

# Away for the Day: Yay or Nay?



— THE —  
**S P A R K**

*by middle schoolers for middle schoolers*

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## News

- [p. 3] Rebuilding the Pine View Legacy**  
**[p. 4] New construction for the 2019 to 2020 school year**  
**[p. 5] Pine View Variety Show brings Broadway home**  
 Class of 2021 hosts another year of Variety Show.  
**Chinese Club celebrates the New Year**  
 Dumplings, art work and more!  
**[p. 6] School fair continues long-standing Pine View tradition**

## Entertainment

- [p. 8] DC versus Marvel**  
**[p. 9] Eighth-grader sets the ‘barre’**  
 Students continues to pursue her career in dance.  
**Student takes a “bow”**  
 Eighth-grader practices to become a pro violinist.  
**[p. 10] Disney leaves Netflix to create Disney+**  
**[p. 11] Fortnite: why was it the game of 2018?**

## Features

- [p. 12] Taste your way around the world**

## Sports

- [p. 14] On and off the track**  
**[p. 15] Rockin’ with a Raquet**

FRONT PAGE: Eighth-grader Simon Valek poses with his phone during fields. The new Away for the Day policy, implemented by administration, is meant to restrict middle schoolers’ usage of electronics during the school day. PHOTO BY CAROLINE DEACON

- [p. 16] Lady Pythons defeated in district semifinals**  
**[p. 17] When you’re hardly working(out)**

## Humor

- [p. 18] An ode to airpods**  
 They don’t fall out!  
**Meme of the month**  
 Rest in peace, Oppy.  
**[p. 19] Cooking with Courtney**  
 The Gordon Ramsey of Pine View School.  
**9 classic Pine View-related homework excuses**  
 Maybe you’ll get full credit!  
**[p. 20] Pine View casefile #212**  
 A Pine View treasure hunt gone horribly wrong...  
**Gerlek v. White: who’s the real Llama Mama?**  
 Which teacher loves llamas the most?

## Opinion

- [p. 21] Away for the Day: Yay or Nay?**  
**[p. 22] The Break Debate**  
 Do you prefer near-monthly breaks or a full length summer break?  
**Society’s home-ec disparity: then versus now**  
 Why home economics should be offered at Pine View.  
**[p. 23] The darker side of dress code**

## Back page

- [p. 24] Common Core: not-so-common anymore**

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**Opinion Editor** Alyson Mizanin

**Staffers** Eighth-grade Journalism Class  
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# REBUILDING the PINEVIEW LEGACY

**By Aleksandra Masiulis**

The Legacy Garden will be an exciting addition to Pine View next year. The groundbreaking of the garden took place Nov. 19, and construction is planned to continue over the summer and finish at the beginning of the 2019 to 2020 school year.

“The purpose of the garden is to be a memorial for the past teachers and a place to reflect and study for students – where they can be one with nature,” Assistant Principal for Facilities, Sue Fair, said.

The inspiration for the garden was caused by the removal of the memo-

rial gardens of Tom Krause and Irene Barylski, which were disrupted because of construction.

The garden will be inbetween Buildings 2 and 4, the green and orange buildings, respectively. A serpentine sitting wall will be in the garden, and will slope downward at the ends so that even the elementary students can rest.

The garden will contain native plants, a butterfly garden and new plantings. Many Pine View Alumni have given donations to the garden at fundraising events such as Raise the Paddle, a Pine View Pinnacle event that took place at Marie Selby Botan-



**TOP:** Pictured above is a mapped-out plan for the Legacy Garden that is to be constructed in the near future for the 2019 to 2020 school year. The Legacy Garden will include a serpentine wall and cabbage palms. **BOTTOM:** Featured below is a 3D plan of the Legacy Garden, which shows the memorial squares laid out. The garden will serve two primary purposes: as a memorial and as a public study place. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SUE FAIR

ical Gardens Jan 26.

For now, the leaders of the project are relying on donations received from the Pine View Alumni Group Official Facebook page. The designing of the garden is been mostly completed and the committee in charge of the garden are in the process of fundrais-

ing. No plan has been finalized for how the garden will memorialize the teachers. Spanish teacher Patti Gerlek said, “I don’t want it to look like a graveyard. One idea is metal flowers with [the teachers] name and a plaque describing them below.”

Gerlek helped come up with the idea for the garden, along with sixth-grade Social Studies teacher Jenna Molinaro. Molinaro is a former student of Gerlek’s, and knew many of the teachers from the old Pine View campus.

Gerlek was friends with many of the teachers, and created her own garden after one of her friends passed away. Gerlek was very upset when it was wrecked by construction at the old campus. Plaques at the new campus were ruined by construction, as well, and Gerlek eventually decided to make a permanent spot to create a

memorial garden. “Molinaro and I bounced ideas on ways to memorialize [the teachers],” Gerlek said. They eventually came up with the Legacy Garden.

Staff members that will be remembered in the garden are Jack Woolover, Mary “Beth” Bloechl, Irene Barylski, Bernice Brenner, Clyde Burrows, Downey Dutterer, Jim Hynn, Virginia Gaskins, Nancy Gadsby, Tom Krause, Linda Janoff, Sol Malinsky, Jackie McCormick, Janet Overstreet, Martha Powell, Judith Perpente, Chris Resh, AQ Smith, Linda Trigg and Nikki Nicks. Gerlek and Molinaro are still adding to the list to make sure they don’t miss anyone.

“The garden will be a place for students to sit and contemplate, and to sit and be,” Fair said. Donations are welcome and can be submitted to the Pine View Alumni Group Official Facebook page.



# New construction set for 2019 to 2020 school year

*Three-story building construction set to replace HVAC construction*

**By Felicity Chang and Caroline Deacon**

Drills whirring, hammers pounding and metal clinking. After five years of HVAC system upgrades, the HVAC construction at Pine View has come to an end.

The HVAC construction at Pine View was prompted by the need for upgrades to the air conditioning units and ventilation. Building 11, the purple building, was the last building to undergo HVAC construction. In addition to air conditioning and ventilation upgrades, Building 11's interior walls were torn down

and two locker pods were removed for classrooms.

The process of construction on a school campus has its obstacles, but careful planning has limited the complications. "There's been little impact [on the students]," Assistant Principal Sue Fair said, "The messy parts were done during the summer break, spring and winter breaks and on the weekends."

During construction, teachers were moved to portables. Since HVAC construction has finished, they have moved back into the buildings. As for the remaining portables on cam-

pus, there is a three-floor building scheduled to begin construction in the 2019 to 2020 school year. Even the three oldest portables on campus, Portables 1, 3 and 5, will be taken down. "I envision a picnic area, a place for students to study and an outdoor classroom space," Fair said.

The construction for the Student Union, Auditorium and Gym are all completed, and the campus will be free of portables when the three-story building is built. "It's exciting to have a three-floor building and no portables on campus," Fair said.

## What construction changes have affected you the most?

"The addition of the fence has affected me the most because, although it's good for security, it gets in students' way while crossing the campus."

**Brendan Kuskian, grade 6**



PHOTO BY LEO GORDON

"The science building construction affected me most because it moved my science class across campus, so I had to walk much further to get there."

**Megan Owens, grade 7**



PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

A CONSTRUCTION INFOGRAPHIC

## Did you know?

Fun facts about the Pine View School campus:

Key:  = 10 rooms/portables

 Interior Classrooms  
 Portable Classrooms



about **1/4** of the classrooms on campus are portables

As of March of 2019, it has been **4 years and 5 months** since the beginning of construction at Pine View School.



We are looking forward to a new three-story building on campus. The construction will start in the 2019-2020 school year. There will be no more portables, no more waiting in the

**2019-2020!**

scorching Florida sun, and no more trekking through the rain without any cover when it's completed.

# Pine View Variety Show brings Broadway home

By Apollonia Krolik-iewicz

The 2019 Pine View Variety Show, "On Broadway," presented by Pine View School's Class of 2021 was held Feb. 1 and 2 in the auditorium. There were 23 acts Fri, Feb. 1 and 21 acts Sat, Feb. 2.

"I thought the show was excellent...a nice mix of acts, and I think everyone enjoyed it," Sophomore Class Sponsor and pre-algebra teacher Kelly Vest said.

Many students who performed agree with Vest, "It was pretty good on Friday," eighth-grader Chloe Fay-Bina said.

Fay-Bina sang "Skinny Love" by Birdy during Fri-

day night's performance. "Performing was nerve wracking because there were so many people," she said.

Fay-Bina has performed for larger crowds before, but said she still gets nervous. "I panic sometimes so I like to hang out with my friends to take my mind off my nerves," she said. Fay-Bina enjoys watching the show with her friends as well as performing for the audience.

Eighth-grader Isabella Nebel sang "Say Something" by A Great Big World with her siblings during the show. Her sister, sixth-grader Ava Nebel, said, "At the beginning, I was nervous,

but when we started practicing, I thought we were really bad, but many people would walk by and say we were really good."

Both Nebels enjoyed performing with their siblings. "The words were easy, but learning the harmonies was hard," Isabella Nebel said.

Although Nebel did have some stress before performing, after a bit of practice and reassurance, she was ready to sing on stage. "Since there are three of us, we add more anxiety and stress on each other," she said. As a performer, Nebel thought the Variety Show was great.

"They had everything



Seventh-grader Claire Opal-Levine performs a hula-hoop act during Pine View's Variety Show, "On Broadway." The show was held as a fundraiser by the Class of 2021. PHOTO BY AIYANA SALES

ready for you: the microphones, the lights, standing positions," she said. "My favorite part was getting

to sing with [my friends]. I personally like to sing with them, it's comforting and easier."

## Chinese Club celebrates the New Year

By Ava Pappas

After winter break and the winter holidays were long gone, Chinese Club still had a holiday to look forward to, the Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year. To celebrate the Chinese New Year, Chinese Club made dumplings at 1:00 p.m. Feb. 6. Anyone could participate in the celebration, and it cost \$10 for a student to make and eat their own dumplings.

The idea to have the students help make dumplings was a pretty new idea. This was only the second year of this celebration. "[The idea] was from last year's president. He brought up the idea to attract more

members," said Linda Shih, twelfth-grader and Chinese Club president. Shih said that making dumplings did attract a lot more members.

Shih said her main reason for being involved with Chinese Club is to educate others. "I like to educate people about Chinese culture and how it is very different than people would think," Shih said.

Both Shih and twelfth-grader Kailin Huang, the Chinese Club Vice President, played large roles in making this possible. Huang said, "It is a fun activity to do." They got permission to cook the dumplings from their Sponsor, Chinese teacher Kitty

Wang.

The dumplings were cooked on a plug-in grill in the co-sponsor, Chinese teacher Jenny Lin's classroom. Per eleventh-grader Bari Namgoong, the dumpling wrapping was bought from a local store and they made the filling. "The filling has pork, chives, soy sauce, etc." said Namgoong.

The students then got to wrap the dumpling filling, and then the dumplings were cooked.

Chinese Club also made some changes in the Pine View Fair, too. Chinese Club usually has a Chinese food booth at the Fair, but this year they added a game booth too.



Pictured is a platter of hand-made dumplings made for the Chinese Club's Chinese New Year celebration. For \$10, students could cook and eat their own dumplings. PHOTO BY AVA PAPPAS

# School fair continues long-standing Pine View tradition

By Claire Critchett

The Pine View Fair is a fun event that every Pine View student knows and loves, but what not many people know is what goes into planning the event. Valerie Rupp, the PVA Fair chair, is one of the people who understands a lot about the behind-the-scenes of the fair. “Planning started [in January] with sub-committee chairs. We have a wonderful group of enthusiastic parent volunteers,” she said. The people involved in the fair met every week.

A crucial part of the event is the planning and work that goes on behind the scenes. Rupp got to work with many faculty and students during each meet-

ing and interacted with many new people to talk about setting up the event. She said she enjoys the planning for many reasons. “I love the connection with teachers and students,” she said.

Additionally, many other people helped take the Pine View Fair from dream to reality. “We need approximately 180 people to make the fair a success,” Rupp said. The volunteers are parents, teachers and high school students looking for volunteer hours.

The fair requires many providers of food, drink, rides, and machines for cotton candy and popcorn. “In keeping with the school fair spirit, all food is expected to be homemade.

Booth games are created by teachers and students,” Rupp said.

Rupp explained how the Fair Committee chooses which rides to include. “PVA has long-standing relationships with many people. For example, Lets Jump brings us fair rides and attractions. We choose [which rides to include at the fair] using math and feedback from kids on which activity they found most enjoyable,” she said.

Another large part of the fair are the fun booths, which takes a lot of planning and creating to produce. Eighth-grade science and biology teacher David Yotsuda oversaw planning his booth for the Global Green Group (G3). “[Hav-

Scan the QR Code below to view our PV Fair photo gallery at [PVTorch.com](http://PVTorch.com)



ing a booth] helps [students] with leadership, organization, planning and time management,” he said.

The Fair is enjoyed by many people, adults and kids alike. It was estimated

that around 3,000 people showed up to this year’s fair, half of whom are students. There were an estimated 80 booths including teachers and student-run clubs.

## Happy Birthday Pine View!



Two Publix employees decorate the Pine View 50th Anniversary Cake. The special occasion, celebrated the entire week of Jan. 14 to 18, was commemorated with the company of former alumni, former faculty members and the entire student body.

PHOTO BY COURTNEY NELSON

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By Jade Firlie

When you think of superheroes, who do you think of? Superman or Batman, right? Well, the source of those heroes is DC comics. DC is a traditional superhero company, with classic superheroes like Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, the Flash, Aquaman and more!

DC created the “superhero universe” with its first comic called Action Comics #1 in June 1938. This was the first comic book to feature the character archetype called “superheroes.” During this time, DC brought great delight and happiness to many kids

and adults, as they still do today.

To this day, DC comics have told stories of gods who have accomplished impossible achievements, in order to save the world and humanity. Superman and Wonder Woman are perfect examples of this, as well as the other godlike characters DC created. Though, of course, we cannot forget about Batman, who is a human superhero that is just as strong and powerful as the others.

Even when it comes to film adaptations, DC is ahead of the game. According to Rotten Tomatoes, the average Tomatometer score

for Marvel is 64.1 percent, while the average score for DC is 67.7 percent. And while this might come as a surprise to you, cause Marvel’s new releases are popular right now, DC has had so many previous hits, all the way back to around 1978 with “Superman” and 1989 with “Batman.” Also, the lowest a DC com- TV show has been rated is

72 percent, which was the series “Constantine.” However, Marvel has had shows rated as low as 8 percent (“The Inhumans”) and 18 percent (“Iron Fist.”) Also, DC tends to sell more comics than Marvel. However, Marvel seems to make more money off their comics because of their higher prices. For ex-

ample, by the end of 2017, DC comics took 6 spots of the Top 10 Comic Book Sales, while Marvel only took 4. Furthermore, DC comics was just as popular back in the day. In 1966, Batman was doing extremely well with over 898,000 sales per issue that came out, and Superman made over 500,000 sales in 1969.

Though, in the end, when the question of who is better arises, it all comes down to what each individual person likes in their comics and movies. I personally like DC comics, with their traditional sense of superheroes and classic stories, but everybody is different.



VERSUS



By: Felicity Chang

From “Iron Man” to “Infinity War”, the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has accumulated \$17.530 billion in the box office. The difference between the MCU and regular franchises, and the reason behind Marvel’s big-screen success, is the amount of planning and intricate interlacing of all the films. Marvel’s films are not only lead-ins to one another; the individual films flourish on their own, but they also skillfully hint at their places in the spectrum of the whole cinematic universe.

The MCU’s superhero team, the Avengers, has films for each of its caped

crusaders. Marvel fans were delighted to see multiple superheroes make appearances in “The Avengers,” “Avengers: Age of Ultron” and “Avengers: Infinity War.” Though, these films did not arise out of nowhere. Marvel slowly built what is known as Phase I of the MCU. The core characters of the Avengers, including Iron Man, Thor, Captain



America, Hulk, Black Widow, Hawkeye and Nick Fury, and organizations such as S.H.I.E.L.D. and HYDRA, were introduced through five films. The writers and directors of Marvel knew they wanted to have the Avengers as part of the MCU since the very beginning. In the post-credit scene of “Iron Man,” Tony Stark, who has just revealed that he is Iron Man, is approached by Nick Fury

about an “Avenger Initiative.”

Some of the most unique details about the MCU are the mid-credit and post-credit scenes. By now, most moviegoers who have watched any of Marvel’s films know to stay until the very end. These 40-second scenes are usually quirky quips, but some of them reveal major details about upcoming films. As everyone bawled their eyes out at the “Avengers: Infinity War” finale, the post-credit scene revealed Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) making a call to Captain Marvel (Brie Larson). Fury’s call intentionally hinted at Captain Marvel’s

standalone film, which is set to be released on March 8, 2019.

Many references to future films do not occur in the post credit scenes. The country in which the 2018 film “Black Panther” was set in, Wakanda, had made an appearance in “Iron Man 2.”

When Nick Fury tells Tony Stark that his personality is ill-suited for a superhero, the camera shows the S.H.I.E.L.D. holographic screens around them. One of the locations marked on the screens is East Africa - where Wakanda is located. Marvel planned Black Panther eight years ahead, carefully interlacing films in the MCU.

# Eighth-grader sets the ‘barre’

**By Marybeth Damico**

Successfully completing a front ariel and winning her first solo in a competition; this is what eighth-grade dancer Emma Coles dreams of.

Coles has been dancing since she was eight years old. She did dance before that, but she was never serious about it until she joined Dance Artistry. She has danced at the studio Dance Artistry since she was eight and still dances there today. Coles practices five days a week, puts a lot of effort into her dance, and is constantly trying to improve by working and practicing hard.

Coles said she loves

dancing because she feels like it is a good way to express her emotions. She likes having something to focus on besides school all the time. She can run dances through her head and think about the movements. “Right before a competition, I relax and focus on the dance I am about to perform, this helps me perform better while on stage,” she said.

Coles gets anxious right before going on stage, so she focuses on her breathing before competing. This is the only technique she uses but she said it works for her very well.

This year, Coles will be attending multiple dance competitions, including

Legacy and Showstoppers. She will dance one solo to the song “Lullaby,” which is a contemporary/lyrical dance. She is hoping to come in first place and achieve her goal of scoring first. “As a team, we have come in first place many times, but I want to experience the feeling when you are solo and have to earn it all by yourself,” Coles said.

Coles works hard every day to try to improve her skills and work toward her goals of a front aerial and winning her first solo in a competition. She makes sure to practice extra hard and put in all the work she needs in order to reach and complete her goal.



Eighth-grade dancer Emma Coles poses for a photo while stretching. Coles has danced at Dance Artistry Studio for the past six years.  
PHOTO BY ELENA D’AMATO

# Student takes a ‘bow’

**By Anson Nguyen**

Eighth-grader Ocean Bruinius has grown up with music for her entire life. She started playing violin at 5 years old, when her mother signed her up for weekly lessons, and she has since fallen in love with it.

Bruinius says that music serves as a creative outlet for her. “It allows me to express myself in a way that nothing else does, and that’s what I find really special about it,” Bruinius said. She also said that it allows her to “escape from reality” and just focus on the music

rather than school work and extra-curriculars.

Even when Bruinius has felt discouraged in the past, the end result keeps her “coming back,” and makes it, in her eyes, completely worth it. “Sure, practicing and rehearsing can get kind of boring, but being able to make someone’s day or light up a room is why I do it,” she said. “Seeing the look on people’s faces after I play a song is what encourages me to keep going and

continue musically.”

Besides the violin, musically, Bruinius also enjoys singing and performing. “When I was growing up everyone around the house would be singing and dancing endlessly, I guess that’s where my love for music has come from,” she said. She first discovered her talent for singing in the third grade when she joined Ashton Elementary’s Drama Club and from there her love of the stage only grew.

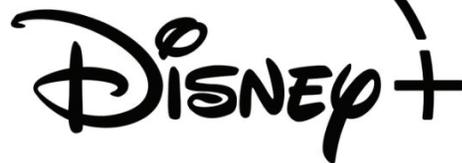
She is currently rehearsing for Rise Above Performing Arts’ production of “The Addams Family,” which will run from May 2 to May 5 at the Glenridge Performing Arts Center, where she can’t wait to perform.

“[The violin] allows me to express myself in a way that nothing else does...”  
**Ocean Bruinius, grade 8**



Eighth-grader Ocean Bruinius plays the violin during a Chinese New Year Celebration. Bruinius has been playing since she was 5 years old.  
PHOTO PROVIDED BY OCEAN BRUINIUS

# Disney leaves Netflix to create



**By Luke Rominiecki**  
 Did you know that Disney will soon be leaving Netflix? Don't worry though, you are still able to stream the entire series of "Toy Story" while waiting for the new movie in June, but soon after that, Disney will be done with Netflix. Disney is starting their own streaming service called Disney+ in fall of this year. It will have all of your favorite films such as "The Lion King", "The Incredibles", "Monsters Inc." and "Dumbo."

You may be asking yourself, "Is the only reason that Disney is leaving Netflix because of their new streaming service?" If so, reader, you are ask-

ing the right questions. Disney isn't just trying to upset their customers by getting out of Netflix, they have another reason. At the end of 2018, their deal with Netflix ended and

Disney owns Marvel, Lucasfilm, ABC, Pixar, ESPN and, recently, Fox.

they decided this would be the perfect time to start their new streaming service.

The first Disney movie not to be on Netflix will be "Captain Marvel."

"Captain Marvel?" you may ask yourself, "Isn't that a Marvel movie?" That is another great thought. Yes, "Captain Marvel" is a Marvel movie, but Disney owns Marvel, Lucasfilm, ABC, Pixar, ESPN and, recently, Fox. Do you now realize how big of a change this will be economically?

Speaking of economics, I had the privilege of interviewing econ teacher Charles Carney and he said, "I think that it wouldn't be as big of a difference if they didn't own as much as they did. Once this happens, everyone will start to realize how much Disney owns and how big it has become."

The positive side of

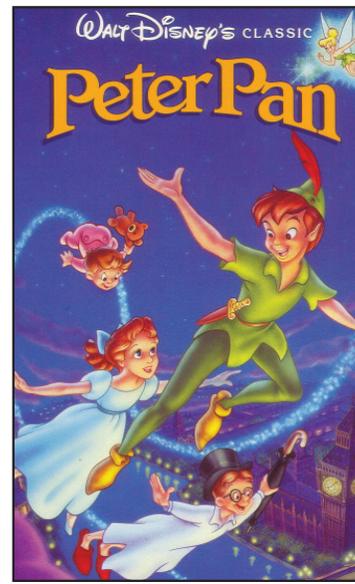
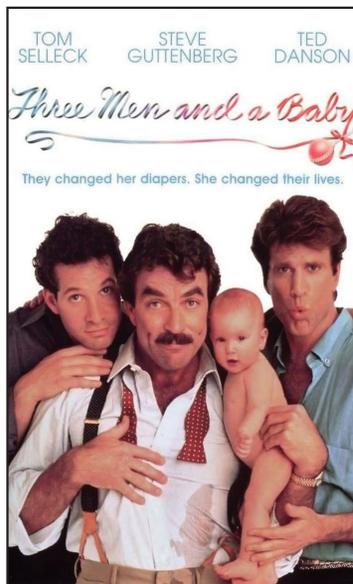
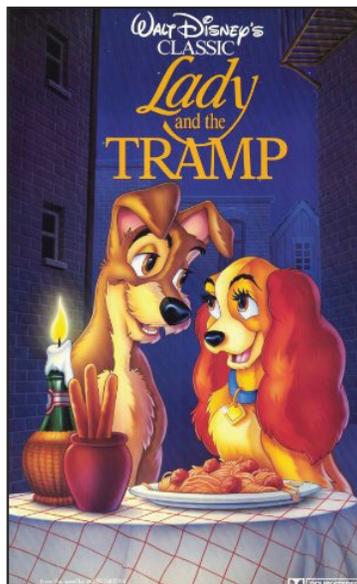


GRAPHIC BY JONAS MEYER

this whole Disney leaving Netflix and Disney+ scenario is that the Disney content will be way better than what is currently on Netflix. At the release date, Disney+ is supposed to have nearly 7,000 episodes of television series and 400 to 500 movies. That is so much more than what is currently available

on Netflix. If you've got the dough, this seems like this wouldn't be so bad of a deal.

So, very soon Netflix and the multibillion-dollar organization Disney will par ways. The question is, how will consumers respond? And will you keep your Netflix account or drop it?



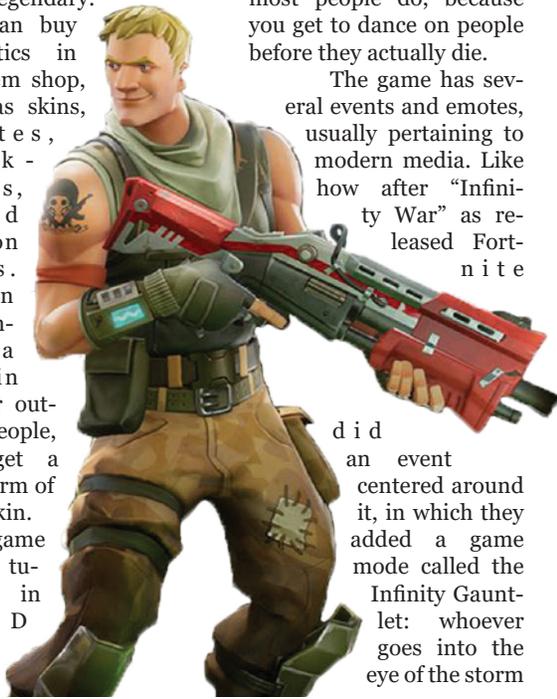
# Fortnite: why was it the game of 2018?

By: **Monica Hennawy**

Fortnite Battle Royale is a free game, available on PCs, PlayStation 4s, Xbox Ones, Nintendo Switches, iOS, Androids and Macs. It begins with the player falling out of the Battle Bus, a floating blue bus that is used for the battle royale players to jump out into the map, with destructible environments they must survive. Not only must they survive the terrain, but there are 99 other players trying to massacre them. The last one standing wins. The thing that makes Fortnite unique is its building feature, and its cartoony style and animations.

Fortnite has 5 rarities in their items: common, uncommon, rare, epic and legendary.

You can buy cosmetics in the item shop, such as skins, emotes, backblings, and weapon skins. When you unlock a certain XP, or outlive people, you get a new form of your skin. The game has tutorials in HUD layout, out,



one is for shooting, and the other one is for building. They are simple and friendly to new players, even those new to the whole genre of battle royale games. I, as a newbie, can appreciate that.

There are eight game modes currently: solos, duos, trios, squads, team rumble, architect popup cup, playground, and creative. Though, the game is not friendly to those who prefer to play alone or in small groups, if you plan to win in a solo or duo, you must be good at aiming, building, and dodging. The chance of one single person outliving several other players without help is unlikely. I personally find duos to be the most entertaining, and I'm sure most people do, because you get to dance on people before they actually die.

The game has several events and emotes, usually pertaining to modern media. Like how after "Infinity War" as released Fortnite

did an event centered around it, in which they added a game mode called the Infinity Gauntlet: whoever goes into the eye of the storm

circle and picks it up will become Thanos. I'm sure everyone remembers when everyone was screaming, "Thanos car!" You were probably either the one screaming it or the one annoyed by it.

The game adds a new season every three months, each new season, players who have purchased a battle pass get more cosmetics than players who have free passes. Updates happen even more frequently than

seasons. they focus on fixing bugs and adding new items, locations, events, and of course, the infamous emotes and dances for players to enjoy.

There are controversies between players, saying things such as, "Mobile players have it easy, they use auto shoot, and act like they're so skilled at the game," and other remarks about different devices. Yes,



there will be advantages and disadvantages for each device, players need to accept those limitations of their devices and not whine and fuss about it.

I personally find Fortnite to be a boring repetitive game, with nothing more than shooting and running, and tend to lean toward more story or mystery-based game. However, if you are looking for a battle royale game with cartoony graphics, building, and a game you can play with a group of friends, Fortnite is the game for you, and I promise you'll enjoy it.



Thanos, the antagonist from "Avengers: Inifinity War", does a squat kick during a game of Fortnite. Squat kicks are one of the many available emotes available for players to chose from. GRAPHIC BY MONICA HENNAWY

# Taste your way around the world

**By: Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan, Jonas Meyer, and Alyson Mizanin**

With a diverse student population, Pine View welcomes the culture and background of students from all over the world. One thing that manages to span across countries and language barriers is a love for everyone's favorite: food. The following three recipes originate from three different countries and are important parts of their lifestyles. Before you create some of these delicious recipes yourself, make sure you have parental supervision because of the use of electronic appliances.



PHOTO AND RECIPE PROVIDED BY EPICURIUS

## Pierogis, from the kitchen of Apollonia Krolkiewicz, grade 8

“There are so many different flavors of pierogis, and they’re all the best thing you’ll ever taste. It’s a staple in Poland!”

### Ingredients:

#### DOUGH

2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1 large egg  
 1/2 cup sour cream  
 1/4 cup (4 tablespoons) butter, room temperature  
 1 cup warm mashed potatoes  
 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded  
 1/4 cup (4 tablespoons) butter  
 2 large shallots, diced; or one medium onion

### Recipe:

#### *To prepare the dough:*

- Mix together the flour and salt. Add the egg to the flour and combine. The dough will be quite clumpy at this stage.  
 - Work in the sour cream and soft butter until the dough comes together in a slightly rough, slightly sticky ball.  
 - Using just your fingertips, knead and fold the dough without adding additional flour until the dough becomes less sticky

but still quite moist.

- Wrap the dough well in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 to 60 minutes, or up to 48 hours.

#### *To make the filling:*

- Combine the warm mashed potato and cheese. Stir and mash until the cheese is melted and the filling is cool to the touch. Taste and adjust the seasonings with salt and pepper.

#### *To fill the pierogi:*

- Roll half the dough 1/8" thick. Use a 2" round cutter to cut circles of dough. Re-

peat with the other half of the dough. Save the scraps; these can be snipped into small pieces and added to simmering soups.

- Place 1 1/2 teaspoons of filling on each round of dough. Gently fold the dough over, forming a pocket around the filling. Pinch the edges of the pierogi to seal, then seal again with the tines of a fork.

- At this point the pierogi can be frozen for up to 4 weeks, or refrigerated overnight, or cooked in a

large stockpot of boiling salted water.

- Only cook about 10 pierogis at a time, so that they have room to float without sticking. When the pierogi float, they're done. The time will vary depending of if they are fresh or frozen.

- Sauté the shallots or onion in the butter in a large skillet until the onions begin to brown. Add the drained pierogi and cook until browned and crisped. Serve hot with additional sour cream, applesauce, or other condiments.



PHOTO AND RECIPE PROVIDED BY EPICURIUS

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/2 cup (about 4 ounces) fresh goat cheese
- 1 1/2 ounces (3 tablespoons) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1 1/4 cups heavy cream
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup
- 2 cups pitted fresh or frozen (not thawed) red or black cherries
- 2/3 cup sugar



PHOTO AND RECIPE PROVIDED BY GENIUS KITCHEN

## Ledai with Roasted Cherries, from the kitchen of Aleksandra Masiulis, grade 8

“We eat it whenever. It’s like ice cream but made with goat cheese, and in Lithuania many people are poor so it’s like a rare sweet.”

2 teaspoons cornstarch

**Recipe:***To prepare the mix:*

-Mix about 2 tablespoons of milk with the cornstarch in a small bowl to make a smooth slurry. Whisk the goat cheese, cream cheese and salt in a medium bowl until smooth. Fill a large bowl with ice and water.

*To cook the mix:*

-Combine the remaining milk, cream, sugar and corn syrup in a 4-quart saucepan, bring to a rolling boil over medium-high heat and boil for 4 minutes. Remove from the heat, and gradually whisk in the cornstarch

slurry. Bring the mixture back to a boil over medium-high heat and cook, stirring with a rubber spatula, until slightly thickened, about 1 minute.

-Remove from the heat.

*To chill the Ledai:*

-Gradually whisk the hot milk mixture into the cream cheese mixture until smooth. Pour the mixture into a 1-gallon Ziploc freezer bag and submerge the sealed bag in the ice bath.

-Let stand, adding more ice as necessary, until cold, for about 30 minutes. Freeze.

- Pour the ice cream base into the frozen canister and spin until thick and creamy. Pack the ice cream into a

storage container, alternating it with layers of the cherries and ending with a spoonful of cherries; do not mix. Press a sheet of parchment directly against the surface, and seal with an air-tight lid. Freeze for at least 4 hours.

*To add the roasted cherries:*

-Preheat the oven to 400°F. -Combine the cherries, sugar, and cornstarch in a 9-inch square baking dish, tossing to mix. Roast for 30 to 45 minutes, until the juices are thickened and bubbly, stirring every 15 minutes.

-Let cool completely, then chill in the refrigerator.

## Banitsa, from the kitchen of Mia Petrov, grade 8

“Banitsa is a traditional food. It’s not specifically for it, but many people eat it on New Year’s Eve.”

**Ingredients:**

- 16 sheets phyllo dough, thawed
- 2 cups feta cheese
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup butter (melted)
- 1 cup milk

**Recipe:***To prepare the mix:*

-Preheat oven to 350 degrees, (glass pyrex pan works great for this recipe) brush melted butter all over bottom and sides of the baking pan.

-Mix salt, cheese and milk and eggs in a bowl, combine and stir ingredients well.

-Put down 5 sheets of phyllo dough down in buttered pan and brush over with melted butter. You can also put down one sheet at a time and butter separately.

-Pour enough of the mixture to cover phyllo sheets and top with 3 more sheets.

-Continue to repeat the process: put down 3 sheets and make sure to brush them well with butter then layer with mixture until all of the mixture is gone, then

cover with at least 2 sheets. I prefer not to butter the top sheets as they tend to get very hard after the banitsa is done baking.

*To bake the dough:*

-Bake for 25-35 minutes or until golden, make sure mixture is cooked in the middle by cutting into banitsa. When the mixture is cooked it should not be runny.

-Once banitsa is done, cover it with either a towel or the lid on the pan and let it sit and cool before cutting it or serving. Covering it lets the steam soften the phyllo dough sheets.

# On and off the track: A behind-the-scenes look at Pine View's team

By Elena D'Amato and Alyson Mizanin

The assumption that Pine View's track teams are nothing more than extracurricular activities that change up a student's schedule couldn't be further from how they really are. While middle school students challenge themselves in order to improve their record times, the track team itself runs on the deep friendship that courses through its team members.

Bonding through the connection of all needing to get up and go to school early, Pine View's boys and girls track teams have been guided into the close connections that tie them together.

From spending at least three days a week practicing, to getting involved in competitions, the understanding and respect the track team members have for one another is second to none.

Eighth-grader Rylee Volk has been on the girls team since sixth grade. "We feel like family as we become closer during the season. We bond and understand



Eighth-grader William Hartvigsen runs the mile during a track meet held at Woodland Middle School. Hartvigsen won first place in the mile and first place in the 800-meter as well.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WILLIAM HARTVIGSEN

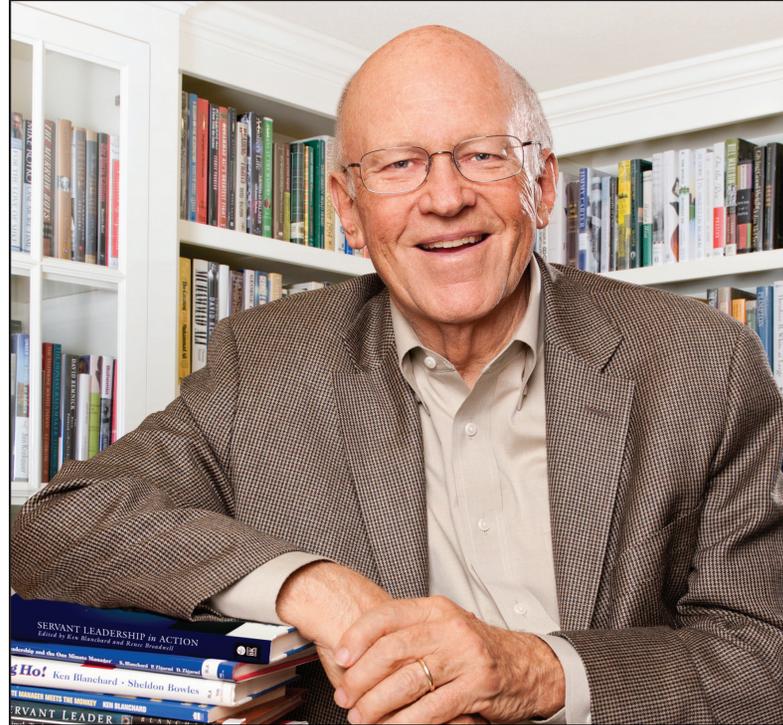
each other better," she said. "We feel a lot less pressured and nervous before and when we run because we have friends cheering us on and not judging us if we get a good time or not."

Because the teams practice together regularly, they get to know each other very well, creating the strong bond that is similar to that of a family. "We lift each other up at track meets as a cluster of blue and gold, cheering on our teammates crossing the finish line,"

eighth-grader Bella Nebel said. "Everyone cheers for each other and everyone pushes each other. We grow through the daily workouts together and form a stronger team."

Nebel considers track to be a sport full of growth both physically and mentally. "Track takes grit and perseverance. You can always push harder, run faster and cheer louder... it's an experience like no other."

Competition will always be an important part of sports, but the connections that are created through this competitive spirit will last forever.



"We're all leaders of our life, but to be an effective leader of others, you have to start with being able to lead yourself."

— Ken Blanchard, coauthor of *The New One Minute Manager* and Chief Spiritual Officer of The Ken Blanchard Companies.

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# Rockin' with a Racket

*Seventh-grader pursues his fifth year of tennis*

By Vir Patel

Taking the advantage and the game, seventh-grader Grant Burroughs lives and breathes the competitive air of tennis. Despite the distractions of spectators and judges, he remains calm and collected. He qualified to be on the Pine View tennis team because of his strong performance in his qualifier matches.

Burroughs first picked up a racket when he was 5 years old and has been taking tennis lessons since he was 8 years old. He ranked 77th place in USTA Florida Boys' 12U, where junior tennis tournaments are held for various levels all

around Florida.

Burroughs said he thinks tennis is fun to play because it stood out to him versus other sports. "I am a leftie," he said. "With being a leftie, you get an advantage in sports like tennis and baseball."

“With being a leftie, you get an advantage in sports like tennis and baseball.”

**Grant Burroughs, grade 7**

Burroughs trains for tennis at Celsius Academy, Sarasota, Fla. His instructor is Coach Rene Muzquiz. Burroughs's typical

training with Muzquiz includes conditioning training with crunches, stretch-

es and sprints, in addition to skills practice.

When Burroughs first started to play tennis, he struggled with serving the ball and his groundstrokes. He said Muzquiz helped him out with it a lot.

Burroughs eventually became so advanced in playing tennis that he played in Level 3 tournaments in Orlando. He also won Level 6 and 7 tournaments. Burroughs competed in many matches, but eventually he came up with one of his greatest comebacks in a tournament.

Burroughs attended a Level 7 tournament in August, 2018 at the Long Wood Athletic Club. He was losing in the beginning; he went 3-6 in the first set, eventually getting to 7-5 in the next set. On



Seventh-grader Grant Burroughs returns a shot with his forehand. He said that one of his best accomplishments was when he won his match at a Level 7 tournament in Aug. 2018 at the Long Wood Athletic Club. PHOTO PROVIDED BY GRANT BURROUGHS



Burroughs gets ready to serve the ball during one of his practices. Burroughs has been playing tennis since he was 8 years old.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY GRANT BURROUGHS

the last set, the tiebreaker, he was 10-7.

Burroughs said he was surprised he won. "...I was behind, and I knew that I had to play my best to come back," he said. "I needed to focus and rely on my training."

Burroughs won in the tournament, but along with his accomplishments and improvements, this year came same improvements and weaknesses he still needs to improve upon.

Burroughs is also working on serving this year. "It's gotten a lot better, and now I can win against players who beat me a year ago," Burroughs said.

One of Burroughs's friends, who tried out for the tennis team, seventh-grader Jacob Hazelhoff, said, "Grant definitely deserved to get onto the team. He is pretty good with hitting the ball where he wants it to go."

Hazelhoff also said that Burroughs has tons of energy, that he can hit the ball with great spin and power, and that he has great confidence.

Burroughs said he improved a lot with his tennis skills this year. "I am happy with my achievements in tennis so far," he said. "I'm grateful to have parents that encourage and support me."

# Pine View Lady Pythons defeated in district semifinals

## A summary of the 2018 to 2019 girls basketball season



The Pine View Lady Pythons score a basket against Venice Middle School during the final regular season game. Pine View beat Venice, but lost to McIntosh in the semifinals the following week.  
PHOTO BY CLYDE MORGAN

**By Nico Brion**

This year and for the last five years Pine View's girls basketball team has made it to the middle school county play-offs. This year they made it to the semifinals before losing to McIntosh Middle. The team finished the season with a record of four wins and five losses.

The girls coach, PE teacher Joe DiGiacomo, said that while basketball can be very competitive, but he also said, "We work hard and we have lots of fun."

Eighth-grader Ashley Reynolds said, "Basketball was really fun because

a lot of my friends were on the team with me, so we

"I've had a lot of fun this year and I think so have the girls. I am very proud that we made it to the semifinals."

**Joe DiGiacomo,**  
coach

could all just participate in a sport we all loved doing." The basketball

team practiced for an hour and a half, five days a week during non-game weeks. During game weeks, they had two days of practice and two games.

DiGiacomo said that even though some students play for only one season and then stop, he hopes that the majority will continue next year. "...especially the [rising] eighth-graders, and I hope they continue practicing over the year," he said.

"I have had a lot of fun this year and I think so have the girls. I am very proud that we made it to the semifinals," DiGiacomo said.

**Pine View's 50th Anniversary Commemorative Artwork is now available!**

Order your 11x14 print in the Front Office for \$15.

(Make checks payable to PVA.)

This is a great keepsake for students!

All proceeds benefit PVA and the PV Journalism Department



# When you're hardly working(out)

By Victoria Liu and Max Friedland

Does your brain need a break? Do you have cramps from sitting too long? You might want to get up and exercise for a while. If you don't feel like going outside, you can exercise right at home. Try out some of these home workout ideas!

## 1. Dance

If you like dancing, you can search up "fitness dances" on YouTube and dance to them. Start with a dance of a slower pace, so that you can warm-up. Select dances that get more and more intense as you go. Even if you only do it for 15 minutes, you can still get a nice workout.

## 2. Jump Rope

You can also jump rope. Jump rope isn't just for fun. It can exercise your arms and your legs. Find a wide, empty space in your house or backyard. Play a song and jump rope to the beat.

## 3. Planks

Grab a blanket and plank on top of it if you have a hard-tiled/wooden floor. When you start, plank for as long as you can and time yourself. Record the time in a notebook and plank for longer than you previously did.

## 4. Body Weight Squats

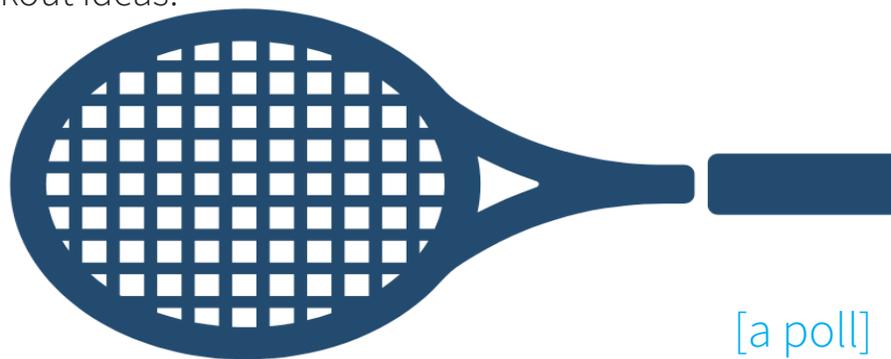
Squats are great, and you don't need any equipment or special space, so you can do them anywhere and they're a great workout. Squats work out your thighs which include quads, hamstrings, outer thighs, glutes and core. When you squat you use all your muscles in your legs to remain upright and balanced. Squats are probably one of the most important lower body exercises that you can do at any time. Squats can be very beneficial and important if you want to stay healthy.

## 6. Push-Ups

A fantastic body workout that has two levels of difficulty, two-handed and one-handed. Push-ups make you strengthen your abdominals by holding them up while gravity is trying to push your hips down. You're also strengthening your pushing muscles, including your chest, triceps and shoulders. Push-ups can really help you train your muscle to work together and become stronger.

## 7. Note:

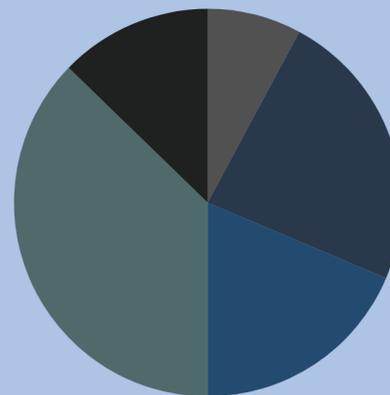
Try to exercise every day. As time goes on, exercising will become easier once your muscles adjust to the stress. Don't forget to stretch before you start so you don't pull a muscle.



[a poll]

## How do you get your

# Exercise?



Other 38%	School Team 19%	Gym 24%	Martial Arts 8%	Swimming 13%
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GRAPHIC BY JADE FIRLIE

# An ode to AirPods

By **Evan Cressell Simmons**

AirPods, a relatively new Apple product with a price tag of \$160, have been blowing-up in popularity ever since Christmas of 2018. Of course, an expensive set of wireless earbuds is going to net some sort of criticism, as basic wired Apple earbuds are \$30. Of course, the pods do much more than just that. These pods are wireless, granting them the name “AirPods.”

What many kids don’t know is that the AirPods are of great quality, especially for achieving those epic victory royales. What’s even better is that these pods play music 100 percent more effectively than tide pods. The original release date for the

AirPods was Dec. 13, 2016, but they didn’t blow up until rather recently.

Because of the versatility of the AirPods, many people can now listen to their edgy music without bad quality or having to hold their phones close enough to listen to the built-in speakers.

These days, it’s pretty easy to catch an average middle or high schooler with their AirPods in, usually concealed from view in a hoodie or an awkward hand obstructing the AirPods from sight, making it even more noticeable, in which case an administrator would likely say, “Pull that hoodie off your head,” as the student nervously fidgets with their outfit to keep concealing their AirPods.

If they do notice the AirPods, they will likely ask if the student is listening to music on a phone, breaking the Away for the Day policy.

Selling \$160 wireless earbuds to consumers must mean that any customer has that much money, right? Some people, of course, use these overpriced earbuds to flex like RiceGum. Other types of people who wear AirPods blare Mo Bamba in their ears so they don’t have to listen to their annoying classmates perpetually bothering them in rare occasion that their AirPods aren’t in their ears.

When those who don’t own AirPods attempt to communicate with those who do, they cannot understand each other.



Two middle schoolers strengthen their friendship by comparing AirPods. Students who own AirPods are able to communicate with each other, but they unfortunately can’t hear non-Airpod users.

PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

Even with a pretty high pricetag, many can say that AirPods are versatile, don’t fall out and

sound great. Just don’t expect anyone with AirPods to listen to you over “Sicko Mode.”

## NASA’s Mars Rover Opportunity Concludes a 15-Year Mission

*Silent since a giant dust storm last summer, the rover was the longest-standing robot on another planet.*



MY BATTERY IS LOW AND IT'S GETTING DARK: MARS ROVER OPPORTUNITY'S LAST MESSAGE TO SCIENTISTS



## Meme of the Month: Oppy

By **Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan**

NASA has sent several rovers to Mars to explore and discover new parts of the planet. These rovers have roamed the red planet since 1997, and on Feb. 13, NASA officially ended the exploration mission of Opportunity, one of the many martian rovers.

The rover lost power in August of 2018 due to a massive sandstorm, cutting off its only source of energy (solar energy), but NASA has just recently ended the mission. The rover was meant to last 90 days, but ended up lasting more than 14 years, outdoing scientist’s expectations by living

almost 60 times longer than expected.

The official ending of the mission created a massive outcry of love and support for the rover, and of course, memes all over the internet. This is a homage to the precious rover and all that it has done for the scientific community.

NASA officials, space fans, and even Elon Musk have all paid their respect for “Oppy.”

But there is still hope for the Mars rover program. The Curiosity rover, one that came onto Mars’s soil in 2011, also had gone into “safe mode” recently but is back online and still exploring.

# Cooking with Courtney

## *Learn to bake brownies with the Gordon Ramsey of Pine View*

**By Courtney Nelson**

Welcome to this brand-new segment of baking. With a grocery store nearby, a store that leads you to endless baking ideas, not all very good, like this one, I had decided to make two different brownies: a normal chocolate brownie and an interesting health food brownie, which is a nice low-calorie, low carb, no sodium and no sugar snack. Not just that, but I asked various students to take a blind-tasting of the brownies.

So, I began with the traditional brownies. All you will need is sugar, cocoa, flour, butter, eggs, vanilla extract, salt and baking powder. There's no need for measurements, because we have a skill called "eyeballing." So, I'll be baking them at 350 °F for 35 minutes, and they will be ready. Just a warning, you will eat an excess

of sugar, therefore you may become temporarily insane. This has not been confirmed, but I can guarantee 60 percent sanity.

So, my sous-chef, Kara Mel, will mix all of the ingredients while I continue to talk. "I've been forced to do this against my will, and have no say in what I'm doing," sous-chef Kara Mel said.

I'll begin describing our other brownies. We'll add equal parts of spinach, cocoa powder, skim milk, mashed bananas and baking powder. I'll be mixing these together. Then I put them in a tray and stick them in the oven for about half-an-hour, and you'll have some interesting brownies to send out to the public and hope to not get anyone sick.

I took the brownies out into the dangerous and wild Sarasota. I had asked other students to try a brownie, but they

didn't know which one they would be taking. I began by walking up to tables of hungry students. In this first cluster, I asked seventh-grade students Alfred O. and Marsha Mellow, to take a brownie and taste it.

"You need to improve on baking. These are terrible, and they taste like sadness and pain," Mellow said.

"I think that these are disgusting, and my pet penguin could make better brownies," O. said.

Well it's quite apparent that both had received my healthier version of brownies. I continued through the cafeteria to one more cluster of students, sixth-graders Ray Zin, Tom Aeto, Mac A. Roni and Kim Chi. They took the remaining brownies.

"This should be a crime against brownies!" Aeto said.

"For what they're worth, they taste better than dish water," Chi said.

"I taste vegetables. Are there vegetables? I hate vegetables," Zin said.

"One word: cruel," Roni said.

After discussing with sous-chef Kara Mel, I've discovered that she ate all of our good brownies and replaced them with the worse brownies. "It was simple, I wanted revenge, so I just ate the brownies," Mel said.

# 9 classic Pine View-related homework excuses

**By Nathan Weitzner**

1. I didn't see it on the website, therefore it was not homework. Also, you don't have a website, so you either don't exist or do not qualify as a teacher.
2. Dear teacher, my dog didn't eat it, I ate it. Lunch at school is terrible.
3. I cannot show it to you, teacher, for it is typed on my phone and the Away for the Day rule still applies until 3:52.
4. I was listening to music on my Airpods when you were telling us the homework in class because you told us we had a free period.
5. I'm going to the clinic, I feel sick.
6. Oh, yesterday was Hallahukuhatmen day. It's a religious holiday.
7. What homework?
8. I did it, did you lose it?
9. Permiso, profesor, no speak de English.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BETTY CROCKER

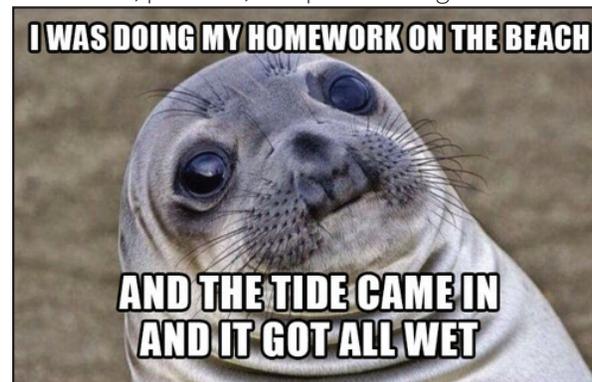


PHOTO PROVIDED BY REDDIT

# Pine View Casefiles #212

By Leo Lenerz

Many students have been confused as to why there has been so much construction on campus. Well, it seems like that mystery has finally been solved. On his last day, science teacher Steve Dacey approached me and said something shocking, “Before I go, I have a secret that I can’t bear to keep anymore.”

I asked him to explain, and he said, “Alright, listen kid, you know how all that construction is going on. It’s all a lie. A LIE. Those fracking faculty members have been searching for a treasure. We were all promised a portion of the dough if we helped search and cover it up. But now that I’m leaving I just had to tell someone.

Now, be gone!”

He ran off, and I was left with a mission. It was my job to dig up the truth. I questioned as many teachers as I could, but none of them would fess up. A few days later, I was sent a letter by an anonymous source that said, “Meet me under Portable 3 tomorrow during seventh period.”

I did what the letter said, and sure enough, he was there. “I’m [REDACTED]. I have some info on the treasure. But it’ll cost ya.”

We made the trade — the info, for access to the faculty lounge, where he would keep me up on the latest detail.

He told me that the reason the campus was moved to this location was

because they couldn’t find the treasure at the original spot. When former principal Steve Largo couldn’t lead the group to the treasure at the old campus nor the new one, they had to find a new head.

New Principal, Dr. Stephen Covert was smart. He decided to have “construction” as a cover-up for their treasure hunting.

When I confronted him about it, all he said was, “I will stand on the shoulders of giants.”

It sounded like the usual thing he says, until I realized he didn’t say “you” — he said “I.” I realized he had an even bigger plot that not even the other faculty members knew about.

The next day, I went looking for [REDACTED], but couldn’t



Seventh-grader Leo Lenerz (left) takes a casefile from an unknown source regarding secret Pine View treasure hidden on campus. According to Lenerz, Pine View’s construction is a cover-up to find the buried treasure. GRAPHIC BY LEO LENERZ

find him. I asked Assistant Principal Sue Fair if she knew where [REDACTED] was. “Oh, he left Pine View. He couldn’t handle it.” I perceived the truth too late. The treasure is still out there,

but there’s an even bigger plan at work. I hope this letter reaches the students. Who knows how many more mysteries are lurking behind every corner.

## Gerlek v. White: who’s the real Llama Mama?

By Elena D’Amato

The reigning battle between the Llama Mama fifth-grade teacher Stephanie White, and the Queen of Llamas, Spanish teacher Patti Gerlek, is tearing up the school. Everyone wants to know, who’s the ultimate Llama Mama?

White llamas, brown llamas, llamas with sombreros, llamas with clothes, llamas everywhere you look. Both teachers obviously have a passion for these furry creatures. But the real question at hand is: Are Alpacas just Llamas in disguise? Maybe, who knows? Actually the question is ... White vs Gerlek?

White said, “I’m more of a llama extrovert while Ms. Gerlek is a llama introvert.”

It’s evident if you look around White’s room that

her love of llamas has taken over the classroom and are practically running it. From llama heads to llama paintings, she has it all!

Gerlek on the other hand has a family of assorted llamas by the front of her room. In addition to those figurines, she has a couple of llamas hidden around the room. To receive these special family members, Señora had to bargain for them to add to her collection.

But, Pine View School has room for only one reigning Llama Mama. One Mama to rule them all! To prove themselves, Gerlek and White had to complete a series of challenges.

First, they were tested on their llama knowledge. Basic questions were asked. Then, they dove into the tougher ones. One of the medium level questions

was: Does this llama look more like a Tim or a Burt to you?

They were also asked to take a scantron test on what type of llama they are. After all the points were tallied up, it was discovered that there was a one point difference separating winner and loser. Señora G. remains reigning champion of llamas.

Here were just a few of the questions:

**1. First off, do you like llamas?**

- a. Definitely
- b. They’re ok
- c. I hate myself

**2. Whenever you see**

**a llama, do you flip out?**

- a. I just look
- b. Never seen one
- c. I pass out every time

**3. Do you ever walk on all fours?**

- a. Sometimes
- b. I’m not human... so yes
- c. Only on the weekends

**4. What’s your favorite color?**

- a. Brown/tan
- b. Black
- c. Carrot

**5. Are you a respectable person?**

- a. Heck ya
- b. Maybe
- c. ¿ Cómo se llama?



PHOTO PROVIDED BY REDDIT