

# The Match

[Humor pg. 23]



Pine View School • 1 Python Path • Osprey, FL, 34229 • (941) 486-2001

## THE MATCH MAZE

[Features pg. 12-13]

PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

Welcoming Dr. Sheppard  
pg. 6 [News]

Snacks on the Go!  
pg. 16-17 [Ent. Review]

Student slushes in sadness  
pg. 23 [Humor]

# THE MATCH

## Match Staff:

### Editor-in-Chief

Leo Gordon\*

### Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Grace Johnson, Sarah Hassan

### Layout Artists

Lora Rini, Tiffany Yu

### Graphics Editor

Brianna Nelson

## Torch Staff:

**Editor-in-Chief** Ella Hechlik\*

**Asst. Editors-in-Chief** Tricia

Saputera\*, Elizabeth Hopkins\*

**Copy Editors** Tricia Saputera\*,

Elizabeth Hopkins\*

**Web Editor** Madi Holmes\*

**Managing Editor** Gwyn Petersen\*

**News Editor** Naina Chauhan\*, Odelia Tiutyama\*

**Asst. News Editors** Alyson Mizanin,

Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan

**Sci-Tech Editor** Sarah Catalano

**Entertainment Editor** Anna Labiner

**Asst. Entertainment Editor** Lily

Quartermaine

The Match covers topics, issues, events and opinions of relevance to students grades two through five. The Match is published five times a year by Pine View School and maintains membership in the Florida Scholastic Press Association. Press run is 700 copies. Copies are provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff. All content is subject to prior approval by administration.

**Reader input.** Submit story ideas, comments and questions to the editor of the publish. Address general comments and questions to the Editor-in-Chief at leo.gordon@pineviewtorch.com.

**Advertisements and subscriptions.** To place an advertisement or purchase a subscription, email gwyn.petersen@pineviewtorch.com. The Match reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

FRONT PAGE: Pine View's nature trail, which served as inspiration for, "The Match Maze." See pages 12-13 for the full board game.

PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

RIGHT: Fourth-grader Henry Zapolsky is announced as the winner of a competitive combat Jiu-Jitsu competition. Zapolsky was named the Florida State Champion at the 2019 Florida Federation of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championship (FFBJJ). PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIA ZAPOLSKY

**Features Editor** Zoe Merritt

**Sports Editor** Kasumi Wade

**Asst. Sports Editor** Ella Williams

**Humor Editor** Olivia Hansen

**Asst. Humor Editor** Elena D'Amato

**Opinion Editor** Ben Gordon\*

**Asst. Opinion Editor** Mahitha Ramachandran\*

**Focus Editor** Peyton Harris

**Photo Editor** Anna Labiner

**Graphics Editor** Brianna Nelson\*

**Asst. Managing Editor** Kasumi Wade

**Asst. Web Editor** Lucy Collins, Isabella Gaskill

**Web Section Editor** Felicity Chang

**Adviser** Christopher Lenerz

**Principal** Dr. Stephen Covert

## Spark Staff:

**Editor-in-Chief** Brianna Nelson\*

**Asst. Editors-in-Chief** Joanna Malvas, Naina Chauhan\*

\*Denotes member of editorial board.



## news

[p.4]

Fundraiser 'goes gold'

[p.5]

Pine View greets new officer

[p.6]

Welcoming Dr. Sheppard  
*Get to know Pine View's new elementary assistant principal, Dr. Allison Sheppard.*

[p.7]

Elementary excels in excellence

Teacher fosters new traditions

## entertainment

[p.8-9]

Snacks on the Go!

*The Match reviews three restaurants that are perfect for an after school snack.*

[p.10]

Student turns up the tunes

Fifth-grader amplifies the arts

[p.11]

Saving the spookiness  
*Use your leftover Halloween candy to make a creative and delicious dessert.*

**features**

**[p.12 & 13]**

**The Match Maze**

*Get spooky with your friend with this Halloween-themed board game!*

**[cont.entertainment]**

**[p.14]**

**Bolly-'would' you believe it?**

*Fifth-grader Riya Doshi expresses herself through dance.*

**sports**

**[p.15]**

**Taking down the competition**



**Student shoots for the stars**

**opinion**

**[p.16]**

**Be careful in choosing your friends**

*Real friends bring out the best in each other, building each other up, not tearing each other down.*

**[p.17]**

**Pub Subs Rule**

**[cont. sports]**

**[p.18]**

**Bringing it 'home'**

**sports**

**[p.19]**

**Putting sizzle in the dribble**

**'Kicking' off the school year**

**student corner**

**[p.20]**

**Student submissions**

**[p.21]**

**How do ants make ant hills?**

**humor**

**[p.22]**

**Student fights for A.R. rights**

*Ninth-grader Ree Dinskool expresses her biggest regret.*

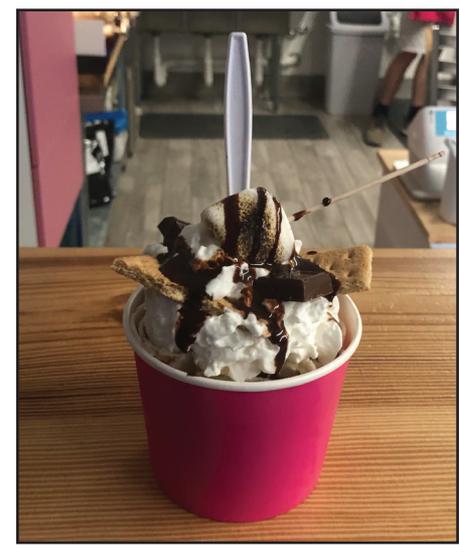
**Which Halloween candy are you?**

**[p.23]**

**From swamp to school**

*Local swamp alligator enrolls in the third grade*

**Student slushes in sadness**



**focus**

**[p.24]**

**Past teacher shares her care**

**Live in the present**

TOP: The Match reviews Crystal Cream Rolls, a popular local ice-creamery and boba tea shop in Osprey. Shown above is their S'mores ice cream.

PHOTO BY ELENA D'AMATO

BOTTOM: Fourth-grader Niddarshana Jayendran shows off her musical talent. She has been playing the piano since she was two, and started playing the guitar and flute when she was four.

PHOTO BY JAI JAYENDRAN

# Fundraiser 'goes gold'

by Peyton Harris

This year, for the first time, Pine View is participated in the third annual county-wide Go Gold fundraiser, in which students are encouraged to wear gold and donate loose change to the Benjamin Gilkey Fund, spreading awareness for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. While Pine View did not participate in the actual wearing of gold due to conflict with Start with Hello day, all other activities continued.

An estimated 11,060 children aged 1-14 will be diagnosed with cancer in 2019, and over 1,000 of these children are predicted to die

during childhood. Cancer is the number one cause of death by disease in children, but despite these statistics, only 3.94% of federal cancer research funding is allocated for childhood cancer research.

"I think a lot of the time people don't give kids enough credit for being able to handle difficult information," Laura Gilkey, founder of the Benjamin Gilkey Fund, said. "It's scary to talk about childhood cancer, but this gives [students] the ability to advocate for their peers."

Gilkey's son, Benjamin, was in first grade when he was diagnosed with acute

lymphoblastic leukemia. After approximately two years of treatment, genetic conditions prevented conventional treatment from working. Benjamin passed away at age 9 in February 2017.

"He was the kid who made everybody laugh," Gilkey said. "He always found joy in everything."

Gilkey started the Benjamin Gilkey Fund almost immediately after her son's

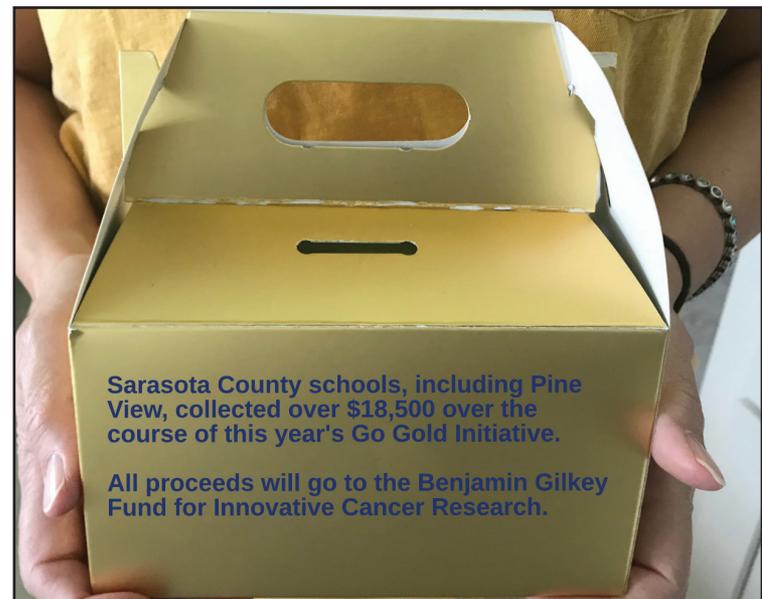
"He was the kid who made everybody laugh. He always found joy in everything."

Laura Gilkey,  
Gilkey's mother

death, hoping to continue her son's legacy of love.

"[The fund] has been very healing for me personally, not just because funding is needed, but because I feel like I'm taking action... I didn't want to stop taking action after Benji died; I felt like I needed to continue," she said.

Go Gold day began in 2017, originating at Southside Elementary School, where Benjamin went to school. It was intended to be a day in memoriam in which students wore gold in support of those with childhood cancer, but the PTO at Southside turned it into a fundraiser which ultimately generated \$6,000 for the Benjamin Gilkey Fund,



GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

which supports investigative physician researchers within Johns Hopkins All Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute.

In 2018, thirteen elementary and middle schools in Sarasota County participated and raised over \$18,000 for the cause. This year, Go Gold is a district-wide initiative.

"I really just hope to increase the number of schools participating and therefore increase the number of students and families that are a

little bit more aware of how prevalent childhood cancer is and what they can do to help support research." Gilkey said.

"I thought it was really exciting to see some of our youngest students on campus understand the importance of being socially conscious, and it was fun to see the teachers being a really good example by volunteering to dress up. The students were excited to know what they were doing and why they were doing it," elementary assistant principal Dr. Allison Sheppard said.



In the memory of Benjamin Gilkey, who passed away from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, boxes were collected for the Go Gold fundraiser. The fundraiser occurred during the last week of September.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SARAH CATALANO

Lessons:

- Chinese & Spanish
- Programming, Robotics & Fun
- Lego Robotics League
- Table Tennis Club
- Chess Lessons
- Art Lessons

Pine View students can take the school bus 1602 to BaoAce after school tutoring lessons

(941)500-3982 | www.BaoAce.com  
@Sarasota Square Mall

# Pine View greets new officer

by Joanna Malvas

With an eagerness to lend a helping hand to students, school resource officer John Bobianski is one of many new faces on Pine View's campus. As a school resource officer, Bobianski will be in charge of enforcing Pine View's security and safety regulations.

Having been born and raised in Massachusetts, Bobianski moved to Florida with his wife and three kids. Bobianski enjoys Florida's warm climate, allowing them to spend time fishing on their new boat.

Although officer Bobianski may be new to the Floridian heat and the Pine View community, he is no stranger to his job as an officer. Within his hometown of Springfield, Bobianski served within the

Springfield Police Department. Throughout his time serving on the police force, he rose through the ranks as a sergeant and lieutenant officer. Additionally, Bobianski headed the juvenile assessment center, working with troubled children. Throughout his 35 years in the law enforcement field, Bobianski gathered many valuable lessons.

"My most valuable lesson would be something more along the lines of don't jump to conclusions, and make sure you investigate everything before you determine what's happened. So, probably, being extra careful and detail-oriented," Bobianski said.

Officer Bobianski's dedication for public service came from how he admired his

brother and father, who were both firefighters.

"After high school, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but the public service end of it was something I knew I wanted to get involved in because my father always talked about helping people. He had several awards for meritory service. It made me realize that was something I wanted to go into," Bobianski said.

To prepare for his important role, Bobianski participated in "Crisis Intervention Training," which teaches officers how to work with students that have mental health issues.

"I think the kids need to know that I'm here to keep them safe, number one, and I'm available if they need someone to talk to about anything.



New school resource officer John Bobianski greets fourth-graders Jane Callahan and Justime Hearon. Bobianski's main priority is to keep students safe while also being available as someone to talk to. PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

You know, as a parent, obviously, I've raised three kids, and I've worked with juveniles my whole career. I'm willing to help them any way I can, and that's what I want to be seen

as; I'm here to help them. If I can mentor kids, great, and if I can help them with something, great. If I can make life easier for them, great," Officer Bobianski said.

## Pine View Welcomes New Teachers



**Leslie Stewart**  
Grade 2

**Where did you grow up?**  
Tallahassee, Florida  
**What do you do in your free time?**  
Reading and Running  
**What is your favorite part about Pine View so far?**  
So far, I would say the best part is the diversity and curiosity of all the students.



**Caitlin Sedlack**  
Grade 4

**Where did you grow up?**  
Sarasota, Florida  
**What do you do in your free time?**  
I like doing anything outdoors with family.  
**What is your favorite part about Pine View so far?**  
I am so thrilled to be a part of the Pine View community! Everyone has gone out of their way to welcome me.



**Karen West**  
Speech-Language

**Where did you grow up?**  
New Hampshire  
**What do you do in your free time?**  
Taking walks  
**What is your favorite part about Pine View so far?**  
I love how the kids here are accepted here and are unique. That's how the world should be!



GRAPHIC BY BEN GORDON

# Welcoming Dr. Sheppard

by Tricia Saputera

Starting this year, elementary students will be seeing a new and friendly face around campus, Assistant Principal Dr. Allison Sheppard.

Although Sheppard grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia, she also lived in France. Her father was a French historian and she lived in France from the ages of three to four and eight to nine, attending French schools while her parents worked with archives and research. Sheppard became bilingual and later taught high school French for 13 years before serving as Coordinator of Gifted Education for 14 years in Williamsburg and Fredericksburg, Virginia.

“We try to provide every one of these students with what he or she needs academ-



Pine View Elementary Assistant Principal Allison Sheppard served as Coordinator of Gifted Education for the Williamsburg and Fredricksburg, Virginia school systems for 14 years before arriving at Pine View. Sheppard lived in France for four years of her childhood.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY TRICIA ALLEN

ically, socially and emotionally, so knowing that Pine View is such a reputable public school for gifted students makes it a bit of a unicorn. And so when I learned that there was a position here, I was more than happy to leave the district level in order to be on-site with amazing students, amazing teachers,” Sheppard said.

While studying for her undergraduate degree, Sheppard majored in French and Art History, but she realized she wanted her passion for the arts to be her avocation and not her vocation. Sheppard received her doctorate from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg. It was during a mission trip in California that she felt called to be a teacher, but was initially hesitant.

“I wasn’t so sure [about

becoming a teacher]...when you say that you’re majoring in French, a lot of people assume you want to be a teacher, and I did not want to be a teacher, but it was the best thing I ever did,” Sheppard said.

As a teacher, Sheppard was passionate about gifted differentiation and ways to help students succeed, and with the help of two mentors passionate about gifted education, she learned more about it.

“Maybe it sounds silly — know that I really want to be here and I really care...I packed up my entire world, and my cat and I left everything I know because of this school and these kids,”

**Allison Sheppard,**  
Assistant Principal

Sheppard’s principal called her one summer and told her about the new district position Coordinator of Gifted Education for her county in Virginia. There, she worked with mainly elementary teachers and their principals to build gifted programs. There was no specific gifted school like Pine View, so Sheppard collaborated with about 50 to 60 schools.

“While those 13 years of directed teaching were amaz-

Beautiful Smiles for a Lifetime



EHRlich & SALLAPUDI

Orthodontics

**Nitin Sallapudi, DDS, MSD**

Board Certified Orthodontist

**VENICE**

941.485.7006

140 Indian Avenue

(Across from Venice High School)

**ENGLEWOOD**

941.475.6860

900 East Pine St. • Suite 121

(In Lemon Bay Professional Ctr.)

A short drive from Pine View School

[www.crossbite.com](http://www.crossbite.com)



ing, so too were the years of being over a district-level program and really supporting the teachers. I felt like I could have a greater impact by supporting teachers who were also passionate about gifted education,” Sheppard said.

Moving south to Florida, after living in Virginia almost all her life, was truly a step out of Sheppard’s comfort zone. According to Sheppard, though, it was worth it.

“I encourage any student who sees me out and about, or you know, lunch duty, or wandering campus, just come up and talk to me...I feel like I have a very open door policy,”

she said.

“She was really nice and she would not talk about herself a lot; she would ask ‘Are you guys excited for the weekend?’ or ‘How was your day?’ If you were new, she would ask ‘Are you new, do you like the school?’, and when asking questions, she was nice,” fourth-grader Annie Brown said.

“Maybe it sounds silly—but know that I really want to be here, and I really care...I packed up my entire world, and my cat and I left everything I know because of this school and these kids,” Sheppard said.

**Oct. 31**

Fall Parade

**Oct. 31**Mrs. Hershberger's  
birthday**Nov. 15**Ms. Barber's  
birthday**Nov. 25**Thanksgiving  
Break**Dec. 2**First day back from  
break

## October and November Events and Teacher Birthdays



Principal Dr. Stephen Covert serves lunch to better connect with students during National School Lunch Week. Covert participated in the event along with principals throughout Sarasota County.

PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG



Second and fifth-graders Avelline and Verité Molinaro observe illustrator Frank Remkeiwicz signing one of his illustrated novels, "Froggy Picks a Pumpkin." Remkeiwicz signed books for Pine View families at the culminating event of this year's Rocket Read-a-thon at Barnes and Noble. PHOTO BY LEO GORDON

## IN BRIEF

### Elementary excels in excellence

by Sarah Hassan

Hanging on the wall of long-time third-grade teacher Vicky Singleton is a cut-out newspaper labeling Pine View Elementary School as the best in the country. Singleton, a Pine View teacher of 18 years, displays the newspaper clipping to remind her students of how fortunate they are to attend Pine View.

According to Niche.com, Pine View is the leading elementary school in the country for the second year in a row.

Calculating its rankings by analyzing both mathematical and personal data from personal surveys by local residents and through Florida Department of Education data, Niche additionally considers individual academics, administration and reviews in its rankings.

Fifth-grade teacher Peggy Barber, Pine View teacher of

17 years, believes Pine View's ranking is partially due to parents.

"[Pine View's ranking is due to] the support of parents who are very mindful of academics and value education," Barber said.

Principal Dr. Stephen Covert, Pine View principal and parent himself, isn't surprised by the ranking given Pine View's unique environment.

"The teachers are creative while the students are passionately inquisitive," Covert said.

The ranking is not the number one priority for Covert, though, as he believes parent and student satisfaction is more indicative of Pine View's quality.

"I don't spend my time thinking about our ranking — [Pine View] just wants to meet the needs of Pine View students," Covert said

### Teacher fosters new tradition

by Leo Gordon

Revitalizing an old tradition, second-grade teacher Misty Tucak, inspired by the second-grade book club's reading of *Charlotte's Web*, has brought an adaptation of the third-grade Animal rainforest tradition to her second grade class.

For the project, called the Barnyard Bash, students, after researching and writing about assigned barnyard animals, created paper mache models of the animals with their parents.

"The most important part of this project is the research papers and learning how to

write," Tucak said.

Although the experience was largely educational, Tucak believes family participation, too, was a vital aspect of the project.

"We had over 100% of fathers participate in this event," Tucak said. "[The kids] will remember making these animals with their parents for the rest of their lives."

Tucak's students enjoyed the project, as it allowed them to express creativity.

"I did a bunny," second-grader Alaina Lee said. "With crafts you can let your mind flow and go wherever it wants."



# Snacks on the Go!

After a long day of working hard at school, it's important to make sure students are fed so that they have energy for homework and play. Here are three fun and tasty restaurants near Pine View for grabbing a new favorite after school snack.

GRAPHIC BY GRACE JOHNSON



When making ice cream at Crystal Cream Rolls, the employees mix together ice cream ingredients on a cold surface and then roll it up to put it in a cup. In this photo, the worker is rolling up s'mores ice cream.

PHOTO BY ELENA D'AMATO

## Crystal Cream Rolls

by Elena D'Amato

With popular culture in mind and a five-star review, Crystal Cream Rolls, located in Osprey, provides a new take on a traditional treat. A staple of family-run businesses is the friendly atmosphere, but this ice-creamery takes it to the next level.

Upon arrival at Crystal Cream, customers are welcomed by the artsy, modest and cute decor. Potted plants and a menu written on a black chalkboard catch the eye and display the uniquely hybrid menu of ice cream and boba tea.

Setting it apart from typical shops, Crystal Cream customers tend to describe their visit as a full experience rather than a quick trip. This can be accounted for by the new rolled ice cream trend — ice cream artisans use chilled metal surfaces and liquefied

ice cream substance to create scrumptious works of art, complete with mix-ins and toppings galore. It takes four to five minutes to make the sweet creation, allowing the server and customer to have a one-on-one conversation.

This cozy shop has its roots in the tragedy of Hurricane Irma. Under the previous owners of the business' current location, the building experienced structural damage during the storm. "The previous tenants of this place lowered the cost just enough for us to purchase it," Jadon Wizba, the owner's son, said.

The Wizba family opened the shop in November 2018; while Wizba's son works at the counter, the parents work out of the shop and focus more on the organization of the money.

Supportive of the local business Daikin Dairy Farm, and with ice cream and tea

at accessible prices, it is no wonder why so many Pine View families support Crystal Cream. All ten ice cream flavors offered are five dollars, drinks one dollar, and the addition of boba at 99 cents. Overall, Crystal Cream's customer service is phenomenal and their ice cream is even better.

Next time, when looking for a small hangout spot or an afterschool snack, swing by Crystal Cream Rolls for a good time and, as I found, a delicious S'mores ice cream,

Crystal Cream Rolls is located at 157 N Tamiami Trail, Osprey, Florida, and is open from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 1:00 to 8:00 on Sundays and weekdays.



Rating: 5/5 Torches

# Cafe Evergreen

by Alyson Mizanin

Combining a welcoming atmosphere and a considerate staff, Cafe Evergreen is an accommodating eatery designed to suit the desires of vegetarians, vegans and meat-eaters alike. Under the motto “To live well is to eat well,” the cafe is best known for its menu full of food made with local sources and a lack of preservatives.

Existing in what was Sarasota County’s first bank and post office, built in 1923, Cafe Evergreen manages to combine a vintage appearance with modern touches throughout the waiting and dining areas. There is a dining area fitting roughly 40 people, which comes as the cafe’s only downside, as large parties are less likely to find tables inside.

With greenery sitting on each table, and artwork hanging from the walls, one instantly feels at home in the dining area. Once seated, roasted peas are presented to each table before one’s food is ordered.

Cafe Evergreen’s menu is incredibly diverse. Their Guac & Salmon Sandwich, priced at \$15, is the perfect balance of flavor and the knowledge that what one is eating was healthy. Although slightly more expensive than their other options, each dollar was worth the taste.

As for their other options, Cafe Evergreen prepares everything from burgers made of bison, lamb, or salmon, all ranging from \$11 to \$13, to reubens, priced from \$11 to \$14, and wraps and sandwiches at various prices.

Their Evergreen Club, a sandwich composed of quinoa cakes and served on wheat bread, was voted best vegetarian sandwich in the US by Restaurant Hospitality, and costs \$12. They also have many menu items that accommodate special diets.

Cafe Evergreen’s kids’ menu, though less accommodating for special diets, consists of grilled cheese sandwiches, mac and cheese and burgers for \$5 each, along with grilled chicken breasts for \$6, all of which are served with a choice of celery and carrots or baked sweet potato fries.

With its variety of options being able to satisfy all tastes and its calming atmosphere, Cafe Evergreen is the perfect place to go when looking for an



The Guac and Salmon sandwich is one of many beloved menu options at Cafe Evergreen. The restaurant is located just south of Pine View on U.S. 41.

PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

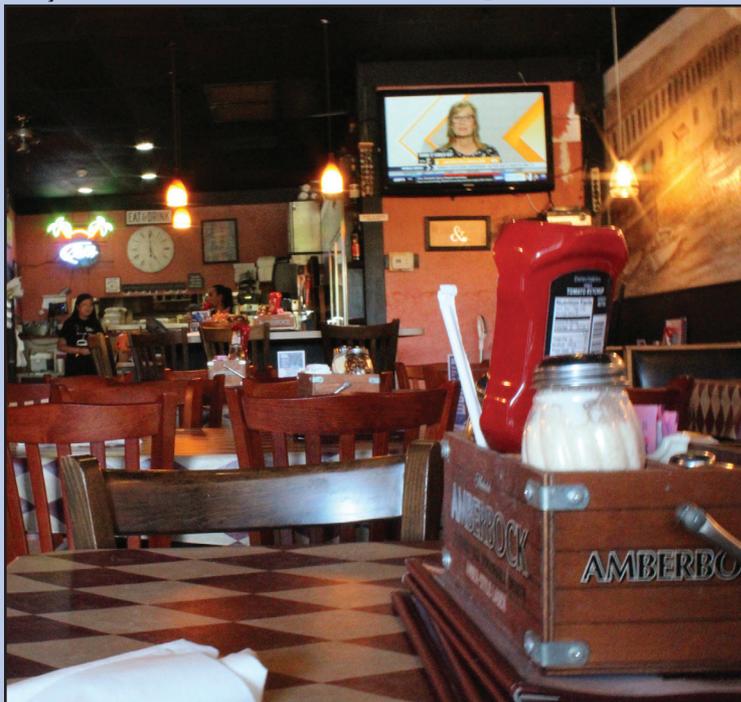
eatery that does just as much good environmentally as it does for one’s stomach.

Cafe Evergreen is located on 801 Tamiami Trail South, Nokomis, FL, and is open 9 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. Sunday to

Thursday and 9:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



Rating: 4.5/5 Torches



Frankie’s Pizza has an interior style that reflects a homey, old school aura. The old photographs on the wall of the restaurant highlight this theme further.

PHOTO BY ANNA LABINER

# Frankie’s Pizza

by Sebastian Genelhu-bazan

Frankie’s Italian Ristorante is a wonderful place to have a dinner with family. One of the best in Sarasota County, with its robust inside appearance and humble outside, upon entering Frankie’s, you are greeted with the aroma of fresh pizza out of the oven with a sense of feeling like you are at your grandma’s as you look around.

The crimson walls and wooden booths make the restaurant seem homey and old-school, especially with the old photographs on the wall. Even the neon-green sign at the front

of the restaurant shows that Frankie’s takes pride in their retro-style.

Food is what brings fame to Frankie’s Italian name. The family-owned business hits the spot, with a variety of choices for all customers. Frankie’s large menu may be hard for those who are indecisive to choose from, but with the restaurant’s claim to fame being its pizza, there is also a variety of Italian and American choices for consumers, like a Philly cheese steak.

Frankie’s prices are reasonable for the quality of the menu. The location is just a couple minutes from school, so when your family

picks you up, it’s a straight line toward heaven. The food is wonderful, with the savory taste and smells of the restaurant only amplifying the flavor.

Though the walls could use a repaint, and the tables could be a tad-bit bigger to fit the plates, the restaurant is great, lively and vibrant, with great customer service.

Frankie’s Pizza and Italian Ristorante is located at 1072 S Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229, and is open from 11 A.M. to 9 P.M. (closed Sundays).



Rating: 4.5/5 Torches

# Student turns up the tunes

by Brianna Nelson

For Niddarshana Jayendran, music and an appreciation for the talent that comes with it is ingrained in family. Jayendran has already built up a musical repertoire in second grade. Since the age of two, Jayendran has been building experience in piano, and at the age of four, she began practicing the flute, guitar and singing.

The drive for her musical pursuits came from her mother's early identification of her talent.

"My mom saw I had so much skill...she noticed I was way more creative than what I was doing already... she wants

me to be prepared for other skills [like singing]," Jayendran said.

Niddarshana's sister, sixth-grader Niranjana Jayendran, was also introduced to music at the age of two. The siblings often practice together and take turns with the instruments.

"Me and my sister are very passionate about music... music is just a part of [our] life," Niranjana said.

Practice is a big part of Jayendran's life. Maintaining three instruments, vocal performance, and learning new skills requires dedication and a routine of both individual exercise and classes. She has a

mix of self study, lessons, and individualized tutors. The classes help the Jayendran siblings stay on a strict schedule of practice. Balancing schoolwork, music and personal hobbies and passions is often tough, but Jayendran's main focus is music and her instruments.

Despite only being in second grade, Jayendran already has a strong understanding of music. Her experience with singing and instruments has enabled her to comprehend complex concepts like pitch and notes.

Looking towards the future, Jayendran's grandfather plans to bring her a violin to



Practicing guitar since the age of four, second-grader Niddarshana Jayendran poses with the second instrument she ever learned to play. She also sings and plays the piano and flute. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAI JAYENDRAN

start learning. Drawn to the trumpet, she hopes to learn it at some point.

"I just want to keep growing and learning lots of instruments," Jayendran said.



Singing "Another Day of Sun" from the block buster hit "La La Land" at The Glenridge at Palmer Ranch, fifth-grader Colette Freeman showcases one of her many talents during a recital. Freeman has taken singing and piano lessons at Elizabeth Farrel Music for three years.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHELLE FREEMAN

# Fifth-grader amplifies the arts

by Lucy Collins

Fifth-grader Colette Freeman excels in the arts, channeling her experience in both dance and singing into acting. For years, she has meticulously studied both arts to improve her skills.

Freeman has danced for seven years at Starz Choice Dance Academy, performing tap for three years, jazz for six years, ballet for seven years, lyrical for three years, and acrobatics and hip hop for two years.

Mondays through Wednesdays, Freeman attends classes per night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as practice for end-of-year recitals. Lyrical dance is Freeman's favorite class.

"It's fun, dramatic, and they perform cool moves," Freeman said. "[The songs] are dramatic and have good words that you can dance to."

Singing for three years at Elizabeth Farrell Music, Freeman takes solo lessons on Thursdays for 45 minutes, along with piano lessons. She participates in three recitals per year. She gets to choose the songs she performs and is currently perfecting "Once Upon a December" from Anastasia. While she enjoys singing the song, her all-time favorite is "Another Day of Song" from the movie La La Land.

"I always loved watching movies and plays so I thought [theater] would be something fun to try," Freeman said, also inspired by her brother who began acting before her.

Freeman took lessons and performed in plays at Venice Theatre, using singing lessons to give her opportunity for better roles for four years. During the summer, she at-

tends camps for students first through twelfth grade and performs plays at the end, two of which are "Pinocchio" and "Willy Wonka" and the Chocolate Factory. Her acting classes have showcases in the spring.

Her parents are very supportive of her endeavours.

"We wanted to give her the opportunity for as many dance classes and theater classes as we could, so she could have opportunities if she wanted to. If she wanted to go out for roles, she would be well prepared," Michelle Freeman, her mother, said.

Freeman's hard work has paid off. She is getting into Advanced acting at the Venice Theatre and plans to audition for the show "Matilda" in March. With the support of her family and teachers, Freeman hopes to do great things in the arts.

# Saving the spookiness

by Ella Williams

Have you ever felt the pain of having to throw away candy that you labored over on Halloween? Your parents may have told you to get rid of all it all because they don't like having candy around the house — a bad excuse for throwing away candy, in The Match's opinion.

Halloween is all about trick-or-treating, but when you have to throw all your candy away, it takes the excitement out of this spooky holiday. With this easy DIY, you will be able to keep your candy and make it into a dessert the whole family can enjoy. No more losing your hard-earned candy! Ovens and knives can be dangerous, though, so make sure to make this fun snack with a parent!

PHOTOS BY ELLA WILLIAMS

Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Serving size: 12-15

**Ingredients:**

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 of teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 of teaspoon salt
- 1 cup of whole-grain old fashioned oats (not quick oats)
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1/3 cup of peanut butter
- 1/2 cup of granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup of packed light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 cups of chopped leftover candy bars (whichever candies are your favorite!)

**Supplies:**

- Medium bowl
- Mixing bowl with a paddle (A paddle is an attachment you add to your mixing bowl. If you don't have a mixing bowl or paddle then you can hand mix!)
- 9 X 13 pan
- Measuring cups
- Whisk
- Spatula

**Instructions:**

Make sure you have all of your ingredients and supplies, and set everything out

in front of you.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Get your pan and spray it with a non-stick spray or spread butter, and place the pan aside.

Chop your leftover Halloween candy and set it to one side.

Take your medium bowl and combine the flour, baking soda, salt, and oats, whisking them together. Set these combined dry ingredients aside.

For the wet ingredients, have out a mixing bowl and mix together the butter, peanut butter, light brown sugar, and white sugar for at least one to two minutes, when the mixture looks fluffy, or until everything is combined.

Then add vanilla, an egg and an egg yolk to the mixing bowl and mix well.

Take the dry ingredients that were set aside, and add them into the wet ingredients. Mix and add the chopped candy to the ingredients, and mix with a spatula.

Spread the batter into the pan and smooth it out.

Put the pan into the oven at 350 degrees, and set a timer for 15 minutes.

Take the dessert out of the oven and let it cool for 20-30 minutes.



**Timer**

0 hours	15 min	0 sec
1	16	1
2	17	2

# Bolly-'would' you believe it?

by Naina Chauhan

Swaying her way into the center stage, fifth-grader Riya Doshi lets her dance moves do the talking for her. Doshi has been participating in contemporary Bollywood dance since second grade.

As a second-grader, Doshi, who describes herself as an indoor person, struggled to find a sport that suited her personality. After some research, Doshi became interested in Bollywood dance. "After looking at a lot of different sports, dancing really caught my eye. I watched a lot of dance videos, I was inspired to start it," Doshi said.

Primarily practicing a hip-hop style of Bollywood dance that mixes traditional Indian dance with a new flair, Doshi dances to mostly Hindi pop, which she understands, along with another Indian dialect, Gujarati.

**“In dance, there is a lot of responsibility and focus involved in learning the dances, which has helped me become more organized in school... the work and ethic and focus required in dance has made me a better student,”**

**Riya Doshi,  
Grade 5**

Currently dancing with her teacher Neha Sachade-

va, Doshi goes to practice on Saturdays and Sundays at her teacher's apartment or at the studio, Diva Dance Studio, if the practice is close to a recital. At practice, Doshi rehearses the choreographed dances with her level three dancing group.

"Riya is very creative and has had a passion for dance since childhood. She is vibrant and is dedicated to dance at every occasion," Doshi's mother, Varsha Doshi, said.

While dancing, Doshi feels disconnected from everything, surrounding herself in the art of dancing.

"I feel happy and relaxed in dance because I have become familiar with where I dance and the people I dance with," Doshi said.

Due to being the eldest and strongest in the dance group, Doshi's teachers expect



Standing on top of a pyramid, fifth-grader Riya Doshi completes one of her Bollywood dance routines during her recital. Doshi and her fellow dancers practice at Neha Sachadeva, their dance teacher's apartment until right near the rehearsal when they practice at Diva Dance Studio. PHOTO PROVIDED BY VARSHA DOSHI

her to exhibit a lot of responsibility.

"As the oldest in the group, I have to be a role model for younger girls because they look up to me," Doshi said.

Doshi believes that the pressures of dancing have made her overall more concentrated, organized and competent.

"In dance, there is a lot of responsibility and focus involved in learning the dances, which has helped me become more organized in school... the work ethic and focus required in dance has made me a better student," Doshi said.

Dance is not only an amusing hobby for Doshi, but also a focused experience. Practicing such a contemporary spin on traditional Bollywood dance has allowed Doshi to connect to her heritage in a new way. She has even performed at the

local Diwali, the Indian festival of lights.

Traveling to India every two years or so, Doshi was given the opportunity to take a full month of dance lessons in the country.

"I go to India a lot, but one summer while I was there alone with my grandparents, I decided to take dance lessons because I just love dance so much," Doshi said.

While Doshi herself has gained knowledge and skill from dance, she has also given back to her family by encouraging her young cousins in India and in other parts of the United States to start dancing.

"A lot of my cousins are really small, but when they get older, I feel like what I do will impact them... I already have a three-year-old cousin in Chicago that has started dancing," Doshi said.



Fifth-grader Riya Doshi raises her arms while performing. Doshi enjoys dancing with her group because she has grown to be familiar and comfortable with them.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY VARSHA DOSHI

# Taking down the competition

by Isabella Gaskill

Searching for any hints of an unsteady opponent, fourth-grade student Henry Zapolsky began competitive combat jiu-jitsu when he was six years old and has continued to train up to his position today. This year, Zapolsky's hard work paid off, as he became the Florida State Champion at the 2019 Florida Federation of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championship (FFBJJ).

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, or BJJ, is a type of martial arts that is mainly focused on grappling and ground fighting. The main goal is to destabilize and take the opponent to the ground and control them from there — skills helpful for practical methods of self-defense.

Zapolsky began attending Vieira Martial Arts Academy after hearing about it from a

friend. Now, years later, he is a fourth-degree yellow belt. Zapolsky trains four to five days a week, sometimes attending two classes a day, while also participating in local tournaments two or three times a month.

"Henry is a dream student to have. Since the beginning, he demonstrated focus and outstanding work ethic," Thadeu Vieira, Professor at Vieira Martial Arts Academy, said. "Technically speaking, Henry understands and implement tactics and strategies when performing and is now competing in the highest level of the sport such as tournaments of national and international level."

Most recently, Zapolsky became the Florida State Champion at FFBJJ in Coral Springs, Florida, where points

were awarded during each match of the competition, organized in a bracket system. Take-downs are worth two points and submissions, or when an opponent taps out, result in an automatic victory. The competitors are also divided into different divisions based on weight, age, skill level and belt.

"I was really happy when I won," Zapolsky said. "I felt like all my hard work paid off."

Jiu-jitsu has also given Zapolsky the opportunity to travel all over the world for national and international competitions. Some of his other very prestigious awards include the Chicago International Open International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation Champion 2018, Atlanta International Open International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Champion 2018, Be-



Taking a firm stance, fourth-grader Henry Zapolsky (right) puts out his hands in order to defend himself during a match. Zapolsky has gone to many national and international competitions.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIA ZAPOLSKY

larus Open Champion 2019, and the US National Pro UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation Champion 2017-2018, 2018-2019.

"It is fun to travel to different cities, states, and even countries to compete, but there

is a lot of work behind this fun as well," Natalia Zapolsky, Zapolsky's mother, said.

Zapolsky plans to continue participating in jiu-jitsu and apply the skills he has learned into other aspects of his life.

# Student shoots for the stars

by Lora Rini

Breaking age barriers in basketball, fourth-grader London Guy fearlessly plays on the court with middle school students. Beginning when she was seven years old, Guy has been playing basketball for three years.

"London's only in fourth grade and she's been playing up against middle school girls," London's coach at G-League, Gianna Vastola, said. "She's fierce on the court, she's not intimidated, she gives it her all."

Guy typically plays point guard, the player responsible for bringing the ball up the floor and starting the offense. She enjoys playing defense and stealing the ball from other players, as well.

Guy plays for two leagues, G-League and Ican. Practice is every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. with games every Saturday. Each practice begins with a warm-up stretch, followed by layup lines, jump shots, games, drills, plays, and a scrimmage with the entire team.

Additionally, Guy finds time to practice on her own at home by playing outside.

"She recently started driving to the basket in a fast court sprint that has been exciting to watch. It is a huge improvement from the days when she was just learning to dribble," Guy's mother, Scarlett Guy, said.

Basketball is a family affair in the Guy household. Lon-

don's sister, sixth-grader Kennedy Guy, also plays basketball.

"My sister inspires me because I want to be as good as her when I get older," Guy said.

This summer, Guy went to several day and overnight camps, each typically three nights and four days long.

One of Guy's memorable experiences of an overnight camp was at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. There she participated in competitions and practiced scrimmages on teams alongside her sister. Each camp was a unique learning opportunity that helped Guy improve.

Guy hopes to continue playing basketball to the highest level, eventually becoming a professional.



Posing with her team, fourth-grader London Guy (front row, one from left) beams a wide smile at the camera. Guy along with her sister, sixth-grader Kennedy Guy, play for the G-League, which mainly consists of middle school students. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SCARLETT GUY

# Be careful in choosing your friends

**by Odelia Tiutyama**

In elementary school, the peak of youth social development, students begin to see the world in a new perspective. As self-esteem develops, students learn valuable life skills like getting along with other people and learning to sort out conflicts independently.

In a world of movies and television shows that depict young students trying to fit in with the “popular” crowd, though, elementary schools have become a breeding ground for social cliques where children often find themselves weighing the pros and cons of whether they should pursue popularity or genuine friendship.

Popularity doesn’t always exclude friendship; however, in my experience as an ele-

mentary school student who strived to fit in, popularity came with never-ending drama, jealousy, and the desire to always be better than everyone else.

True friendship, on the other hand, is a partnership in which two people come together on equal terms and bring out the best in one another. Ultimately, if your friendship comes only with an increase in social stance and constant drama, it’s time to reconsider how you

approach friendship.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, research shows that children who lack an authentic friendship tend to suffer academically and emotionally in life.

Teachers have also noticed the subtle impact of friendship groups on

students. Children with friends in common, care about grades and get assignments done on

time. Care-free children tend to identify with the popular group, often discouraging homework and hard work.

A genuine friend lifts you up when you are feeling down, listens to what you say, practices forgiveness, and most importantly, makes you strive to be a better person.

However, not all friendships, including those who belong to the “popular” circle, negatively impact your future.

If friendship is a priority along with stable mental health and schoolwork, a respectful and supportive understanding among two people, and has other beneficial aspects, it can be identified as a genuine friendship. With genuine elementary-age friends setting the foundation for how one learns in the future and approaches other relationships in both their school and home lives, getting an early start in positive relationships at a young age is a big advantage in one’s life.

Aristotle once described true friendship as a “single soul dwelling in two bodies,” demonstrating that genuine friends are inseparable and bring true happiness out of each other as if they are two halves to a whole.

GRAPHIC BY SARAH HASSAN

## What is the most important trait in friendship?



“To be nice to other people. Because if you are nice to other people and you are loyal, then they will probably trust you and they might ask you to be their friend.”

- Makenna Warner, Grade 2



“I think friendships are better when your friends are nice because it makes you feel welcomed and happier around them. It can also make you feel more safe.”

-Ivy Progner, Grade 4



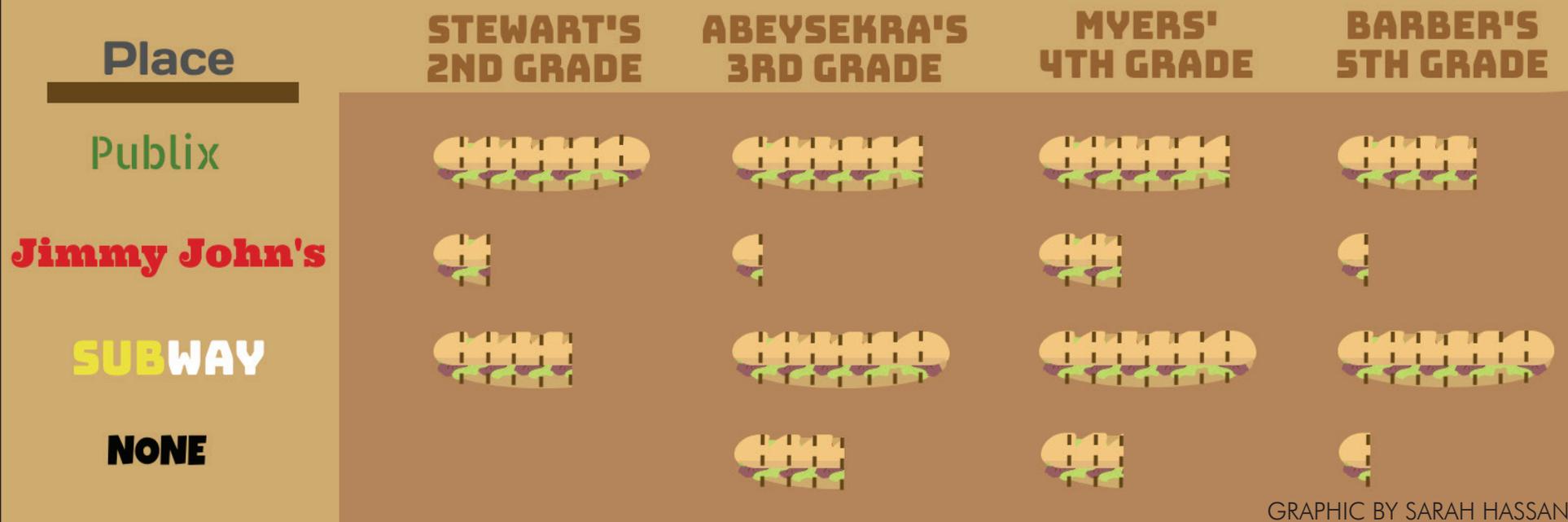
“Maybe someone to entertain you, to keep you company. If you are feeling down, then they can cheer you up. They can help you out with a problem.”

- Michael Tangle, Grade 5

## Pub Subs Rule

Everyone has a preferred place to buy their favorite food. For subs, The Match loves going to Publix!

### Where is your favorite place to buy a sub?



GRAPHIC BY SARAH HASSAN

#### by Ella Hechlik

Publix — the king of grocery stores. A widely accepted fact, Publix reigns supreme in terms of both customer service and in food quality. From Greenwise to Publix Premium, the store is no stranger to delicious foods.

Among its many positive attributes, though, no aspect of Publix can compete with the coveted Pub Sub, loved by many, at the chain's Deli.

Overall, the Deli is by far the most desirable aspect of the entire Publix experience. Offering anything from popcorn chicken to potato fries,

the Deli fulfills almost any mid-afternoon craving. Widely agreed by many, none of the deli's offerings are as fulfilling as the Pub Sub, which came to be in 1963, 50 years after Publix opened its first Winter Haven, Florida store in 1913.

In all its nostalgia-catching glory, the Pub Sub is assembled to the customer's exact preference — including toppings, of which there is no limit in quantity for the sandwich's set price of \$9.

On a nation-wide scale, Publix's sandwich competitors, such as Subway.

Although Subway's famed

\$5 Foot Long is about half the price of a Pub Sub, its quality, incomparable to the Publix Sub, immediately cancels any craving for the sandwich, in spite of its comparatively low price.

Elaborating on Subway's lack of quality, the chain just recently ended the use of "yoga mat material," azodicarbonamide, in their bread; the chemical, harmful to human health according to USA Today. This chemical has never been used in Publix Subs.

At Publix, unlike anywhere else, you'll always be served the freshest bread from

the grocery giant's in-store bakery.

Additionally, the overall experience spent in Publix upon buying and assembling a Pub Sub is significantly better than at any other popular sandwich chain, like Subway or Jimmy John's. When ordering one's Pub Sub, the smiling face of a Publix worker, one that's likely been working in the same spot for years, greets you behind the counter. Relatedly, by offering its customers free snacks and cookies, unlike its two counterparts, Publix adds to its exhaustingly large lead in terms of custom-

er service.

Finally, and most important, price. Deal-wise, one is likely to find at least one Sub variety on sale at any given Publix year-round. One can additionally add a medium drink and chips to their sub, making it a meal, for a supplemental cost of \$1.50.

Whether one creates their own custom Pub Sub at the bar or chooses one from the deli's wide pre-made selection, Pub Subs are perfect for anyone.

Thank you Publix. Shopping with you is truly a pleasure.

# Bringing it 'home'

by Grace Johnson

With her nerves racing almost as fast as she runs from base to base, fourth-grader Reagan Korsog steps up to bat on the softball field as the youngest player for her Elite 10 Travel Team in North Port. Though she sometimes feels shaky when confronted with a gifted pitcher, Korsog knows her teammates, coach and family members will be there to support her no matter what.

Korsog has been playing softball for the past three years, spending her first year playing on the Miss North Port Panthers after being introduced to the game by a

friend on the team. After some time, she fell in love with the sport and has been playing with Elite 10, Miss North Port Panthers' travel team, rather than their recreational team, for the past two seasons.

Korsog attends team practices twice a week along with an additional two private lessons per week.

"On the nights when she doesn't have practice, you can usually find her out in the yard doing catching and throwing drills with her pitch return. When she does take a break, she loves talking softball, or watching baseball with me on TV," Justin Korsog, Reagan's father, said about her com-

mitment. "Reagan lives and breathes softball."

"I love batting because I like to run, and it seems more important than fielding, even though that's super important too," Reagan said.

When stepping up to

"I could not have imagined that she would go from a shy girl that had never caught or thrown a softball, to a two time all-star, playing competitive travel ball in less than three years,"

**Justin Korsog,  
Reagan's Father**

home plate, Korsog pulls her front foot back, and as the ball comes toward her, she steps into it and then swings.

"It helps me with my timing," Reagan said. "I've been doing [this technique] for the past couple of seasons."

Her hardworking spirit shows through to the entire team. Korsog's teammates, according to her coach, Joe Cioffi, describes her as kind, funny, hard-working, dedicated, passionate, smart and attentive. Cioffi adds that Korsog is determined and always looking to improve.



Fourth-grader Reagan Korsog poses with her coach, Joe Cioffi, in Fort Myers after playing softball. Korsog has been playing the sport for the past three years. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JUSTIN KORSOG

"This young lady never gives a coach a hard time. Whether she gets a double or strikes out, she [is positive] 110% of the time, always with a smile on her face," Joe Cioffi said.

Korsog's commitment to softball came as a surprise to her family, given her young age and lack of experience in the sport.

"I could not have imagined that she would go from a shy little girl that had never caught or thrown a softball, to a two time all-star, playing competitive travel ball in less than three years," Justin Korsog said. "She is the kind of player that coaches love to coach. She has an eagerness to

learn and improve, and always manages to keep a positive attitude."

Korsog has gained a lot from playing softball, but nothing as great as her friendships.

"My favorite part about playing is making bonds with new friends," Korsog said.

Not only making friends with her teammates, Reagan additionally forms bonds with opponents and even her coach. Most notably, though, Korsog has become closer to her father through the sport.

"My dad is probably the most encouraging to me when I play," Korsog said. "He always shows up to games and practices to cheer me on."



Waiting for the ball to be pitched, fourth-grader Reagan Korsog readies her positions to hit the ball. Korsog has been playing with the Elite 10, Miss North Port Panthers' travel team, for the past two seasons.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JUSTIN KORSOG

# Putting sizzle in the dribble

by Mahitha Ramachandran

Second-grader Aryan Nair spends his summers and after-school hours dribbling across the court and shooting hoops. Nair has been playing basketball since he was just five years old, after watching his older sister, sixth-grader Diya Nair, play basketball.

Nair plays with the Suncoast Youth Basketball League at the Sarasota Boys & Girls Club, where he practices on Tuesdays for an hour with his team in preparation for their weekly games.

“I’ve learned how to dribble, shoot, pass, and I’ve learned how to dunk,” Nair said about training with his basketball program.

Over the summer, Nair

helped his team win the Suncoast Youth Basketball League summer championship. In the game that determined whether the team would move on to the final, Nair scored the point that allowed them to win.

“It was really cool to win the championship and know that I helped the team get there,” he said.

Along with athletic skill, Nair has also made friends through the sport, which has made playing basketball more fun. Nair loves going to practice and playing with his team because the people on the team make it even more enjoyable.

“I’m friends with everyone on my team so we always have a good time. Whether we win or lose the game, we are happy,

and we have fun,” Nair said.

On-and-off the court, Nair’s family supports his basketball endeavors. At home, Nair watches professional basketball with his dad. His favorite team is the Los Angeles Lakers, his favorite player is LeBron James. For practice, Nair plays basketball with his family using the basketball hoop in front of their driveway. His sister, Diya, plays against him, and he practices layups with his parents to help prepare for his games, which his family comes to watch.

“He has really taken a liking to [basketball], so we are going to foster that interest in any way that we can,” Nair’s mom, Alka Nair, said.

Nair plans on playing basketball through middle and



Practicing in his driveway, second-grader Aryan Nair shoots a basketball into his hoop. Nair plays with the Suncoast Youth Basketball League at the Sarasota Boys & Girls Club. PHOTO PROVIDED ALKA NAIR

high school, and dreams of even playing it professionally. He wants to learn all the cool moves that he sees the professionals do.

“Playing basketball over the summer and after school has made me a better player and has also made me love basketball a lot more,” Nair said.

# ‘Kicking’ off the school year

by Lily Quartermine

For third-grader Skate Segal, life is all about being busy, both on and off the field. Between numerous after-school activities and multiple sports, Segal maintains his status as a determined Pine View student.

Segal’s mother, Risa Segal, says that Segal’s biggest challenge is his schedule, but that he loves to keep up with it.

“He’s busy, but he loves it all,” she said.

Recently, Segal made the switch from his little league baseball team, The Green Monsters, to a whole new sport—soccer. For three seasons, The Green Monsters went undefeated and won a season medal and trophy, but Segal longed for more. After his undefeated streak, Segal made

the switch to a soccer program at the YMCA where he would join a new team.

“You get to move around more,” Segal said, explaining why he likes soccer better than baseball, “I got bored of just standing there waiting for the batting and waiting for the other team to hit.”

After the YMCA’s word of closing, Segal switched to a new team at Glebe Park on Siesta Key, The Metro Stars, where he practices an hour each day, two days a week with games on weekends.

“So far, Skate has the most scored goals on his team this season,” Risa Segal said.

One of Segal’s friends and fellow third-grader, Max Majorski, used to play soccer alongside Skate, “We used to

help each other out a lot before I broke my ankle,” Majorski said.

But the trials and tribulations of sports are nothing new for Segal. Along with his fabulous undefeated streak in baseball, Segal participates in private tennis lessons with his little brother at the Siesta Key courts.

Segal’s father, Corey Segal, is an avid hockey player and still plays today. Sunday football is also a huge staple in the Segal household, fitting right into Segal’s weekend activities.

“He is Pine View through and through,” Risa Segal said when describing her son’s intense work ethic. “He couldn’t wait to go back [to school and practice] over the summer, he was just thrilled.”



Third-grader Skate Siegel poses in a photo with his soccer ball at soccer practice. Siegel recently switched teams from YMCA to The Metro Stars due to the closing of the YMCA program.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RISA SIEGEL

## What did you do over the summer?

Student Submissions from Joann Hershberger's Second-grade class.

**by Isla Matash**

You won't believe what I did this summer! One day I saw baby armadillos, so I ran over to where they were to pet them.

I was a little scared to pet them at first, but I did it. I decided to pet another one, but this one flicked his or her tail at me, and I was frightened!

Then my neighbors came over to look at it, and I was glad to have some company.

But, now I want to tell you something that made me nervous. About a week later, I heard that armadillos have bacteria on them. After I heard this, I was nervous.

**by Annie Nguyen**

I had many amazing adventures over the summer, but the one I want to talk about is my cruise.

This was my favorite adventure. I got to be with all of my cousins and I am the youngest in my family.

We had so much fun on our cruise because we had nobody to tell us what to do. We did all the things we could do.

I might be small, but I can do everything. Last, I went in the car and played so many games.

Then we all fell asleep, and that was my amazing adventure.

**by Andrea Wang**

Will you believe where I went on my adventure? It was when I went to Atlanta, Georgia!

When I got there it was my seventh birthday. I was eating with adults and they sang Happy Birthday and my face turned red trying to hide a smile.

I went to the Georgia Aquarium and saw rainbow fish, jellyfish, crabs, starfish, and dolphins.

My favorite part was when I was going to touch a starfish. I thought it would be spiky, but when I touched it it felt like a furry pillow!

GRAPHIC BY SARAH HASSAN

## How can administration improve Pine View?

Student Submissions from Peggy Barber's fifth-grade class.

**by Ariana Zawrotny**

I think the school needs to improve how the sidewalks are built. Whenever it rains the side walks get flooded. All students have to get their feet soaked, all our shoes and socks get soaked and that feels gross. Pine View really needs to rebuild the side walks. Last year I had a rolling backpack and it all got soaked. My papers all got wet. It would help Pine View so that students won't go back home complaining and so everyone will be dry and safe at Pine View. I would greatly appreciate that and all the student, staff, and teachers would too. Pine View School should rebuild all the sidewalks over the summer. Everyone would greatly appreciate that. Thank you.

**by Aadi Bhensdadia**

I am writing this paragraph to discuss some positive changes to Pine View School. First of all, I think that our school should enhance our janitorial services. My reasoning for this is that during lunch, the floor is splattered with food. Also, towards the middle of each and every year for the past three consecutive years, the water fountain is full with leaves, pine needles, and sometimes even palm fronds. We could do this by hiring more janitors.

Also, the media center should stop limiting Maker Space days. Makerspace is the reason why many kids go to the media center, and because of this limitation, the media center is losing its popularity.

**by Ella Jurgeon**

I feel that an improvement to Pine View would be more buses. I feel that Pine View should have more buses because when I get on my bus, it is very crowded and almost everybody has to sit in a seat of three students. I think this would help improve Pine View because it would allow students who take the bus to feel more comfortable.

Middle schoolers and high schoolers even have to sit in a three-seater on my bus. It makes kids not want to ride the bus. I know you have a lot of buses, but I think it would help. What could also help with this cause is that the air conditioner could work more than it does. Thanks for considering my opinion.

# How do ants make ant hills?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by fourth-grader Callie Fisher



PHOTO BY SARAH HASSAN

by Sarah Hassan

In early education, alongside beaver dams and spider webs, anthills serve a powerful role in defining the meaning of home. Worldwide, students universally learn that ants, unique to their own species, live in dirt hills connected underground. Despite this common knowledge, though, anthills are not mere piles of dirt. The complexity and effort needed to construct an ant hill is an endeavor incomparable to any other form of home construction across the animal kingdom.

In their most basic form, anthills are mounded nests that grow underground in a tunnel-like system of branches and compartments, marked by single-hole entrances. Ant-hills resemble hills in part due to the fact that, upon clearing

the underground tunnels of the nest, excess dirt collects around the system's entrance.

According to ant-pets.extension.org, in some circumstances, usually in periods of strong rain and cool weather, ant colonies increase the size of their hills to prevent flooding, regulate humidity and control temperature.

According to sciencing.com, the main materials needed for ant hill construction are soil, clay, pine needles and tiny sticks, used to reinforce a stronger ant hill for weather protection. Being light, these materials are easy for ants to carry, serving as the best resource for hill construction.

Although lightness is a beneficial factor in choosing materials to be used in hill construction, weight is no obstacle for the ant. According to insidescience.org, the ant can carry up to 5,000 times its average body weight by way of the neck joint alone — a figure that easily justifies ants' reputation as one of the strongest species, considering their small size, in the animal kingdom.

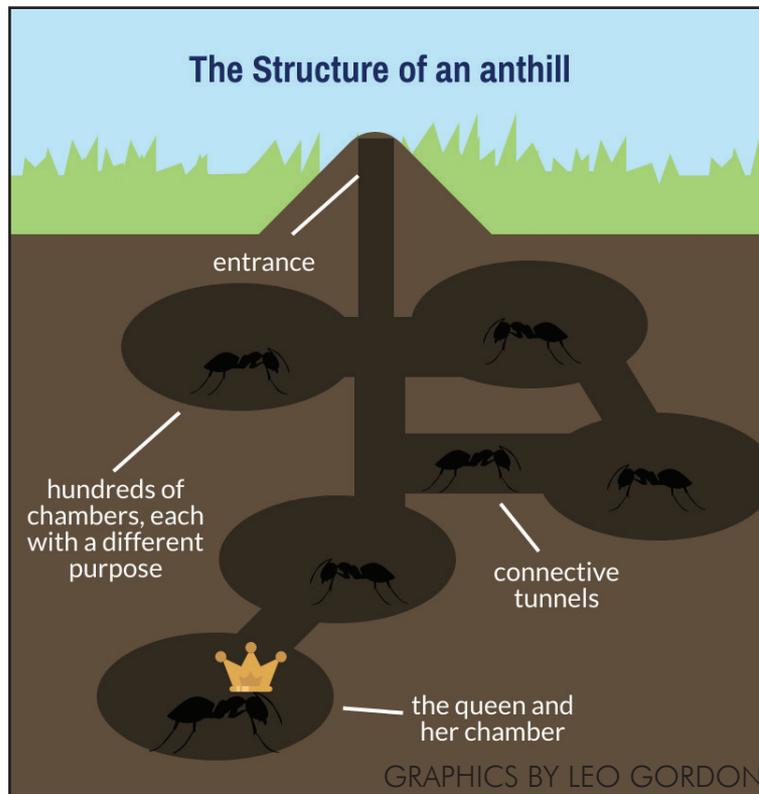
Underground, anthills host a wide array of tunnels that lead to different chambers based on the hierarchy of the ant colony. The Queen and her thousands of eggs reside at the bottom chamber in the hill for protection. Other

specific chambers exist specifically for worker ants, larvae — the stage between egg and pupa — and food storage.

Other components of ant colonies, like the shape of the hill, depend on the ant variety. However, as explained by ant-pets.extension.org, throughout the ant order, and regardless of shape, the main purpose of the hill is to maintain a cool temperature for the Queen and her larvae.

Another factor vital in determining the structure of hills is the size of colonies. For example, according to westernterminator.com, anthill discoveries in Europe have led to evidence that link larger ant populations to larger hills. For example, the discovery of a 3,600-mile-long ant hill in Europe was likely a result of an ant super colony, a colony comprised of thousands of normal-sized colonies. Such hills can reach populations in the millions. In normal circumstances, though, ant hills vary from one inch to 10 feet tall — not 3,600 miles, but still impressive

Ultimately, an ant hill may look like a pile of dirt, but the process of planning and building such hills is long-lasting and exhausting for ants, regardless of variety. Before kicking an ant hill, think about the masterful nature and effort put into its construction.



## Did you know?

Estimates place the number of living ants worldwide at 10 quadrillion. That's

10,000,000,000,000,000  
Ants

## Student fights for A.R. rights

by Tiffany Yu

While other students were participating in back-to-school shopping, brooding over what the incoming school year would hold, ninth-grader Ree Dinskool, balled up in her bed, lay crying with all seven Harry Potter books surrounding her. Dinskool's tragic past of collecting AR points; Or more accurately, her lack of collecting AR points, served as the cause for her sadness.

Enrolling in Pine View later than most, Dinskool began her Pine View career in fifth grade — a little too late to begin thinking about Accelerated Reader point collection. After seeing her friends honored on the media center's AR Wall of Fame, Dinskool decided being on the wall was all she wanted in life. Vowing to herself that one day she would be on the

wall, Dinskool went as far as to promise her friends that she would be up there by the end of fifth grade, whether they believed in her or not.

Ultimately, it didn't matter what they thought, because Dinskool, now in ninth grade, never made it onto the Wall of Fame.

"We can't go into the media center anymore. As soon as we step in, she starts crying," one of Dinskool's closest friends, Awn Awalafame, said, a clear-cut frown lining her face. "It's actually horrible. We have to go to the cafeteria to work because it's the only place that doesn't make her break down."

Dinskool, who now reads daily to compensate for her absence on the wall of fame, was recently spotted lugging several huge poster boards into Principal Dr. Stephen Covert's

office. Protesting the exclusion of AR point collection for middle and high school students, Dinskool's signs read, in capitalized glittery lettering, "AR points for all."

Taking her own initiative, Dinskool stays 10 minutes after school to protest outside of the Student Union every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. She has collected attention, mostly negative, from administration and students, who challenge Dinskool's radical views on the subject.

Some, however, are ecstatic.

"I think it's a great idea to bring AR points to high school. It should be taken as a grade," tenth-grade teacher Eve L'teesher said with a big smile.

All in all, Dinskool has found the true meaning of her being — to be on the wall



Ninth-grader Ree Dinskool cries whenever she sees the wall of fame in the Media Center. Her absence from the wall of fame is her greatest regret. PHOTO BY LORA RINI

alongside the legends of second, third, fourth, and fifth grade. Discovering a love for reading through her absence on the wall, Dinskool has committed her high school experi-

ence to fulfilling her dream of being on the wall.

To support the movement, visit [www.reedinskool.com](http://www.reedinskool.com) to read more about Dinskool's life and cause.

## Quiz: Which Halloween candy are you?

1. What's your Halloween costume this year?

- A. a banana
- B. Jojo Siwa
- C. a sheet ghost
- D. I'm not dressing up

2. What is your favorite food?

- A. spaghetti and meatballs
- B. GoGo squeeZ
- C. pizza
- D. meatloaf

3. Who are you trick-or-treating with this year?

- A. my BFF!
- B. I'm going alone
- C. a group of friends
- D. my family

4. What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?

- A. sing or dance
- B. make slime!
- C. watch your favorite movie or tv show
- D. read

Mostly...

**A's-** Laffy Taffy: You're fun, bubbly, and the life of the party! There's never a moment when you're not smiling.

**B's-** Candy Corn: You're very unique and energetic. You are very confident in yourself, and you don't care what anyone thinks about you.

**C's-** Kit Kat: You're kind and caring. You have a lot of friends due to your magnetic personality.

**D's-** Arcor Strawberry Bud: You're humble and down-to-earth. You're a great listener, and you're very observant.

# From swamp to school

by Anna Labiner

In a recent attempt to promote diversity and inclusivity at Pine View, the Pine View administration has decided to allow the alligator that resides in Pine View's lake to enroll in the third grade. Despite facing backlash from Pine View parents regarding their children's safety around the gator, the administration has stuck to their guns and are determined to provide a gifted education for all who meet the Pine View standard of intelligence.

The gator, Iyeet Kiidz, has expressed his interest in receiving a gifted education for some time and is determined to erase the suspicion surrounding alligators' intellectual abilities.

"People think that alligators aren't smart just because

most of us don't attend school," Kiidz said, "but the truth is that most alligators live in lakes that are super far out in the wilderness, so they haven't had the opportunity to explore their intellect."

In light of this, Kiidz plans to take full advantage of his enrollment at Pine View and hopes to utilize his new education to eventually get into the University of Florida, where his species is quite celebrated.

Although the administration has taken every measure to ensure that Kiidz has a smooth transition into the third grade, it has not been an easy process. For some odd reason, many of the third-grade-students seem to avoid Kiidz all together, and even run away screaming when he tries to flash them a smile.

At a recent event, Principal Dr. Stephen Covert actually mistook Kiidz for a random gator and informed students to utilize caution when encountering such animals, a comment that truly took a toll on Kiidz' self-esteem. Dr. Covert has since apologized to Kiidz and has said that he will try to work on his reptile-identification skills in the future.

Additionally, Kiidz has a hard time fitting into desks and has had to endure relentless teasing of his large size.

"Iyeet is really big for a third grader, and his tail keeps knocking over all the stuff on my desk," fellow student Repti L. Hayter said.

Luckily, Kiidz will be receiving a customized desk quite soon, courtesy of former



Surveillance footage captures third-grade student and alligator Iyeet Kiidz making his way to third period on his first day of school at Pine View. Kiidz previously attended the Sarasota Swamp Academy before switching to Pine View. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PINE VIEW SCHOOL

second-grade teacher Kelly Cookerly.

Despite the hardships, Kiidz plans on continuing his ed-

ucation at Pine View. "I live on campus, so I might as well come to class every day," Kiidz said.



Fourth-grader Agatha "Agle" Lace poses with her sizable shoe collection. Lace protests daily in front of Administration to push for a more effective drainage system at Pine View.

GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

# Student slushes in sadness

by Sarah Catalano

Agatha "Agle" Lace is famous among Pine View students campus-wide for her wide collection of Converse, Vans, Light-Up Sketchers, Nikes, thigh-high Lightning McQueen Crocs, and other varieties of popular shoes.

Unfortunately, though, Pine View's low capacity for storm drainage, in coordination with Florida's naturally-stormy climate, has led to the inevitable demise of hundreds of Lace's pairs of shoes.

"It's devastating," fourth-grader Lace said. "Every day I come home with soaked shoes because the sidewalk outside the Media Center turns into the literal Mediterranean

Sea."

In addition to the Media Center, other areas on campus have caused Lace great pain.

"The lunch area is a swamp. The sidewalks by the green building are impassible," Lace said.

Some students, however, aren't opposed to the water flooding every sidewalk on campus — in fact, they welcome it.

"I've been leader of the Naval Elite Rubber Duck club for twenty years," third-grader Robert "Skipper" Flotilla said, proudly. "When you have this much experience on the water, you come to appreciate a campus like Pine View."

The club members dis-

miss Lace's concerns, claiming shoes are of little importance when other issues on campus, like the legality of duck racing, lack the administrative attention they deserve.

As a result of their differing opinions, Lace and Flotilla have been involved in several conflicts this year.

Each morning, Lace arrives at school at five o'clock sharp to protest the school's poor drainage.

Fifth-grader Raini Daes watches Lace's protests daily, and claims she struggles to understand Lace's motive.

"You'd think someone with so many shoes would have at least one pair of rain boots," she said.

# Past teacher shares her care

by Gwyn Petersen

Former third-grade teacher Suzie Shea's average week-day begins with a 45 minute drive to the Visible Men Academy in Bradenton, Florida. To make it to the school on time, Shea is required to leave her house by six o'clock in the morning.

"This is the hardest job I've ever had, and I love every minute of it," Shea said.

Shea originally started teaching at Wilkinson Elementary, and taught at Fruitville Elementary prior to being redistricted to Pine View with former teacher Denise Fugere in 1990. After leaving her position at Pine View in 2018, Shea started volunteering at Visible Men Academy. The school, where Shea volunteered twice a week last year, is a male-only charter school that starts in kindergarten and goes through fifth grade.

"I just really loved it. I loved what they were trying to do for these boys, and then they called me and they were like, 'Hey, we're gonna have a third grade opening next year, would you consider it?' I had never been so excited," Shea said.

Shea has 18 boys in her class. Most have been through third grade once already, and many speak English as their second language.

"These boys are cute, they're funny, they're troubled. They want to do well. They don't come from families that value education, and they've suffered such huge tragedies for eight-year-olds," Shea said.

As most of the boys don't



Former Pine View third-grade teacher Suzie Shea poses for a photo with her third-grade class at the Visible Men Academy in Bradenton. Shea taught at Pine View for almost two decades before retiring in 2018.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUZI SHEA

have books at home, Shea has been reaching out to former students for donations, and for

**“This is the hardest job I’ve ever had, and I love every minute of it.”**  
**Suzi Shea,**  
**Former third-grade teacher**

volunteers at the school.

Shea's first full-time year at the Visible Men Academy marks her thirty-second year of being a teacher.

"I always knew I would be a teacher. There wasn't anything else," Shea said.

Shea decided to become a teacher after a bad experience

with a nun at her private Catholic school in Ohio.

"At that point, I wanted to drop out of first grade. Around this time my parents were considering leaving Ohio, and they decided to move. We ended up in Sarasota, I went to Tuttle Elementary, and I had this fabulous teacher in second grade named Mrs. Measle," Shea said. "My biggest regret is that I didn't write her a letter and tell her that I'm a teacher because of her. She made me feel so good."

Though Shea is thrilled with her new position, there are some things she'll always miss about Pine View.

"There was nothing more exciting than a student who was out of college showing up at my doorstep. That's what I liked, the feel of Pine View. Everybody felt welcome to come back," Shea said.

[a column]

## Live in the present



Leo Gordon,  
Match Editor-in-Chief

By the time you leave high school, I'll be at least 23 years old, and that's old. There may be a big wedge of time between us, but that doesn't mean I can't offer you advice vital to your experience at Pine View.

As you embark on your journey at Pine View, recall my advice — give yourself time to stop and smell the roses. Elementary school is great, so take advantage of it while you can.

One of my most distinct memories from elementary school at Pine View is of my friends and I discussing Snapchat in the media center, circa 2012. I didn't really care about Snapchat, but I sat and listened anyway; I thought, "Yeah, other people care, and I should too."

My close friend Naina, sitting next to us, was reading Percy Jackson silently. I would have rather been reading, but, like in every other similar scenario, my sense of fulfilling an expectation — the Snapchat conversation — overtook my sense of genuine interest.

It's a weird memory, but

it successfully highlights an aspect of friendship that you shouldn't feel obligated to take part in. Elementary school shouldn't be about fitting in socially, and it doesn't have to be. It should be about pursuing your genuine interests, whatever they may be. As I said earlier, stop and smell the roses.

Another thing I advise you appreciate while at Pine View, particularly in elementary school, is your relationships with teachers. In elementary school, you spend, for the most part, the whole day with your teacher, promoting the creation of a mutual bond between teacher and student.

In middle school and high school, we spend each hour with a different teacher. We form connections with our teachers, but nothing like that formed between a third-grade student, for example, and their teacher that knows their students well enough to discuss their interests. For me, that interest was guinea pigs — thanks Mrs. Shea.

Overall, elementary school, especially at Pine View, is great, and it'll be gone before you can believe it. As the second quarter of this year marches ahead, stop and smell the roses. Appreciate your friends and teachers. Follow your genuine interests and appreciate bonds with teachers and friends. You won't be in elementary school forever, so take advantage of the time you do have.