to study in China, which she is considering. She also received a robot that will listen to spoken Chinese and correct the pronunciation and help with practicing the language.

## Pine View students intern with Florida House Representative



Twelfth-grader Valerik Rouni, eleventh-graders Elizabeth Hopkins and Gwyn Petersen, and tenth-graders Ben Gordon, Leo Gordon, Grace Kim and Sanchi Pandey pose with state Representative Margaret Good and other members of the campaign team. Students staffed the last fundraiser of the election cycle, held Oct. 30 at Mattison's 41; Good won her re-election bid this past Nov. 6.  
PHOTO PROVIDED BY SANCHI PANDEY

## IN BRIEF

### Speech and Debate succeeds at national Blue Key Invitational

by Odelia Tiutyama  
News Editor

The Pine View Speech and Debate team sent over 30 competitors to the annual Blue Key Invitational, held Oct. 26 to 28, at the University of Florida. The team emerged from the competition with 15 of the students advancing to rounds past the preliminaries.

Students competed against over 1,000 competitors at the competition. Pine View performed well, earning seventh place in team sweepstakes.

Within speech events, twelfth-grader Preetha Ramachandran placed fourth in Original Oratory as well as sixth in Informative Speaking. In Duo Interpretation, eleventh-graders Gregory Karcz and Caden Kolesar advanced to semi-finals, and twelfth-graders Megan Hartnett and Arya Nalluri placed fourth out of the hundreds of competitors. Tenth-grader Kiran Kadiyala advanced to semi-finals in Original Oratory.

In Congress, twelfth-grader and Speech and Debate president James Kim made it to semi-finals along with eleventh-grader Cameron Burns. Eleventh-grader Ben Nicholson progressed past Congress semi-finals and advanced to Congress finals. In Humorous Interpretation, eleventh-grader Michael Gutierrez advanced to semi-finals. Twelfth-grader Kevin Zhu made it to octo-final in Domestic Extemporaneous. Speaking with twelfth-grader Valerik Rouni advancing to quarter-finals. In Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking tenth-grader Grace Kim moved on to octo-finals.

In debate, twelfth-grader: Thomas Allen and Robert Gray advanced to triple-octo-finals in Public Forum Debate.

"Our team got seventh for school sweepstakes, something we haven't seen in a few years. I'm really proud of everyone who competed and I know this is going to be a great year for us," James Kim said.

### Model United Nations advances at annual KnightMUN

by Isabella Gaskill  
Web Section Editor

Pine View's Model United Nations (PVMUN) team attended the 17th annual KnightMUN conference held at the University of Central Florida from Oct. 24 to 26. PVMUN brought 58 delegates to the conference and a total of 22 Pine View delegates won awards.

There were 14 committees this year, including crisis committees, general assemblies and specialized general assemblies. Students in crisis committees dealt with crises such as extraterrestrial invasions. In a general assembly, delegates represented countries and drafted resolutions to problems. In specialized general assemblies, delegates worked through problems in the British House of Commons and the United States Senate.

The winners of best position papers were tenth-grader Andi Sun and ninth-grader Son-

ica Prakash. Tenth-graders Ma Banach, Sanchi Pandey, Brook Picazio, Drew Stoneburner, Brian Zhang and eleventh-grader Levente Csepregi won verbal commendations. Tenth-grader Joey Chen and eleventh-graders Kemper Bernstein, Ale Douglas, Kaysha Kapadia and Hannah Sticht won honorable delegate. Eleventh-grader Luis Flores and Kris Selberg won outstanding delegate.

The highest award is best delegate. The winners of best delegate include tenth-grader Julia Kourelakos, eleventh-graders Marguerite Andrich, Faith Kern, Domin Marhoefer and Stefani Wald as well as twelfth-grader Kaili Huang.

"I'm really proud, the novices pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to go out and try with public speaking, PVMUN President Shelly Barber said.

### Camille Chapman discusses the issue of violence in relationships

by Tricia Saputera  
News Editor

Twelfth-graders were visited Oct. 24-25 and Nov. 7-8 in their English classes by Camille Chapman, prevention educator of the Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC). SPARCC works to end domestic and sexual violence in the community.

Although in her previous two visits to Pine View she came at the end of the year, due to AP testing and other events, the fall was a better time for this year's event.

As a prevention educator, Chapman visits students all over Sarasota County, discussing certain topics with certain grades, such as empathy with elementary schoolers. For high school students, Chapman usually presents a five session series, but only conducted two at

Pine View. Chapman presented to individual classes rather than holding a large presentation each session taking two days. At the October sessions, she discussed healthy relationship; and red flags, while topics of sexual assault, sexual harassment and the title IX law dominated the second session.

During the presentations Chapman incorporated a PowerPoint, videos and an interactive activity. During the first session, twelfth-graders took a "Love Language" quiz. This helped students determine their traits in a relationship.

Overall, Chapman hopes to prevent violence in relationships with discussion on various topics. "I really enjoy what I do and I think it's very important, the kids usually really enjoy it as well," Chapman said.

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# Wellness initiatives introduced

by Manny Rea  
Managing Editor

In an effort to promote safety, the HERE4U Crisis textline and Fortify FL application have offered anonymous services for Sarasota County school students. Available 24/7 on the web and through phone, the services provide students with school-oriented help as well as a source for reporting harmful or suspicious activity in and out of the classroom.

Funded by the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, a Sarasota-based private family organization aimed towards helping local programs, the HERE4U

textline connects users to professional crisis counselors available 24/7. This textline was made accessible through a \$14,300 grant to Sarasota County Schools for awareness campaign material. The grant follows a long list of other grants spearheaded by the foundation, who have provided help to Sarasota County Schools since 2014.

Posted on restroom doors throughout campus, messaging HERE4U to the number 741741 will send students to a listening ear. "It's great that programs like HERE4U exist, especially in such advanced times where technology can be utilized for

the greater good," twelfth-grader Scott Barcomb said. "If actions are taken to help each other out as much as possible, then there could [be] less problems, hopefully, for individuals."

Additionally, Fortify FL is a statewide initiative originally created with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. Announced Feb. 23, following the Parkland shooting, Governor Rick Scott signed the act, setting aside \$400 million to be used for safety and mental health in all schools.

Alongside money meant for school resource officer training and mental health counseling programs, Fortify FL was formed in conjunction with the Florida Office

of the Attorney General, the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Users can contact school officials or local law enforcement through an anonymous tip process. Photos and videos related to an incident can be added, as well as calls to emergency services, if necessary.

"I feel that this [is] a valuable addition to the reporting systems already in place," Assistant Principal Tara Spielman said. "In recent weeks across the country there have been threats avoided and potential school violence averted because of others who have taken the 'See something, say something' mantra to heart and acted upon it."

# Student hosts new math symposium

by Haleigh Brown  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Inspired by AP Calculus BC his sophomore year, eleventh-grader Kris Selberg hosted the Pine View School Applied Mathematics Symposium Oct. 24 in the auditorium during eighth period. Featuring five different career choices, Selberg invited Dirk Warner, Michael Prestia, Joseph Long, Frank Filipanits and Mark Mattia to present where math has taken them in life.

Working as head instructor of the Mathnasium of Sarasota, Dirk Warner began the symposium with an equation on the board, highlighting the key aspects of how to solve it: what is the most important, what you need to know and how you're going to get there. With these questions in mind, Warner explained how math can be utilized in all areas of life, such as picking a college.

Michael Prestia presented his career's intricacies as a lead Gameplay engineer at Sledge Hammer Games; popular games he has worked on include Call of Duty: WWII and Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare. He explained his job as, "taking math with expressions and extractions to make meaningful experiences in video games." Prestia displayed one of his games to clarify the role of mathematics, exciting the audience.

As a licensed professional engineer and patent attorney lawyer, Joseph Long focused on math in the

business world. He has held a variety of jobs in finance, writing patents encrypting messages in military applications and digitizing communication systems. Long also serves as the alumni sponsor, alongside English teacher Desiree Schell, on Pine View's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club, of which Selberg is the vice president.

The fourth presenter Frank Filipanits, presented the unique way in which he incorporated his passion for music with his occupation as the CEO of Cool Stuff Labs Inc. With in the music industry he works extensively with software production creating software to manipulate songs after they are recorded.

Pine View AP Statistics teacher Mark Mattia depicted a timeline of his math career; he started as a statistician at AT&T, until he was offered a job in sales data analysis and multivariate statistics at Mars, Inc. Mattia specialized in market research, advertising and promotions, bringing the Skittles slogan, "Taste the Rainbow" to life, as well as naming the popular chocolate dessert, "Milky Way Midnight."

Students that attended were impressed by the symposium. "It was an incredible event that was very beneficial to students who may be interested in the mathematical career route or maybe even those who knew little about it," twelfth-grader Nabil Sharif said.



PHOTO BY CLYDE MORGAN

Text HERE4U to 741741 to connect with a crisis counselor anytime

HERE4U

Your text will remain confidential

GRAPHIC BY TRICIA SAPUTERA

# SCF terminates high school dual enrollment courses with Sarasota and Manatee schools

*Sarasota County Schools currently search for curriculum alternatives*

by Elizabeth Hopkins  
Match Editor-in-Chief

After a troubled history in negotiating with local school districts, the State College of Florida (SCF) at the Manatee-Sarasota location announced the termination of dual enrollment (DE) courses offered on high school campuses Oct. 2. Effective July 1, 2019, DE classes will only be available on SCF campuses at Venice, Lakewood Ranch and Bradenton, as well as online.

According to a FAQ sheet on the college's website, "quality inconsistencies related to course rigor, faculty oversight, academic support and guidance" were cited as reasons as to why the college has shifted their policy.

Additionally, SCF's accreditation agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, recently tightened their standards in regard to course rigor specifically.

Now, students enrolled in DE courses must have access to the same resources made available to college students, including library and academic support services.

The Sarasota County School District, however, expressed disappointment in response to SCF's DE program changes. "This decision will negatively impact hundreds of students in our school districts who take accelerated coursework for high school graduation and need to compete academically for college," Superintendent Todd Bowden said in a press release.

This decision came after SCF's plans to open a new charter school at their Venice campus, causing many to call into question the underlying motivation of these policy changes. After all, just months before the Sarasota School Board's unanimous approval of the

charter, SCF announced alleged problems in the way Pine View had conducted DE courses, even suggesting test

**"This decision will negatively impact hundreds of students in our school districts who take accelerated coursework for high school graduation."**

**Todd Bowden, superintendent**

score inflation. Ultimately, beginning this past fall, only SCF faculty were allowed to

teach DE classes on campus, a measure which was spurred on by recommendations from SCF president Carol Probstfeld.

During this time, however, Principal Dr. Stephen Covert attests that SCF never observed where DE classes were taught, even though their administration was encouraged too, and they offered no specific feedback.

Despite this, SCF contends they are doing all they can to create a positive learning experience for students. "We are making sure we deliver the highest quality to the students. We want the students to have the best experience possible and be the most successful," SCF spokesperson Jamie Smith said, according to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

Currently, Sarasota County Schools are exploring alternatives to SCF's dual enrollment program, possibly

cooperating with the University of South Florida Manatee-Sarasota. Regardless college-level coursework will continue to be offered to students across the county.

Pine View's own strategy to ameliorate these policy changes may differ from other schools across the county. Refusing to abandon the prospect of DE, Covert is currently talking to college: both in-state, including Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida International University, and out-of-state, like the College of William & Mary referring them to the school district level. In this, Covert hopes to effectuate solution: that will connect student with classes at an advanced college level with qualified instructors.

Describing SCF's policy changes as "an opportunity in disguise," Covert said, "put my money on our teachers and students."

Check PVTorch.com



Scan these QR codes to check out the story about Destiny Discover (left) and to read the full story about the Florida Scholastic Press Association District 5 Conference on pvtorch.com (right).

# Sarasota County establishes new bathroom guidelines regarding transgender students

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

Sarasota County Schools superintendent Todd Bowden sent an email to principals and administrators across the county Oct. 24 addressing a set of guidelines regarding transgender students in Sarasota County. The guidelines outlined the use of pronouns, restroom and locker room policies, extra-curricular activities, athletics, dress codes and day/overnight field trips.

The guidelines were discussed for over a year by the local LGBTQIA task force. Split into four parts, the guidelines include an executive summary, a Q&A with the LGBTQIA task force and an advancing equity section. The LGBTQIA task force includes students working alongside members of multiple organizations, such as Equality Florida and ALSO Youth.

The usage of restrooms for transgender students stirred up controversy both in the community and within the school board itself. According to the guidelines, "all students, who want to use the restroom in accordance with their consistently supported gender identity, will be provided the available accommodation that best meets the needs and privacy concerns." The guidelines also state that "it is up to the student, and

the student alone, to share his/her/their identity." According to the Herald Tribune, this specific statement incurred concerns from school board chair Bridget Ziegler who believes parents should be directly involved in the discussion about the decisions that affect their children at school.

Another issue Ziegler brought forward was that the guidelines never appeared before the board and were not meant to be released to the public. Originally sent out in an email from Bowden to all the school board members, the guidelines were then supposed to be given to principals and administrators around the county at the end of that week. However, the controversy had already taken shape in

the community. According to the Herald Tribune, Bowden received an email from a concerned parent about the restroom policy for transgender students. The email mentioned the father's concern for his daughter, "If Sarasota County

potential threats that may have been in the email. The officers then determined that no threat was made after they discussed the email with Peters.

Math teacher Summer Grantham, sponsor of Gay-Straight Alliance at Pine View, said, "It has nothing to do with sexual misconduct or sexual deviance... I had a student who identified at birth as a female and in high school came out as a transgender male and identifies as male. 100 percent respect that. I think that when that student was in my class as a middle schooler, I

think he was very uncomfortable... Later on, when he came out as a male, you could see how much more comfortable and happy he was."

In regard to its effect at Pine View, Principal Dr. Ste-

phen Covert said, "Nothing has changed [with the guidelines], and we have been able to accommodate every student request. I think every student should be able to use the restroom, as the superintendent said, according to their consistently asserted gender identity. No matter what your situation is we will be able to meet your needs."

As for students on campus there are conflicting opinions. "I understand that parents want to know what their kids are doing but it can be super harmful if the kid is out at school but not at home. But, I am glad that they are taking action with the bathroom situation," eleventh-grader Charlie Sutcuoglu said.

"There are other bathrooms for the transgender community to use, including the single-use restrooms that are available at Pine View. Anytime you implement a policy on something as rudimentary as using the restroom, it makes it more complex for everyone simply due to increased regulation. In this case, not just transgender people, but all students as well," twelfth-grader Thoma Gilfert said.

On Nov. 6 the School Board voted that the guideline should remain the same as they were released Oct. 24. The vote was three to two.



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

schools will not keep my daughter safe from mentally ill male students who want to use the same bathroom as my daughter, then I will," 31-year-old David Peters wrote. The next day, police officers investigated any

# Pine View Chorus introduces new cabaret

by **Alex Roumi**  
Asst. Sports Editor

As part of a fundraising initiative, the Pine View Choir held their first cabaret at the Sarasota Studio in downtown Sarasota Oct. 25. The event raised money for the high school choir trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City, N.Y. next spring from March 30 to April 2.

Choir teacher Seth Gardner oversaw the event along with the help of tenth-graders Kenna Bartlett, Sanchi Pandey and twelfth-grader Grace Callahan. Gardner also worked alongside parent volunteers Christy Bartlett, Stephanie Van Pelt, Barb McDonald, Susan Callahan and Sangeeta Wadhawan. "I thought it would be a great idea to put together a concert that is low cost to help the students raise money to go to Carnegie Hall," Gardner said.

In preparation for the fundraiser, Gardner held auditions for students that expressed interest in singing at the cabaret. Over 30 students auditioned to perform and the auditions took place during the Oct. 5 choir class. "The auditions went very well. My goal

was to have representation from every level, middle and high school, which is what we got," Gardner said.

At the cabaret, the following students performed solos: seventh-grader Isabella Kulawick, eighth-grader Leena Jarrar, ninth-graders Michaela Chan, Logan Schultz and Ashley Spadafora, tenth-graders Kaki France and Sanchi Pandey, eleventh-grader Natalie Taylor, and twelfth-graders Grace Callahan and Ben Casey. The emcees for the night were tenth-graders Tommy Johnson and Kenna Barlett. "I didn't have to teach them the song and the notes. I just had to teach them the flow, what to do on stage, how to portray their message in their song and what to wear on stage so it relates to the song's meaning," Gardner said.

Tickets for the event were \$30 a person, with dinner included. Eleventh-grader Josie Filipantis wrote the "Sponsor Song," which was to thank the sponsors for their contributions towards the upcoming trip. Some sponsors paid up to \$1,600 (the cost for a student's whole trip to New York) to get their name sung at the end of the



Ninth-grader Logan Schultz performs "When I'm 64" by the Beatles at Sarasota Studio. Schultz is one of 10 singers that performed Oct. 25 helping raise a total of \$7,000 which will go towards the New York trip in the spring. PHOTO BY ALEX ROUMI

song in order to be promoted. The cabaret alone raised \$7,000, and the Pine View Choir hopes to host more fundraisers prior to the New York trip.

Gardner said he loved the cabaret, and it was an experience he won't forget anytime soon. "I thought that it went really well, better than we could

have ever hoped for. The venue was beyond fantastic, the students did a great job, and the parents put together a wonderful menagerie of food and raffles, so it was a lot of fun," Gardner said. "I was really impressed with my students... People in the crowd cried and laughed, it was a lot of fun."

## [an infographic]

The Torch's Guide to the Sarasota County Schoolboard

The Sarasota County Schoolboard is a coalition of 5 members and the superintendent that help make decisions district-wide.

<p>District 1 Representative</p> <p>Promotes: school choice transparency with parents and students</p>  <p>Bridget Ziegler</p>	<p>District 2 Representative</p> <p>Promotes: School choice Closing the achievement gap</p>  <p>Caroline Zucker</p>
<p>District 3 Representative</p> <p>Promotes: Closing achievement gap School transparency</p>  <p>Eric Robinson</p>	<p>District 4 Representative</p> <p>Promotes: Student graduation preparedness Keeping budgets safe from cuts</p>  <p>Shirley Brown</p>
<p>District 5 Representative</p> <p>Promotes: Excellence in arts and STEM Collaboration with the state</p>  <p>Jane Goodwin</p>	

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SCHOOL BOARD WEBSITE. GRAPHIC BY BRIJANNA NELSON

# PeaceJam promotes environmental awareness on and off campus

by Grace Johnson  
Match Layout Artist

Dedicating time to improving our local and academic environment, one of Pine View's most active service clubs, PeaceJam, is currently encouraging the Pine View community to keep their campus and county an eco-friendly place to live. From global warming to recycling, Pine View's PeaceJam is tackling it all.

Annually, PeaceJam chooses one "call to action" to address for the next school year. There are 10 global calls to action available to choose from: halting the spread of global disease, equal access to water, alleviating extreme poverty, social justice and human rights, controlling the proliferation of weapons, ending racism and hate, equal rights for women and children, breaking the cycle of violence, investing in human security and restoring Earth's environment. This year, the club is taking on the challenge of restoring the environment.

"In previous years, we've focused on ending racism and hate. Obviously, we haven't completely accomplished that goal but we decided that we wanted to shift our focus and see if we could do

something that's a little more impactful on the local level," twelfth-grader and PeaceJam ambassador, Shelly Barber, said.

One significant reason PeaceJam decided to focus on restoring the Earth's environment is its interconnectedness with the other global calls to action. "There's a lot of intersection with marginalized people who are disproportionately affected by climate change," Barber said.

Pine View's PeaceJam chapter is working on numerous projects to improve and restore the Earth's environment. One essential part of their project is improving recycling around campus. While recycling is a popular notion today, most people do not know what belongs in the recycling bin. Promoting proper recycling in ways that are not inconvenient is another aspect of their call to action.

"Last year, the Earth Day was kind of wimpy," tenth-grader Samantha Sineath said. As part of their work promoting, recycling and caring for the environment, PeaceJam is planning on hosting a more extravagant Earth Day celebration on campus in collaboration with other environmental clubs

on campus. "We're bringing [Earth Day] back. We're trying to have a lot of activities with all the environmental clubs on campus [to] try to have a really big Earth Day," Sineath said.

Environmental restoration has a lot to do with restitution of resources for those who cannot afford to refurbish their assets. To assist the local community, tenth-grader Bethel Schandorf-Lartey and other PeaceJam ambassadors are beginning a community garden in the Palmer Ranch area. "It basically boosts the need for growth and plants and things like that. It ties into the environment, of course. We would basically just promote the idea of growing different vegetables and fruits to low-income areas and Title I schools," Schandorf-Lartey said.

As they continue completing their hard work, PeaceJam truly takes the phrase "call to action" to heart while verbalizing their goals. PeaceJam ambassador and twelfth-grader Edward Brunnicardi said, "I think PeaceJam's goal as a club is to spread awareness, not so much through talking about it, rather through doing it."

## [an infographic]

**Recyclable:**

- tin cans
- aluminum cans
- clean paper
- paper cartons
- glass bottles
- plastic bottles

**Non-recyclable:**

- thermometer
- appliances
- ceramic plates
- lightbulbs
- garbage
- clothes

GRAPHIC BY BEN GORDON

## [an infographic]

### Speakers visit Jason Miller's science classes

Over the course of the next few months, professionals from around the Sarasota area will be delivering speeches and presentations to students in Jason Miller's AP Environmental Science and Marine Science classes. The presentations will dive into the fields of study including SCUBA, water safety and management, sustainability initiatives in Sarasota County, organic farming and air pollution.

- 1 SCUBA**  
Students in Miller's Marine Science class were educated regarding the process and equipment of SCUBA Oct. 12. Craig Faanes, a National Association of Underwater Instructors SCUBA instructor, has visited over 126 countries and dived in many of them. Faanes explained to Miller's students the process and benefits of scuba certification, as well as the functional process of how SCUBA works.
- 2 Sarasota Sustain ability Initiatives**  
Sarasota County Government employee Sara Kane will visit AP Environmental Science classes. Her presentation will focus on Sarasota County's plans to stay green with eco-friendly initiatives concerning solar power, water quality, recycling and other efforts.
- 3 Air Pollution**  
Yavuz Bulent, an expert on air pollution mitigation and control, will be speaking to both Marine Science and AP Environmental Science classes regarding pollution control and mitigation.
- 4 Organic Farming**  
Ryan Duncan, owner of Jubilee Organics, will speak to AP Environmental Science students about organic agriculture. They will compare organic farming to traditional farming and discuss some of the current issues prevalent in our food supply system.
- 5 Water Management**  
Abbey Tyrna, a University of Florida and Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension officer, will speak to AP Environmental Science classes on two occasions. During her first visit, she will talk about drinking water supplies and, on her second, she will discuss microplastic contamination in Sarasota County's water sources. She will also provide the necessary materials for students to participate in a citizen research project. The objective of this project is to collect data about the levels of microplastic contamination in water.

GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

# Student pioneers water quality initiative

by Melissa Santoyo  
Editor-in-Chief

From dealing with chemical coated lab coats to mixing beakers bursting with various agents, twelfth-grader Danielle Daly is a STEM student accustomed to life inside the lab. Taking inspiration from her love of both chemistry and environmental preservation, Daly is currently spearheading a local water conservation initiative to create conversation among younger students outside of class regarding today's ecology.

Daly's initiative is called the "Earth Echo Water Challenge," and it functions under the nonprofit organization Earth Echo International (EEI). The enterprise aims to motivate young people toward advocating for sustainable development. EEI has multiple branches, with projects like "PlasticSeas," which explores the impact of pollution on marine life and humans through free "adventure-based" STEM video resources.

While this endeavor is still in progress, the robust water challenge runs annually from March 22 (United Nations World Water Day) through to December. As of October, the challenge has over 1.5 million participants in over 146 countries. EEI equips participants of the water challenge with portable water quality testing kits as well as an adjunct curriculum so that students can understand the significance of their findings. The kits can test pH, turbidity (opaqueness) and temperature. Daly initially heard of EEI

through her time as a Mote Marine intern. EEI representative attended Mote's Youth Ocean Conservation Summit, and following their visit, Daly applied for an EEI mini grant. She received several mini test kits for her own use, and she is looking for different on-campus organizations she can work with to use the kits.

After receiving her kits Daly was also encouraged by former Mote intern and EE Water Challenge Program Manager Sean Russel to apply to be a Water Challenge Ambassador. Through that program Daly traveled to Washington D.C. and met other ambassadors at EEI's Youth Leadership Council. There, students were able to discuss program expansion to local communities, while gaining insight on the global scale of their initiatives.

"We are grateful for Danielle's leadership as one of our inaugural EarthEcho Water Challenge Ambassadors... Danielle's experience in the marine conservation field and her passion for empowering young people to take action to protect their local waterways has played an important role in our ability to expand the reach and impact of the EarthEcho Water Challenge program," Russel said.

In the future, Daly plans to further her studies in chemistry and ecology to better understand the junction of both fields of study. "That's just something I'm passionate about and think it's important," Daly said

"[Ecology] is just something I'm passionate about, and I think it's important."

Danielle Daly, grade 12

## Twelfth-grader takes center stage in the fashion industry

### Student redefines stereotypes through modeling

By Sarah Catalano  
Asst. Sci & Tech Editor

Disproving the negative connotations associated with models through her positive outlook and values, twelfth-grader Sarah Harding has been modeling for two years. She was initially inspired by the women in her family — her mother, grandmother and aunt were all models before her. Today, Harding shares this affinity.

"I've always been kind of obsessed with fashion and how it's like a science in the sense that it's always changing," Harding said. "I like how fluid it is and how it changes based on what's happening in the world and how one thing can influence another."

While Harding has been balancing modeling and academics for two years now, she really began focusing on it this summer, her first photoshoot being this past June. She modeled for the Italian dress company Chiara Boni, the fashion and accessory company Camilla, and for the fashion company L Boutique.

Twice a month, Harding meets with photographers of these brands for a long day of posing on sets, ranging from the seaside to the laundromat.

Preparation for photoshoots involves working closely with hair and makeup artists, dressing in clothes laid out for her and wearing specific sets of jewelry to compliment her outfits.

Also participating in pole-vaulting, Harding works hard to balance her time between school, modeling and the sport. "It's been a challenge. I do workouts six days a week, three to four hours a day. Then I have modeling every few weeks, and school. You learn how to balance and how to use [your time] well," Harding said.

Throughout her earlier career in modeling, Harding's family and friends have been highly supportive of her. Jessica Papineau, a family friend, has also served as a guide and mentor. As a past model, Papineau understands the fashion industry. "She has a natural ability," Papineau said. "She has a presence that comes through on the camera."

According to Harding, she enjoys the whole experience of modeling — from getting her hair and makeup done to joking with the photographers while music plays in the background. However, modeling is also a business and carries a serious aspect to it. Those in the

field have to navigate

through paperwork and contracts when booking jobs while remaining conscious of how their actions impact others and the companies they represent. "It gives you more of a worldly outlook in how representing this brand and wearing these clothes can affect other people," Harding said.

I love where there are different points in history,

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SARAH HARDING



in the modeling sense, that change a little bit," Harding said. "In our generation every body is beautiful I think when people try to put other people down, it shows a lack of confidence or that there's something wrong in their life. One of my personal philosophies is that you try to find a little bit of joy or positivity in every person you meet."

As for the future Harding would like to continue modeling in college. Several agencies have reached out to her to join their company. However, she is interested in maintaining a balance between modeling and life.

**I've always been kind of obsessed with fashion and how it's like a science in the sense it's always changing."**

**Sarah Harding, grade 12**

## Check out PVTorch.com



Scan this QR code to read the student spotlight on seventh-grade dancer Juliana Silver on our website.

Scan this QR code to read a movie review for the new movie Goosebumps 2 on our website.



### NOVEMBER HOROSCOPES

**AQUARIUS**  
(January 20- February 18)

It's Thanksgiving season, and that means FOOD! As a sign who is anything but ordinary, try a new, fresh, exciting recipe. While it's great to maintain family traditions, mix it up!

**ARIES**  
(March 21-April 19)

Whoa there! There's something you're eager to get a head start on, but your focus on it has made you a little short-sighted. It's great to work ahead, but don't neglect your life in the present while you're looking towards the future. Be thankful for what you have!

**GEMINI**  
(May 21-June 20)

Boring is a word not familiar in your vocabulary. This season, spice up your holiday by celebrating with family and friends! Host a friendsgiving party. Go on a spontaneous trip. Have a pie-eating contest. Go crazy!

**LEO**  
(July 23-August 22)

You love, love, love being in the spotlight, but this month, it's all about caring for others. Volunteer at a local food bank or donate to the local homeless shelter. Giving back to your community is a great way to contribute in making the world a better place.

**LIBRA**  
(September 23-October 22)

A lover of harmony, you tend to pick up on conflicts between the people you care about more easily than most. It's nice to try and help moderate with your unfailing sense of justice, but don't get caught in the crossfire!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(November 22-December 21)

Always concerned about others, you've been making an extreme effort to make everyone happy this month. However, you probably overcommitted and stretched yourself too thin. Try to implement balance in your life by taking care of yourself and then helping those around you.

**PISCES**  
(February 19- March 20)

There's something in your life that you've always wanted to do but have always been too scared to do it. Don't be scared! You are capable of doing anything you set your mind to. Take a leap of faith and tackle that task head on.

**TAURUS**  
(April 20-May 20)

You tend to have strong opinions, and you're currently on the horizon of an argument where you may not necessarily be right. Don't be too stubborn to hear the other person out. They might make a good point that will help you in the future.

**CANCER**  
(June 21-July 22)

This is probably the best time of the year for you, surrounded by family, friends and food. This month, reconnect with relatives you don't see as much and exchange stories. You'd be surprised by what you'll learn.

**VIRGO**  
(August 23-September 22)

More reserved than the other signs, Thanksgiving has never been your favorite holiday. Never fear, though, you don't have to host the celebration in order to participate! Relax with friends and family, watch football, help out in the kitchen or participate in a card game; people want to enjoy this time of the year with you.

**SCORPIO**  
(October 23-November 21)

You're guilty of bottling up your emotions that explode outwards with disastrous effects. Recently, you took out some of your frustrations on someone you know, and pushed them away slightly. Not to worry, the situation can be remedied with a heartfelt apology!

**CAPRICORN**  
(December 22-January 19)

As a bit of a pessimistic sign, you've been focusing on the negative lately. However, as the month of giving, it's important to look around at all the great things in your life. Tell someone you know how much they mean to you. It's sure to brighten up everyone's day!

GRAPHIC BY MADI HOLMES

Farr Law Firm Receives U.S. News 2018 "Best Law Firms" Honor

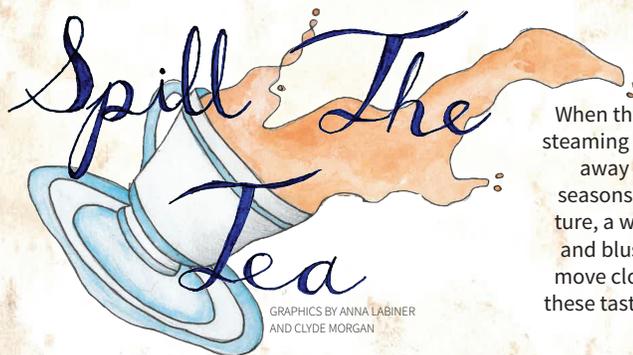
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GRAPHICS BY ANNA LABINER  
AND CLYDE MORGAN

When thinking of tea, you may think of a steaming mug in front of a fireplace, hiding away from the autumn cold. But as seasons in Florida fluctuate in temperature, a winter's day could either be chilly and blustery or warm and sunny. As we move closer to the end of the year, enjoy these tasty refreshments suitable for every season.

## British Corner Shop

by Lucy Collins  
Web Section Editor

The British Corner Shop, located on Gulf Gate Drive, is the perfect place to unwind and drink tea after a long day. Sandwiched in a small strip mall, the stripes of the U.K. flag painted on the sign cannot be missed.

The owners, Kathy Wilson and Lionel Cohen, opened the restaurant and store four years ago. Along with their Tea Room, they have a store where one can purchase tea, mugs, china, purses and more items that come directly from the U.K. They serve a variety of customers, from locals to international travelers. "[I] enjoy working here because there are a lot of people interested in the U.K. and it's a taste of home," manager Moira Nichols said.

With a faux fire in the back of the restaurant and an availability for 24 guests at a time, the Tea Room itself is a quiet, cozy place to relax. The elegant paintings hanging from the walls and china tea cups add to the overall beauty

of the decor. In the back corner there is a hutch filled with tea pots of all sizes and colors, and flower-painted china and saucers above the fireplace. While sipping tea, smooth jazz flows through the room.

The daily special ranges from desserts such as fudge cake to meals like meat pie; everything is freshly made. The menu boasts a wide variety of options, including tea, coffee, meat pies, scones and cookies.

Their warmed scones are a popular item, served with clotted cream, a type of thick cream used in cream tea, straight from the U.K.

Their most popular item, the Traditional Afternoon Tea, is served with tea and a three-tiered cake stand. The first tier features tiny yet delicious tea sandwiches, the second tier offers a choice of various scone options and the third tier contains cakes and pastries. This particular package costs \$19.95 per person, however, a smaller package of a two-tiered stand and tea is \$15.95 per person. Although the scones, cakes and



The British Corner Shop displays their collection of fine bone china from which visitors may enjoy an authentic afternoon tea time. The shop imports their specialty teas from all across the world. PHOTO BY LUCY COLLINS

sandwiches are cheaper individually, the prices may be a little high for the average student.

The British Tea House is currently located at 2236 Gulf Gate Dr, Sarasota,

but the owners plan to expand their facility in the future.

Rating:  
4/5 Torches



The typical aura of Elixir Tea House is candlelit and cozy. Elixir boasts a warm and comfortable environment as an escape for its patrons. Started by a Hungarian couple, their menu offers 80 different varieties of tea. PHOTO BY OLIVIA HANSEN

## Elixir Tea House

by Olivia Hansen  
Humor Editor

Bringing the Hungarian tradition of intimate, casual dining to Sarasota, Elixir Tea House redefines the traditional tearoom. The secluded establishment consists of numerous niches, privatized for small groups of people, to maintain intimacy and encourage conversation between friends and family.

Elixir was the product of a dream between Hungarian couple and Elixir Tea House owners, Zsuzsanna and Gyura Lukacs; both tea aficionados who spent years seeking out the best tea houses all around the world.

"Back in Hungary, we have these kind of tea houses. Hungarians like to sit down with their friends and family in a private room and have a nice conversation and play games," manager Erika Budai said.

The diversified menu features over 80 varieties of tea that vary in cultural background. They are best known for their boba and oolong teas, both deriving from different parts of Asia. Other customer favorites include Elixir's coffee assortment and wellness teas, each specializing in different health benefits. The tea

is served in a kettle-mug combination, allowing for a perfect opportunity to spend time with your loved ones while the tea remains warm. Along with the varying selection of hot and cold beverages, Elixir Tea House offers quick bites to accompany the main element of the cafe.

"Elixir Tea House is the perfect combination of tranquility and comfort. The staff really makes you feel at home the moment you walk in the building," eleventh-grader Kaysha Kapadia said.

The humble environment proves to be an ideal backdrop for local artists to perform. Every Monday, Elixir features musicians to complement the mood. Open-mic nights are even hosted on Tuesdays. Elixir also hosts local group and clubs, such as book clubs and a Spanish-learning club.

Elixir Tea House is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is located at 1926 Hillview St., Sarasota.

Rating:  
5/5 Torches



## Torch Tries: Boba Tea

by Frankie Grasso-Clay  
Asst. Humor Editor

The popularity of the famous "boba tea" drink has sparked in the past months, and everyone wants a cup. Join the trend by following this recipe, customizing to your liking with parental supervision.

### Ingredients:

-1/4 cup dried tapioca pearls (the boba pearls)

-1/2 cup of sugar

-3 1/2 cups of water

-tea of your choice

-1/2 cup of milk

### First Step

Make the boba pearls. Measure two cups of water for every fourth of a cup of boba pearls prepared. Pour the water into a

pot and bring the water to a boil over high heat. Add the boba to the boiling water and stir until the boba float to the top of the water. Turn the heat to medium and cook for 12 to 15 minutes. Remove the pot from heat, cover it and let the boba sit for another 12 to 15 minutes.

### Second Step

Prepare the sugar syrup for the boba. While the boba pearls are cooling, make a simple sugar to sweeten and preserve the boba once cooked. Measure a half cup of water and put it in a pot over high heat. Once the water starts to boil, remove the pot from heat, and stir in a half cup of sug-

ar until dissolved. Set this aside to cool.

### Third Step

Prepare a strong tea such as earl grey or green tea. Bring a cup of water to a boil in a pot. Then remove from heat and add the tea bags. Use one or two tea bags for regular-strength boba tea, or use three or four tea bags for a strong tea flavor. Remove the tea bags after 15 minutes and chill the tea. Make sure you allow enough time for the tea to cool completely before adding the boba pearls.

### Fourth Step

Store the boba pearls until ready to assemble. Once the boba have finished cooking, drain them from the

water and transfer them to a small bowl or container. Pour the sugar syrup over the pearls until all of the pearls are submerged. Let it sit until the boba are room temperature, which may take about 15 minutes.

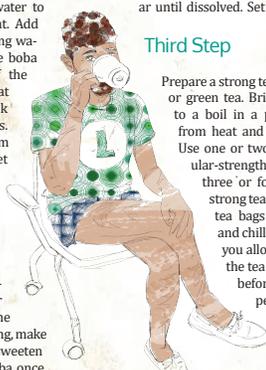
### Fifth Step

Make the boba tea. Pour the prepared tea into a glass and add the boba pearls. Either add milk for a creamy boba tea, juice for a fruity tea, or a little extra water for a plain taste. Sweeten the tea by adding the syrup that the boba pearls were previously soaking in.

\*Note: Boba pearls are best if used within a few hours of cooking, but will keep if refrigerated for several days.

GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

Rating:  
5/5 Torches



## GOT ADVICE?

Looking for some guidance? In this issue of The Torch, students from each grade offer their take on how to tackle high school. These four years may be difficult, but with helpful tips and tricks, you should be able to handle whatever comes your way.



Emma Epstein  
Grade 10

"My advice to freshmen would be to not rush into taking AP classes. If you don't feel ready to take on the workload of an AP class, then wait until next year. There's absolutely no rush. Get used to spending more time on homework and studying!"



Gregory Karcz  
Grade 11

"I think the most important advice I could give to sophomores is to not overschedule yourself. I know that you might want to take all of the hardest classes and be involved in every club, but all that does is create a lot of stress."



Tenzin Smith  
Grade 12

"One thing I regret doing junior year was not keeping up my grades because I kind of let them slip a bit and I'm regretting it now. It's important to get as much done as possible junior year so you can set yourself up for a more successful senior year."

Dear Future self,  
 Wherever you may be right now, whether it be a place of night, a place of fulfillment, a place of solitude, a place of accomplishment, I want you to remember something that you learned many years ago: you are worth so much more than the materialistic world around you. No matter what is happening in your life right now, I know you are struggling with something, like isn't that true and there will always be issues that will try to bring you down. But remember, your past struggles have strengthened you and shaped you into the woman you are today. You need to remember that your self-worth will always be greater than the type of war you did or the price of jewelry that you were wearing or your wrist. The happiest moments in your life will always come from deep inside of your heart, which is added from the people that you surround yourself with and keep closest to you, or are lost things. Change is always a bad thing, without change there would be no new beautiful and without new beginnings there would be no bright and intriguing future (full of endless possibilities) to look forward to.

Love,  
 yourself

Libby,

Freshman year is pretty rough, but let me tell you it gets so much better. Right now you're putting way too much pressure on yourself to be the best. First of all, you become a lot happier when you come to grips with the fact that you'll never be the very best at something, let alone everything. As well, your friends are all going through the same things as you are - yes, everything. So, try and reach out to them a little more, it'll be better for both of you.

I know this year has been incredibly stressful academically, but try and branch out a little more if you can. The only thing I really regret not doing sooner is joining clubs. I promise none of them are as scary as they seem and down the line they'll become ~~some~~ some of the events you treasure the most. You also meet the coolest people there. Once you finally get the courage to go into Drama Club you'll meet the coolest and most talented people that encourage you to pursue your passions (you're going to love Grace + Ben).

As bad or stressful as things may be right now, high school is going to be very good to you as long as you stay true to who you are. Your gut is right most of the time, so listen to it and you're halfway there. Keep doing the things you love and never let go of your empathy (it's a superpower, use it wisely). Most of all, enjoy the next three years, it goes by way too fast. Good luck.

Sincerely yours,  
 An older, theoretically wiser you

# Student serves his best shot in tennis

by Odelia Tiutyama

News Editor  
Eleventh-grader Theo Winegar lets his racket do the talking on the tennis court. A dedicated player since the age of nine, all of Winegar's training has paid off with his official title as a nationally ranked champion.

Following in his brother's footsteps, Winegar began his tennis career with the Laurel Oak Tennis program, and he currently plays with The Oaks Club. "My brother [Samuel Winegar]

played tennis and I looked up to him a lot, so I wanted to try what he was doing," Winegar said. Although his brother, who graduated from Pine View in 2016, only played recreationally, the younger Winegar currently plays tennis competitively.

Theo invests two to four hours on the court each week-day and the same amount of time on Saturday; however, with upcoming tournaments, he dedicates more time to practice. In order to prepare for a tournament, Winegar plays practice matches, occasionally spending up to six hours on the court in preparation for a competition. "The physical aspect of competing and exercising is just something that I really like about tennis," Winegar said.

**"Theo is a great competitor, if you are keeping score you want him on your team. This kid just loves to compete which will serve him well at the college level."**

Tom Whitten,  
Tennis Coach

The nationally ranked tennis player is joined at The Oaks Club with eleventh-graders Sophia Edwards and Jaden Wiesinger. "Theo is an amazing tennis player and friend. He has a great work ethic. I'm glad I get to compete against him on the court because he pushes me to be a better player," teammate Sophia Ed-

wards said.

Winegar has played at several notable tournaments this past year. In Hilton Head Island, S.C., Winegar made it all the way to finals at the United States Tennis Association (USTA) National Level 3 Tournament held from April 21 to April 23. During the International Grass Court Championships, which were held in Haverford, Pa. from June 25 to June 29, he made it to the quarter finals. Pulling the season to a close, Winegar also made it to the quarter finals in the National Clay Court Championships held in Delray Beach, Fla. from July 15 to July 22.

Winegar's favorite tournament from last season was the USTA International Spring Championships. The tournament was held April 1 at Carson, Calif. and Winegar made it to the round of 16 which was significant considering that this was one of his largest competitions. "Other than the California championship, my most memorable tournaments would have to be the ones from my early tennis career," Winegar said. "That's when I met a lot of people I play now and I'll probably be friends with them for a very long time."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THEO WINEGAR

really nervous and then I was injured for a long time so I started to see it through a different perspective," he said. "I'm just glad to be there and... that I can play a sport at a high level."

Winegar's goal this year is to make sure that he stays physically healthy so that he can continue on with his tennis career. "I work with a trainer a lot and a physical therapist just to make sure that I'm strong and where I need to be,"

The summer before his sophomore year Winegar sustained a complete tear to his anterior cruciate ligament, and was unable to play tennis for a year. Because of his injury, Winegar evolved a different outlook on the sport. "I used to get

Winegar said.

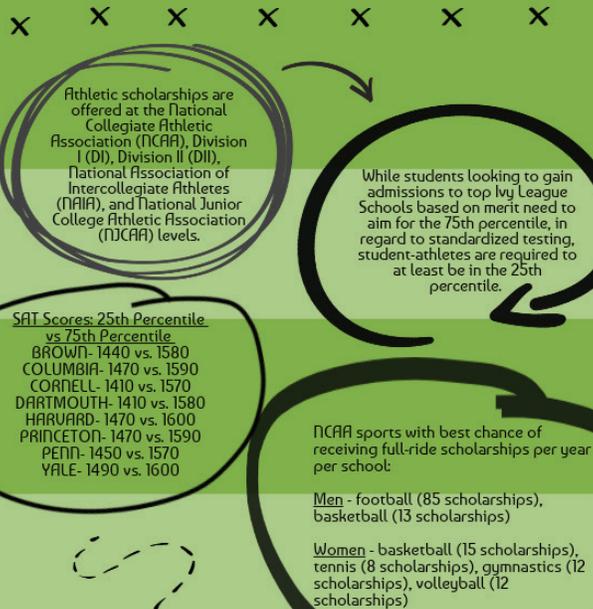
"Theo is a great competitor, if you are keeping score you want him on your team. The kid just loves to compete which will serve him well at the college level," Coach Tom Whitten said.

Winegar said his short-term goal is to continue tennis into college "and from there I can see if I can play professionally."

## [an infographic]

# Ins and Outs of College Recruitment

With college applications and acceptances on the horizon, students weigh the benefits of taking rigorous courses, joining on-campus clubs and participating in specific extracurricular activities. No one knows exactly what makes the perfect college candidate, but statistics indicate that students with significant achievements in certain sports have high chances of recruitment and acceptance to colleges.



GRAPHIC BY MADI HOLMES  
Sources: The College Solution and PrepScholar

# Ninth-grader swims to win

by Isabella Gaskill  
Web Section Editor

Ninth-grader Liam Custer took to the water when he was only 7 years old and has not stopped swimming since. Earning several impressive accomplishments from his years swimming, he even traveled internationally to compete with other talented swimmers from around the world.

Custer began swimming on a whim, starting as a member of Lake-wood Ranch Lightning, where he stayed for about a year. Custer now swims with the Sarasota Sharks, his team since the age of eight. He also swims at River-

ships. While in Dublin, Custer had the opportunity to meet some of the best swimmers in the world, including several Olympians. He also got to enjoy the facilities at the championship and experience the thrill of competing in front of such a large audience. "The pool was super nice and it was really cool having so many people watching you," he said.

Custer's parents are happy to see his constant improvement and devotion to swimming. "We're incredibly proud of Liam's accomplishments in swimming and are continually amazed at his dedication and commitment," Melanie Custer, Liam's mother, said. "He swims six days per week and several mornings at 5 a.m. before school, yet still finds time to do very well in school and hang out with his friends. Watching him compete in Ireland was a great experience for the entire family."

The constant challenge of pushing himself to improve keeps Custer motivated to continue swimming. "Competing and racing other people and challenging yourself is the best," Custer said. He plans to continue swimming and take it as far as he can, hopefully going to a top college on a scholarship. Until then, he will continue swimming with the Sarasota Sharks and working to improve his abilities.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MELANIE CUSTER

Custer has had several achievements in his years of swimming. When he was 10 years old, he won the state championships all around, and at age 11 he had the fastest time in the country for the 1,000 yard freestyle.

Last summer, Custer traveled abroad to Dublin, Ireland for the Irish National Championships where he won eight gold medals. Custer is an Irish citizen and a member of the Sunday's Well Swim Club based in Cork, Ireland. Representing Ireland, he swam with his team in the champion-

# Boys and girls tennis teams take county title

*Pine View Pythons beat Sarasota Panthers in the final match to win county championships*

by Ella Hechlik  
Web Editor-in-Chief

This year, middle school boys and girls tennis was reintroduced to Sarasota County after a nine-year hiatus due to financial difficulties. Therefore, no one expected both of Pine View's new teams to go undefeated for the year or to win the county championship.

During the season, there were seven regular-season matches, in which both teams remained undefeated. Besides Pine View, three other teams from

across the district competed for a spot in the middle school tennis county championship: Laurel Nokomis Middle School, Sarasota Middle School and Venice Middle School.

Each game of tennis consists of five rounds: three singles matches and two doubles matches. In order to win a

game, a team must win three out of the five matches.

Pine View's boys and girls played Laurel Nokomis Middle School during the semifinals and later played Sarasota Middle School in the championship. During the championship game, the boys team scored a final of 3-0, winning all three of their singles matches and thus the entire event. The girls team went 2-1, winning their first two singles matches, losing their last one, but overall winning the event due to time constraints.

"My favorite match was in the county championship, because my friends were down [in their scores], and I just kept cheering them on, and they won eventually," girls no.1 ranked player and seventh-grader Melis Wiesinger said. "They just needed motivation, so it was fun cheering them on."

All 14 of Pine View's tennis players — seven boys and seven girls — participated in the championship.

"My main goal, this being the first year back, was that the kids would have a lot of fun and enjoy the idea of team tennis," tennis coach and math teacher Wayne Robertson said. "It's normally an individual sport so you don't often get the chance to play as a team. I was part of a team in college, and I really enjoy the team aspect. Obviously, when I saw how strong some of the players were, I was hoping we would do well."

During tennis practice, each team member worked on something different to improve their skills. Players worked on their serves, repetitions with the forehand and backhand strokes and usually ended practice with a competition. "I always want them to end practice having fun and competing against one another. There is always something to work on," Robertson said.

"Being part of a team, it's not all about you," Robertson said. "It's about learning how to support your teammates, in practices and in games. Especially in doubles matches, you have to learn to work together, communicate and encourage each other."

“My main goal, this being the first year back, was that the kids would have a lot of fun and enjoy the idea of team tennis.”

Wayne Robertson,  
Algebra II teacher



The boys and girls tennis teams pose with their coach, Wayne Robertson, during practice. Follow the QR code below to learn more about the players. PHOTO PROVIDED BY COLIN STROBLE

Check PVTorch.com



Scan this QR code to read more about the team.

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A short drive from Pine View School

## Pine View unmasked: the unnerving truth behind our academic instructors' daily lives

*Ever wonder what Pine View professors are like after hours? After rigorous investigation, The Torch has the answers.*

by Brianna Nelson  
Opinion Editor

On campus, there are a few select teachers known for their unique personalities, whether it be strange speech mannerisms or questionable comments that expose their true identities. However, among these notable characters, there are teachers with unknown, dubious histories. That is why I, a purveyor of tea on campus, am here to deliver the juiciest conspiracy theories regarding our school's educators.

### Mrs. Chaillou

With stress, science and fall in the air, Pine View science teacher Stacey Chaillou is best known for her penchant for candle burning. One issue with the campus' classrooms, specifically the portables, are their cold and uncaring auras. Students believe Chaillou burns candles to improve the learning environment and stimulate their senses to stay awake, but what they don't know is the TRUTH: Chaillou is secretly a research and development manager for Yankee Candle and she uses her influence at Pine View to test new candle scents on her students.

Whenever you feel a migraine coming on by her pancake flavored candle or are pleasantly surprised at the quality of the pine smell in her room, know it's all put forth by Yankee Candle. Remember to keep fueling the capitalist, wax-burning machine.

### Dr. Rice

You may know Dr. Patty Rice for her innate knowledge of history and social studies, but what many don't know is her deep understanding of genetic engineering. Every day Dr. Rice smuggles small bits of rice from the cafeteria, amassing a large collection of grain that she stores in her closet.

You may be wondering why she is stockpiling so much rice, and that is a valid question. In her free time, Dr. Rice has dedicated her life to selectively breeding a new hyper-efficient, hyper-intelligent subspecies of rice. She plans to name it "Rice Rice Baby" and market it to the masses as the higher quality kernel.

If you spot a bit of rice running down the service road, I hope you realize the truth of Dr. Rice's exploits. Beware kids, the truth is sometimes scary.

### Mrs. Hentges

One day, while you are calmly browsing Instagram, your eyes may be graced with the sight of an unexpected Instagram star, Jessica Hentges. The Pine View English teacher is well known for her Instagram posts (specifically her selfies) but what you don't know about her may shock you: Hentges is a multi-media mogul, working both on her own content as well as with fellow social media stars.

In her free time, Hentges creates daily vlogs of her students' daily lives and tea spilling sessions, teacher OOTDs and cafeteria mukbangs. Though this channel is not well known,



Chaillou takes a brief break from her work to admire her fall-scented, pancakes with syrup candle. Most are aware of the sharp fragrances present in MLC 14, but it was recently discovered that she is actually an undercover Yankee Candle employee, observing students' responses and reporting back.

PHOTO BY GWYN PETERSEN

her overall goal is to take over YouTube and become the face of every social media platform in existence. All I can say is Shane Dawson is quaking.

### Sra. Zdravkovich

When you enter Señora Zdravkovich's room, you'll be astounded by the strange photos of a middle-aged blonde man that plaster her room. What you may be shocked to know is that this man, Justo Lamas, is secretly her son.

Lamas, the iconic singer with

the surprising niche of "middle grade Spanish learning songs," was secretly given birth years ago by Zdravkovich Zdravkovich, concerned her family would know of this son, decided to keep him a secret sending him away to a school in Argentina, leading him to expand his craft of educational songwriting and strangely intense music video cinematography.

Zdravkovich plays Lamas' music as much as she can and makes sure all know of his talented vocal chops and to encourage her secret son.

## Student loses true ability to express emotion

*High school student can only express his emotional distress via reaction images.*

by Anna Labiner  
Features Editor

Sorrow has struck the home of 15-year-old Thisae Nitcheif, a teen who has lost all ability to express emotion other than through the use of tacky Twitter "reaction images" — photos that Twitter users make in response to controversial ideas. This disease, known as Reaction Picture Addiction (RPA), causes Nitcheif to solely use these low-quality images to express himself for a total of six months, and his family is absolutely heartbroken.

"We can't connect anymore," Nitcheif's mother, Sara Nitcheif said, "Yesterday I asked him how school was and all he did was show me a picture of Kermit the Frog surrounded by emoji hearts. I don't really know if that's good or not, but his disease is tearing this family apart. I really don't know if I can take this much longer... I just want my old Thisae back." This mother's story of heartbreak and disillusion is utterly heart-wrenching.

In the past year, the Nitcheif family searched far and wide, longing to come across any kind of expert that wouldn't send them away with a "this is not a real disease stop coming to my office." Many will never understand the constant struggle of RPA.

However, Nitcheif's family refused to take "no" for an answer, and, eventually, land-



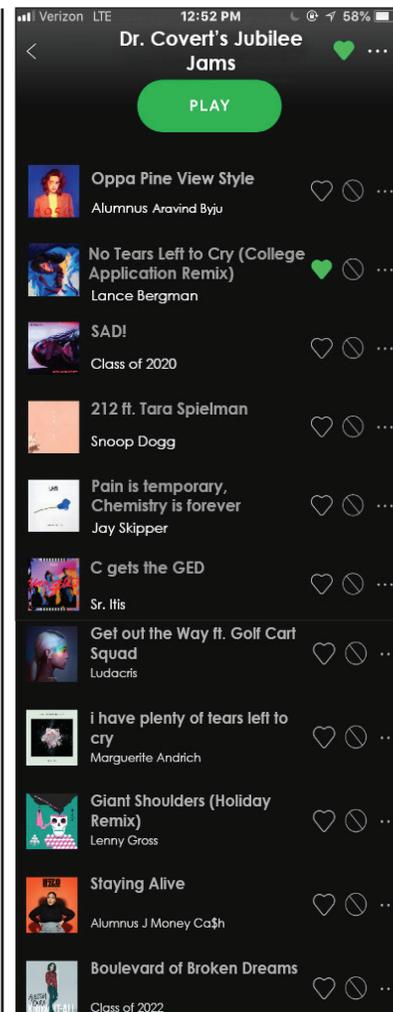
Real text conversation between ninth-grader Thisae Nitcheif, Reaction Picture Addiction (RPA) victim and his mother. RPA affects thousands of teens a year. If you are struggling with this disease, The Torch is with you. GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA HANSEN

ed in the office of well-known Dr. Ista Grum, social media expert. "This is one of the worst cases I've ever seen. Reaction pictures are a double-edged sword in that they're really relatable, but then we get cases like this, where kids become fully immersed in their awesomeness and can no longer function properly. I would do something about it, but that would mean I'd lose revenue," Grum said.

With nowhere else to turn, the Nitcheifs came to the conclusion that the only way to fix their victimized son

was to take his phone away from him. Unfortunately, this only worsened the condition, and he remained in a constant state of shock until given back his precious photos. When asking Nitcheif if he ever thought he'd recover, he responded with a mere shrug and displayed an over-edited photo of Wendy Williams.

If you are struggling from RPA or you know someone battling this disease, contact Dr. Grum at therapy.xpert@gmail.com and get your first appointment free with the code VERYCOOLKANYE.



GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON, CONTENT BY MELISSA SANTOYO

## Meme of the Month

"Miley Cyrus Blue Eyes"

The year is 2008. The Suite Life of Zack and Cody and Zoey 101 are coming to an end. Hannah Montana is thriving. Miley Cyrus is taking over the music industry and unnerving competition with her fierce glance.



### ORIGIN

After the iconic headshot of Miley Cyrus at the 2008 Grammy's was uncovered from her past, eager Twitter users immediately began utilizing the image by pairing it with their own captions. Twitter user @brianlunn tweeted the picture mocking people with blue eyes. This remarkable response gained over 38,000 retweets and 162,000 likes. Since then, hundreds of derivatives have been created and spread all over the media.

### POPULAR DERIVATIVES

me looking at my professor when people start zipping backpacks a few mins before class ends bc i want them to know i'm still listening

Me staring at my notes before an exam pretending I have a photographic memory

me staring at the person I handed my ID to so they know it's really me

Me: H-

People with blue eyes:

### A HISTORICALLY ACCURATE TIMELINE OF MILEY CYRUS

**2006** Miley transforms into Hannah Montana, shocking Americans everywhere.

The 2008 Grammy's hit Origin of downfall.

**2008** Wrecking ball music video comes out, sparking controversy.

**2013** Hair gone. Tongue out.

**MTV UNA'S**

Graphic by Olivia Hansen

## [a column] Network television taught me how to navigate life

The pre-teen years are a confusing time when it comes to developing your sense of style in regard to cinematography. Society tells you that you're too old to watch Disney Channel re-runs but your mom tells you you're too young to watch TV-14. The only available options remain: HGTV and Food Network. I am a sophomore in high school, but this phase I thought would dissolve as I "matured" is still the dominant form of entertainment in my life. Contrary to everyone else's popular contender of YouTube and Hulu, I have not moved on from the suburban white couples transforming trash into actual real estate.



Olivia Hansen, Humor Editor

tail and marinate fresh water shrimp, thanks to Bobby Flay I have the utmost confidence in my success as an adult. Also pro-tip: convince your mom that

By knowing how to properly detail and marinate fresh water shrimp, thanks to Bobby Flay, I have the utmost confidence in my success as an adult.

HGTV is now a meme on social media, since teens and adults have begun to embrace their obsession to save themselves from embarrassment. However, the addiction is an ongoing struggle faced by a large percentage of Americans. This affinity is so intense that 90 percent of millennials have withdrawn from their savings, disregarding college debt, to replace the backsplash in their kitchen. In fact, the tiny house department has exceeded all forms of home-living ever since 2014, when "Tiny House, Big Living" aired.

My culinary phase from the ages of 12 to 13 is the backbone of my independence. By knowing how to properly de-

"Chopped is a constructive form of education that teaches you deadline and discipline to increase your TV limit for the day. Nice.

To conclude Loving classic television is not something to be ashamed of. Stray away from toxic sitcoms (Dancin' Moms, who?) and dramas romanticizing inappropriate behavior (not to @ literally every Kardashians ever, but...). If Food Network and HGTV bore you Netflix has some great nature documentaries I could recommend to you as well. My email is at the top of the page. Don't be ashamed of what will surely be your newfound obsession.

## Depressed, stressed and homework-ridden Pine View teens drive out Starbucks customers

*In the midst of exam season, Pine View faces a financial challenge regarding the accumulation of students taking up space at the local Starbucks*

by Leo Gordon  
Asst. Match Editor

Whether it's Sunday night, Friday night, SAT season or the night before a Speech and Debate conference, it's safe to say that the Starbucks on U.S. 41 is always bustling with academic, anxiety-ridden Pine View students. Since its doors first opened, the establishment has served as the leading spot for Pine View students to cry over college applications and to study for tests that can make the difference between passing and failing a class. Heck, it's even great for completing homework.

"It's very good, actually, having all of these kids in here, you know? Watching them struggle more than I struggle myself, with whatever they're doing, is a nice feeling," Starbucks employee Capp O'Chino said.

In general, Pine View students spend a large segment of their "free time" at the establishment. A study conducted by The Torch found that the average Pine View high school student

spends 8 hours per week at the particular Starbucks location.

Subsequently, upon surveying 100 Pine View high school students belonging to various organizations on campus, The Torch determined that on average, the standard Pine View Speech and Debate member spends an average of 10 hours per week at the modish coffee chain.

You probably think, with reason, that this kind of business is a great thing for Starbucks and its beneficiaries.

It might be a little too great, though, according to local Starbucks officials. "We can't have depressed kids sitting around moaning and groaning all day here. It's really becoming a significant issue. We opened this spe-

cific location to cater to the older population in the area, not the inconsolable youth," regional Starbucks Director Vent E. Lattay said.

"I really don't want to spend my time at Starbucks when it's filled with crybaby teens who wither at the sight of social interaction.

They take up so much space that I can't even sit down to enjoy my nonfat half-soy half-almond milk latte in peace. Dunkin' Donuts is looking like a very nice option for me and my elderly peers right about now," Starbucks consumer Nee D. Ladi said.

With no room for regular customers, Starbucks is asking Sarasota County Schools to compensate for



Pine View student reflects on her intense workload for the night, whilst on the verge of tears. The negative aura from these teens is chasing away potential Starbucks customers, inadvertently causing Pine View to go into debt. PHOTO BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY

their quarterly financial losses attributed to Pine View students: a sum estimated to reach upwards of \$10.

Although a bit shaken up, students are still anxiously awaiting a response from Sarasota County Schools with regards to their intentions in compensating for

Starbucks' grave financial losses. "I just hope that everything works out. I mean if I have to suffer somewhere Starbucks is a great place to do it. I just hope Sarasota County Schools can come up with the appropriate fund: to compensate Starbucks' tenth-grader Krace Gim said.

[staff editorial]

## This isn't the end of the world: Life in a post-midterms political landscape

Life will go on. We promise.

No matter what political ads or pundits tell you, this post-midterm election reality will not be as dramatic as many tend to believe. You may feel angry, sad, disappointed, or are simply in denial. All those emotions are valid, but post-midterms, we need to go forth with a sense of hope.

This election will not be as drastic as our media and politicians are saying, for that is what they have always said and we have made it this far.

We have always dealt with turmoil after elections and this is no different. People protested after 2016 and they took to the streets. The only thing that is bipartisan is our outrage. People have always had conflicting notions about the future of politics, and it has only intensified in America's highly divisive climate. People have had high expectations, whether it be the blue wave or the red wave. However, this midterm was not a grand repudiation of Trump nor a clear-cut Republican victory. For as it

has always been, elections are shades of purple. People will always be disappointed by the outcomes of elections, and that's natural. Both parties won some, and both parties lost some.

The issue is that we, as people, only deal in extremes. It's either "abolish ICE!" or "build the wall!", and this dynamic has only grown

Thinking of politics as black and white, or perhaps blue and red, is a fallacy and leads to detachment from the reality of the situation

with the election of President Trump. We see this polarization in the media, in our politicians and in ourselves. As individuals, we are affected by this polarized landscape. It pushes us to the extremes both within ourselves and in our interactions with others. We blindly root for our party, demonizing the opposing side as if it's a football game. But unlike football we have no clear cut winners and the

stakes are too high to treat this so superficially. Thinking of politics as black and white, or perhaps blue and red, is a fallacy and leads to detachment from the reality of the situation.

So, now that our hopes haven't fully realized, people are mad and disappointed. That is completely justifiable. What we as a culture need to do now is recover from the divisiveness and caustic messaging of this election, and find ways to find common ground for political progress and to be more civically active in future elections. This civic activism could mean voting or volunteering for candidates that genuinely inspire you.

Moving forward after political disappointment is always hard, but that doesn't mean that we as a nation have stagnated — that only happens when we stop talking. Elections will continue, the political process will continue and there's always opportunities for change. Just remain calm and know that progress will inevitably happen. One midterm is not an ultimatum.

## The Verdict

**DE Changes:** We are disappointed to see dual enrollment classes on campus being removed as an option for students around the county.



**Transgender Rights:** We are glad to see transgender students able to use the bathroom of their identified gender county-wide.

**New Fences:** We are sad to see the newly installed fences limiting movement and detracting from the Pine View spirit.



**Crisis Textline:** We are happy to see measures to help students with their mental health being implemented both county and state-wide.

[guest voice]

## Interviewing a survivor: Torch explores a unique perspective on sexual assault

With #MeToo and the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation, America is witnessing an ever-developing narrative regarding sexual assault. In the face of disregard towards this narrative and demonization of victims, local advocate and survivor Casey Mooney has come into the spotlight telling her story. Mooney was assaulted in the mid-80s by one of the men who attested to Kavanaugh's character. Here, she shares her perspective on assault and #MeToo:

So why did you decide to come out and talk about your situation?

I was seeing the way that [people] were talking about Dr. Ford, and they were discounting her story, based upon things that I didn't think were true. I believe that they were applying sort of a modern lense to a problem that happened thirty-six years ago, and there are a lot of things that haven't changed, but there are also a lot of things that are different. I wanted to bring attention to the fact that there were issues of consent that were being discussed, and in the era when she and I were both sexually assaulted, consent wasn't really a part of our vocabulary.

What are your thoughts on the #MeToo movement?

It's great because I don't think [other survivors] all knew how prevalent [sexual assault] was. I'm 55 years old; I've

experienced the full range, from sexual harassment in the workplace to sexual assault... I think by getting people to [speak out]... "this happened to me too," it opens those lines of communication, it gives [assailants] fewer places to hide.

How are we miseducating boys?

We miseducate boys because we teach them, still, that sex is something that they're supposed to be interested in and girls aren't supposed to be interested in. They're supposed to persuade girls, and this whole language of them having to persuade is harmful. I think that we miseducate boys when we don't talk to them. We seem to spend a lot of time talking to young women about how to prevent being assaulted, but we don't talk to young men enough about how to respect the autonomy and agency of women. It seems like the onus of not being assaulted is always put on young women and not enough

of it is put on young men.

What can the youth of America do better?

I think of it in two ways: The first thing I do is I change the way I raise my children... I talk to my children, my children are eight years old and they have a better understanding of the mechanics of sex than I did at 20. They also have an understanding of consent, and we talk about consent, not at this age in the context of sexual relationships, but we talk about it in the context of just having rights to their body. In my house, something you'll hear [while they're roughhousing] and someone will say "stop" and then they'll say "stop" again, and I'll say, "I don't want to hear stop more than once." I'm already teaching my children that, no matter what context, if someone says stop, you stop...

As far as young women today... you deal with so many of the same things, first I'll say that. Sexual assault hasn't disap-

peared; I think there's a lot more pressure now... I think that you are a brave and powerful generation, and I think that as long as you aren't dumped into this myth of shame, and if you talk to each other and if you seek help and you seek counsel... then you'll be much better off than my generation was.

What do you see for the future of the #MeToo movement?

I hope it continues [but] I get really frustrated that it is politicized as much as it is. It's treated like a monolith, as opposed to a group of survivors... We talk about it in terms of it being some kind of force that is intending to harm people or control people. I think we do a disservice to survivors and to other people who do serve a better world. So I think that the #MeToo future is bright because I think that the more we talk about it, the better it is... [It's important to stop letting other people define that movement as something other than people using their voices to share their stories.

# the Torch

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# How modern society enables toxic masculinity

by Joanna Malvas  
Asst. News Editor

Women are no strangers to confronting societal standards and setbacks. But one of the often overlooked aspects that worsens gender equality isn't just specific to women. Hypermasculinity affects everyone.

Hypermasculinity is a psychological term for the excessive display of stereotypical masculine behavior. While society has broken barriers in the empowerment of women, men continue to be held to unrealistic expectations and gender roles. The established rules of machismo for men, such as "boys should be strong" or "boys don't cry," instill the misconception that it is "too feminine" to show emotion. These emotions are not integral to femininity, but rather to humanity. With men suppressing their emotions, they can be led to cope in ways that are toxic to others.

The culture of hypermasculinity is ingrained in today's standards of what it means to "be a man" and it is one of the factors further perpetuating misogyny and sexual harassment.

According to a national study conducted by the Stop Street Harassment organization, as of February 2018, 38 percent of women reported experiencing sexual harassment in their workplace. In schools, its presence is oftentimes deeply-rooted and negatively impacts the learning environment for students.

An investigation led by The Associated Press found that from the four-year time period of 2011 to 2015, 17,000 sexual assaults made by students were reported. These reports display how the presence of hypermasculinity exists even at the school level, and the atmosphere of hypermasculinity alone may not ultimately lead to harassment, but nevertheless induces sex-

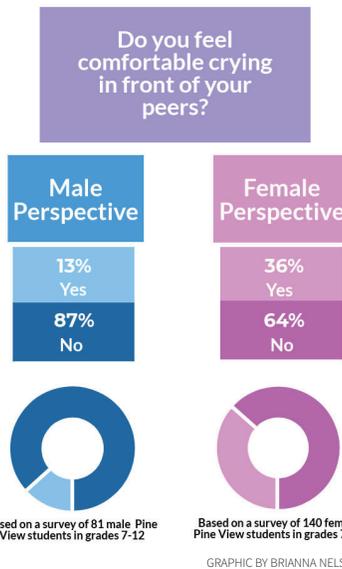
ism towards women.

Furthermore, with the increase in employed females, the work place environment has shifted from male-dominated to men and women working together. The new competition may encourage men to feel pressured to establish themselves as leaders and providers. A study conducted by Hill Holiday, as of 2018, found that 60 percent of millennial fathers feel that their role as the "caregiver" has impacted their professional career. The pressure to fill this role can cause men to act assertive and overpowering, perpetuating toxic masculinity.

Other effects of hypermasculinity include eating disorders, mental health issues and violence. Men who crack under

the pressure of these societal gender norms can develop depression and rage — things that can spiral into abuse or even the public tragedies, such as shootings, that arise within our own schools.

If we want our workplaces to be more civil, our streets to be safer and our children to be free in expressing themselves, we must re-examine our culture's attitudes towards gender. We must redefine masculinity, creating an environment where men are allowed to weep, display affection, be nurturing of others and express all ranges of the human experience. Change begins with tearing down negative social norms, encouraging accountability and teaching our children how to be vulnerable.



## [a column] Lights, camera, action: America's dramatization of rape hurts survivors



Brianna Nelson,  
Opinion Editor

The way America treats rape is like a cinematic showcase, usually starring a weak woman being held down by a stranger at gunpoint in an alleyway. We exaggerate assault and diminish it to a simple stereotype at the expense of sexual violence survivors. Dissecting this dramatization is critical to helping our culture understand and help victims.

The first issue with the general perception is the idea that assault is almost always with a stranger, but this is untrue. According to the National Sexual Violence Research Center, 8 out of 10 rapes involve a perpetrator known by the victim. When one frames an attacker as someone completely unrelated to the victim, it's easier to blame the person being victimized. "They dressed provocatively, they were drunk, of course they'd be taken advantage of," people say.

These attitudes place the fault of the situation on the victim, even if inadvertently.

This just perpetuates the cycle of victim blaming that effects rape victims no matter their position.

Rape is usually characterized as being violent, contrary to reality. Oftentimes the victim is not able to fight off their attacker because they are drunk. Other times, victims may withdraw consent but the aggressor doesn't stop or the victim has simply frozen in the face of such a traumatizing situation. Just because a survivor doesn't fight back does not mean that they wanted or deserved it, and the misconception that fighting

the aggressor is necessary for a rape to be valid keeps many women from coming forward.

When victims are shamed and told by others that their experience wasn't "that bad," they are less likely to report their assault to the police or other Victims will often internalize this mentality, and hesitate to report.

Delegitimizing sexual assault keeps perpetrators from facing consequences for their actions, thus perpetuating the cycle of violence.

Delegitimizing sexual assault keeps perpetrators from facing consequences for their actions, perpetuating the cycle of violence noted by research from the University of Massachusetts and Brown University stating that rapists have 39 percent chance of re-offending.

Survivors are valid no matter the situation of their assault if they reported it or if they are comfortable sharing their story. We as a culture should listen to the voices of victims as America discovers the pervasiveness of rape culture as a whole.

For those who have experienced rape or assault and need help please call this hotline: 1-800-656-4673.

# Dissecting the spectrum of subtext in today's media

by Gwyn Petersen  
Entertainment Editor

In today's entertainment-based society, the media shapes who we are. Historically, however, some of the villains we've come to know (and sometimes love) are coded as gay, including Disney villains such as Scar, Ursula and Hades. This can pose as a problem for young queer individuals.

This process of displaying characters to seem queer, such as male characters being presented as feminine or female characters being presented as masculine, is known as queer coding. Because these characters don't correlate with societal gender norms, they are associated as being a form of representation — even if their sexual orientation is not discussed in the storyline.

Despite romance being used as a plot device and being emphasized as one of the most important aspects of the human experience, the development of platonic relationships between those of the same gender is arguably even more important. In popular

culture, these friendships are often portrayed similarly to romantic relationships, though the characters may feel nothing inherently romantic for one another.

It's important to recognize that queer coding and subtext is not inherently negative. The problem lies within the purposeful use of

Seeing subtext and relating to a character in a work of fiction is not a problem that needs to be solved, but rather something that can promote self-love in individuals

queer coding to avoid actually representing these groups. This promotes a culture that sustains fear and a lack of understanding — both in the queer community and those outside of it.

In many children shows, from Sesame Street to Voltron, characters are in implied gay relationships or coded with a queer identity. If this coding was explicitly clarified in shows targeted for younger audiences, per-

haps more people would empathize with the LGBTQIA community. However, subtext can also be used in a malicious way. Writers often purposefully add subtext with the intent of never consummating a relationship between two characters of the same gender. This phenomenon, called queerbaiting, is used by authors to attract an LGBTQIA audience without having to represent them. Queerbait exploits the desire for queer people to see representation for financial gain, without ever providing the promised representation.

Opposing viewpoints may argue that there is LGBTQIA representation in media. In the late 20th century, directors were warned against including LGBTQIA characters per fear of scaring away potential homophobic audiences. A trope that promoted the inclusion of LGBTQIA characters rose out of this discouragement. However, the LGBTQIA representation that followed tended to follow a pattern of being evil, sexually promiscuous and never being able to

reach a happy relationship.

Seeing subtext and relating to a character in a work of fiction is not necessarily a problem that needs to be solved, but rather something that can promote self-love in individuals. But in order to combat the improper representation and harmful perpetuation of stereotypes, the practices of purposeful queer coding without representation and queer baiting need to come to an end. In a country where, according to a 2017 Gallup survey, approximately 4.5 percent, equating to 11 million Americans, are openly a part of the LGBTQIA community, there must be a change in the way we approach their depiction in the media.



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

## Close-up in cinematics

Alumnus worked on production of new thriller movie "Searching"

by **Tricia Saputera**  
News Editor

Class of 2009 alumnus Juan Sebastian Baron recently made his big debut in the filming industry as a cinematographer for his most recent project "Searching," a drama/thriller movie. Released Aug. 24, "Searching" grossed over \$68 million worldwide, receiving generally positive reviews from viewers and critics alike.

Baron's interest in photojournalism began with his family. After moving to the United States from Colombia in third grade, his father started two Spanish news publications in Sarasota: Siete Dias and La Guia.

Baron started at Pine View as a sixth-grader, and in ninth grade, fellow student and class of 2009 alumnus Vincent Dale approached him about creating a short film together. Titled "Red Wagon Confessions," they submitted it to the Sarasota Film Festival's Young Filmmakers Showcase and continued throughout the rest of high school, creating a total of four shorts.

"He asked me if I wanted to help him, and we made this little short and just the exper-

ience of watching that at Hollywood 20, on the big screen... I could sort of see the connection between photography, stories and emotions, and I got hooked," Baron said.

Dale is also currently in the film business as a director, and in 2014 they collaborated on the short film "No Real Than You Are."



Gaining inspiration from his father's publications, Baron became a part of one of Pine View's publications, The Torch, during his time at Pine View. He was photo editor in tenth grade, opinion editor as an eleventh-grader and entertainment editor his senior year.

"I think every part of Pine View definitely helped make me who I am today," he said. "Not only having people around me that inspired me and introduced me to a lot of new ideas and concepts, but the coursework was very demanding. It teaches you to work with other people and all those skills were really relevant in college and then in the working world," Baron said.

"Sebastian, like a few other members of the class of 2009, were already making movies during their junior and



TOP: Class of 2009 alumnus Juan Sebastian Baron (left) speaks with "Searching" director Aneesh Chaganty (middle) and actor John Cho (right). Baron began his career in cinematography at Pine View through two personal productions he created. BOTTOM: Baron uses his camera to film the production of "Searching." As a cinematographer, he is in charge of operating the camera and editing the lighting during the production. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JUAN SEBASTIAN BARON

senior year of high school, and I'm not surprised that a few of them have continued with that vocation," social studies teacher and former adviser of The Torch John Schweig said.

Baron was originally planning on studying chemistry in college, but still applied to the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. "When I went to apply to go to college, I applied to the USC film school along with other schools for other majors, but I kind of felt like if I got into USC, I wanted to continue to pursue this and take this as far as I could," Baron said. There, he met many people who he would later work with, such as meeting Aneesh Chaganty, who would later direct "Searching" and ask Baron to work on it with him.

As a cinematographer, Baron's main responsibility is to supervise the photograph-

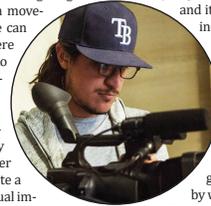
ic process of filming and work with directors to make their vision become a reality on the screen. He plays with various aspects such as lighting and camera movement; there can be anywhere from two to three people to 16 to 20 people on his cinematography team in order to fully create a striking visual impact for viewers.

Baron mostly works on music videos and commercials, and so far has done three feature films, one of them being "Searching." The fourth is currently in the works. "Searching" is definitely the biggest project in some ways because we never really thought that it was going

to be as big of a movie as it was," Baron said. "It started out as a very ambitious project that a lot of people believed in, and we just put a ton of work into it, and it went on to be this incredible success—it's crazy."

In addition to being Baron's most successful project yet "Searching" also has a unique perspective regarding the means by which it was filmed.

The story uses common screens like iPhones, computers, etc. to facilitate the story of David Kim and his use of the Internet and social media platforms to find his lost daughter. "It was really different... there were some challenges, but ultimately, we were just trying to tell a good story," Baron said.



## Student donates instruments to victims of natural disasters

by **Zoe Merritt**  
Asst. Opinion Editor

Through Instruments of Hope — a nonprofit organization dedicated to the donation of musical instruments to areas struck by natural disaster — twelfth-grader Natalie Kondos found a way to give back to the world. Now roughly four years and 20 instruments later, what started as a dream is now changing lives.

It was Kondo's own story that inspired her to found Instruments of Hope. In 2004, the eye of Hurricane Charley passed over Punta Gorda, severely damaging Kondos' home. To help her cope with the aftereffects of the storm and the following reconstruction, her parents gave Kondos a keyboard, providing an outlet for both her creativity and negative emotions.

"In that kind of situation where everything is decimated, you kind of feel like you don't have anything to hold onto. So it was the one tangible thing I was able to really control," Kondos said.

A member of Pine View's orchestra, Kondos plays the cello in addition to her nine years of piano. The way music served as a coping mechanism and gave Kondos a sense of stability was something she wanted to pass on to others who have been or are in similar situations.

After Kondos approached her mother with her idea, it took a year for the paperwork regarding taxes and getting registered as a nonprofit to be filled out and approved. Following this, she worked to get the word out and start donations with a fundraiser at Paint and Party in Nokomis, Fla. Kondos receives online donations, but the majority of funds come from grants donated by corporate sponsors



Twelfth-grader Natalie Kondos (left) stands with 17-year-old Puerto Rican Nichelle Agosto (right) and Agosto's new double bass. Kondos has donated 19 instruments to victims of natural disasters including in Puerto Rico. PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIE KONDO

she's written to, such as Tervis. Instruments of Hope not only accepts monetary donations, but also used instruments that aren't overly expensive to fix. It's this combination of donations that makes acquiring different instruments possible.

A 17-year-old girl, Nichelle Agosto, from Puerto Rico was the first person Instruments of Hope reached out to, donating a string bass after hers was lost when she and her family had to relocate after Hurricane Maria. The next 19 instruments, recently sent over this past September, would also go to Puerto Rico at a community center in Loiza. Through the donations she received, Kondos was able to send four violins, two clarinets and a guitar. The 12 other violins, bringing the total to 16, were purchased in the country to help the local economy.

And while she has a president, her mother Shannon Kondos, and a board, the nonprofit is still a deeply personal passion project for Kondos that goes back to her belief in the healing power of music.

"It's definitely still a solo project because it's so personal

to me and the whole reasoning is so intimate and so full circle in my opinion, I feel like it's kind of giving back to something I've connected with on a deep level," Kondos said.

One of the only things holding Kondos back is her status as a minor — because of this she's unable to fully run a nonprofit, the taxes and other board decisions falling to the president — but she still is in charge of most of the arrangements of the organization. As this is a temporary setback, Kondos has big plans to expand and globalize Instruments of Hope. Her biggest goal is bringing Instruments of Hope to a more global level by reaching out to places that have been affected by natural disasters other than hurricanes. "It's not just a high school project. It's kind of a long-term life thing," Kondos said.

Kondos takes it upon herself to be consistently updated and monitoring the state of things, often on the National Hurricane Center and keeping an eye on places such as North Carolina and the Florida Panhandle.

## [a column]

### In the midst of stress, empathy is everything

At Pine View, we grow up under the belief that acronyms are a matter of life or death. GPA. SAT. ACT. AP. But here's the truth of the matter: numbers masquerading in acronyms are not everything. With Thanksgiving right around the bend, I've come to realize what Pine View fails to teach us. Among all the TI-84s and the Springboard books, we forget what I believe to be the most important lesson: empathy is everything.

Empathy is our ability to relate to others' emotions and experiences, something that can feel like a rarity at Pine View. We face impossible pressure, and in that tumult, we lose sight of not just ourselves but others as well. We need to be gentle in the way we communicate our frustrations. School is tough; there's no avoiding it.

A common complaint on campus concerns how competitive we are with each other. Especially now that I am in the fall of my senior year, I recognize our own toxicity, something that everyone neglects the further we progress through our academic track. This is why empathy is pivotal to re-learn, to practice and, among the stress, to emphasize. As we grow older, our patience grows thin. Whether it's due to someone forgetting to turn in field trip forms or a teacher that is remiss in grading, we are so quick to jump the gun and misconstrue other individuals' intentions and life



Melissa Santoyo, Editor-in-Chief

situations.

I am just as guilty of this as others, but we need to recognize our own faults to move forward. So, I urge you dear reader, especially now, in a time when division seems omnipresent, to address other with sensitivity. Words can be weapons and assumptions may be damaging.

Not everyone has endured the same struggles and not everyone you encounter will have the same advantages. It may sound empty, but empathy can change the world in more momentous ways than numbers and money can. When we openly communicate with each other, we ease tension and reach common ground and comprehension; empathy is a medium for making peace.

So take a step back from the chaos of it all. Breathe. Take inventory. Who do you want to be, and do you see the person exercising the same at titude you'd like to receive?

We need to be gentle in the way we communicate our frustrations.