



School's Out

From left to right: Teachers Kathy VandeRee, Judy Black, Denise Fugere and Martha Magenheim pose in front of the Pine View welcome sign. After years as a part of Pine View's staff, each will now be retiring from teaching. PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

“I’ve had a wonderful year. I know it’s the right time to graduate with this class of 2016.”

Judy Black,
French teacher

Teachers and staff leave with the class of 2016

by **Marinna Okawa**
Editor-in-Chief

For a few of the graduates of the Pine View Class of 2016, they will be celebrating the end of 11 years at Pine View. However, between social studies teacher Kathy VandeRee, French teacher Judy Black, math teacher Faith McClellan, science teacher Deni Ors, elementary teachers Denise Fugere, Martha Magenheim and Cara Crowley, and Head Custodian Roger Ferris, they

celebrate over 130 years as part of the Pine View family as they prepare to leave. Black, Fugere and Crowley have been teaching at the school for more than twenty years each.

Twelfth-grader Madelyne Mayer has been attending Pine View since second grade, same as her two older siblings alumni Michael and Jillian. Mayer had Fugere in third grade and has Black this year. “Third grade was definitely my favorite year at Pine View, and it’s thanks to Mrs.

Fugere. She was the sweetest, most inspiring and intelligent teacher an elementary student could ask for,” Mayer said.

For Black, she sees herself as graduating, not retiring. “I’ve had a wonderful year. I know it’s the right time to graduate with this class of 2016,” she said.

In this last issue of The Torch for the 2015-2016 school year, we celebrate the careers of the those leaving Pine View this year, and look back on the legacies they have left on the school and its students.

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No gray zone

Trans-inclusive policy works toward consensus

by **Madeline Bowman**
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

After several protests and petitions spearheaded by twelfth-grader Nate Quinn, Sarasota County School Board has still yet to make a decision regarding a proposed trans-inclusive bathroom policy for the county.

Earlier this school year, Quinn successfully petitioned Principal Dr. Stephen Covert to use the boys’ bathroom, the bathroom that is consistent with the gender Quinn identifies with. Although Covert said that the change was a one-time decision and not a policy, Quinn and supporters have been trying to press the school board to extend this to the rest of the county. Called “Nate’s List,” Quinn created a list of trans-inclusive rules that he wants the county to adopt. Some of these include trans-inclusive policies for bathrooms and locker rooms, updated anti-harassment policies and non sex-specific dress codes.

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Math classes relocated due to student concern

by **Sarah Mihm**
Sports Editor

Students of math teacher Derrin Gottlieb have found themselves unexpectedly relocating across campus due to air quality issues that have since been fixed.

Gottlieb and his students found themselves conducting class in Portable 12, Room 911 in the library, the Technology Enabled Learning (TEL) Studio and even social studies teacher Jenna Molinaro’s old classroom, Portable 32. For Gottlieb’s students, it has been a dizzying transition, often with a sign on the classroom door being the only indication for where the class will be held. Gottlieb’s lack of a suitable teaching space has been resolved with a move to the TEL Studio for the remainder of the school year as a precaution toward students’ well-being.

The issue was first brought to the attention of the county from Gottlieb’s Dual Enrollment Pre-calculus Algebra and Trigonometry class when students reported that the possible mold in the classroom was getting them sick. Eleventh-grader Rachel Dale was having symptoms, such as migraines, which are associated with mild mold poisoning.

Dale reported on this after spring break, and the moving among classes started at the end of March. She approached the administration with her concern, and the class was

relocated to the library.

Other students have said that Gottlieb’s portable caused health issues to them as well. Twelfth-grader Luke Mollod said, “I had an upper-respiratory infection for many months.” He commented that he believes it was linked to the portable, as his health improved when the students were moved out of the classroom. His symptoms first appeared at the start of the school year.

After moving to the Media Center, the county tested the portable and determined that everything was clear. The Indoor Air Quality Assessment showed problems with the A/C components and ceiling tiles, both of which were promptly fixed. This resulted in the class returning to their original classroom.

Fellow classmate of Dale, eleventh-grader Hayley Price, was strongly against the move back into the portable because she saw no change in the air quality. Price took several pictures of possible mold within the classroom and emailed it to Assistant Principal Jennifer Nzeza who forwarded it to district personnel.

These complaints ended with Gottlieb’s classes being removed from Portable 12 permanently. “It’s better to be safe than sorry, even if the report shows the air is perfectly fine,” Principal Dr. Stephen Covert said. “I’d rather protect students and just move them to a better room.”



Math teacher Derrin Gottlieb teaches his students in the TEL Studio after complaints about the possibility of mold in the portable. Because of student concern, Gottlieb and his students have been relocated to the TEL Studio for the remainder of the school year. PHOTO BY ZACH BRIGHT

Gottlieb’s students were then moved into Molinaro’s old classroom, Portable 32. The attempted solution only caused more student frustration, as last year this portable had issues as well. Mollod commented that his infection worsened when they were in this portable. Also, Dale said, “Another teacher had moved out of that portable, and they wondered why we were getting sick.”

This caused the final relocation of the class into the TEL Studio. The custodians clean all portables daily, just as they do with all the classrooms across campus. “Our custodians have earned the White

Glove Award this past year, and in the midst of an HVAC project, for them to earn the White Glove Award is pretty amazing,” Covert said.

The White Glove Award is given to a school that has paid the most attention to overall cleanliness in the county, and is determined by examining the classrooms with a literal white glove. The situation is hoped to be completely eradicated next year since 12 of the old portables will be demolished at the end of this school year, with new ones joining the portables on the old baseball fields.

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Almost Famous
Stories that didn’t make the first cut

'Up with Books' campaign takes off

by **Haleigh Brown**
Match Layout Artist

The "Up with the Books" program is this year's class community service project helping Title I schools receive beneficial learning materials. This program will progress in future years with continuing effort from the student body. This program is being directed toward Alta Vista Elementary School. The entire sixth-grade staff is participating in helping 16 of the teachers from the school.

There are many ways to get involved even if not a part of the sixth-grade staff. There is a Facebook page called 'Up with Books PV' to raise awareness for opportunities to help including sign up opportunities. Other staff members from various grades are helping as well, including second-grade teacher Joann Hershberger. "It is so awesome for the teachers and children, and you can tell there is a strong connection between all the kids," Hershberger said.

In the teachers' classrooms the students have been involved in the project with Alta Vista by having pen pals with the other students. This project is led by departing elementary Assistant Principal Erin del Castillo. Two books per classroom were sent in December and March and profits from elementary school spirit day shirts were donated as well. As of now 1,200 books have been collected from fifth-grade teacher Margaret Spies. Her goal is to reach 2,120 books to correspond with the "212 degree" motto.

Along with all of these efforts, "little free libraries" have been built for Alta Vista, and one of art teacher



Third-grade teacher Cindy Wajida's class holds books that were gifted to students at Alta Vista Elementary School. The Alta Vista service project takes an active stance on promoting literacy.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE BROWN

Retsy Lauer's AP Art classes will be decorating them by the end of May. "Little free libraries" are decorated wooden boxes that follow the rule "Take a book, return a book." Pine View will place them outside of Alta Vista's school for any of the students to access.

Eleventh-grader Alexandra Chase is the lead volunteer on this project and is currently working on a movable reading tree to go along with the libraries. The tree will hold paper apples where students from Alta Vista can request books. If anyone at Pine View is interested they can pick the apple and go get the book. This tree will be located at Alta Vista. When Pine View students go to Alta Vista, the volunteers will pick up the apples with book titles on them and donate the books at the next visit. "I originally got involved with Alta Vista in freshman year, and now Mrs. del Castillo and I hope to build and expand 'Up with the Books' across the

county," Chase said.

The first meeting at Alta Vista took place April 15 where Pine View students read, made bookmarks and put together goody bags with the Alta Vista students. Del Castillo said she hopes to soon bring the Alta Vista students to Pine View for movie nights with the other elementary children at Pine View. As the connection with the Alta Vista students progresses, more components to the project will be added as time goes on.

Aside from the community service aspect, Pine View has a special connection to the school as Alta Vista is located next to where the original Pine View campus was. Students used to go over to the Alta Vista cafeteria to eat lunch.

"I want this to be kid oriented in every way because then it will always stay," del Castillo said. "It's all so great to see everything in action and making an impact right here in our county."

Transgender-inclusive policy works to reach consensus



Twelfth-grader Nate Quinn and eleventh-grader Delaney Smelser march for transgender rights. Quinn advocates for the adoption of trans-inclusive policies throughout Sarasota County.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATE QUINN

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by **Madeline Bowman**
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Quinn has hosted several protests at the school board building in the Landings. At the latest protest, held April 5, Quinn and a crowd of 80 people gathered outside of the meeting. According to Quinn, they chanted and even tried to take over the meeting. He said, "We tried to enter the lobby but we were kicked out."

Quinn has also been working with Bryan Ellis, leader of activist group Answer Suncoast, in advancing his movement. According to Quinn, Ellis has stayed in contact

with school board members. Quinn said, "Bryan has been telling them that lawsuits are likely."

Quinn also said that Ellis has helped him in crafting his speeches. "He knows the strategy, picks events for protests and knows how to time everything," Quinn said.

School board elections will be taking place and a change in the composition of the board could result in a decision being made on the trans-inclusive policy. "They just don't want to talk about it," Quinn said, on the current school board.

Quinn also organized a march across downtown May 1. Quinn, Ellis and around 140 other people gathered at Five Points Park

and marched throughout the area, chanting and conversing. Quinn said, "We chanted, had megaphones and did speeches."

At the Harvey Milk Festival May 14, Quinn was the keynote speaker and spoke for 15 minutes.

According to Quinn, bullying is the biggest problem regarding trans rights at Pine View. "Most people aren't educated [on trans issues]," Quinn said. "They're not making jokes, they're harming lives."

Next year, Quinn will entrust this movement to eleventh-grader Delaney Smelser. Quinn will attend the University of Florida (UF) and cannot organize as frequently while in college. However, Quinn said that he still hopes to do as much as he can while at UF. He also said that he is looking for a trans student at Pine View to be involved in the cause next year.

In the future, Quinn hopes that administration takes part in more trans education and training. He said, "I would love it if administration worked to educate themselves."

Quinn also said that administration should work in conjunction with ALSO Youth to provide information and forums to students and faculty. ALSO (Advocacy, Leadership, Support, Outreach) Youth is a national organization that provides support to LGBTQIA youth.

IN BRIEF

Class of 2019 fundraises with bricks

by **Melissa Santoyo**
Asst. Features Editor

In mid-February it was announced that the class of 2019 would resume the tradition of selling personalized bricks as the former ninth-grade classes once had. This year's customizable bricks will be cemented into Pine View's famous "Memory Lane" walkway alongside all the customized bricks from previous years.

Despite past problems regarding how the organization of handling orders was carried out, the class of 2019 was not daunted at the prospect of any issues. "We were confident that our abilities would allow us to start up the brick sales again without running into the same problems," ninth-grader and current vice president of the class of 2019, Sachit Gali said.

The bricks are \$75 each; the class has sold five bricks so far, and has more orders pending. "Buying a brick is a tradition in my family," ninth-grader Jillian Park said. "And when my mother heard they were selling them again she said, 'Jillian, you must have one.'"

The class of 2019 was searching for possible fundraising ideas when Gali, alongside the other officers, stumbled across this discontinued practice.

Class sponsor and social studies teacher, Caroline Gannon, said, "They haven't been sold for a while, so when I learned it was a possible fundraising opportunity, I picked up the project and updated the flier." She added, "I just wanted to revive this project which I see as an opportunity for people to honor their students."

Construction continues through summer

by **Samantha Gallahan**
News Editor

As the end of the school year approaches, phases of the multi-year construction project that are currently underway are wrapping up, while other phases are just getting started.

Construction on Building 1, the third grade building, is almost finished. Starting at the beginning of next year, the office will be temporarily housed there.

Additionally, the Media Center is also preparing to begin renovations. Friday, April 29, was the last day to check out materials, and all materials were due May 6.

The Media Center is now closed to students and is being packed up in preparation to move all the books and materials to the Student Union. To begin construction this summer, all materials need to be removed from the Media Center.

The renovations on the Media Center will include repainting the walls and installing new car-

peting and a new HVAC air conditioning system. In order to rebuild the HVAC system in the summer time, the ceiling will need to be taken down.

Another part of the construction plan that will commence this summer is the safety and security aspect. Eventually there will be only one point of entry onto campus. "We need to have a single point of entry; this will enhance the safety and security greatly," Principal Dr. Stephen Covert said.

Over the summer, the administration building will also undergo renovations, which should be completed by next December. At that point, the staff will be able to move back into the Administration building.

Recently, another layer of the summer construction plan was added. Several portables will be destroyed, and 12 portables will be brought in to the north side of campus. Covert said, "We want to get rid of some portables because they are older."

Web Features

To see the full versions of these stories, as well as pieces not featured in our print edition, see PVTorch.com.

Athletes allowed out of district

by **Annie Hassan**
Asst. News Editor

The new district policy, which allows high school students from Pine View and Suncoast Polytechnical High School to play sports in any district school they desire, will be implemented for the 2016-2017 school year. This policy was officially changed Jan. 15 2016. The old policy stated that students from either of these two schools were only allowed to play for their districted school.

Original domain used in protest

by **Suzanne Brown**
Features Editor

An anonymous group has purchased the PineViewSchool.com domain and created a website in protest of actions the school has taken in recent years, including high school restriction of Dual Enrollment classes at the State College of Florida as well as the shift to Pine View being labeled a magnet school.

An open letter to...

by **Marinna Okawa**
Editor-in-Chief

Check out the "Open Letter" series on the website, featuring advice and memories from the leaders of various on-campus clubs and organizations, including Model United Nations, National Honor Society, Key Club and SERTEEN.

Janel Dorn hired at Sarasota Middle

by **Sana Rahman**
Asst. Match Editor

On May 2, current eight- and ninth-grade Assistant Principal Janel Dorn accepted the position of being Sarasota Middle School's principal. Over the last few weeks of school Dorn will be splitting her time between her duties at Pine View and getting assimilated with her new job at Sarasota Middle School.

Venice elementary to welcome new principal Erin del Castillo

by **Suzanne Brown**
Features Editor

Despite only having been part of Pine View faculty for a single school year, Elementary Assistant Principal Erin del Castillo has left a tremendous impact on the Pine View community. She will begin working at Venice Elementary School June 8 to succeed Theresa Baus, who retired in December.

Students get hands-on career experience



Ninth- and tenth-grade students learn several aspects about performing surgery, including how to suture. Career day, held May 14 at Pine View, allowed ninth- and tenth-graders to participate in interactive activities that are relevant to professions they were interested in or wanted to know more about. PHOTO BY WILLIAM KHABBAZ

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[a spread] Students in Service

by **Marinna Okawa**
Editor-in-Chief

As twelfth grade begins, many students begin considering which colleges they will apply to and eventually attend. For four Pine View students, their college search led them to the U.S. military service academies. The application process is different from the norm, with a medical, fitness and academic portion as well as a nomination required for most. This is the largest number of Pine View students who have enrolled in service academies since 2012, with three last year and none in the class of 2014. There are five total service academies: the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

TOP LEFT, BOTTOM LEFT PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA GALLAHAN
TOP RIGHT PHOTO BY ZACH BRIGHT
BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO PROVIDED BY GARRETT LAWLOR

Samantha Cahoone,
Coast Guard



Matthew Pelton,
Air Force



Samuel Winegar,
Navy



Garrett Lawlor,
Merchant Marines



Matthew Pelton - U.S. Air Force Academy

The sky is the limit for twelfth-grader Matthew Pelton, who will begin studying at the Air Force Academy this summer.

Originally Pelton was interested in West Point, but a recruiting trip to the Air Force Academy changed his mind. "[It was] immediately my top choice, and I committed on the spot once I got there," Pelton said. "Air Force was just the perfect place for me."

Pelton completed his application in December, which included getting an appointment from Congressman Vern Buchanan. "That was probably the hardest part," Pelton said.

He was also recruited to swim for the academy. "The coaches and team also had a big part in my decision," he said.

After graduation, Pelton will have five years of active duty as an officer in the Air Force. He will then have the option to stay in the military for the following ten years, following in similar time increments after that.

Pelton is considering studying business and finance, but he explained that his ultimate goal is to be a pilot. "What better place to pursue my interest in being a pilot than the Air Force Academy?" Pelton said.

Part of Pelton's desire to apply

to a service academy stemmed from his own family. "My grandfather was in the Air Force, and he had a little bit of an influence," Pelton said. "I was always interested in the academies, but I didn't know if it was for me until I really looked into everything it entailed."

For Pelton, the service academies offer a different experience from most civilian colleges. "I think just the sense of everybody has the same drive and everybody's so motivated," Pelton said. "The second I got there I realized everyone wants to be there ... Everybody has their purpose and they all want to do something great."

Did you know?

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota held enough nuclear weapons to independently become the third-largest nuclear power in the world.

- "Air Force One" is not the name of the president's plane, but rather the title given to any plane on which the president is currently traveling.
- In 1958, Carlos Ray Norris joined the U.S. Air Force and served in South Korea, later earning the nickname Chuck Norris and becoming a well-known martial artist and celebrity.



Did you know?

- The Coast Guard was founded in 1790 by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton as the Revenue-Marine, which merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Services to create the first Coast Guard fleet.
- The U.S. Coast Guard is the only branch of military service not under the Defense Department, instead serving the Department of Homeland Security.
- The longest-serving active Coast Guard aviator is titled the "Ancient Albatross," and gifted a traditional aviation helmet, coat, goggles, white scarf and the "Royal Pterodactyl Egg."



Samantha Cahoone - U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Twelfth-grader Samantha Cahoone will apply her swimming skills toward serving the country as she begins her studies at the Coast Guard Academy.

Cahoone applied and was accepted to the academy, and will be recognized as an Ensign, or commissioned officer, after graduation with a five-year active service requirement. Her interest in applying for the academy was highlighted last year when she attended the Coast Guard summer program. "I really liked [it], and that's why I applied," she said.

She was also already familiar with the academy because their Christmas training was held at the same location as her swimming practices.

Cahoone explained that although she had a letter of assurance from the academy due to her recruitment to their swim team, the application process was still tough. "It was stressful," she said.

Unlike the other service academies, Cahoone was not required to get a letter of recommendation from a congressman. Similar to most universities, she was required to submit recommendations from teachers as well as from college counselor Lance Bergman. She also included a recommendation from her swim coach, Sherwood Watts.

She will be part of the swim team, which according to Cahoone was a pleasant turn of events since she did not plan on swimming past

high school originally. "I'm probably looking forward to swimming the most," Cahoone said.

Cahoone plans on studying Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. She will report for Swab Summer, the Coast Guard's summer training, June 27. The Coast Guard is not part of the Department of Defense, like the other service academies, but rather the Department of Homeland Security.

Cahoone explained that the Coast Guard Academy has a closer feel than the other academies. "It's significantly smaller than the other ones ... it's more closely knit, more of a family ... More about helping each other than being first in your class," she said.

Garrett Lawlor - U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Twelfth-grader Garrett Lawlor will be setting sail toward his future with the Merchant Marines starting this summer. Lawlor's neighbor, a Harbor pilot from the Panama Canal, first recommended the school to him at the beginning of high school, and he decided to apply in November this year.

Lawlor, who will also be on the sailing team for the Merchant Marines, finished his application in early November and heard back in December. He first received a call

in the morning while at school from Joanie Hanson, the secretary for Congressman Vern Buchanan, from whom Lawlor received his nomination. Lawlor later called back the office with his parents to hear that he had been accepted.

Lawlor will report to the Merchant Marines June 28 for the first 19 days of indoctrination, then begin classes after this period. As part of his Merchant Marines requirements, Lawlor must spend at least 300 days at sea to prepare for his Coast Guard

Third Mates License Exam. After graduation he must serve five years active duty and eight years reserve duty. Lawlor plans on majoring in marine transportation.

For Lawlor, the Merchant Marines allow for some of the best post-graduate opportunities, such as being able to work on an actual merchant ship. "Honestly I think it's the best service academy out of all of them because I think this one will provide you with more opportunities after you graduate," he said.



Did you know?

Mickey Mouse's nemesis, Pete, was first drafted by Walt Disney as the official mascot of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

- In 1974, the Merchant Marine Academy became the first to enroll female students.
- Merchant mariners-turned-writers include "Moby Dick" author Herman Melville and Beat movement author Jack Kerouac.

Samuel Winegar - U.S. Naval Academy

It's anchors aweigh for twelfth-grader Samuel Winegar as he prepares to begin at the Naval Academy. Winegar first heard about the school when he was in sixth grade, and it has been a part of his idea for the future since. "The idea kind of stuck with me — it's been in the back of my mind for the past seven years," he said.

After completing the physical, medical and academic portions of the application, Winegar also applied for his nomination from Marco Rubio, Bill Nelson and Vern Buchanan. He was interviewed by Buchanan and received the Principal Nomination, which means that of all the applicants who sought out a nomination for the Naval Academy, Winegar was Buchanan's top choice.

According to Winegar, one of the most challenging aspects of the application process to the Naval Academy was the amount of paperwork and the level of organization it required. "It's crazy how much there is ... but I just kept my eyes on the prize," he said.

For Winegar, the Naval Academy was also an option that would

allow him to be part of a bigger picture. "I've always wanted to do my part to serve the country, and I have great respect for the armed forces," he said.

The Naval Academy overall is more STEM-oriented, according to Winegar, with the core curriculum

"I've always wanted to do my part to serve the country, and I have great respect for the armed forces."

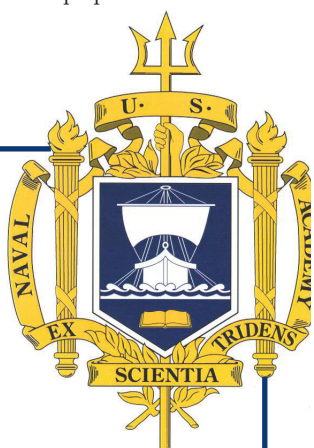
Samuel Winegar,
grade 12

involving two semesters of chemistry and physics and a minimum math level of Calculus III, along with military-focused courses like Seamanship and Introduction to Navigation. "It's unique in the sense that in the Fleet you are on a ship,

and need that sort of background to make the ship run. Without a solid foundation in mathematics, commissioned officers from the academy wouldn't be able to do that," Winegar said.

After graduation, Winegar will be required to serve at least five years of active duty and has the option to do an additional two years of school with eight years of service if he wants to be a pilot. He will be ranked as Ensign (0-1). He plans on studying Political Science, which at the Naval Academy has three different concentrations: American Politics, International Relations and Security and Comparative Politics. Winegar plans on studying International Relations.

Induction day is June 30, and Winegar says he looks forward to his time at the academy. "I'm obviously very excited, [and] very scared, but in a good way," he said. "I'm looking forward to what is really an experience that is unmatched in most places. The bonds that you have when you're in military are so much stronger and lasting than what you might develop in a civilian college."



Did you know?

- There is a longstanding dispute over whether the Navy was founded in Beverly or Marblehead, Mass., both claiming to be the homeport of "Hannah," the first Navy vessel.
- Navy ships named after individuals are christened by the individual's eldest living female descendant.
- Before he was hip hop artist MC Hammer, the rapper served as an AK3 (Petty Officer Third Class Aviation Storekeeper) for the U.S. Navy.
- Because submariners live underwater for months with no sunlight, no privacy and a nuclear reactor feet away, they are all volunteers, and go through strict psychological and physical tests before appointment.

From One (Python) Path to another

Teachers and staff prepare to leave Pine View

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Kathy VandeRee

by Brenna Maginness
Opinion Editor

After almost a decade of teaching at Pine View, social studies teacher Kathy VandeRee is joining the class of 2016 in saying goodbye to the campus, staff and students. At the end of the school year, VandeRee will be retiring.

VandeRee fell in love with teaching and anthropology at a young age, taking it upon herself to dig deeper into topics her school was not disclosing. "When I was going to school, we got very little background on human evolution, and I was always curious about where we came from, and nobody would ever tell me," she said. "I was not getting my questions answered, so the first time I took an anthropology course, bells went off."

After majoring in anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, VandeRee began looking for teaching jobs. In the seventies, however, opportunities were limited. She eventually found her place at Manatee Community College (MCC), now the State College of Florida (SCF), where she taught anthropology. "I really liked teaching at community college ... there's not as much paperwork, so I could just teach, and I loved that," she said.

Many Florida community college teachers are adjuncts, meaning that they work part time and do not receive benefits. This is part of what prompted VandeRee to start looking for different opportunities. "I was in my fifties

and needed better health insurance," VandeRee said. "So I came here [to Pine View]."

At Pine View, VandeRee began by teaching World History and Anthropology. "I found that teaching at Pine View was not that different from teaching at community college. The students here are much brighter," she said. "They're sharp, and they kept me on my toes, making sure I had my facts straight, and that I knew what I was talking about."

Anthropology is taught in alternating years, meaning VandeRee has taught the class four times at Pine View. Her interest in the subject carried over into her World History lessons as well.

"Anthropology is so cool because it takes everything into consideration. It looks at the big picture of culture, and that's really important," she said. "History is Anthropology with writing, and I think my Anthropology background gave me a much broader insight into history."

For VandeRee, the biggest difference between teaching grade school and college was that she found herself interacting "not only with the student, but with the entire family." While MCC students were independent and solely responsible for their educations, teaching at Pine View meant contacting parents and making plans for kids who were not doing as well as they should.

Pine View created a family atmosphere, which VandeRee will miss most of all. "As soon as I came here I had joined a family ... and I've felt the same ever since. I've made lots of good friends who I intend to stay in touch with, and I've become friends with students, too," she said. "It's really nice to see what they're doing, and I have had some students go into history and anthropology."



PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

Twelfth-grader Anna Tucker, a former student of VandeRee, said, "She cared about all of us on a personal level and wanted us to succeed out of class as well as in it. She taught me not to take life too seriously."

Post-Pine View, VandeRee plans on traveling, including visiting her daughter in Australia in February. She also plans on furthering her own education. "I want to do some research on women in history who have done great things but been ignored," she said. "And I'm going to continue with my human rights activities."

VandeRee hopes to return to Pine View as a substitute in the future, but for now plans to take some time to do lots of reading and movie-watching to catch her breath. "[Pine View] had a huge impact," she said. "It's been some of the happiest years of my entire life. I've built some wonderful relationships, I've learned so much, I've gained a lot of confidence and I've just had so much fun."

Roger Ferris

by Cate Alvaro
Web Assistant

With 29 years of aiding teachers and students throughout Sarasota County, Roger Ferris, the head custodian of the janitorial staff, decided to retire. Ferris' last day at Pine View was May 6.

He was initially encouraged to become a custodian after holding a leadership position in the Marine Corps. After leaving the Marine Corps, he joined the school board as a custodian. He was immediately noticed by management for his diligent work and was offered a job as head custodian.

Ferris previously worked at McIntosh Elementary school for 13 years before coming to Pine View. Ferris said, "I came to Pine View because I was working from 3 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. at McIntosh, and I wanted to be able to see my kids more."

As head custodian, Ferris controlled communication over the walkie-talkies, fixed the air



PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

conditioning at all points of the campus, repaired the portables, maintained the plumbing, made work orders and ensured that the campus is successfully functioning at all hours.

"In my opinion, Pine View is different from other schools because of the students.

Pine View has the most [respectful] students," he said. "There is little graffiti and they talk about acing tests, cramming for an exam, world history or even voting. Whereas at other schools, the students talk about drugs or going to parties. Here I can blend in."

Custodian Pauline Sarkozy said, "Roger was an extremely kind person who looked out for the welfare of his employees."

Ferris plans on having an eventful retirement. He is most excited to spend his days fishing, camping, motorcycle riding, traveling and doing typical yard work, such as gardening and perfecting his patio. He decided to retire at age 63 because he felt it was time to settle down.

"I think [the] best memories I will have when I leave here are all of the people. I have met and become friends ... It all goes down to the students. I got to know a lot of them by name, and they would actually come up to me to sign their yearbooks," he said. "I love getting to watch them go from second-graders to seniors. Pine View will always hold a special place in my heart."

Denise Fugere

by Suzanne Brown
Features Editor

From the inception of the iconic third-grade theatrical production of "Schoolhouse Rock" to the student led bromeliad research at Myakka State Park, third-grade teacher Denise Fugere has created a lifetime of memories for every student encountered during her 25 years teaching at Pine View. Despite leaving behind a legacy, Fugere has decided to retire from teaching at the end of the school year in order to accept a retirement plan offer.

Post retirement, Fugere plans to take a

road trip with her husband and seven dogs. Her family intends to purchase a used RV and travel around the U.S. with no designated return date.

Even with what Fugere hopes to be an exciting trip in the future, she cannot avoid missing her students. Because Fugere has no children of her own, she said her students "truly are her kids."

In leaving behind a legacy, Fugere hopes to have inspired her students and allowed them to enjoy learning. In response to being asked what she will miss from teaching, Fugere said, "I'm going to miss the kids the most. Period. End of story."

Please see PVTorch.com or the May issue of The Match for the full story



PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

her students, even in second grade, are skilled with technology, and that they are able to teach her things that she did not know.

Magenheim currently has a granddaughter, Gabriella, age 4, who she is looking forward to spending more time with and hopes to practice her teaching skills with when Gabriella enters kindergarten in 2017.

After retiring, Magenheim endeavors to continue traveling. "I have plans to go to Alaska in September and Spain in March, and Antarctica is on my wish list," she said. "A cruise around the world — that might be on the agenda."

Please see PVTorch.com or the May issue of The Match for the full story



PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

Martha Magenheim

by Katie Green
Sci Tech Editor

Second-grade teacher Martha Magenheim has called Pine View her home for the last 15 years. At the end of this year, however, Magenheim is leaving Pine View to continue on to her next journey.

"I think the greatest thing about teaching is that you get to learn along with your students," Magenheim said. She emphasized how

117

years of lessons taught at Pine View

Judy Black

by Mira Chauhan
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

At the age of 28, French teacher Judy Black made the decision to begin teaching. This choice would leave an indelible impression not only on Pine View's French department, but also on the thousands of students who have worked under her guidance. In her 26-year career at Pine View, Black has taught elementary, middle and high school students. This year, she teaches the elementary wheel, French III and AP French.

Black began teaching 30 years ago, first at Cardinal Mooney High School and then at Pine View four years later. Originally, however, she began work in the corporate world. "I thought I would do business in Manhattan," she said.

After receiving her degree in French from Binghamton University, Black began working at the cosmetics company Lancôme. At the age of 24, her career took a turn when she moved to Florida due to personal reasons. In Florida she worked in the hotel business, first at Far Horizons, a French-owned hotel, and then at the Hyatt.

Black decided to begin teaching while she was working at the Hyatt. When her father passed away, Black said she tried to look at her life and determine what she really loved. "Luckily, I found out I really loved kids," she said.

Using this as her guide and with the help of her mother, Black took the first steps toward becoming a teacher. She came to Pine View four years into her



PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

teaching career. "As soon as a French position opened, I came and never left," Black said.

By this time, Black had returned to school to receive her Master's degree in French language from the University of Florida.

When Black started working at Pine View, French teacher Judy Stratton led the French department. "She set the bar for us," Black said. "She built the department."

During Stratton's time at Pine View, the world languages department started the Pine View Fair, and consequently, the French café. "That was something that all of us really worked hard on," Black said.

After Stratton left Pine View, Black

continued her legacy. Black helped plan Congrès, a statewide competition for French students, for 22 years. "Congrès was really a wonderful experience for the students," French teacher Lucie Karr said.

Black and the other French teachers also helped plan the annual selling of roses during the Valentine's Day season, organize the French Honor Society and arrange trips abroad. In 2004 and 2009, Black took groups of students to France to debate in both French and English. Black said, "When you do these kinds of activities, you become so close."

Black also hosted many French exchange students, including once bringing over 22 French students for 10 days. More recently, Black worked closely with Sarasota's sister city, Perpignan, France, and the organization Alliance Française, to bring over French exchange students.

About eight years ago, Black brought French folk singer Eric Vincent to Pine View, a now common name for any student learning French. She learned about the performer through a colleague at Alliance Française. After receiving feedback from students, Black decided to continue to invite Vincent as a treat for the French students. Eleventh-grader Vivian Sokmensuer, who met Black five years ago, said, "The best thing she has brought to Pine View is her good nature, and of course, the leather pants of Eric Vincent."

In her 30 years of teaching, Black has received many accolades. She has a National Board Certification for teaching in world language, and this past year, she received the Pine View Teacher of the Year award. Congressman Vern Buchanan also recognized Black with the Congressional Teacher Award for Florida's 16th

Congressional District.

World languages department chair Christopher Lenerz said, "What I believe is the key to Judy's success is that she doesn't just talk the talk, she walks the walk. Students want to do well for her because they see how hard she works for them, and teachers follow her lead because she leads by example."

"[Black] has always been a wonderful friend, always fair, always generous," Karr said. "She has helped so many teachers to start at Pine View, including me. I'm here because of her."

Of all of Black's accomplishments, the most meaningful one to her is the memorial garden she made in honor of a former French teacher and close friend, Irene Barylski. "It's my proudest achievement," Black said.

She worked on creating the garden with her husband, former science teacher, Spike Black, whom she met while working at Pine View.

With Karr retiring next year, there will be mainly newer teachers in the French department. Both Karr and Black agree that this will allow for new traditions and new opportunities. "I'm excited for the future of Pine View as we welcome the next generation of young French teachers to continue the tradition of our strong French program," Black said.

Black hopes to travel more, perhaps visit France again in the coming years and spend more time with her family. "I'm absolutely open to the possibilities that present themselves ... I want to see what comes next. I'm not done yet," Black said.

"I don't even think of a legacy," Black said. "I just want people to say, 'She was a good French teacher.'"

Transitioning



PHOTO BY HALEIGH BROWN

Cara Crowley

by Alexa Mollod
Asst. Match Editor

As the school year comes to an end, the Pine View community will be cherishing its last few school days with second-grade teacher Cara Crowley, as she says goodbye to her many years as a Pine View teacher.

Crowley taught at Pine View for the past 24 years. Before this, she interned at the school during her college years. "I grew up here," she said. "I am fully invested — I started my life here."

Upon receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from University of South Florida, Crowley moved on to receive her Master's Degree in Curriculum at National Louis University. Throughout her many years as a teacher, the most rewarding experience for Crowley was watching her students grow up. From second-graders to twelfth-graders,

Crowley has enjoyed seeing each generation of students flourish. "I can't even put anything into words," she said. "This school — it's the best place on Earth."

Crowley will be resigning from Pine View for personal reasons, but plans to continue her teaching career, preferably at a gifted elementary school. "I am heartbroken to say goodbye, yet I am also so excited to start a new journey," she said.

Crowley is fully aware of and thankful for the impact that her students have had on her throughout the years. "Just being here has given me so much. I know how to be nurturing to the needs of gifted kids, and I know how to give kids the voices they need to be heard," she said.

However, Crowley says her main wish is to know that she has had an impact on her students as well. "Since the beginning, all I have ever wanted was to be a caring person to my second-graders. I have always just wanted them to feel loved and cared for," she said.

This love and care is exactly what she has given to her students. Second-grader Lauren Vanosdol, student of Crowley's, said, "I'm sad because she's a really good teacher, and I'll miss her."

Crowley has impacted not only her students, but the school as a whole. She has been an integral part in the selling of Quacks for a Cause ducks for the past two school years, which raises money for Cystic Fibrosis. Crowley does not yet know who will be taking over the project after her departure, but she does know that she will definitely make an effort to implement this project at whichever school she will move to.

Saying goodbye will be difficult and emotional, especially for Crowley herself. "I am absolutely a mess. This has been very tough, yet I know good things will come," she said. This is not a goodbye, but a simple "until next time."

"I bleed blue and gold. This school has completely filled me up," Crowley said. "I have nothing but love."

Deni Ors

by Nathalie Bencie
Match Layout Artist

After teaching for 14 years, 11 of them working in the Pine View science department, chemistry teacher Dr. Deni Ors has officially decided to part ways with the school. During her experience as a Pine View teacher, Ors has taught AP Chemistry and Chemistry I Honors and has had a profound impact on every chemistry student who has passed through her classroom.

As well as teaching on campus, Ors has been working part-time as a chemistry profes-

sor at the State College of Florida (SCF) in Bradenton during her spare time. Instead of retiring, Ors has made the decision to work full time at SCF as a chemistry professor.

Although she will miss her students from Pine View, Ors is excited at the opportunity to experience what it is like teaching college-level classes full-time. "It's bittersweet leaving. I'm looking forward to it but it's hard to leave some kids I have in honors now that I know I would have in AP if I stayed," Ors said.

As of now, chemistry teacher Dr. Jay Skipper will be taking her position as an AP Chemistry teacher. Skipper currently teaches Chemistry I Honors, AP Physics C and Organic Chemistry. "I'm looking forward to

teaching AP Chemistry next year, but I am disappointed to see Dr. Ors leave Pine View," Skipper said. "She was not only a great teacher, but a great friend."

"Dr. Ors was one of those teachers at Pine View who really had an impact on my education and time at Pine View," eleventh-grader Luke Ourednik said. "Without her, I would never have enjoyed the sciences in the way I do now and been as keen to inquire as I have learned to do in her classroom. My friends and classmates who had her are lucky to have had the privilege to learn from her as well."

Please see PVTorch.com for the full story



PHOTO BY HALEIGH BROWN



PHOTO BY SANA RAHMAN

Faith McClellan

by Anjali Sharma
Match Editor-in-Chief

Math teacher Faith McClellan has worked as a teacher for 27 years, seven at Pine View. Over the span of her teaching career at the school, McClellan has taught Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry Honors, AP Statistics, Calculus Honors and Precalculus Honors.

McClellan's teaching career at Pine View started without her control, but she says it was serendipitous. "Eight years ago I was in my first year of teaching at Riverview High School when the county notified me that I would be teaching at Pine View," she said. "I was surplus, but I feel very fortunate to have been transferred from Riverview to Pine View."

McClellan made her official decision to leave April 16. Due to her husband's job relocation, the couple will be moving to Jack-

sonville this summer. "We were anticipating that the move would happen, but it is sad nonetheless," she said.

She started her teaching career in Tallahassee at her alma mater, Lincoln High School, after graduating from Florida State University. She plans to continue teaching in Jacksonville until she and her husband retire to Tallahassee where her husband is from.

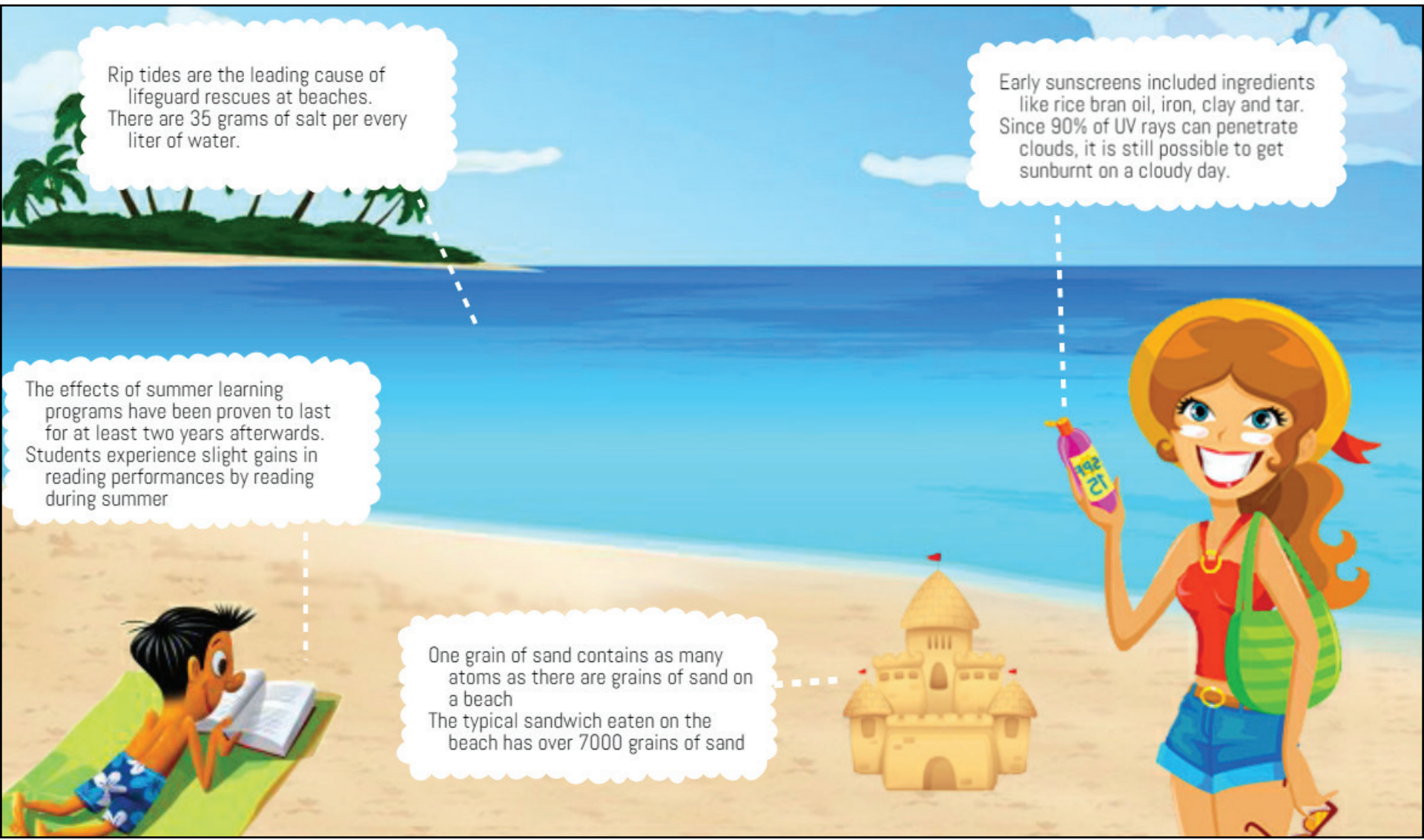
McClellan credits her colleagues for helping her transition to Pine View. "The math department has been part of my personal and professional growth here. Specifically, I will miss Ms. [Mary Jane] Gorman, who started her own career with me seven years ago. We've become good friends over the years and work well together," she said.

One of her favorite memories of teaching at Pine View is the spirit her students have shown. "I've enjoyed having class officers in my class leading the sophomores as whole. When I had seniors for two years I

enjoyed the senior dress up days every Friday," she said

For McClellan, Pine View students have made her teaching experience hard to part with. "While I will miss a lot of things at Pine View, I know I will miss the students for sure. My favorite part about Pine View is watching the amazing dedication from students," she said. "Out of all the students from other schools I've taught at, Pine View students have been the only ones to thank me on a daily basis. I love that my students feel comfortable enough to make me feel appreciated."

While her departure will be bittersweet, McClellan is looking forward to a fresh start. "I would prefer to teach Algebra II at the next school I teach at because the transition would be easier for me, but I am open to teaching any high school math course. I look forward to meeting new people and applying my experience to a new school," she said.



Rip tides are the leading cause of lifeguard rescues at beaches. There are 35 grams of salt per every liter of water.

Early sunscreens included ingredients like rice bran oil, iron, clay and tar. Since 90% of UV rays can penetrate clouds, it is still possible to get sunburnt on a cloudy day.

The effects of summer learning programs have been proven to last for at least two years afterwards. Students experience slight gains in reading performances by reading during summer.

One grain of sand contains as many atoms as there are grains of sand on a beach. The typical sandwich eaten on the beach has over 7000 grains of sand.

INFORMATION FROM COPPERTONE.COM
GRAPHIC BY KATIE GREEN

[a spread]

Science of Summer

by Zach Bright

Webmaster

With summer quickly approaching, students tend to enjoy the various seasonal benefits. However, many are not aware of the facts. Learn about the science behind summer to get ready for break.

Sunscreen

Sunscreen is largely made up of water mixed with organic chemical compounds that absorb ultraviolet (UV) light as well as inorganic particles like titanium dioxide, which scatter UV light. This mixture protects skin from two types of ultraviolet radiation: UVA and UVB rays. UVA rays are the more harmful of the two, and they account for around 90 percent of wrinkles. Applying sunscreen daily can slow the development of wrinkles,

according to a 2013 study. UVB rays have shorter wavelengths, which means they have less energy, making them not as damaging as UVA rays. They are the main cause of sunburns and tans. These types of radiation can damage skin, age it prematurely and potentially lead to skin cancer.

There are two major types of sunscreen: chemical and physical. Chemical sunscreens absorb UV rays while physical sunscreens reflect the radiation. Physical sunscreens are made of less chemicals than their coun-

terpart, but tend to leave a white streak and feel heavier when applied.

Sun protection factor (SPF), a gauge of the strength of sunscreen, is a measure of the amount of UVB rays a certain sunscreen protects the skin from. However, according to Everyday Health, a sunscreen with an SPF above 30 is not much different from one with a lower SPF. For example, a bottle labeled at SPF 15 protects against 93 percent of UVB rays, while a bottle of SPF 70 protects against 98 percent of UVB rays.

Sea

The sea makes up around 70 percent of the surface of the planet and is where 94 percent of life on Earth resides. It is also home to a variety of currents, tides, and waves. There are two major types of currents: surface and thermohaline. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, surface currents are a result of wind currents and make up around 10 percent of the

world's currents. Thermohaline currents, better known as deep water currents, are much slower than surface currents. They are a result of density differences due to differences in the salinity of water as well as variations in temperature. Cold, saltier waters sink, while warmer waters surface.

An especially interesting current is the rip current, known better as a rip tide. Rip tides are technically not tides, but actually are a type of surface current often found

near beaches that flow away from land and toward the sea. Rip tides form from breaking waves which are pushed up to the beach. These waves flow together and then flow perpendicular to the beach in a tight, rapid current. This can be dangerous to swimmers on the beach, who may get caught in a rip tide and subsequently sent far out into the sea. The best thing to do if stuck in a rip tide is to swim parallel to the shore to escape the current.

Sand

It can be found at the beach and in your car, for several weeks following a beach trip. Despite this, many people do not know much about sand. It is made up of fine particles of rock, most of which is either quartz or calcium carbonate from the nearly one-billion-year-old remains of shellfish and coral. The typical sand grain has a diameter of 0.0625 millimeters, making it smaller than gravel but larger than silt.

Sand is the most used raw material in the construction of sandcastles. According to Live Science, to make a sandcastle that holds together well, the ideal ratio is eight parts sand to one part water. This will create the right amount of surface tension so the sand will retain its shape better.

Sand does not only make an appearance at the beach, but also in other aspects of everyday life. It is used in construction materials such as concrete, glass, and bricks, as well as in high-tech devices like computer chips and solar panels.

sizzling facts

- August sees more days over 90 degrees than any other month in South Florida.
- The temperature in Florida has only climbed to 100 degrees seven times since 1900.

INFORMATION FROM SUN SENTINEL

School

Over the summer, students tend to forget about school. Unfortunately, nearly every student loses a significant amount of knowledge that they accumulated over their previous year at school. According to the National Summer Learning Association, research taken over the course of 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the

beginning of the summer.

Summer loss of knowledge is estimated to be the equivalent of a month of schooling for all students. More specifically, the average student normally loses over two months of math skills learned and loses around one month's learning of reading comprehension.

To keep sharp over the summer, students can use resources such as Khan Academy and EDX to refresh topics they have studied previously or learn about a plethora of topics not covered at school.

Device introduces easy wireless charging

by Zayda Fredericks

Asst. Sports Editor

The "Low Battery 20 percent remaining" notification can be terrifying to receive when out and about. The search for a charger becomes increasingly urgent as the 10 percent reminder rolls around. To help solve this problem, Powermat has partnered with multiple companies and organizations including Starbucks and Florida State University to provide wireless chargers within reach.

With their product already in 1400 locations across the globe, Powermat is quickly becoming a powerhouse in the world of wireless charging. While there are currently no locations within Sarasota, Powermat can be found in many major cities and is available for personal use.

The device features a circular ring-like structure with a charger attached which comes in many different colors. Various cables are supported by Powermat, including the Lightning Connector for iPhone 5 and above, the charging port for the iPhone 4 and younger and the micro-USB port used by Android, BlackBerry and Windows phones. The ring is then placed on a Powermat Mobile Engagement Platform,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY POWERMAT.COM

which is a built-in circular device, to start charging.

The device is accompanied by an app available for both Android and iPhone. The Powermat app is the key to ensuring the wireless ring gives the most favorable results. The app allows users to locate nearby Powermat locations, set up their personal Powermats and is the final step to charging with Powermat. The easy-to-use application links the charger with the phone and charging location with the touch of a button.

The device is available for purchase at select locations or from Powermat's website for \$9.99 or \$11.99, depending on which connector it has.

Rating:
4.5/5 Torches



Trio discusses stem cell research at Pine View symposium

by Adil Sageer

Asst. Humor Editor

From the University of Miami to the University of South Florida to an independent private practice, a venerable trio with thorough backgrounds in stem cell research made an appearance at Pine View April 20 thanks to Pine View's Student Society for Stem Cell Research (SSSCR).

Darcy DiFede, Director of Research at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Frederick Locke, lead researcher at Moffitt Cancer Center, and William Cole, owner of an ortho-medical pain relief private practice gave a presentation to an audience of roughly 250 parents, students and faculty.

Stem cells are cells with the potential to develop into many different cell types and can divide essentially without limit. Due to their regenerative properties, they offer the potential for new treatments to diseases such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

DiFede switched to the field after an initial career in urology, which focuses on surgical and medical diseases of the urinary tract and male reproductive organs. Getting to know her cancer patients gave her the opportunity to see how helpless millions of people around the world were at the hands of cancer. She decided to dedicate her time to



Greg Raclaw, a patient of Frederick Locke, delivers a firsthand experience of being treated with stem cells. Three speakers spoke in Pine View's auditorium April 20. PHOTO BY ADIL SAGEER

stem cell research, as she saw it as a path to a cure. "A new cutting-edge therapy, organic biological [development], has the ability to tap into every single disease therapeutically and [cure the disease]," DiFede said.

Locke has a different backstory that influenced his decision to engage in stem cell research. After going to Wayne State University in Detroit for medical school, his plan was to become an oncologist. However, since contemporary medicine has no complete way to cure cancer, he allocated time for stem cell research in order to find a cure. He sees stem cell research as an extension of his career in oncology.

Cole runs his own private practice and believes profusely in the

power of stem cell research, referring to it as "the holy grail of medicine."

The presentation was primarily on the importance of stem cell research. The presenters outlined its benefits in an effort to encourage students to consider pursuing a career in the field. "My advice to somebody in high school who's interested in science and medicine is to heavily invest in undergraduate science and engage in research," Locke said.

Although stem cell research is not currently at the center of attention, the rate at which improvements are being made is monumental. One thing is clear more than anything — the future of stem cell research is bright.



[a student spotlight spread]

The pursuit of life, liberty and music

Students study music in C(ollege) majors

by Mira Chauhan
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

As the class of 2016 graduates, each twelfth-grader will be leaving Pine View to both find and follow their dreams for their futures. It is quite common for students to graduate and be undecided as to what they want to do, but three seniors in particular have already laid the groundwork for this by pursuing both their academic and musical passions. Twelfth-graders Blake Bennett, Jeffrey Thompson and Meg van Deventer will all be taking part in music programs in the fall to enhance their talents on a higher level of learning.

Blake Bennett

Florida State U.

Some gifts have material value, others sentimental value, but then there are gifts with potential – the potential to inspire, to make a change. For twelfth-grader Blake Bennett, this gift was his first trumpet, given to him by his grandparents when he was in fourth grade. Now, eight years later, this gift's potential has given way to results: in the fall, Bennett will be attending Florida State University (FSU) to major in Jazz Performance at the College of Music.

Bennett started taking private trumpet lessons shortly after receiving the instrument. In sixth grade, Bennett joined Pine View's high school band group, Wind Ensemble.

"My family kept me motivated to keep playing because they felt it was important to learn," Bennett said.

During his time in band, Bennett tried every brass instrument. From eighth to tenth grade, Bennett played both French horn and trumpet. However, in tenth grade he decided



Twelfth-grader Blake Bennett performs a piece at the Glenridge Performing Arts Center. Bennett will be majoring in Jazz Performance at Florida State University.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BLAKE BENNETT

to dedicate himself only to trumpet. "Having to transition each day [between French horn and the trumpet] was holding me back from both," Bennett said. According to Bennett, playing trumpet was also an activity in which he took pride. "I find a lot of satisfaction in improving,"

Bennett said. "The more I improve, the better I feel about it."

At the end of junior year, Bennett started to consider applying to music programs in conjunction with an academic major or minor. "It was a gradual decision," Bennett said. "[Music] was a very scary thing to go into." In the end, Bennett applied to 10 schools. Including applications for music programs, Bennett had to complete about 20 applications.

Bennett's audition process began at the end of January, continuing until March. His first audition was at the University of Florida, where he said he felt relatively comfortable despite having injured his lip in a basketball game the day before the audition.

His most positive audition experience, however, was at FSU. The day before his audition, Bennett went to the music school to introduce himself to the professors. There he met Scotty Barnhart, a professor of Jazz Trumpet at FSU. He asked Bennett to play some pieces

and even accompanied Bennett on the piano. Afterward, Barnhart gave Bennett some advice for his audition the next day. "I felt a more personal connection with him reaching out to me than I felt at any other school," Bennett said.

Bennett's positive experience coupled with the music scholarships he received led him to commit to FSU. Although he is currently majoring in Jazz Performance, Bennett is considering transferring to Music Education with a focus in jazz his sophomore year. Bennett said, "I just hope to improve as much as I can. I definitely want to take advantage of the opportunities I have."

Although Bennett has not yet decided where he would like to take his career, he hopes to continue playing trumpet, if not professionally, as a hobby. "I just think it's fun. That's the main intrinsic motivation for it... I like to keep it as something that doesn't feel like a job or a grueling task, but something that's enjoyable," Bennett said. "Because that's what it's supposed to be — entertainment."

"The more I improve, the better I feel about it."

Blake Bennett, grade 12



Jeffrey Thompson

U. of Florida

Twelfth-grader Jeffrey Thompson plays the saxophone for his talent portion for Mr. Pine View. Thompson will be majoring in Saxophone Performance and Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

Traditionally, the prevailing thought is that people who love math use more of the left side of their brain, and those who excel in the arts and humanities are more right-brained. Twelfth-grader Jeffrey Thompson has decided to utilize both sides of his brain, pursuing a double major in Saxophone Performance in combination with Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida (UF).

Thompson began playing the saxophone in the summer after sixth grade, knowing that he wanted to join the Pine View band program. He took private lessons, which he described as "good, constructive experience" that further motivated him to continue playing. "I liked the versatility," Thompson

said. Throughout his years playing, Thompson has tried several types of saxophones including the alto and baritone saxophones. "It's a whole-body catharsis," Thompson said.

When Thompson began applying to colleges, he had no intention of pursuing music at a higher level. "I wanted to do straight engineering," he said. However, he changed his mind in January during the All-State competition. It was Thompson's second time going to All-State, his first time being in tenth grade.

As a senior, Thompson had the opportunity to visit the college fair and speak to representatives from music schools. There he spoke to somebody from UF. "I learned I could get money for applying for

a music double major," Thompson said.

Having found out that he could do this, Thompson felt motivated to audition for UF's School of Music, which took place just two weeks after the All-State competition.

The audition required Thompson to perform two pieces – one contemporary and one baroque – as well as take a music theory exam and have scales prepared. "After the whole audition experience, I realized I wanted to do music at a higher level to stay happy," Thompson said. He also added that he especially liked the saxophone professor, Dr. Jonathan Helton.

Thompson also added that had he decided not to pursue music, "it wouldn't have been the same. It

would have been a halt in my progress at UF."

Thompson is still undecided on a focus within the music major. "I kind of want to keep doing it and see where it goes," he said. One of the fields Thompson is particularly interested in is acoustic engineering.

Regardless of his career choice, Thompson said he knows that music will be an important part of his life. This past summer, Thompson spent time at an improv camp for part of the day and accompanied the Sarasota Orchestra's jazz camp for the other part. For Thompson, the experience reaffirmed his love for music.

"That's my favorite thing – doing music all the time," Thompson said.

"I want to keep doing it and see where it goes."

Jeffrey Thompson, grade 12

Meg van Deventer

Florida State U.

Three years ago, twelfth-grader Meg van Deventer made a decision that would change the course of her high school and life career: to dedicate herself to pursuing music on a professional level. Since then, van Deventer has committed to Florida State University's (FSU) College of Music to study Piano Performance.

Van Deventer began playing the violin at the age of 4, but after realizing she did not enjoy the instrument, she switched to the piano. "I really wanted to play an instrument," van Deventer said.

It was not until three years ago, after receiving first place at the Young Arts Concerto Competition, that van Deventer decided to study music. The competition, which is held by Sarasota Orchestra, challenges students to achieve excellence in the instrument they play. According to van Deventer, "[It was] the hardest thing I've ever worked on."

She said it was the challenge that music posed that inspired her to decide to pursue music professionally.

"Even with a really hard subject, you have to work at it, but it's not the same level of practice and mental stamina as with piano," van Deventer explained.

Following the competition, van Deventer began performing semi-professionally, working at paid and non-paid events such as a Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraiser and church services.

This past summer, van Deventer spent two weeks at a summer music intensive at New York University. For van Deventer this reaffirmed her commitment to pursuing music at a higher level. "It changed



Twelfth-grader Meg van Deventer performs a piece at the Sarasota Orchestra donors' brunch on Boca Grande. Van Deventer will be studying Piano Performance at Florida State University. PHOTO PROVIDED BY MEG VAN DEVENTER

the way I looked at music schools," van Deventer said. Starting in fall, the process of applying began. Van Deventer applied to six schools in total, including New York University, Furman University and FSU.

For some music schools, van Deventer needed to send a pre-screening video of her playing piano. However, for most schools, van Deventer went to do an audition. Describing her first audition at Furman, van Deventer said, "It was a perfect first audition experience." After the audition, van Deventer said the music professor gave her advice on her piece.

Van Deventer said, "The longer you go through the process, the more you figure out if it's going to be for you."

After considering both Furman

and FSU as very viable options, van Deventer finally chose FSU. In general, van Deventer said she wanted to attend a school that would challenge her. "I don't like being the best one... I want a mentor," van Deventer said. "It's a very well-known, good music school," van Deventer said. "It has a lot of opportunities for musicians."

Although van Deventer is unsure of what career path she would like to take with music, she said her primary objective is to play music that makes an impact. "With music, you never know if it's going to really touch somebody," van Deventer said. Using advice once given to her by her teacher, she added, "You just need to not get in the music's way because it probably means a lot to someone... I just want my love and appreciation to shine through."

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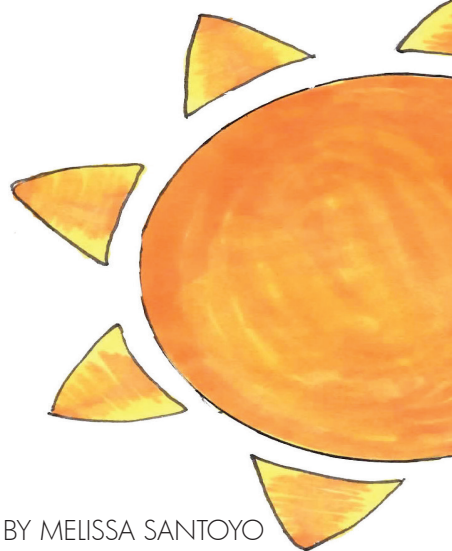
[a spread]

Ways to stay cool this summer

by **Nathalie Bencie**

Match Layout Artist

As the 2015-2016 school year comes to a close, many find themselves scrambling to fill their calendars with summer plans. However, some may be unsure of how to spend a "staycation" in Sarasota. The Torch has compiled an assortment of popular activities for all students who plan to enjoy their summers at home.



GRAPHICS BY MELISSA SANTOYO

Binge watch shows and movies

After a long, stressful school year, there is no better way to relax other than to watch your favorite movies and television shows one after the other, a pastime commonly referred to as "binge-watching." Binge-watching is often carried out via a variety of different programs that allow viewers to browse through a selection of over hundreds of different movies and shows, Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime to name a few. Prices for these programs can be up

to \$8.25 per month. It is simple: just grab a blanket and some snacks and set up your binge-watching station on your bed or couch, depending on whether you watch on your laptop or television. Below is a list of shows and movies you will want to consider when looking to find ideal entertainment for the big screen (or little screen):

*included are the programs which the movie/show can be watched on and their genres

Movies to watch

| Title | Streaming Service | Genre |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Stardust | Netflix | Romance/Action |
| The Maze Runner | Amazon Prime | Action |
| The Artist is Present | Netflix | Documentary |
| 17 Again | Amazon Prime | Rom-Com |
| Ashby | Netflix | Comedy |
| Short Term 12 | Netflix | Drama |

Shows to watch

| Title | Streaming Service | Genre |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Avatar: The Last Airbender | Amazon Prime | Action |
| Daredevil | Netflix | Action |
| The Walking Dead | Hulu | Action, Drama |
| Adventure Time | Hulu | Comedy |
| Catfish | Hulu | Reality, Comedy |
| The Mindy Project | Hulu | Comedy |
| Hemlock Grove | Netflix | Drama |
| Teen Wolf | Amazon Prime | Drama |
| The Americans | Amazon Prime | Drama |
| Luther | Netflix | Drama, Crime |
| Star Trek: Next Generation | Netflix | Sci-Fi |
| Under the Dome | Amazon Prime | Sci-Fi |

Volunteer locally

Bright Futures requires that all Florida students participate in at least 100 hours of community service before graduating high school, regardless of what college they would like to attend in the future. While spending time in Sarasota County for the summer, you can keep yourself busy by volunteering at one of many local, non-profit organizations. Not only will you be able to complete your service hours, but you will also be given the opportunity to discover new fields that you could possibly major in or work with during college

and adulthood. Some likely places to volunteer include, but are not limited to: animal shelters, doctor's offices, hospitals and retirement homes. Specific locations that offer student volunteers include The Humane Society of Sarasota County, Sunrise Senior Living, Selby Gardens, Historic Spanish Point, Plymouth Harbor and Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Be sure to apply for volunteering during the school year and before summertime, that way you are able to begin volunteering as early as you would like.

Explore local culture

Ringling Museum

For those on a low budget or trying to save up for that new bike, the Ringling Museum provides guests with free admission every Monday. The Ringling offers a wide selection of exhibits to see, particularly for those who enjoy a large selection of art and history pieces. Some galleries of paintings and collections offered include the Museum of Art, Ca'd'Zan Collection and the Circus Museum. Not only does The Ringling offer years worth of history, but also showcas-

es a beautiful, prestigious Bay Front garden with many types of flowers that overlooks the waterfront property.

For students from ages 5 to 17, the cost for entry is \$5 everyday except for Monday. For students 18+, the entry fee is \$5 with a student ID. Otherwise, the regular entry fee for an adult is \$25.

5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34243

Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Jungle Gardens

Take a walk on the wild side by visiting Sarasota's one of a kind attractions: Jungle Gardens. This destination is ideal for a summer day with the family. Whether you enjoy feeding the flamingos, experiencing flora and fauna of Florida, or even just strolling around the park, Sarasota Jungle Gardens has a little

something for everyone. Admissions for adults is \$17.99 and \$12.99 for those age 16 and under accompanied by an adult.

3701 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34234

Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

The Van Wezel offers a variety of performing arts, including musicals, opera shows, orchestra concerts and other inviting performances. Although ticket costs can be pricey and range depending on the show you decide to watch, the Van Wezel experience is truly one you will not forget. With classic performances being given, along with spectacular artists and actors, there is nothing

more exciting than sitting in the audience as the lights dim and the show begins. Prices can range from being completely free to over \$200 for the best seat in the performance hall. Be sure to purchase your tickets in advance for more seating options.

777 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Upcoming Van Wezel shows

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| KoKo Ray & The Keepers | June 10 |
| Friday Fest 2016 | June 10-Sept.23 |
| Maks & Val | June 16 |
| Jah Movement | July 29 |
| Rebelheart | Aug. 26 |

Read a new book

To some, reading feels like work, but others consider it a relaxing pastime. Take the time to find a book that suits the mood you're in, then decide on a comfortable place for you to lay down and read. Try to avoid loud places to avoid distract-

tion. Reading not only benefits your brain with necessary mental exercise, but also allows for a healthier imagination and enhanced creativity. Sarasota County has nine libraries and signing up for a library card is easy and free.

Books to read

- Tuck Everlasting (1975)
by Natalie Babbitt
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in Night-Time (2003)
by Mark Haddon
- Looking for Alaska (2005)
by John Green
- Cutting for Stone (2009)
by Abraham Verghese
- All the Light We Cannot See (2014)
by Anthony Doerr
- Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (July 2016)
by J.K. Rowling
- The 5th Wave Trilogy (2013-present)
by Rick Yancey



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[a review]
Where Casablanca meets Cannes

Restaurant offers French and Moroccan fusion cuisine

by **William Khabbaz**
 Asst. Entertainment Editor

Inspired by French and Moroccan cuisine, Christophe and Geraldine Coutelle opened Lolita Tartine in the Rosemary District. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner in a classy and fun atmosphere.

Lolita Tartine welcomed customers in the fall of 2013 in downtown Sarasota, at a location that formerly housed the Olive Oil Company and art galleries. The very open and spacious layout makes for a calming atmosphere, while the concrete tables with red accents give the establishment an industrial and modern vibe. With two floors of dining tables and an outdoor setting, Lolita Tartine provides guests with a wide variety of seating for eating.

The breakfast options at Lolita Tartine include a wide variety of pastries, savory and sweet crepes and egg-centralized dishes. For those with a sweet tooth, Lolita Tartine serves flaky pastries such as chocolate croissants and apple turnovers, as well as more substantial options like their Belgian waffles with fresh fruit and fluffy whipped cream, and the decadent French toast. For a little more pro-

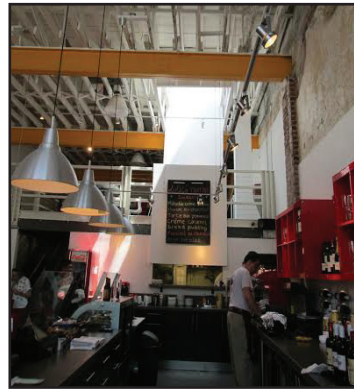
tein, eggs with ham are offered and served with fried potatoes and fresh fruit. The crepe can be served savory or sweet, with choices like smoked salmon and Nutella. The Nutella crepe is a fluffy thin pancake that is filled with warm Nutella and served with a cold side of ice cream.

For lunch, customers pay a visit to Lolita Tartine specifically for their tartines, which are traditional French open-faced sandwiches. The menu offers diverse renditions of tartines with unique combinations of meats, vegetables and spreads. For those looking for a simple and classic version, there are combinations like the "Picasso" with mozzarella, tomato, pesto and prosciutto, and the "Renoir" with avocado, shrimp, arugula, tomato and tzatziki.

A good dessert at the end of a meal can truly make or break the overall experience, and at Lolita Tartine, the dessert exceeds expectations.

For guests wishing to stray from their comfort zones and opt for one of the more abstract medleys of flavors, the "Matisse" with curry chicken, pineapple, sour cream and tomato, and the "Delacroix" with pear, blue cheese, mesclun salad, cream cheese and raisins are perfect choices.

The paninis and salads are just as tasty. Many of the tartine combi-



Lolita Tartine, located in the Rosemary District in downtown Sarasota, serves a fusion of authentic French and Moroccan cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cafe's menu provides endless options of omelettes, pastries, paninis and more. PHOTOS BY JORDAN GLOVER

nations are also served as paninis on brioche bread. Lolita Tartine offers salads like the "Perigourdine" with smoked duck breast, tiny croutons, walnuts, tomato and onion marmalade, and the "Piemontaise" with four cheeses (brie, comte, blue and goat cheese), mixed greens, walnuts and raisins.

The dinner menu is the only menu that changes on a nightly basis, depending on what is in season and what is available. Lolita Tartine features appetizers such as tuna tartar and a beet and goat cheese napoleon, and plates to share such as tomato and mozzarella and traditional d'escargots (snails). They also offer dinner entrees like glazed salmon over rice, beef burgundy, and baked chicken breast. Dinner en-

trees are equally as unique as those for lunch and breakfast, with a lamb tajine served with prunes, apricots and couscous, and the baked salmon on filet. The glazed salmon comes atop a bed of creamy rice, and the savory taste of the salmon complements the sweet touch of the cooked peaches on the side.

A good dessert at the end of a meal can truly make or break the overall experience, and fortunately at Lolita Tartine, the dessert exceeds expectations. Choosing from the endless options is overwhelming but none will disappoint. From pistachio creme brulee to warm chocolate fondant to bread pudding, Lolita Tartine has an indulgent treat for any taste.

Lolita Tartine is a classic fu-

sion of French and Moroccan flavors, with its own American touch. The restaurant offers a variety of foods that the whole family will enjoy. Bon appetit!

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Season Recap:

The Torch reviews sports results in Sarasota County school teams

Football

by Cate Alvaro
Asst. Web Editor

Football is a complex mix of agility and brute strength, and is enjoyed by many Pine View students. During the football season, there are 13 games for varsity, eight games for junior varsity and eight games for freshman. Varsity games are played Friday night.

Playing football requires speed, strength, and all around skill and courage to play the game. Players are asked to throw their bodies with reckless abandon while fighting for every yard.

Pine View students travel to Booker, Braden River, North Port, Riverview, Sarasota and Venice High Schools for the opportunity to play this sport. Sarasota's football team includes ninth-graders Javier Aramayo, Jacob Day and Jacob Lehrman. Tenth-grader Kobe Black plays football at North Port High School. Twelfth-grader Chris Mercandetti plays football at Riverview.

The football coach at North Port, Brian Hatler, said, "Pine View students, such as Kobe Black, have

done great jobs as stellar student athletes. They are able to maintain a high GPA while competing athletically at a high level."

Aramayo said, "Football is great physical exercise, which is very important. I used to watch it a lot as a kid and I enjoyed the sport very much, so I started playing and practicing and got really good."

No Pine View students play football at Booker or Venice. The Braden River football team won the districtwide competition.

Track & Field

by William Khabbaz
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Pine View students are sprinting, leaping and hurdling, alongside their district high schools' track teams. There are many events and races that players can compete in, including short-distance and long-distance events. Normal track events include running events and field events.

Track teams in Sarasota County practice every day and have meets either once a week or once every two weeks depending on the time of the season.

Twelfth-graders Anthony Neher, Kylee Chagnon and Olivia Campbell, tenth-grader Bailey Chagnon and ninth-grader Sena Szczepaniuk are on Venice High School's varsity track team. The ninth-graders on the junior varsity track team for Venice include Megan Jackson, Kanen Doyle, Sarah Harding and Camila Blasi. Tenth-grader Kevin Kapadia is on the varsity team for North Port High School. There are also two tenth-graders that run for Booker High School: Connor Wozniak and Dylan Hull.

"I started track at Venice because I've always been interested in running. One of my family friends is an olympic track coach and suggested to try it out," Harding said. "I started pole vaulting because it looked so cool from the ground. When I first saw my teammates vault, I thought, 'Wow. That's what I want to do.'"

Riverview High School's junior varsity team includes ninth-graders Grace Callaghan, Chloe Colburn and Gia Douglas. Ninth-graders Breanna O'Keefe and Ben Hartvigsen run on the junior varsity team for Sarasota High School. Tenth-grader Dylan Hull was on the Sarasota High varsity track team. Riverview won track and field.

Tennis

by Adil Sageer
Asst. Humor Editor

From volley to volley, many Pine View students spend time after school on the tennis court.

Several Pine View students from every grade participate and have a presence on most of the high school teams in the county.

Tenth-grader Ashley France played for North Port High School, as do eleventh-graders Robby Holmes, Lyndsey Starr and Phillip Tran, and twelfth-grader Anastasia

Kapitonava.

Tenth-grader Harris Merrill, eleventh-graders Tea Binder, Mason Whisnant, Eric McKinnon, Leo Wiesinger, Nick Radzanowski, Jared Friedman and twelfth-grader Alex Sosa all competed for Venice High School.

Tenth-graders Aditya Rao and Jacob Green, eleventh-graders Amelia Stern and Evvan Chmielewski, along with twelfth-graders Eric Scarlett, Reid Devitt and Sam Maxwell played for Sarasota High

School.

Tenth-grader Augie Spieske and eleventh-graders Eliza Quillen and Gabriel Von were members of the Riverview High School team.

"Tennis is amazing because it makes you play in a way that no sport even comes close to replicating," Von Kessel said.

The Riverview boys team won its district-wide competition and Lakewood Ranch High School's girls team won its district-wide competition.

Recruiting the best

Jessica Stich



Jessica Stich will be tumbling head over heels for the Ohio State Buckeyes next year as a gymnast.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JESSICA STICH

Victoria Cangero



Victoria Cangero will study at Florida Southern and play as a "Moc" on their golf team.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY VICTORIA CANGERO

Louisa Nordstrom



Louisa Nordstrom will sail for the Bulldogs this fall for Yale University.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM KHABBAZ

Soccer

by Cate Alvaro
Asst. Web Editor

Many Pine View students have taken up practicing and competing in soccer. On a soccer team, each of the 11 players has a role to play — whether it's on the defensive or offensive end of the field — and they're always in constant motion. During the soccer season there are 22 games, with three to five games per week.

The Venice team includes ninth-grader Ryan Jordan, eleventh-grader Evan Dietrich

and twelfth-graders Esther Clode and Christian Kuffer.

Ninth-graders Michael Forbes and Madison Galbraith, and eleventh-grader Giovanna Genta play for Riverview.

Twelfth-grader Chris Mercandetti plays soccer at Riverview.

Twelfth-graders Anna Tucker and Esther Clode, along with eleventh-grader Jake Welch, play soccer at Sarasota High School.

"My favorite part about soccer is being

able to have a sport in which I can stay healthy, spend time with friends and expend extra energy after stressful days at school," Dietrich said.

Venice soccer coach Peter Tomich said, "Pine View student athletes, from what I've recognized, have always been low maintenance. What I mean by that is they already have a strong sense of leadership; they focus well, communicate well and always show up to practice and events. Pine View athletes have always been leaders not followers."

Most Valuable Pythons:



Pitcher and eleventh-grader **Caleb Williams** helped continue the legacy of Venice High School's varsity baseball team with their fourth straight win in districts. Venice beat North Port High April 21 with a final score of 8-2.

With teamwork, Venice was able to have the upper hand in the game. Williams recalls his experience as a memorable one. "As a team, we just hit really well against [the] teams we faced," he said.

Williams and his team started training in the fall, practicing for four days a week for three months. After tryouts, they practiced six days a week to prepare for the intense challenges ahead in the season.

For him personally, one of Williams' best performances this season was when he threw six shutout innings against Fort Myers in the semifinal. A shutout inning is when a pitcher does not allow the opposing team to score a run.

Williams said, "Playing with my team was a lot of fun because we have a lot of team chemistry, and we have fun with each other."



After countless hours of practice with her team, twelfth-grader **Kelly Tignor** played a key role in securing Venice High School's varsity volleyball team a win in districts through her position as middle blocker in a game against Sarasota High School Oct. 22.

"Although districts isn't the most high stake tournament for Venice, as historically we win most of the time, there still is an atmosphere when we train that pushes my team and I to really try and make sure that we win districts," Tignor said.

Tignor practiced with her team five days a week for three hours a day to prepare. "My coach made sure to both make sure we did drills to prepare and also make sure that we were mentally prepared," Tignor said.

The district championship ended with a 3-1 victory for the team. "We all came together as a team and this helped us to win regionals and eventually get third in the state this year," Tignor said.

Tignor's coach said in their end of year banquet that Tignor had the best match of the season during districts as she made six kills.



After four years of hard work for Venice High School's swimming team, twelfth-grader **Matt Pelton's** efforts all paid off as he, as team captain, helped lead the school to victory Oct. 31 by winning the 200m Individual Medley and placing second in the 100m Butterfly.

Pelton swims for the YMCA Sharks swim team full-time, along with being a team captain of the Venice High School varsity swim team. Since Pelton swims nine times a week, 24-26 hours, for his club team, he did not practice with the Venice team frequently. "I would make sure to stay in touch with the team there, but a lot of the kids on the Venice team also swim for the Sharks so it was easy to communicate," Pelton said.

During his time on the Venice team, Pelton has broken three school records and was named the most valuable male swimmer at his yearly banquet.

Pelton will continue to swim competitively at the United States Air Force Academy. "Swimming is something I've stuck with because it isn't easy and it pushes me," Pelton said.

Swimming

by Adil Sageer
Asst. Humor Editor

From butterfly to breaststroke, Pine View students made waves at competitions this season. The success of one's swimming season is measured by the improvement made on reducing times in events from the beginning of the season to the end.

Pine View students involved in swimming at Riverview High School include twelfth-grader Amber Stich, eleventh-graders Tyler Carmichael and Keanan Dols, tenth-graders

Brendan Firlie, Brandon Lo, Lauren Yenari, Dominik Andrzejczyn and ninth-grader Zayda Fredericks.

Twelfth-graders Carla Motta and Matthew Pelton, eleventh-grader Grace Patrice and tenth-graders Chris Pelton, Daniel Bastawros and Jack Sylvester competed for Venice High School. Twelfth-grader Zach Blashinsky swam for North Port High School.

Ninth-graders Connor Shoemaker and Olivia Graham and twelfth-graders Tess Davis are mem-

bers of Sarasota High School's swim team.

Most students who are currently swimming have been doing so since their first year of high school. "Joining the swim team was one of the best decisions I have ever made as a high school student," Blashinsky said.

Sarasota County schools fall into more than one district, so the Venice teams (boys and girls) won their district and Riverview's teams (boys and girls) came out on top of their district.

Lacrosse

by Adil Sageer

Asst. Humor Editor

With its fast paced, adrenaline-filled action, lacrosse is an exciting new option for some district students, including some from Pine View.

The Pine View students who participated in the inaugural lacrosse season for Riverview High School are ninth-grader Zayda Fredericks, tenth-graders Lindsay Kaighin and Sophie Goodwin, eleventh-grader Ciara Dorsay, and twelfth-graders Chris Mercan-

detti and Joshua Cortman.

Fondly referred to by its players as "Lax," lacrosse is one of the newest sports to enjoy representation in the county. The 2015-2016 school year was the first time that lacrosse was offered at Riverview. In fact, Riverview is the only public school in the county to offer lacrosse.

"I'm so glad I have gotten involved with lacrosse and I have really grown to love the sport," Kaighin said. "Primarily being a basketball player, it was cool taking my skills

from that as well as the other sports I have played. I really enjoy its change in pace."

"Our experience, as a team, has been one of growth. While this was a building year for us, it is only just the beginning. I have extremely high expectations of this program in the future," said Coach Ashley McCleod of the Riverview lacrosse team.

The winner of the district tournament for the boys this year was Cardinal Mooney High School and for the girls the victors were Saint Stephen's Episcopal School.

Volleyball

by William Khabbaz

Asst. Entertainment Editor

High school volleyball has spiked in popularity, resulting in many Pine View students joining their district teams. Volleyball is a team sport, with six players on the court for each team. The main goal is to get the ball over the net in three or less hits to win the point. Techniques include spiking, serving and diving. Players serve as either one of the two outside hitters, the middle blocker, the setter and the libero.

The volleyball teams practice every day and have at least two games per week. Some of the teams attend competitions on weekends out of the county as well.

Eleventh-grader Margo Schnapf plays on the varsity team for Riverview High School. Riverview also offers a freshman volleyball team, which includes ninth-graders Gia Douglass and Sophia Martinez.

Ninth-graders Alex Hanan and Caitlin Buggeln were the only Pine View students to participate on Sarasota High School's volleyball team.

Twelfth-grader Kelly Tignor and eleventh-grader Rachel Meringer are on the varsity team for Venice High School. Tenth-grader Alexandra Bullinger and ninth-graders Tessa Bohn, Emily Rock, Paige Canevari, Nicole McKinnon and Sena Szczepaniuk play on the Venice junior varsity team. The Venice varsity volleyball team won the district championship, which is the 20th time since 1989 that they have won.

Venice Volleyball Coach Brian Wheatley said, "I absolutely love when Pine View students are in my program. I love it because many times they are very focused and determined to be successful on the court and I know that they will be disciplined to take care of their studies."

"I've been playing volleyball for my whole life so it has become a huge part of me," Rock said. "High school volleyball fuels my passion for playing."

Baseball

by Cate Alvaro

Web Assistant

Pine View students hit it home in this district's season of baseball.

Riverview High School's baseball team includes ninth-graders Andrew Galbraith and Fletcher Perrigo, and ninth-grader Colton Weitzel plays baseball at Sarasota High School. Eleventh-graders Tom Sweeney and Spencer Wiseman also play baseball at Riverview. Twelfth-grader Dominic LeFever competes for North Port High School.

"I first started baseball because I enjoyed watching it at a young age and my parents thought that I should give it a try," Perrigo said.

"Over the years, Riverview has been the benefactor

of having some great student athletes come from Pine View school and play baseball for us. We are very fortunate to have had these young men lead our program," Riverview baseball coach Chuck Antczak said. "Every player that we have had is a leader not only in the classroom and community but on the ball field as well. These young men continue to set the bar high for our baseball program. Doing what they do in the classroom carries over to the baseball diamond. They outwork everybody else."

The Venice baseball team won district championships. Both twelfth-grader Brent Killam and eleventh-grader Caleb Williams play baseball for the winning team.

by William Khabbaz

Asst. Entertainment Editor

From free-throws to three-pointers, Pine View students have been racking up points for their district basketball teams. Of the three major team sports in America, basketball players are arguably the best athletes as each of the five players on a team play both defense and offense and must be able to show great agility in both lateral and vertical movements.

The basketball teams practice five to six days a week, but on game days (which happen at least two days a week) they do not have practice. During the summer and fall, they usually attend camps and attend conditioning sessions, and play during open-gym times.

Riverview High School basketball coach Carl Williams said, "I can honestly say that we have been privileged to have the Pine View students as part of our girls basketball team at Riverview. All student athletes that came from Pine View have been

great additions. Players like these truly make coaching both enjoyable and meaningful, and I look forward to continued years of working with students from Pine View."

Twelfth-grader Blake Bennett plays on the varsity team for Venice alongside eleventh-grader Riley Hann and ninth-grader Alexa Hann.

Eleventh-grader Maurice Victor plays for varsity at Riverview. Tenth-graders Lindsay Kaighin, Lindsay Edwards, Sophie Goodwin and Natasha Abrams also play at Riverview, with ninth-grader Betina Mladenova. Both the boys and girls teams at Riverview won the 8A district.

Kaighin said, "I first began playing basketball in middle school here at Pine View. Through this team and after winning county [championship] for the fifth year in a row I really gained a passion for basketball and decided to continue on the high school level."

Basketball

Students lead district teams to championship level in points and skill



Teamwork, persistence and determination all helped tenth-grader **Lindsay Kaighin** and her Riverview High School Girls varsity basketball team to win the district championship. The game was Jan. 29 and Kaighin played as point guard in the game against Newsome High School.

Kaighin practiced for hours over the summer, with her teammates and on her own. "This game was so important to the team, we practiced five to six times a week to get this win," Kaighin said.

The championship was a nail biter as the final score was 43-37. "Halfway through the game our starting point guard fouled out so I had to step in and take over," Kaighin said. "It allowed me to take control of the situation and I was happy to help the team win."

Kaighin's contribution to the team earned her the award of Player of the Game for the district championship. "Last year we were runner-ups so this year it pushed me to try even harder, and we as a whole came together to make this win a possibility," Kaighin said.

Bradley Hill, twelfth-grade runner, acted as a key component to Sarasota High School's track team scoring a win on April 20 over various other schools. Hill performed well and helped his team by running in the 4 x 800 relay, the mile and the two mile.

Hill received a spot in districts as his coach picked four runners per event for the competition. "At districts, as Sarasota placed and did well we got points and from there the top four runners in each event got to go onto regionals," Hill said.

In preparation for districts, Hill practiced with his team everyday for two hours. "Some people think track isn't a team sport but it really is. When it comes to relays none of us can have a bad day. We all depend on one another," Hill said.

Although districts is not the most high stake competition for Hill, he still used his motivation to perform well to push him to do better. "I just like running and how it isn't very high stress. Having time to spend time with friends makes the experience all the better," Hill said.

Through a series of singles and doubles victories, eleventh-grader **Gabriel Von Kessel** helped Riverview High School's varsity tennis team win districts on March 30 over teams such as Sarasota High School and St. Petersburg High School.

Von Kessel landed a spot at districts as each team playing bring their top five players and play a series of matches, both singles and doubles. "Each win a team got transferred to points and the school with the most points won," Von Kessel said.

Riverview tennis does not train together as a team a lot, due to the sport being more of an individual sport, however on his own he would practice at least four times a week. "I would practice a lot on different strokes and how to improve them so come districts I'd be able to do well," Von Kessel said.

Although Von Kessel did lose the match he had during districts, he, alongside his team, continued onto regionals and then got second in the state. "The team environment pushed me to do my best," Von Kessel said.

First story by Annie Hassan (Asst. News Editor)

Remaining stories by Sana Rahman (Asst. Match Editor)

Recruiting the best

Andrew Le Roux



Andrew Le Roux will row for the Princeton Tigers starting this fall.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM KHABBAZ

Amber Stich



Amber Stich is diving into the New York University Violets next year on its swim team.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM KHABBAZ

Kylee Chagnon



Kylee Chagnon will be playing soccer competitively in the fall as a Carnegie Mellon Tartan.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM KHABBAZ

Behind the Scenes: How Humor is created



The ghosts of humor past, Aravind Byju, Jimmy Dean and Parker Mason, and the ghost of humor future, Allie Odishelidze, visit the current beloved editor, Samuel Winegar. GRAPHIC BY ALLIE ODISHELIDZE

From planners to print

by Samuel Winegar
Humor Editor

Greetings, readers. I have been a staff member of The Torch for four years now, and I have been asked many times about how we operate things. As Humor Editor, I can honestly say that I have no idea. However on the rare occasion when I look up from Twitter (follow me at @winnieg22, fam) to do some work, I get a vague idea of how things work in my section. Since it's the last issue, I figure it would be nice to pull back the curtain a little bit and show off how exactly we [don't] run things.

What one must understand first is that all of Humor's ideas are crowd-sourced. Using popular sites like GoFundMe and WeThePeople, our national audience compiles and votes on planners, or story ideas, for Humor stories. Usually planners with 100,000 votes or more are considered for writing in The Torch, with additional votes being given for every additional dollar donated to the Samuel Winegar Foundation For Senioritis. Upon receiving the requisite amount of votes, planners are nominated for the illustrious position of "Assigned Story" only after passing a confirmation hearing in the Senate and at least a

3/4 majority in the House of Representatives.

When all Assigned Story ideas are compiled, they are given out to staff members using a completely holistic, merit-based system that considers all the best aspects of interested writers (haha, just like college! Except we actually do it.) After worthy writers are chosen, the stories are individually assigned by a panel of five senior Torch members, myself included. And, like North Korea, every single voice is heard when making our final selections. Of course, some voices are silenced (also like North Korea) and I get the final say (shoutout to Kim Jong Un for being an amazing role model.)

With stories finally assigned, the individual writers set out to complete their respective tasks promptly. They are given free reign in writing their stories, provided of course that they submit their daily quota of poorly-constructed memes for my approval. Once the stories are written, I review them thoroughly to ensure they reflect the best work of those who endeavored to write them. Then, after rewriting each and every word of the story to better reflect my own views and ideas, I upgrade their status to "Published Story."

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Humor planners that almost made it

by Marinna Okawa
Editor-in-Chief

In four years as part of the Torch staff, a regular member will have submitted approximately 352 planners. These planners go through our editors' meetings, where we vet out which ones will make it to the print edition. Unfortunately, not all of these planners make it through this stage to the final publication — especially from our humor section. And so, for our final issue of the year we review some of the humor story planners that may have missed their shot of 15 minutes in the spotlight.

Fruit of the Month

A planner submitted by one of our very own twelfth-graders during her ninth-grade year, this one certainly takes the cake (or is it the fruit in this case?). While we certainly would have enjoyed sharing with you all the names of "funny-sounding" fruits, this was one that didn't quite ripen in time for our print issue.

Kids on Leashes

I don't think an explanation is needed as to why this didn't pass.

Healthy Snacks

A planner that began with "Hey what if they started serving carrots and broccoli instead of cookies and ice cream at the cafeteria? Wouldn't it be funny?" Too real. Too soon. Thanks, Michelle Obama.

Pumpkin Carvings that become increasingly dark

This idea began with none other than our journalism adviser, Christopher Lenerz. What began with "Hey so let's do a story on pumpkin carvings and they can be funny" ended with "And then there can be one carving and there's this guy all beheaded and whatnot and—" as well as a lot of horrified ninth-graders. Yes, I was one of those horrified ninth-graders. How I made it through the next four years, don't ask me.

Monster grows in children's garden by playground

There's nothing quite like a good humor planner for The Match, our elementary publication. This reporter admitted that the



The upcoming Torch staff commemorates the hard work of the senior class. Their hard work and awful planners have built humor into what it is today. PHOTO ART BY ALLIE ODISHELIDZE

planner was made on her way into the portable upon realizing planners were due that day, using what she passed by. And they say inspiration can come from anywhere. Just not from the children's garden by the playground perhaps.

A kid in elementary school

"It can be a story about a kid in elementary school who is so smart that he takes a bunch of AP classes. It could be like a diary entry type of story." Pretty sure this staff member was focused on finals season at the time. Again, too real. Too soon. Enjoy your childhood kids.

"Which construction zone are you?" Quiz

Personally, I would have liked to be the construction zone by the shell lot.

An Autobiography: Look how funny my life is!

In The Torch, we try to avoid having entire sections based upon the same two people repeatedly. Or columns that discuss how the loss of a certain staff member will lead to our ultimate destruction. Yet here we are.

No "ragrets" right?

New student presidents state plans

by Halle Belden
Web Editor

Next year's class officers have been elected and announced and with that, students are left wondering one thing — what will their presidents actually do next year?

Class of 2019 class president Sachit Gali announced his intentions to improve the lives of all of his classmates, and not just the popular group.

"The school has placed the majority of its focus on pleasing a select group of students, and that simply isn't fair," Gali said. "I plan on making this school a safe and happy place for all of us, even for the 99 percent who don't loiter in the entrance of the locker pod."

Gali also hopes to ensure that anonymous donations can no longer be used as a means for people to try to advocate their individual agendas. "Untraceable funds have absolutely no role in school administration," Gali said. "It's going to be an administrative revolution."

Gali's overall vision is to make Pine View a safe haven for students from other schools who desire a more open, accepting environment with greater opportunities to succeed.

In great contrast, Class of 2017 president Sahil Pankhaniya believes that Pine View has been too generous with acceptances and plans to restrict the number of incoming students. "The great number of students being admitted to Pine View is decreasing the standard of education for those of us who re-

"This is going to have a huge — and by huge, I mean really huge — impact on the quality of student life at Pine View."
Sahil Pankhaniya, grade 11

ally belong here," Pankhaniya said. Pankhaniya plans on building a tall fence around Pine View's perimeter, which will be funded by Riverview High School, Sarasota High School and Venice High School — the three schools that send the most new students to Pine View.

Pankhaniya has also expressed concern with the current homework policy. "Students are expected to do tons of homework with little-to-no return from their teachers," Pankhaniya said. Pankhaniya plans on cutting homework drastically for students of all grade levels. He has yet to explain how he plans on making up for this loss in the total time students spend learning. "This is going to have a huge — and by huge, I mean really huge — impact on the quality of student life at Pine View," Pankhaniya said.

Meanwhile, Class of 2018 president Christopher Lind has spent his time desperately trying to rally the support of literally every group. He can be found rotating through different lunch tables, doing anything necessary to fit in with anyone from the crew kids to the art kids. A few months before the election, his Instagram became very active, as he flooded the Internet with memes and photos of him partaking in trends like "whipping."

Lind's policies are unclear, however, because he says different things in each interview. "I will do literally anything for my class," Lind said, "I want to be president so badly. So badly."



Pine View welcomes the new grade commander-in-chiefs. Their varied policies have provided points of contention among the grades. Pictured from left to right: tenth-grader Christopher Lind, ninth-grader Sachit Gali and eleventh-grader Sahil Pankhaniya. GRAPHIC BY ALLIE ODISHELIDZE

**J Money
Ca\$H
Money
Live in
Concert
6-1-16
1 p.m. In
the
auditorium
\$2!**



Who wore it better: Cobalt edition

by Park Dietz
Asst. News Editor

At Cobalt this year, attending boys showed off some absolutely stunning tuxedos in an attempt to outdo each others' prom looks. Coincidentally, however, all the tuxedos looked exactly the same. Like, literally the same. The real question is, which Pine View student wore the tuxedo best?

The mayhem all started four months before the special night, when the Facebook "Cobalt Tuxedos 2k16" group was created. The posts appeared swiftly, each boy hoping to beat the others to making sure their (basically identical) tuxes were not bought by other students. Some boys commented on other posts, with remarks like, "I'm sorry your Men's Warehouse tuxedo makes you unconfident" and "That is the most ugly tuxedo I have ever seen."

When the Cobalt theme was released, the boys in the auditorium reacted with shock. The theme, A Thousand and One Nights, would surely give them all the opportunity to show off their unique styles by wearing exactly the same thing.

Cobalt attendee Joe Mommuh said, "When I saw Brock Oli's tuxedo on the Facebook group I had to message him right away. He bought the same exact tuxedo that I had already bought and posted in the group two weeks before. This is insanity." Mommuh privately messaged Oli later trying to get him to take the tux back, but he refused, saying he had bought it first. Though not



Eleventh-graders Jared Friedman, John Darby and Ryland Hager attend Cobalt. These students ran into intense difficulties while tux shopping. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JARED FRIEDMAN

Coincidentally, however, all the tuxedos looked exactly the same. Like, literally the same.

the first sign of tension before Cobalt, it was certainly not the last. The Saturday of Cobalt arrived and boys across town got ready, adjusting their identical bow ties, undershirts and cummerbunds. However, upon arriving at Cobalt, a massive fight broke out between literally every

single male attendee as they each accused one another of deliberately copying their own style. Not even the end of Cobalt at 11 that night could subdue the absolute brawl. Cars were flipped and tuxedos ripped in half before the dust finally settled. The following morning, pictures rolled in from the raucous evening. You would think that the drama would end after the night but comments rolled in saying things like, "I wore it better" and "You're going to regret posting wearing that tuxedo."

[a column]

Winnie G, what a G

Eleven years. Eleven years I've been a student at Pine View, surrounded by the best and the brightest, kind of like a "Top Gun" school for especially nerdy and intellectual people. And I've learned so much from all of my teachers, similar to Obi Wan learning from Qui-Gon Jinn, Mace Windu and Yoda over the course of the first three Star Wars movies, though I was fortunate enough to have not been forced to dismember any young apprentices.

In early 2005, I enrolled at Pine View School and was placed in Mrs. Hershberger's class. While my classmates were preoccupied with making friends and avoiding cooties, I was concerned with a subtle trend I noticed in the stock market. Subprime loans were permeating our economy like water through limestone, and I knew that the collapse of the housing market was imminent. However, after being assigned a project on the habitat of the Florida Panther (the Everglades, if anyone's wondering), I promptly forgot about what I had discovered.

Fast forward to 2007. Fourth grade in Ms. Letkiewicz's class. I'm not going to lie, I peaked in fourth grade. I was always picked, like, second or third when we played soccer at recess, so needless to say I was at the top of my game. It was during that school year that I first learned about a budding young Senator from Illinois named Barry, or something. I sent him a letter encouraging him to pursue his goals and to make the world a better place. I never really followed up with him, but someone said something about him moving into a new house, so at least he's got that going for him.

Late seventh grade, circa 2011: I have nothing funny to say here. Highlight of the year was learning that Navy Seals had killed Osama



Samuel Winegar, Humor Editor

Bin Laden. It was pretty hype. Ninth grade, 2013: For all you guys out there who had Mrs. Ackroyd for biology, you remember the struggle. My grades in the class suffered because I couldn't focus on mitochondria while our government was literally shut down over the on-going debt-ceiling crisis. In mid-October, I submitted a plan for alleviating the crisis to Speaker of the House John Boehner and went to sleep. I got a D minus on my Biology test the next day, but I think it was worth it (my GPA disagreed, but whatever). Present day, 2016: There's no normal way to end my last ever Humor column, and to retire my position as Humor Editor (the longest-serving in the history of the Torch). I've had a great time running the section and trying to encourage a variety of people to express themselves here.

Next year's editor, Allie Odishelidze, will surely do a great job of continuing the legacy of good times, laughs and jokes. I'll be attending the United States Naval Academy next year, where all the humor I have will probably be beaten out of me, so I hope you all have enjoyed what little laughter I've been able to offer you.

Mad Libs: An interactive game

by Marinna Okawa
Editor-in-Chief

It was the last day of school at _____ . The weather was relatively _____. _____ was



Name of School

Adjective

Name of student

_____ on the way to _____ and was _____ when (s)he saw _____, who was busy reading

Subject name

Adjective

Name of teacher



_____. The student quickly made sure to add it to their Snapchat story with the caption,

Name of book

_____. After leaving the class, the student went to the yellow locker pod, making sure to

Meme or hashtag

clean out their _____ textbook, their _____ notes, and their crumpled up _____.

Name of subject

Adjective

Plural noun

Belongings in hand, the student walked about campus to revisit some various spots. They spotted



_____ eating _____ on the sidewalk. Then they went to the Student Union, to

Name of animal

Name of food

_____ find that the Senior Lounge was closed due to a large mess ever since _____ decided to



Name of twelfth-grader

_____ throw _____ everywhere. It was finally the end of the day, and the office was blaring the

Plural noun

_____ newest _____ mixtape over the intercom. Michael Shi ran past with a hearty "_____";

Name of music artist

Exclamatory word

_____ and on their way out, the student saw Dr. Covert saying a final, "_____".

Catchphrase



The Verdict

New district school sports policy: We're glad to hear that students will now be allowed to play sports for whichever district school they personally see as the best fit.

School board bathroom decision: We're disappointed that the county has yet to make a decision regarding transgender bathroom use.

Retirement: We're glad to see some of our favorite teachers moving on to new adventures after many years with Pine View.

Retirement: Though we are happy to see teachers move on, we're sad to see such great instructors leave the Pine View community.

[guest editorial]

Studying high school subject(ivity)s

The importance of keeping personal views out of the classroom

by Lauren Yenari
grade 10

With the upcoming election and all the hot topics currently circulating in today's news, social studies teachers are having a field day. Even as instructors are occupied with hosting current event assignments, debates and more, a question arises: How are they teaching?

Most teachers that I've had experience with, even if they are unaware of it, are teaching their students from a subjective, singular point of view: the view they support. The school policy chapter 4.00 VI may mandate that teachers are not allowed to share their religious, political or even world views with their students regarding controversial issues, but who is to ensure that they will keep an open mind while teaching a topic they personally feel passionate about?

For me — as a half-Arab and half-Asian student — I feel strongly about many current and past events, such as the occupation of

Palestine, or the internment of the Japanese-Americans following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I strongly fear a Donald Trump presidency due to my background; my mother regularly tells me that she believes Trump, if elected, will force her and millions

to become educated based on biases and beliefs of teachers, no matter if I support their views or not. I go to learn the facts.

Countless times I have jokingly been called a terrorist, asked if I have friends in ISIS and even questioned if something in my backpack is a bomb by my classmates, all because society and teachers educate their students with the opposite of objective sources. While it may be impossible to find a truly objective single source, we can easily show arguments from both sides of issues with articles, documentaries and more in order to instill a well-rounded education.

If our school really wants to consider itself a "diverse" environment, all views must be taught and appreciated for what they are from a learning standpoint. It's time for teachers who take these subjective approaches to teaching to realize that their views are not the only views out there, and that an objective view taught allows for more growth in students' minds and their own opinions.

If our school really wants... a "diverse" environment, all views must be taught and appreciated.

of other Arab-Americans into an interment camp, just like what happened to the Japanese-Americans during World War II, because of her last name.

Certainly I have collected my own biased opinions from my parents and family, but I do not go to school

'Oh kids these days'

Age generalization dismisses millennial views on global matters

by Suzanne Brown
Features Editor

Much too often I hear the word "young" mistaken as synonymous to "dumb and naïve," just as "old" is often translated as "rational and wise." While those of younger generations may not hold the life experience someone twice their age carries, it is in no way fair to belittle the opinions of an entire demographic of people solely based on their age and the outdated assumption that they are uneducated.

In light of the ongoing presidential campaign, millennials have repeatedly been ostracized for their widespread support of candi-

dates like Bernie Sanders. During a recent dispute on Twitter, which resulted from a stranger unearthing a months-old tweet of mine, an attempt at an insult resonated with me for all the wrong reasons. In reply to my saying that I found a conservative presidential candidate's statement to be racist and offensive, an adult man countered with, "Kid, I have far more experience than you could dream of. Quit pretending Bernie's this savior." What shocked me is that not once in the argument did I mention Sanders or support toward him, nor did I bring up the topic of his age or my own.

In this man's mind, the cor-

rect assumption that I was young was immediately paired with me then being uneducated and a Bernie Sanders supporter. These three descriptions should not be restricted to being directly correlated with one another. The ad hominem retort only dismissed my argument without a concrete basis. Inequitable insults rooted on age bias are often what hold back those regarded as the leaders from tomorrow from becoming just that — leaders who are unafraid to voice their opinions and spark a change.

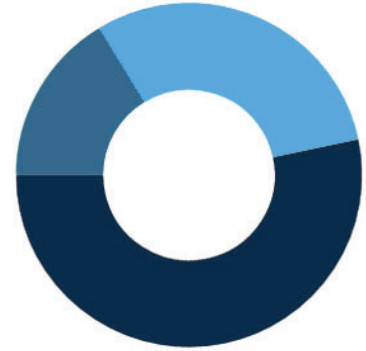
The global movement where young people rally together in support of or in protest against current events should be celebrated, not targeted. Adults tend to mock the young for being too engrossed in texting and not being involved in real world issues; so why then, when young people do educate themselves, is it back to square one and an individual is reduced to nothing more than a "dumb teenager?"

Millennials' beliefs should be acknowledged as seriously as any adult's. Erasing these ageist stigmas will both support and expand the younger generation's involvement on key global issues. This increased awareness of politics and social affairs is essential for a forward-moving generation to possess. With this, we prepare to one day lead international populations and then encourage future young people to be just as engaged.

[student poll]

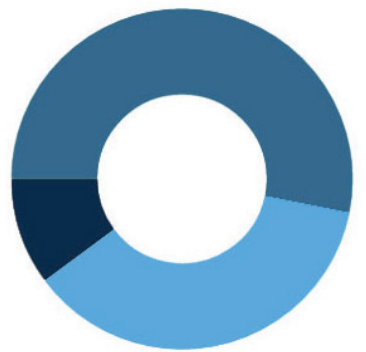
Reaching Across the Aisle

Do you believe that Puerto Rico should be made a U.S. state?

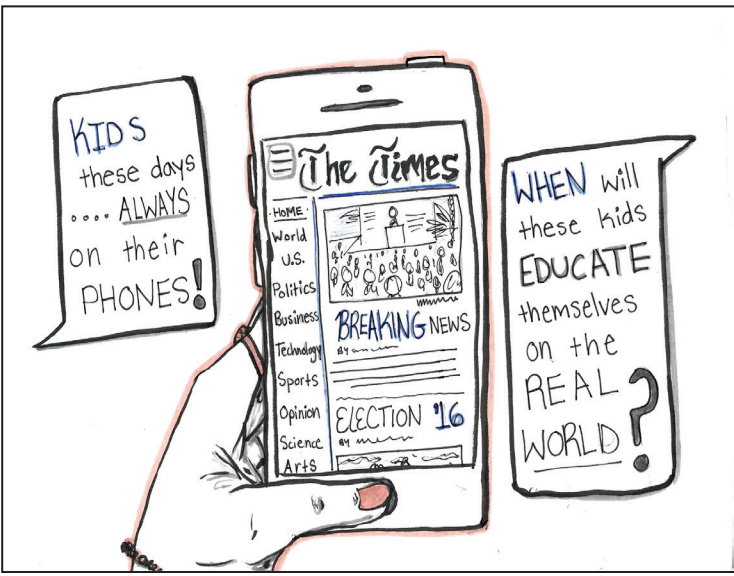


135 eighth- through eleventh-graders surveyed

Do you consider the way that your teachers educate regarding politics to be objective (unbiased) or subjective (biased)?



128 eighth- through eleventh-graders surveyed



GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN

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Pakistani honor killing receives international focus

by Riley Board
Focus Editor

Most people who tune in to The Oscars typically do so for the classic reasons: to experience the funny hosts and presenters, to catch a glimpse of each red carpet dress, and this year, to celebrate Leonardo DiCaprio's first Oscar win. However, buried among the other awards given in the unwatched beginning of the program, the short subject documentary award was given to a "A Girl in the River," a film far more important than any designer fashion, cheesy jokes or yes, even Leo's Oscar.

"A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness" is a 40-minute short documentary film created by renowned Pakistani director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, and it could have a major impact on the situation of honor killing in the Eastern world.

Honor killing is the act of vengeance, most often death, committed by male family members against female family members for bringing dishonor on their family. This "dishonor" is a result of refusing to enter an arranged marriage, being in a relationship the family does not approve of, having sex outside of marriage, being a victim of rape, dressing in a way deemed inappropriate, engaging in homosexual relations or renouncing faith. Every 90 minutes, another honor killing occurs somewhere in the world. 1,000 a year occur in Pakistan alone.

Saba Qaiser, a 19-year-old woman from Pakistan, is the subject of the film. Qaiser fell in love and eloped against her family's wishes. Just hours after her marriage, her fa-



GRAPHIC BY ALLIE ODISHELIDZE

ther and uncle coaxed her into a car and drove her to a riverbank, where they intended to murder her. She was first beaten, then shot in the head, then put in a bag and dumped in the river. She was, miraculously, still alive. The river water revived her, and she clawed her way out of the bag, onto the river bank, and to a local gas station, where someone called for help.

While re-covering, Saba's hospital door had to be guarded so that her father and uncle would not return and finish the job. Although Saba fully intended to prosecute them, because of the laws that allow victims of honor killing to forgive their families and a tremendous community pressure

to do so, Saba forgave her uncle and father and they were released from jail.

The saddest part is that the men feel absolutely no regret, and have stated that they would just as easily do it again, saying that it was the right thing to do. The way to solve this is to end the perception that honor killing is okay, and to do this we must educate, both men and women, and empower, women specifically. The more women and young girls understand their own ability to resist pointless punishment, and the more they do not forgive the horrible crimes of their families, the more we bridge the gap in gender equality.

The way to solve this is to end the perception that honor killing is okay, and to do this we must educate.

[a column]

Human rights success lowers campaign vigor

Thanks to increasingly inclusive educations, students are more aware of the struggles of minority groups than ever before. It would be difficult to argue that important milestones in U.S. history like the civil rights movement of the 1960s should be taken out of textbooks because learning about human rights is imperative for all grade-schoolers. And while it is important that these topics are taught, it is equally important to relate them to current events — and to make sure students are aware that these are not closed cases.

Very often, I have heard the unfortunate case of those less in tune with current politics speaking in generalizations about past and present struggles for equality. Despite the hard work of the Black Lives Matter movement, there are still some who would claim that ever since the end of segregation in 1964, racism in the U.S. has been practically eliminated. This perfectly encapsulates a major roadblock in current human rights campaigns — that those not immediately affected by the topic are unaware of its existence.

It is important to end the habit of remarking on one success for a minority and jumping to the conclusion that the work is done and the issue is completely solved. Right now, in the heart of Sarasota, we are seeing a similar and equally prevalent topic in the LGBT community. Sure, last summer saw the Supreme Court rule in favor of marriage equality, which a large population of onlookers deemed the final



Brenna Maginness, Opinion Editor

point in a long fight for equal rights, but many are now getting a wake-up call as the local and countrywide debate over transgender bathroom policy heats up. Suddenly, my Facebook feed is full of individual opinions and national coverage on an issue we fought over press in our own town months ago. It seemed that a monumental victory for the community had almost pushed it further from peoples' minds than what would have occurred given no victory at all.

We cannot lower our enthusiasm for increasing and maintaining human rights and equality in the U.S. if we put down our guard every time we see a small triumph. It is imperative that we remain active and take successes as signs that we must continue our work, rather than signs that it is time to move on to the next hot topic. As long as there is still a need for movements like Black Lives Matter and the Human Rights Campaign, the fight is still on.

Decoding the Caribbean Crisis

Puerto Rico's debt crisis, and the question of statehood

by Allie Odishelidze
Asst. Opinion Editor

When politicians address crowds as "My Fellow Americans," whether they know it or not, they are also addressing the 3.5 million people living in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and these people are suffering as a result of a massive debt issue that has left the small island over \$72 billion in debt.

Puerto Rico's long and tumultuous history as part of the United States began when, against the will of the Puerto Rican people, it was adopted as a colony in 1898. In the following years Puerto Rico appealed to Congress multiple times to separate themselves from the US. In 1917 Puerto Ricans received citizenship, but not congressional representation or a vote in presidential elections.

After 1986 legislation allowed for companies establishing themselves in Puerto Rico to greatly lessen their taxes, the island abandoned

efforts towards separation. The manufacturing sector grew to dominate the Puerto Rican economy, but the legislation was phased out into the early 2000s. By 2006 over 50 percent of jobs in manufacturing were cut. This has left the island with an

The only way to help Puerto Rico escape from the bindings of this debt is to grant statehood to the island.

unemployment rate of 12.2 percent — 6.8 percent higher than the national rate. Additionally, almost half of Puerto Rico's people live under the poverty line. The crisis continues to

grow due to the writing of their constitution, which states that they must repay debts before funneling money into government services. This \$72 billion obstacle between Puerto Rico and its basic services has had huge ramifications.

This policy has led to the shutdown of over 100 schools since 2015 and the firing of thousands of teachers on the island. Hospitals are also in danger, with some unable to pay the bills to sustain medical necessities or even electricity. The timing for these hospital shortages could not have been worse as Puerto Rico is currently suffering from an outbreak of Zika. Puerto Rico suffered its first Zika-related death April 29 and with no money, they currently have no way to prevent the disease. Puerto Rico has seen 474 locally transmitted cases, the most out of any area in the U.S.

May 2 marked yet another payment date Puerto Rico was un-



GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN

able to make. They have defaulted on these payments and have no further options. The island filed for Section 9 bankruptcy, which allows cities to file for bankruptcy, but because Puerto Rico lacks its status as a state their appeal was denied. The only way to help Puerto Rico escape from the bindings of this debt is to grant statehood to the island.

Granted statehood would improve the quality of life for those living on the island, introduce the right

to vote and with that introduce a new voting conglomerate. Statehood would also increase income tax and tax revenue from the island as well as introduce an open trade policy with U.S. allies that would in turn boost the nation's economy.

The reality of the situation is that without statehood Puerto Rico will continue to drain money from the United States economy and Puerto Ricans, American citizens will continue to suffer.

[staff editorial]

Learning to read between the lines:

Modern media practice and coverage diminish ethics

In an age of ever-changing technology, social networking and politics, the media has evolved into new forms. While this change has its benefits, its many flaws grew more apparent in recent years. From being Western-centric to being a 24/7 Donald Trump machine, journalism has lost many of its standards and strayed from the ethics and responsibilities it once observed.

Every year, the president hosts the White House Correspondents' Dinner, in which he honors the press and the work they have done. At this high-profile event, the White House is full of diverse reporters from several organizations. While watching the dinner this year, it was easy to

enjoy the jokes and remarks from President Obama and comedian Larry Wilmore. However, a disheartening aspect of this event was the fact that most of these attendees were responsible for the rise of Donald Trump.

It is indisputable that a large portion of Trump's popularity is due to the aid of the media, overplaying soundbites and devoting space, headlines and coverage to Trump in an effort to increase viewership.

However, this "entertaining" coverage has replaced important stories that deserve to be shared and heard by millions.

Turning on the TV at night to catch the day's news is no longer as simple as it once was. Instead of covering Boko Haram terrorist attacks in northern Africa or the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, news outlets such as CNN have put almost all of their resources into the presidential election.

"Entertaining" coverage has replaced important stories that deserve to be shared and heard by millions.

This election has also exposed the biases of the media. There is no doubt that newspapers and news outlets favor certain candidates and parties. For example, Senator Bernie Sanders has been left out of headlines and many of his victories have been downplayed by the media.

Another growing problem with our country's media is its blatant Western-centric coverage. After the devastating terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, the media rushed to the scenes and provided extensive reporting for weeks. The world watched and responded with prayers and Facebook filters. However, this coverage was nowhere to be found in Nigeria and the Middle East,

where terrorist attacks and suicide bombings occurred around the very same time as those in France and Belgium.

As members of The Torch, we strive to deliver interesting and insightful content, and to fulfill the needs of our school community. While not all of us plan to pursue careers in journalism, we all enjoy the craft and constantly work to improve our skills. We are currently navigating the world of journalism and learning important lessons on ethical reporting and journalistic integrity. It is the responsibility of our generation to be aware of the problems present in the media and to demand a higher caliber from journalists and outlets.

Alumna makes history as administrator

by Alexa Mollod
Asst. Match Editor

Every day, Pine View alumna and McIntosh Middle School principal, Dr. Harriet Moore, both values and embraces her culture. Not only is Moore the first African-American female to be principal of McIntosh Middle School here in Sarasota, but she is also the first African-American female to have graduated from Pine View.

When Moore began attending Pine View in the fifth grade, she was one of only five African-American students at the school — Moore being the only female. By 1979, the year of her graduation, Moore was one of only two African-Americans. However, she did not let this cultural distinction lessen her enthusiasm to be educated. “I really had a great experience. I never saw myself as being different or less than the others,” Moore said.

At times, she experienced unkindness from teachers and students, and had to learn how to cope with being treated differently. “There were good days, and there were bad days,” Moore said.

Though it was a challenge to overcome, Moore says she never let it get to her. She valued her education much more than she did other peoples’ thoughts about her race. “It can be a very tough environment when the people around you aren’t able to relate to your cul-

ture,” Moore said.

Even though she experienced various difficulties, Moore believes that truly, differences in race do not exist. She implements this idea in both education and daily life to promote appreciation of diversity. “I wish to bring people together. People must know about other people — who they are and where they come from. That is what is important,” she said.

After graduating from Pine View, Moore had dreams of becoming a psychologist. However, she also loved to work with children, and thus majored in psychology and minored in education while earning her bachelor’s degree. She later earned a Master’s in Education Administration and Supervision from National-Louis University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University. She then became the principal of McIntosh Middle School four years ago. As

the principal, she says she hopes to inspire her students to follow their dreams and succeed, no matter their background. “We all have something to contribute to this world,” she said. “We can all be successful if given the opportunity.”

Though Moore was not able to culturally relate to many people during her eight years at Pine View, that did not lessen her overall experience. “My years at Pine View

“When we are more aware, we are more sensitive. And that is when people come together.”

Dr. Harriet Moore, Pine View alumna



Dr. Harriet Moore, now McIntosh Middle School principal, stands with a friend in a photo published in the 1977 Pine View yearbook. Moore was Pine View’s first female African American graduate. PHOTO PROVIDED BY HARRIET MOORE

were awesome. It really was and is a great school,” she said. According to Moore, she began to not even notice her cultural distinction after a while.

Moore, however, does admit that there still is a lack of cultural diversity at many schools. In the future, she is hopeful that this will change through the continued practice of

cultural awareness. “When we are more aware, we are more sensitive. And that is when people come together,” Moore said.

Eventually, Moore hopes to see the distinguishing lines between ethnicities blur, through the integration of cultures. “There is only one race,” Moore said. “And that is the human race.”

[a Q/A]

Advancing in art

The Torch talks with students attending art colleges next year

by Mackenzie Dyrda
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Alex Miller

Ringling College of Art and Design

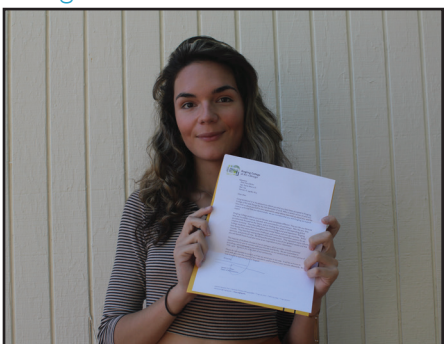


PHOTO BY MACKENZIE DYRDA

Torch (T): Where did you first gain an interest in art?

Miller (M): I’ve been interested in art since I was very young. I always excelled at it more than I really excelled at other things. I’ve always been drawn, visually, to things and everyone would always comment “Oh, she’s so good at it.” So my parents facilitated and they helped me out a lot and kind of pushed me like “You’re good at it! Keep doing it!” And it just grew more and more and I started taking classes and getting a more refined taste in it.

T: What medium do you work with?

M: I enjoy photography, digital. I enjoy typography so that’s writing with fountain pens and transferring them into illustrator for a font. Also watercolor, pen and ink, colored pencil, markers. Water color and photography are my two favorites.

T: How did you decide on a school?

M: I did some research on schools and I want to study graphic design or photography so I was looking for the best schools in America that had those. So all the schools I applied and got into were the top 10 for graphic design in America...visiting all of them I was really floored by all the amazing things they had, and also the location... Ringling is down here and it’s nice.

T: Do you have plans for the future in the field?

M: Yes. Ideally, I would study graphic design and perhaps either work for a design firm or be self-employed doing free-lance work but with the placements really really shooting out there, it would be really cool to be an art director for Disney. Those are graphic designers, those are the ones that work on the movies and everything. But yes, I definitely do see myself working in art.

Melanie Gasparoni
Pratt Institute



PHOTO BY SUZANNE BROWN

Torch (T): Where did you first gain an interest in art?

Gasparoni (G): It’s always kind of been a thing for me. In preschool we would do art projects and they were always my favorite. It’s the most memorable thing, so that’s the first memories I have of art and getting into it. It just carried out throughout school and when I got to high school I realized this is what I wanted to do.

T: What medium do you work with?

G: I do mixed media a lot now. I’ve been through different phases where I thought drawing was it, I thought painting was it, fashion, but then I just realized all of it is it. That’s why I do mixed media now, which is mostly print making with paint pens and other drawing pens, and mix it all together into collages, kind of.

T: What is your favorite thing about art?

G: Probably just the ability to communicate different concepts through a fun and creative way. I mean, my brain doesn’t work academically. Well it does, but it’s a strain. It works a lot better artistically. I don’t know, it just follows much better and it’s more comfortable.

T: Do you have plans for the future in the field?

G: I will be majoring in communications in design, which could help me get jobs designing things for different businesses or firms. There are so many different things. I would love to do merchandise design for different bands or different businesses, like coasters or CD album covers or whatever. Book making I’m super into; I would love to do illustrations for books, or even write books. Or art history, I’d love to do art history, be an art professor or work in a museum. So, there’s a lot you can do with art.

[a column]

Confessions and reflections

A look back at 1 Python Path

Dearest readers,

I began this year with a “startling” confession. Now humor me for just a moment, and say you remember this first column. I used the fact that my feet haven’t grown since I was probably 10 years old to tell you all that the idea of having to fill big shoes is ridiculous. You wear your own size and walk your own path.

Now, as the year draws to a close, I leave you with another piece of advice. For just a moment, look behind you. Look at all the footprints you have left behind in the path you have chosen and taken. Remember the classes you passed, the classes you struggled in, the classes you slept through. Look at the footprints where you stumbled and fell, as you remember the embarrassing moments and the mistakes that turned into unforgettable stories and lessons.

And one of the most important things to look back on as you admire the footprints you’ve left is the footprints of others with whom you have shared your journey. They may have walked with you as far back as you can remember, or perhaps for just a few steps along the way — but they are the ones who helped you get where you are. Don’t forget to thank them.

So, I thank those who have walked with me. I thank my parents — for putting up with my emotions from the first day of kindergarten to the college application process, for teaching me the value of humility and hard work and for always being a source of support no matter what. Thank you, sister, for teaching me how to read, for always being up for midnight cheez-its, and for understanding my incredibly strange sense of humor.

Thank you, Mira, Madeline, Brenna, Jordan and Samuel for the laughs, the love and the quotes. Thank you Meg for being a source of inspiration and support. Thank you, Jordan Phillips, for always reading The Torch and this column. (I fully expect a report as soon as you finish this by the way.)

Thank you Torch family, for listening to announcements, for staying to party/work on press nights and for appreciating some classic tunes. Thank you, Mr. Lerner, for your support, passion, care and humor ideas.

Thank you, to all of the incredible teachers at this school. You have taught me so much more than a textbook ever could. Thank you, Pine View, for being my home for the last decade, filled with some memorable and very dorky moments. From falling on the playground playing freeze tag to getting on Jeffrey’s shoulders for the first senior Friday to finishing that last AP exam, it’s been a one-



Marinna Okawa, Editor-in-Chief

of-a-kind journey that has passed all too fast.

It’s been an absolute honor being able to write for you all this year. If there’s anything I can leave you with, it’s this: Take the journey one step at a time, and savor every moment because before you know it, it’ll be time to em-

bark on a new one. With much love in my heart for all I’ve grown accustomed to here, and a twinge of sadness to be leaving it behind, for one last time, dear readers, I hope you have enjoyed this issue of The Torch. Personally, the thought of writing a formal goodbye is much too sad so

I’ll leave you with a sign off from my favorite news anchor, Ron Burgundy: Stay classy, Pine View.



Next year’s Editor-in-Chief, Anjali Sharma. Anjali likes to indulge her sweet tooth and attempt to rap Drake in her free time.

For just a moment, look behind you. Look at all the footprints you have left behind in the path you have chosen and taken.