

THE MATCH



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Club 'runs' on new technology

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PHOTO BY ANNA LABINER

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THE MATCH

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FRONT PAGE: Students in the Run Club are now using an app to keep track of their number of laps. Fifth-graders Cavy Riedi and Kian Riedi run together, as Mr. Lenny Gross scans their QR code that links to the app.

PHOTO BY CLYDE MORGAN

RIGHT: Fifth-grade teacher Rachel Lenerz wears a cat t-shirt on Wednesday for the newly created tradition. The tradition was started by fifth-grade teacher Stephanie White.

PHOTO BY SARAH HASSAN



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Home is where the star is

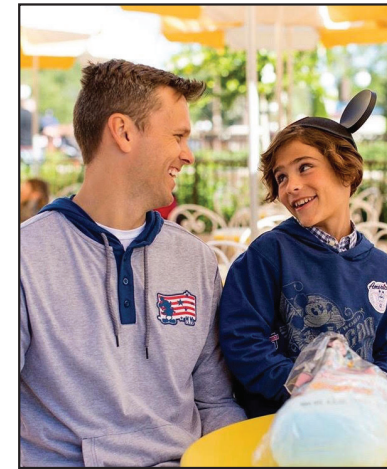
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Nurturing nature at night

Starting this fall, Pine View opened a nocturnal school for our surrounding indigenous animals.



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Student is a 'model' citizen

First Impressions

TOP: Fourth-grader Ezra Lerario poses for an Instagram promotion for Disney's theme parks. Lerario has been acting and modeling since the age of 4.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY AL-LISON LERARIO

BOTTOM: On Veterans Day, the Pine View Players recited the poem "The White Table" by Margot Raven.

PHOTO BY GWYN PETERSEN

Teacher leaves a legacy

by Ben Gordon

After years of valued and cherished instruction, veteran Pine View teacher Steve Dacey is headed for the repose and relaxation of retirement. Beginning his teaching career in 1984 in Massachusetts, Dacey started teaching at Pine View after moving to Sarasota in 1989.

Attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Dacey earned a major in geology and planned on pursuing a career as a geologist. However, after a motorcycle accident, Dacey was stuck with a bad leg and realized he wouldn't be able to effectively do his job. For this reason, Dacey decided to pursue a career in science education. He took numerous education courses, the first step towards a 34-year-long career.

Dacey has taught a variety of subjects, mainly specializing in courses like sixth-grade earth science, as well as physics. Although he enjoys teaching any subject, earth science has kept a special place in his heart. "It attempts

to answer, or at least address, all of the big questions in life, like how the earth got here, how we got here, and how the universe got here," Dacey said.

Dacey's fondest memories of his career are the experiences with students in the classroom, but he does not have a specific moment that he considers his favorite. "I remember the first time I had a student whose parent I had also taught — that was really cool," Dacey said.

Students are appreciative of Dacey's hard work inside and outside of the classroom. "Mr. Dacey was an amazing teacher. He taught me a few years ago, but I still remember how much fun I had every day in his class," tenth-grader Sage Yenari said.

Dacey has been passionate about his teaching career for over three decades. Although there are numerous facets as to why he loves his job, he says he enjoys watching his students change the way they think the most. While they may not grasp everything they learn during class, he cher-

ishes the moments when his students learn something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

"Mr. Dacey was a great science teacher and he's one of those teachers — you'll always remember the fun stuff you did in his class," former student and current AP Chemistry teacher Dr. Jay Skipper said.

Although retirement is no doubt something worth being excited about, Dacey admits he will miss the classroom tremendously. According to Dacey, while shy in some circumstances, he is most comfortable when teaching and has looked forward to coming into school every day. He plans on doing a lot of gardening and cooking after he begins his retirement, as well as putting a race car together.

Dacey entered his retirement Friday, Nov. 2 after his last day at Pine View. While he may no longer be teaching on campus, his imprint on Pine View's science department and the school as a whole will be enduring.



Veteran teacher Steven Dacey instructs his sixth-grade Earth science class during his last week on campus. Dacey taught at Pine View for nearly 30 years. PHOTO BY ANNA LABINER

GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON



"He was probably one of my favorite science teachers. He always had these really crazy experiments, and that honestly led me to wanting to learn more,"

— Jayne Myers, Grade 9



"I love Mr. Dacey because he was pretty much a down-to-earth teacher and he wanted to link the curriculum in a way that was captivating and easy to remember,"

— Benjamin Solomon, Grade 10



"He was always excited about what he was teaching and he never taught something he was bored about or that bored us because he was so interested,"

— Natalie Williams, Grade 10



"Mr. Dacey was a very sweet person. He truly cared about his students. Whenever he taught, it seemed like he had a passion and enjoyment for the subject that he taught,"

— Courtney Nelson, Grade 7

Students 'cast' new club

by Tricia Saputera

Elementary students now have a chance to show off their talents in the new elementary drama club, Pine View Players. Inspired by Pine View's Drama Club for older students, third-grade teacher Freda Williams started the club this year.

The club's first play is "The Jungle Book" Feb. 8 and 9; Feb. 8 for elementary schoolers during the school day and the evening of Feb. 9 for parents and others. In addition to plays, the Pine View Players also works on poems, as they performed the poem "The White Table" by Margot Raven on Veterans Day, Nov. 12. The students recited the poem and acted out different gestures

while taking turns setting the table, leaving a seat empty out of respect for fallen veterans.

Auditions for "The Jungle Book" were held Nov. 12 for the main roles and Nov. 19 for other roles, with callbacks held for the main roles the week of Nov. 12. Second-grader Lila Paul will play Mowgli, fourth-grader Delaney Lockwood and fifth-grader Lillian Brown will alternate for the role of Baloo, fifth-graders Kailyn Aviles and Sofia Yu will alternate for Bagheera, fourth-grader Anderson Fisher for King Louie, and third-grader Dylan Grantham for Shere Khan.

"I like it [the club], it's pretty fun, and we're learning a lot about drama," third-grader

Rylie Stephens said, "She's [Williams is] excellent and she helps me with the poems by helping me reading them and understanding them."

Due to the number of members, second- and third-grade students alternate their meetings every other week with fourth- and fifth-grader students. Williams originally planned to limit the club to 25 students, but because of the strong response, she did away with the cap as there are currently 64 members.

During the meetings, students read poems, play theater games and perfect their acting skills.

"Next year, I have bigger plans. Next year, I would love



Fifth-graders Lauren Vonosdol, Sophia Yu, Ava Lenerz and Clare Custer present "The White Table" by Margot Raven during the Veterans Day festivities. The Pine View Players was established by third-grade teacher Freda Williams.

PHOTO BY GWYN PETERSEN

for them to write and produce their own play, and do poetry, and do some visual arts. So

next year, I would like to add a lot of different elements," Williams said.



Fifth-grader Maya Huynh in Rachel Lenerz's classroom wears a cat t-shirt for Cat T-Shirt Wednesday. Stemming in fifth-grade teacher Stephanie White's class, the tradition has since spread throughout elementary and middle school.

PHOTO BY SARAH HASSAN

Teacher creates new tradition

by Sarah Hassan

Inspired by fifth-grade teacher Stephanie White's classroom tradition, the fifth grade sports wacky cat t-shirts every Wednesday. This year, although concentrated in the fifth grade, the tradition was spread throughout all of the elementary grade levels, even seeping through to middle school and administration.

According to White, while surfing the internet last year, she spotted a unique cat t-shirt by chance. She intended just to wear the cat t-shirts on Wednesday to help elevate her enthusiasm throughout the week, having no idea the t-shirt tradition would spread. Helping to facilitate the trend were former students, now sixth-graders, who carried on the tradition to this school year.

"I feel like that cat t-shirt Wednesday is a great idea because usually Wednesday is the middle of the week, and we are stuck with a bunch of homework, but seeing everyone wear the ridiculous cat t-shirts kind of boosts the mood a lot," fifth-grader Cadence Lok in White's class said.

The other fifth-grade teachers have embraced the new custom, participating along with administration and the ESE department, who have been wearing the cat t-shirts, as well as cat stickers. The stickers are passed out by White who goes around the office on Wednesday mornings. "For the most part, I think everyone has been very supportive. Dr. Covert was requesting a sticker every Wednesday," White says.

Fifth-grade teacher Rachel Lenerz regularly participates

in Cat T-shirt Wednesdays. "I think it's a great way to make the middle of the week more exciting and to have everybody bond over the same goal," Lenerz said.

Additionally, another impact of wearing cat t-shirts is that it allows students who are participating to connect with different grade levels. White believes donning the cat t-shirts is a way of creating a bond with a new person, hoping to bolster communication among peers similar to "Start with Hello," a new campus-wide initiative that also emphasizes connectedness.

The participation of the tradition is welcomed to any grade level or staff members. "I think it is great. I think it gives you something to look forward to throughout the week," White said.

Students celebrate service

The Giving Challenge is replaced with a new initiative to encourage the spirit of giving among students.

by **Odelia Tiutyama**

Giving Tuesday is an annual “Global Day of Giving” held on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving in an attempt to bring back the spirit of giving after Black Friday. The Pine View elementary version of Giving Tuesday is led by fourth-grade teacher Stacy Burkett and Pine View parents Stephanie Hofmann and Terra Layton. The event was held Nov. 27 with weekly themes leading up to the school-wide function.

The event was introduced to the Pine View Association (PVA) to replace The Giving Challenge, a 24-hour fundraiser where all donations were matched by the Community Foundation. “[Giving Tuesday] was brought up at a PVA meeting, and the idea of teaching the kids how to give back to the community in ways other than money really spoke to me,” Burkett said.

In honor of Pine View’s 50th anniversary, the goal of this year’s Giving Tuesday was “50 hours for 50 years,” according to Hofmann. Through acts of community service like crafting cards for those who are home-bound, students gave back through up to 50 hours of volunteering per student.

The weekly themes consisted of providing assistance to the elderly, kindness to animals, helping kids in need and pride in our community. These themes led up to a final school-wide event held Nov. 27 in the

Multi-Purpose Room.

At the final event, students helped create “plarn”, short for plastic yarn, made by cutting plastic grocery bags into strips, which are then strung together into a single long strand. Hofmann got the idea from Michelle Penn, Goodwill’s Ambassador of the Year, who uses plarn to crochet mats for the homeless. Penn joined stu-

“It’s not like if you do the most community service you get a prize. The prize is feeling good about helping others.”

Stacy Burkett,
Fourth-grade teacher

dents Nov. 27 to demonstrate how she creates these mats. According to Penn, one mat takes 500 plastic shopping bags and 10 hours to make.

Melissa Smith, a local artisan, contributed to the event through a painting representing the Pine View community. The canvas included renderings of the campus, the school mascot, the 212 philosophy and much more. “It’s learning about the campus but trying to put together a combination of 50 years and what people will remember about Pine View,” Hofmann said in reference to the canvas.

The 20 by 30 illustration that blends 50 years of Pine

View memories will not be revealed until the night of Pinna- cle, which takes place Jan. 26. However, high-quality reproductions will be used for fund- raising efforts, and Hofmann hopes to have the original dona- ted to Pine View.

25 percent of the funds dona- ted will go toward the build- ing of the Legacy Garden, cur- rently planned as a memorial honoring all the past principles and teachers of Pine View. The other 75 percent of funds will be given to PVA which will be used campus-wide for funding of extra aides and funding for the music and art program.

“It’s not like if you do the most community service you are going to get a prize. The prize is feeling really good about helping others,” Burkett said, “We just want the students to realize that even giving 15 minutes of your time, you can make something that’s going to brighten someone’s day and possibly even make their day.”

Burkett and Hofmann hope to continue the event in future years. “It’s to inspire people to give back and you can give back through your time, your effort, your talent or money,” Hofmann said.

Among students, the event was very popular. “I made a lot of Christmas ornaments for the children that don’t have any,” second-grader Sienna Riza said. “It was fun to make them and also I think it’s nice to donate to other people.”



Second-grader Asher Wasserman (left) and fourth-grader Rafael Wasserman make Christmas ornaments during Giving Tuesday festivities. Created by students, these items, among others, were donated to the Salvation Army for distribution. PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

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Coach Thorpe's
birthday

Dec. 18
Ms. Siwicka's birth-
day

Dec. 28
Coach DiGiacomo's
birthday

Dec. 31
Mr. Maron's birth-
day

Jan. 8
Mr. Michalojko's
birthday

December and January Events and Teacher Birthdays



Principal Dr. Stephen Covert participates in Pine View's annual Peramathon fundraiser. In total, Covert ran 50 laps to commemorate Pine View's 50th anniversary.
PHOTO BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY



Approximately 50 veterans, accompanied by students and family, are led to the gym where the memorial festivities took place. The annual Veterans Day Parade takes place Nov. 12.
PHOTO BY KASUMI WADE

IN BRIEF

TED Talks returns for second year

by Anna Labiner

Inspired by the acclaimed nonprofit organization, elementary school guidance counselor Kate McManus has decided to renew the TED Talk program for a second year in order to provide fourth- and fifth-grade students with tips on how to overcome difficult situations and find their greater purpose. The program has now become an annual event in which a handful of high school students offer advice to students in grades four and five.

"I heard about the event from Mrs. McManus, and I really wanted to see if I could take it to the next level," eleventh-grader and TED Talk participant Vinay Konuru said. "I think it's an incredible idea be-

cause it allows high schoolers to share some of the best advice that they have gotten over the eight plus years..."

The event has been a success among elementary students. "We get to hear perspectives on difficult things that they've gone through, which is really interesting," fourth-grader Nidhi Durrall said.

Due to its high demand, McManus plans to continue the program, hopefully providing younger students with positive role models and mentorship for years to come. Scan the QR code below for further reporting on the TED Talks event.



Club 'runs' on new technology

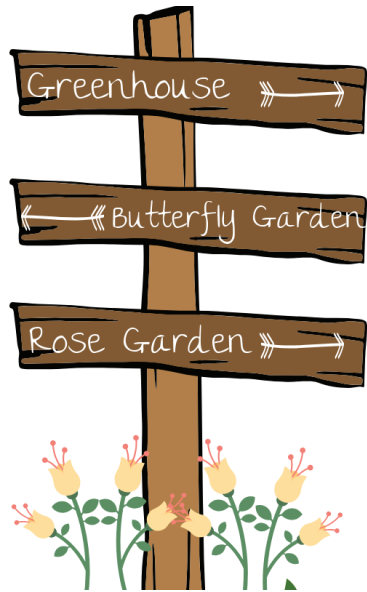
by Frankie Grasso-Clay

Run Club is a daily club at Pine View run by fifth-grade teacher Cynthia Wozniak, Pine View aide Lenny Gross, as well as parent volunteers. Meeting every morning from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., students are able to run the track, getting some exercise before they begin their day. Recently, however, the Run Club has made technological advances to increase efficiency.

In the past, Run Club has tracked students' laps by giving them a popsicle stick for each lap they ran. This was very time consuming for the volunteers, so Wozniak established a simpler method to track stu-

dents' laps. Utilizing an app called EZ Scan, Run Club administrators can digitally track students' lap counts. Each student will carry their laminated QR code with them while they run, with volunteers scanning their code using their phones as runners make their way around the track.

"Putting in each student's first and last name is very time consuming, since I have to enter it by hand, but it is worth it," Wozniak said. "With the app, I am able to tell kids how many miles they have run right away. All I have to do is look up their name on the app, which we could not do as easily with the past methods."



GRAPHIC BY NAINA CHAUHAN

[a review]

Exploring Sarasota's roots

Some of the most breathtaking aspects of Sarasota are its gardens. These hidden gems are the perfect weekend destination for the family. From flower gardens to secret gardens, The Match has handpicked the “rosiest” and most family-friendly places around town.

Children's Garden

by **Ella Hechlik**

Tucked away in a small corner of Sarasota, the Children's Garden combines Florida's natural environments and the wonder of youthful magic.

Just off of 10th Way, near the Rosemary District, the Children's Garden has been in operation since 2003 and was turned into a non-profit in 2009. Joan Marie and David Condon first owned the garden, and their sons created all of the structures in the garden by hand. Their daughter, Robin Folk, is the current director of the garden.

“The goal [of the garden] is to connect kids with nature,” Folk said. “I would say that anywhere between walking and 11 or 12 is the best age to enjoy the garden, but the biggest compliment is when parents will go and play with

their kids and say they felt like they're five again.”

Looking around the garden, giant red rocking chairs stand in a courtyard, towering over the other furniture. Plants grow out of every surface, and gems and glasses of different colors are pressed into the cement. Small cottage-like houses stand in the courtyard and are available for children's birthday parties. Roaming through the garden can make anyone feel that they are a kid again.

Inside the garden, kids can explore mazes, other secret gardens, art galleries, costume rooms, a giant chess board and even “The Mountain of Fruit Loops.” There are multiple places to visit within the main garden area including an amphitheater, a giant pirate ship named “The Black Pearl” and the resident drag-

on named Snuffy, who has had a children's book written about him. There is also a gift shop at the entrance where multiple art pieces and children's games are for sale.

The garden has a variety of events going on each day. Besides weekly events like “Nature Explorers” every Friday and yearly events such as their “Annual Spooktacular Halloween Fundraiser,” in which all profits go to the All Faiths Food Bank, the garden has multiple events depending on the time of year. Newsletters with all events are available at the garden and can be accessed on their website. As for December, multiple events are planned including candy cane scavenger hunts, enchanted fairy and elf teas, self-guided nature hunts and rock painting.

For children between the



Pictured is the bridge that leads to the pirate ship, “The Black Pearl.” The Children's Garden near downtown Sarasota is not a traditional garden setting, perfect for family fun.

PHOTO BY ELLA HECHLIK

ages of 3 and 12, admission is only \$5. There are also options available for membership cards. The prices for membership cards range between \$50 to \$125, which can get to be expensive.

The garden is located at 1670 10th Way, Sarasota, FL 34236.


Rating: 4.5/5 Torches

Jungle Gardens

by Elizabeth Hopkins

A tropical oasis amidst the passing cars and busy hubbub, locals know that Sarasota Jungle Gardens is a true gem. The enchanting chatter of birds, sunlight passing through the native trees and endless trails all create an unforgettable Floridian experience.

Driving up, however, visitors may be underwhelmed, viewing the slightly run-down, wooden exterior. However, looks can be deceiving. Upon entering, visitors are greeted by plentiful souvenirs as well as a pleasant customer service staff, some of whom have worked with the gardens for over 20 years. The venue is from another time, boasting a kitschy, retro atmosphere sure to delight

patrons.

The real pleasure, however, is still afoot. After purchasing tickets, visitors are beckoned through twin doors, which open to reveal a lush, pristine paradise.

One of the oldest established attractions in the state, the gardens now also serve as a home to a wide variety of rescued animals, including flamingos, parrots, crocodiles, lemurs and more. Throughout the day, zookeepers host scheduled shows with the animals, a rundown of which can be easily found on their site. These staff members are eager to answer any questions, and knowledgeable about their animals, as well as the gardens.

Especially under the

hot sun, making one's way through their famous, meandering paths may become tiring. Luckily, refreshments are available at the air-conditioned Flamingo Cafe, standing adjacent to a tranquil koi pond. Keeping in mind their family following, the gardens built a playground beside the parrot enclosure, featuring an ornate, wooden train. Attentive to the most ardent of animal lovers, the gardens also offer birthday party packages accommodating up to 40 guests, the details of which can also be found on the site.

Perfect for the entire family, tickets for children are reasonably priced at \$12.99, but are pricier for adults, at \$17.99. Guests can also purchase an-



As well as gardens, Jungle Gardens offers unique wildlife, like beautifully colored parrots. One of the first outdoor attractions in the state, the gardens call back to Old Florida.

PHOTO BY GRACE JOHNSON

annual passes, starting at \$49.99 daily.

Sarasota Jungle Gardens is located at 3701 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34234. The garden is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Rating: 4.5/5 Torches



Marie Selby Botanical Gardens offers winding paths through lush flora enclosed in greenhouses. Conveniently situated downtown, the gardens offer a diverse array of living showcases. PHOTO BY ELIZABETH HOPKINS

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

by Leo Gordon

Nestled south of Palm Avenue in the heart of Downtown Sarasota, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens offers its visitors a glimpse of what many consider to be the most diverse collection of epiphytes in the world. Officially opening over 40 years ago, Selby gardens showcases both horticultural and artistic wonders as one of Sarasota's premier cultural and historical establishments.

The gardens officially showcase over 20,000 living plants, including 5,500 orchids, 3,500 bromeliads and thousands of other unique botanical species — an impressive feat for a facility of its modest size.

Following the purchase

of tickets, visitors are first welcomed by a small gift shop which opens to a large greenhouse. Filled with hundreds of colorful, lush plants, the greenhouse provides an impressive start to one's experience at Selby Gardens.

Next, visitors find themselves adjacent to a koi pond stocked with dozens of fish, amid a peaceful bamboo garden. Close by, a well-manicured lawn serves as a pathway to the rest of the gardens, including the Children's Rainforest Garden, desert plant display and multiple additional greenhouses.

To further emphasize the degree of care and thought put into the well-being of the gardens, they are equipped with a very well-trained and knowl-

edgeable staff, open to any questions or comments from curious and insightful visitors alike.

If a long day of walking around the gardens induces hunger, one can easily access the Selby House Cafe, which offers sandwiches, salads, soups and pastries to visitors at moderate prices.

Tickets can be expensive. At \$20 for adults and \$10 for children; however, admission is free for all members and \$10 for member's guests.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is located at 900 S Palm Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.



Rating: 4/5 Torches

Student is 'naturally sharp'

by Sarah Catalano

Whether practicing in her room or performing in front of a crowd, fourth-grader Selena Shen knows first hand that creating music is hard work as she continuously improves her craft. From the Pine View Variety Show to concert solos, Shen has been playing the violin in a variety of settings for five years.

Shen began playing when she was just 4 years old. She first picked up the violin at the encouragement of her mother and has been taking lessons with her teacher, Martha Shackford, since then. So far, Shen has performed solos in five annual concerts and the 2018 Pine View Variety Show.

She has also been playing in the Sarasota Youth Orches-

tra for three years — she is part of the fourth (out of eight) divisions of the orchestra, the Camerata Strings. She auditioned for this group by playing two predetermined fragments of pieces and a set of scales, as well as reading two pieces from sight for judges.

"Violin is really important to her. She enjoys it," Shackford said. "I think the violin really helps bring her [personality] out."

At first, Shen said the learning process was confusing, as she found it difficult to play the correct notes. However, Shen did not let that dissuade her. She began diligently following her current practice schedule playing for 30 to 60 minutes, five days a week. "You have to practice

a lot because if you don't practice, then you'll probably forget [the notes] and it's really hard to get it back," Shen said.

At the 2018 Pine View Variety Show, Shen played Gavotte by Becker while standing up, then Gavotte in G Minor by Bach while sitting and holding the violin between her knees — a twist that Shen came up with herself. "I was really nervous, but it was also really cool because I got to go on stage," she said.

Charity is also an important component of Shen's talent. Participating in a fundraiser run by the Eckerd's Connects Foundation, she knocked on doors around her neighborhood and played music pieces for donations, raising money to buy Christmas



Fourth-grader Selena Shen plays the violin in her private-teacher's studio. Last year, at the Pine View Variety Show, Shen played the violin upside down in her lap.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY XIAOHONG SONG

gifts for orphans. "[It felt] really, really good," Shen said. "I like helping people and it was really fun to go around fundraising."

Looking forward, Shen said she plans to keep expanding her skill set, learning new pieces and finetuning her talent.



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Slime, a sticky situation!

by Sid Sharma

With the help of The Match, you can now make the perfect slime that's easy for everyone. These three DIY slime recipes make the best stress relievers as well as a fun toy. These recipes make the slime look mesmerizing and are fun and easy for everyone to enjoy. *Editor's note: make sure to make these fun recipes under adult supervision.*

Liquid Starch Slime

Materials:

- Clear or white washable PVA school glue
- Liquid starch
- Water
- Food coloring, glitter, confetti, and other fun mix-ins
- Bowl, measuring cups, spoon
- Storage container

Directions:

First step: Measure 1/2 cup of the PVA school glue and pour into a bowl.

Second step: Add 1/2 cup of

water to the glue, and mix well to combine the two substances.

Third step: Now you could add food coloring and glitter if desired; mix well! (this step is optional).

Fourth step: Measure 1/2 cup of liquid starch the (slime activator) and add to the mixture.

Fifth step: Stir and mix your slime until it comes together and becomes thicker, which will happen quickly!

Sixth step: Remove the slime from the bowl and knead with your hands till the slime is smooth. Now your liquid starch slime is done!



Fifth-grader Isabella Stern plays with the glow in the dark slime. The slime is simple to make and you can personalize it by adding your choice of color. PHOTO BY GRACE JOHNSON

Glow in the dark slime

Materials:

- 5 ounces Elmer's Glow in the Dark Glue
- 1/2 tablespoon of baking soda
- 1 tablespoon of contact lens solution

Directions:

First step: Pour out the entire bottle of the 5 fl oz Elmer's Glow in the Dark Glue into a bowl.

Second step: Add 1/2 tablespoon of baking soda and mix thoroughly with the glue.

Third step: Add 1 tbsp of contact lens solution. Mix until the mixture gets harder to mix and slime begins to form.

Fourth step: Take the slime out and begin kneading with both of your hands to make the slime smoother.

Fifth step: If it's too sticky, add 1/4 tsp contact lens solution and knead. Keep adding 1/4 tsp contact lens solution until desired consistency. Finally, turn off the lights and play with your slime!

Color Changing Slime

Materials:

- 1/4 cup white school glue
- 1 tablespoons water
- 3 teaspoons of thermochromic pigment (a material that changes color at different temperatures. For example, when you touch the slime with your hands. This can be purchased on Amazon.)



The liquid starch slime is silky and soft, making it perfect to play with. While slime is a lot of fun, it can also be used as a stress reliever. PHOTO BY LEO GORDON

mic pigment (a material that changes color at different temperatures. For example, when you touch the slime with your hands. This can be purchased on Amazon.)

- 1/4 cup liquid starch
- Food coloring

Directions:

First step: Decide on your color scheme for the slime. The color of thermochromic pigment will be the color of the slime when it is cold. Then pick an alternating color of food coloring for the hot color. It's recommended to think of colors that contrast well to make the transition of the colors smooth. For example, the blue pigment to yellow food coloring.

Second step: Pour 1/4 cup glue into a large bowl. Add 1 tablespoon of water and stir the water and glue until both are combined. Add five drops of food coloring and mix well. Then add 3 tea-

spoons of the thermochromic pigment and mix until equally distributed.

Third step: Add 1/8 cup liquid starch and mix until it is thick and slimy. Then knead the slime with your hands and return to the starch mixture for another mixing. This step is important because it makes sure there are no clumps of glue hiding in the center of your slime ball. If the slime is still sticky, add additional starch, a little bit at a time, and knead until the slime isn't sticky anymore. Keep in mind most batches will use almost all of the starch.

Fourth step: Store slime in a glass or plastic container with a lid for up to one week. Make sure to add a bit more starch if it has been a few days since playing with it. Just pour a teaspoon or so on the slime and knead it again. Now your amazing heat changing slime is ready for use!

The Holiday Table

Vinegret Salad, from the kitchen of Miroslava Chursina, grade 4

"Our Russian food is what we eat on a regular basis. We also eat turkey, but we also add our Russian dishes because it is a family recipe, and it tastes really good."

Ingredients:

- 1 large beet
- 3 medium russet potatoes
- 1 medium carrot
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons salt, plus more if needed
- 3-4 pickles
- 1 handful fresh parsley
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Directions:

- Step 1: Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C).
 Step 2: Wrap the beet in a foil and bake for about 45 minutes, or until fork tender. Once cooked, unwrap and cool until safe to handle and peel. Dice the roasted beet into small cubes.
 Step 3: Cut the potatoes and carrot into small cubes. In a large pot filled with water, add the cubed potatoes and carrots. Add vinegar and salt and bring it to a boil over medium high heat. Reduce the heat and boil until the potatoes are cooked, about 15 minutes. Drain and cool to room temperature.
 Step 4: Cut the pickles into small cubes. Chop the parsley.
 Step 5: In a large bowl, combine cubed beets, potatoes, carrots, pickles, and parsley. Drizzle olive oil and mix until well combined. Add salt and pepper to taste.



Rice Pudding, from the kitchen of Jasmin Grove, grade 4

"I like the surprise when someone finds the hidden almond and wins. I know someone in my family is going to end up with a prize and be happy."

Ingredients:

- 1 cup short-grained white rice
- 1/2 cup water
- 4 1/4 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla bean extract
- Risalamande:
- 1 cup almonds
- 2 cups heavy cream

Directions:

- Rice Pudding:
 Step 1: Boil rice and water in a saucepan for two minutes
 Step 2: Add milk to the pudding mixture and let boil while stirring
 Step 3: Add vanilla and let boil on low heat for 35 minutes while occasionally stirring.
 Step 4: Take off heat and let chill in fridge. A convenient trick is to prepare a night in advance.
 Risalamande:
 Step 1: Boil some water and put in small bowl. Soak almonds in water for five minutes. Reserve one almond aside and hide it in the dish for a lucky winner to find!
 Step 2: One by one, take each almond and let the skin come off by rubbing it in your fingers.
 Step 3: Coarsely chop almonds and mix them with the cooled rice pudding.
 Step 4: In a separate bowl, beat the heavy cream into whipped cream. Gently fold the whipped cream into the pudding.



by Elizabeth Hopkins

The holiday season: a time packed with festivities, excitement and cheer. We hope, however, you find a moment to relax with loved ones, perhaps over some comfort food. Here, The Match has selected favorite recipes students share with their families during the season, celebrating the holiday table. *Editor's note: Remember, while using knives and the oven, make sure to use caution under parent supervision.*

Perfect pesto, from the kitchen of Bryn Famiglio, grade 5

"My father is Italian. So, when we celebrate Thanksgiving we make our own pesto pasta. It is passed down from many generations. It is spinach on rotini pasta. It is really good!"

Ingredients:

- 4 medium cloves garlic
- Pinch sea salt
- 3-4 ounces basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons pine nuts
- 1 ounce grated Parmigiano Reggiano
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons olive oil

Directions:

- Step 1: Using a mortar and pestle, combine garlic and sea salt and grind to a paste.
 Step 2: Add basil leaves, a handful at a time. Continue until all basil leaves have been crushed to fine bits and have released their green liquid.
 Step 3: Add pine nuts and gently crush with pestle, then work into a paste with basil and garlic.
 Step 4: Add cheese and continue to use pestle to grind into a paste.
 Step 5: Slowly add in olive oil, working it into the pesto with a wooden spoon until incorporated.



Chocolate-filled Crepes, from the kitchen of Juliette Pauling, grade 5

"My mom, Judit Pauling, is from Barcelona. When we celebrate during the holidays, we have chocolate crepes for dessert. We also have them sometimes just for dessert. They are so amazing!"

Ingredients:

- Crepes:
- 3/4 cup of plain flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon butter
- Filling:
- 1 cup cream
- 1/2 cup Nestle dark chocolate melts
- 1 punnet fresh strawberries

Directions:

- Step 1: In a mixing bowl, whisk together sugar, salt, eggs and milk, set aside for at least ten minutes.
 Step 2: Heat a saucepan to a medium heat, add cream and bring it to a simmer. Remove from heat and whisk chocolate melts in until smooth and creamy. Cover and keep warm.
 Step 3: Heat a large, non-stick pan to a medium heat, melt 1 teaspoon butter, swirling it around the pan to coat the surface evenly.
 Step 4: Pour about 1/4 cup of the crepe batter into the pan and swirl the pan around to coat the surface evenly with the batter mixture. Try to keep the crepe in a circular.
 Step 5: Cook until golden and then flip over; cook the other side until golden.
 Step 6: Place the crepe on a warm plate and cover with a cloth while you continue to cook crepes.
 Step 7: When you are ready to serve, place a crepe on a plate, fill with sliced strawberries, and drizzle over the warm chocolate sauce. Roll up and serve immediately.

RECIPES COLLECTED BY LEO GORDON, OLIVIA HANSEN AND ALEX ROUM
 PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH HOPKINS



Student is an 'inspiring' actor

Second-grader participates in a variety of theatrical programs, starring in numerous productions.

by Joanna Malvas

Eager to take on the stage, second-grader Lila Paul has been an aspiring actress since the age of 3. Whether through theater companies or school-based extracurriculars, Paul is sure to seize any opportunity to show off her talent.

Involved in numerous acting programs and productions, Paul is an active performer in the company Spotlight Kids, which she attends every Wednesday from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Paul is additionally

involved in the Pine View elementary drama club called Pine View Players, which meets every other Tuesday. "I just love singing and dancing, and I think I could do it forever," Paul said.

According to Paul's parents, Paul's enthusiasm for acting all began after watching the Broadway show in New York, "Matilda." As she saw other kids on stage performing, she became inspired to become a "theater kid." After the show, her parents were quick to find classes for their

daughter to be involved in.

Since she and her family moved from Orlando to Sarasota two years ago, Paul has taken on numerous roles through Spotlight Kids. Paul recently participated in a production of "Alice in Wonderland," where she played little Alice. Lila has additionally performed songs from "Les Miserables," and "Oliver!" Paul's favorite song that she has performed as a solo is "Hurry Up Face" from "Charlie Brown."

Her solo, along with songs from "Alice in Wonderland" and the song "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" which are collective performances, were brought to the Access Broadway competition. This competition is held in Orlando each year in February for two days. At this competition, young actors and actresses go on stage to perform a monologue or a song. After these individual solo performances, groups of each company carry out a collective group number. For her solo, "Hurry Up Face," Paul received a high gold, which is the second best award she can receive. In the songs for "Alice in Wonderland," Paul and her group received gold medals, or the third best award she can receive. In "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah," Paul sang half the parts of the song, and they earned the highest rank, platinum, at the competition.

Andrea Paul, Lila Paul's



Second-grader Lila Paul performs in a Spotlight Kids production of "Seussical," a popular musical. Pine View Players sponsor Freda Williams describes Paul as an inspiration to herself and other students in the program.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANDREA PAUL



Second-grade actress Lila Paul stars as Alice in a production of the stage classic "Alice in Wonderland." Paul has been acting since the early age of 3.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANDREA PAUL

mother, expressed how Lila has developed beneficial skills through theater. "[Lila] has been learning a lot about music and reading music. Actually, early on, when she was four, [theater] helped her to read the script from a young age... She has learned self-confidence from going up on stage and doing something that not everyone is courageous enough to do," Andrea Paul said.

Lila Paul explains that one of the most nerve-racking, yet exciting experiences in her acting career was when she performed these songs again at Disney World last school year with Spotlight

Kids. "It was amazing. I got to take home this big, big trophy. I jumped up and down and said, 'I can take the trophy home!'" Paul said.

The young star also enjoys participating in a new elementary club, Pine View Players. The club is a performing arts club which is led by third-grade teacher Freda Williams. "Lila is a lot of fun because she has already had a lot of background in theater, so she already knows how to project her voice and how to jump into character. Because she's done this before, she's a great role model for the other kids... I think Lila is inspirational to me and to the other kids," Williams said.

Fifth-grader makes a splash

by Zoe Merritt

When fifth-grader Danica Aten isn't in school, it's safe to bet that you can find her in the Sarasota YMCA Sharks' swimming pool, giving every stroke her all.

Initially, Aten got her start in swimming three years ago thanks to her family. Aten's older brother is enrolled in the Sharks program, and her mother, Rebecca Aten, swam varsity for the United States Naval Academy.

Since she first jumped into the sport three years ago, this dedicated 10-year-old has been swimming at the YMCA six days a week, two hours each day. While 12 hours a week may be tough, Aten said that the enjoyment she gets from it keeps her going back every

time. "I like how it feels to be in the water," she said.

At a regular practice, Aten usually warms up with an 800-100-meter freestyle, then moves on to drill sets where she can hone her skills in all the strokes. Here, she practices not only freestyle but backstroke, butterfly, and Aten's personal favorite — the breaststroke. This stroke has Aten propelling herself through the water in bursts as she moves her arms forward, out, and back, while she tucks her legs in then kicks them out. This is followed by a rigorous 2,000-meter freestyle swim. Finally, Aten cools down with a few hundred meters of freestyle strokes.

All this training, Aten claims, pays off, as she competes nearly every weekend

with other YMCA-associated teams and has quite a few victories to show for it. These competitions are called Y Meets, and can lead to invites to bigger meets like FLAGS (Florida Age Group Championships). The 50 and 100-meter breaststroke races are Aten's specialty and where she generally shows off her skill.

Most recently, Aten won the 50-meter breaststroke at FLAGS. This past summer was the second time Aten had attended the competition, but the first time she has won an award.

In the classroom, too, Aten also shines. "Danica is an amazing student," her fifth-grade teacher Lisa Rader said. "She's new to Pine View and she has fit right in."



Fifth-grader Danica Aten swims at the Sarasota YMCA's swimming pool. Aten's favorite swimming stroke is the breaststroke. PHOTO PROVIDED BY REBECCA ATEN

Competitive and eager to win, Aten plans to stay with the Sharks for her middle and high school swimming career. "[I keep swimming] to go to championship meets and to

get into a good college," Aten said.

Aten has plenty of time to decide her path, though, and plenty of meets to win while she does.



Fifth-grader Max Sterbins stands next to an archery target at the Sarasota Archery Club. Sterbins' interest in archery began after his grandfather showed him videos of the sport on YouTube. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ROBERT LEVY

Student hits the bullseye

by Brianna Nelson

Hitting the bullseye is one of fifth-grader Max Sterbins' many strong suits as an archery aficionado.

After his grandfather showed him videos of archery on YouTube, he was inspired to try the sport out for himself. Originally he participated for the fun of the sport; however, regular practice allowed him to improve his skills, and he became involved with archery in third grade at Sarasota Archery Club and continues to practice there today.

He enjoys many aspects of the sport, from the friends he makes to the thrill of hitting a perfect shot. "Through his shooting he has made a lot of

friends... It's hard to tell if Max likes the shooting or the camaraderie the most," Sterbins' grandfather, Robert Levy, said.

However, as with any sport, archery also requires regular practice. Sterbins practices for about two hours a week on Thursdays and sometimes Fridays. Practices primarily consist of drills and shooting at targets to train accuracy. Training at the Sarasota Archery Club is divided by age groups, as are the competitions. This leads to approximately five to seven archers practicing at the same time. After all this training Sterbins participates in, his skill is put to the test at competitions.

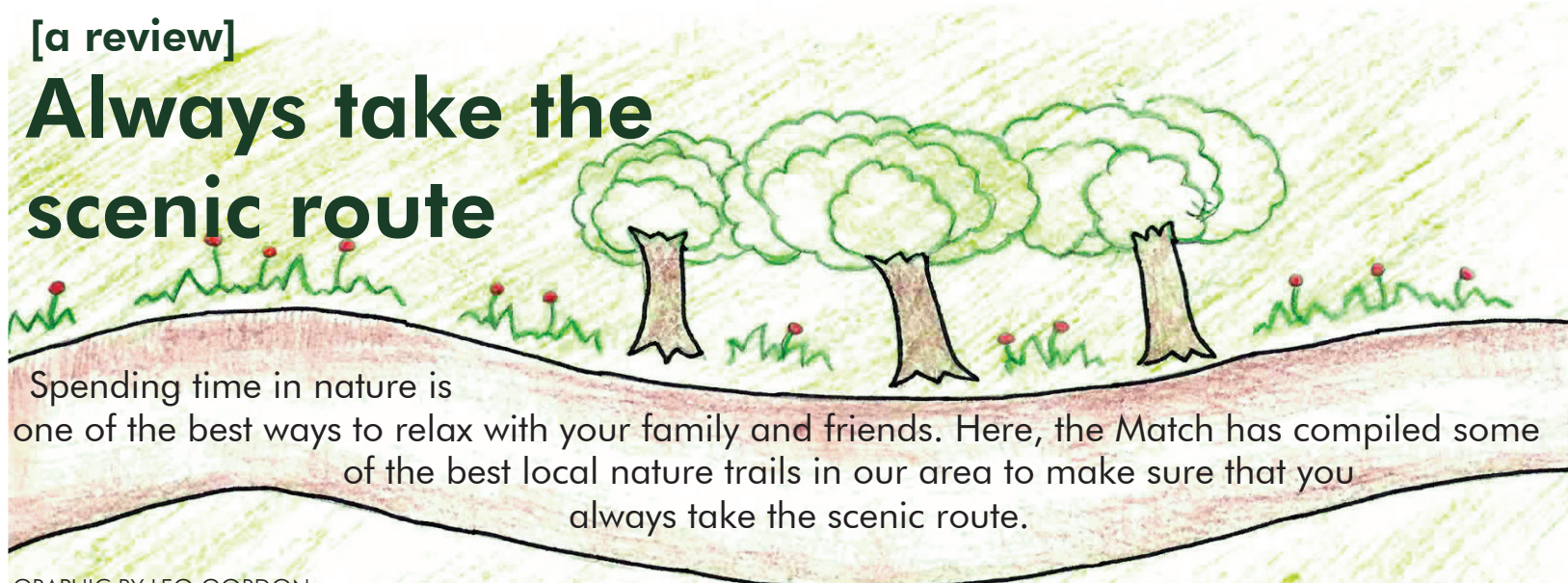
Sterbins has competed in

multiple tournaments where he demonstrated his ability with the bow. In his first competition, he was the only person in his age group. In his second competition, he went against just one other person. The lack of competitors is simply due to the lack of fellow archers within Sterbins age bracket who compete locally.

Sterbins enjoys archery and hopes to pursue it in the future, perhaps even in high school and college because of its versatility as both a sport and a hobby. "I enjoy [archery] because you can be competitive or not competitive... it can be [about] competing against friends or having fun," he said.

[a review]

Always take the scenic route



Spending time in nature is one of the best ways to relax with your family and friends. Here, the Match has compiled some of the best local nature trails in our area to make sure that you always take the scenic route.

GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

Red Bug Slough Preserve

by Naina Chauhan

Hidden amidst the buzzing cars and busy city, Red Bug Slough Preserve is a picturesque enclave perfect for anyone who wants to escape the city for a fresh breath of air.

The 72-acre lot of land boasts long, winding hiking trails that meander throughout the preserve. These trails are perfect for a family excursion. The trails are very reminiscent of “Old Florida” due to the mesic temperate hammock environment, or a forest covered by a dense evergreen canopy. They are mostly covered by a lush canopy protecting hikers from direct sunlight and are surrounded by a variety of Floridian fauna on either side.

Due to the lush and woody environment, bushes or roots sometimes intrude onto the

unpaved trails, so make sure to always tread with caution. Additionally, during the rainy season, the trails are prone to flooding, making some areas inaccessible. This factor can be an inconvenience at times.

It is very easy to forget that you’re in the middle of Sarasota while trekking through Red Bug Slough. Despite being right off of Beneva Road and the hectic city atmosphere, walking through the uncrowded trails can put you in a very peaceful state of mind. The woody environment with its rustling leaves, accompanied by the symphony of birds, creates a serene setting to hike the earthy paths.

Some parts of the trail are also by a stream of water that runs through the preserve. Walking by the water you can expect to see some native Flo-

ridian birds like Belted Kingfishers, Green Herons, Limpkins, Wood Ducks or Mottled Ducks. The stream is also perfectly suited for fishing, offering a fun alternative to walking for those who wish to get involved in a sports-related activity at the park.

Dogs are also welcome at Red Bug Slough, as long as they are leashed. Unfortunately, dog waste bags are not provided at the park. Frequent visitors often supply the park with waste bags themselves, though.

While the trails are the most popular aspect of Red Bug Slough, they are certainly not the only aspect. The preserve has a fishing dock, a small playground, and a couple of sheltered picnic tables perfect for enjoying a picnic after a hike.

Red Bug Slough Preserve



Many of the trails at Red Bug Slough offer wonderful views of the surrounding natural scenery, such as the oak canopy pictured above. Red Bug Slough is known in the area for its serenity and popularity with dog owners.

PHOTO BY LEO GORDON

is a beautiful and peaceful oasis nestled in the middle of Sarasota. The preserve is both dog and family-friendly, making it an ideal stop for your next family adventure.

The trails are always open,

located at 5200 S Beneva Rd, Sarasota, FL 34231.



Rating: 4.5/5 Torches

Lemon Bay Preserve

by Manny Rea

Adventure is out there, and it has never been any closer to home. At the South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve, the curious can embark on trails running through the preserved natural beauty of southwest Florida. With an enthralling atmosphere and tranquil sound, a trip to the preserve is fun for friends and family of all ages.

If looking for an escape from the hustle and bustle along US-41, head over to the local Lemon Bay Preserve to walk with nature. Visitors get the chance to stroll by tall meadow grass and be under the shade of the towering

pine trees found throughout Sarasota County. Birds fly and roost in their nests; tortoises scavenge around for appealing vegetation to eat or bring back to their sand dens.

Going with friends and family can also be a fulfilling time for everyone. Looking out for specific animals and plant life can be a captivating and cooperative activity, as Florida offers an abundance of biodiversity.

If you are looking to delve into nature trails for the first time or for some hidden gems throughout the county, the South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve can be exciting for all people. There is nothing

like being immersed in a different world from that of our daily routines. Being on the trails makes you think about the breathing life surrounding our homes, all living simply and without worry. A visit to the preserve is highly recommended, as it can be the start of a new passion for the earthly activities by animals and plants around Sarasota County.

The trail is open 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. It is located on 6125 Osprey Rd, Venice, FL 34293.



Rating: 5/5 Torches



Lemon Bay Preserve, located in South Venice, offers its visitors a break from their hectic daily lives. The preserve has an abundance of trails, featuring a variety of wildflowers and other plants. PHOTO BY MANNY REA

The Legacy Trail

by Cate Alvaro

Breathing in the fresh air while experiencing the rewards of a satisfying exercise, one can easily remain energized while exercising outside. A stretch of asphalt 12.5 miles long, the Legacy Trail is a scenic route walkers and cyclists can use to enjoy the environment around them while exercising.

The trail runs from South Sarasota to Palmer Ranch and Venice, intersecting with roads from time to time. Built on an old railroad line, the Legacy Trail is fairly linear and flat, with the exception of

a few bridges. This makes it an ideal terrain for those looking to train long distance and build stamina.

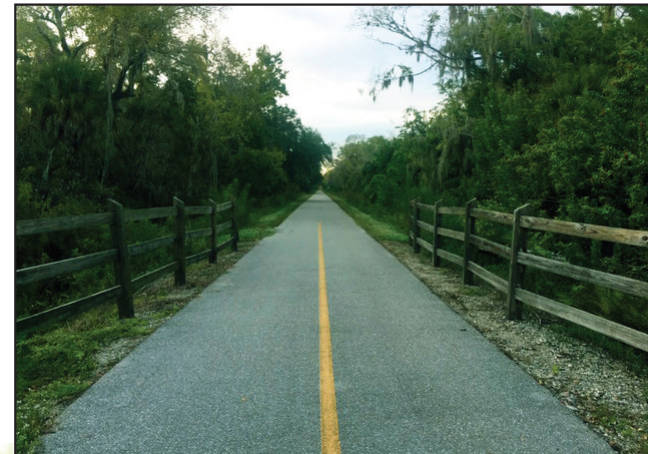
The scenery on the trail is pleasant and features luscious trees, along with native wildlife, such as alligators. There are a couple areas of the path shaded by trees, allowing for a refreshing break from the sun, however, it is mostly open. Be sure to wear and pack sunscreen when embarking on the trail.

New construction to the Legacy Trail is currently occurring on Laurel Road, with the creation of a bridge. This will make

it safer for those on the trail, further separating them from traffic. Before the implementation of the bridge, pedestrians and cyclists had to wait for the light to turn red to cross the road on the path.

While walking, biking or rollerblading one can learn more about the area's history and natural environment through the signs placed throughout the track, providing an educational aspect to the overall experience.

While there are no places on the trail to purchase food or beverages, there are 15 rest stops, some pro-



Sarasota's Legacy Trail stretches 17 miles from South Venice to Sarasota. Recently, voters approved a ballot measure to eventually extend the trail to Payne Park in Downtown Sarasota. PHOTO BY NATHALIE BENCIE

viding bathrooms. When preparing to commence one's journey on the Legacy Trail, it is important to pack snacks and drinks to

stay healthy and hydrated.



Rating: 4/5 Torches

Student achieves his 'goals'

by Peyton Harris

Fourth-grader Bryson Taylor is no stranger to the thrill of competition. For four years, Taylor has been maneuvering across the soccer field, scoring goals and winning numerous games.

Taylor originally started playing soccer in a structured setting at age 9 due to the enthusiasm of his mother and his love of watching the sport on TV, especially his favorite player, Lionel Messi.

Taylor typically plays midfield, a position placed between defenders and forwards, but loves playing offense, the attacking position, and scoring goals. He has practice twice a week, where he practices pass-

ing to his teammates, working on his positioning, and developing his offensive skills.

Taylor is a member of FC Sarasota, and his team Villa Real has a current record of five wins and one loss. They compete every Saturday, and Taylor practices every Tuesday. Last year, Taylor competed in the Sarasota Cup, a popular annual tournament held here in Sarasota. His team won the Wesley Chapel division of the tournament but did not place in the final cup.

Despite his long time playing, Taylor has kept his enthusiasm for the sport alive. "I feel really happy when I play because it's so fun," Taylor said.

Taylor's mother, Karen

Varone, has witnessed her son's journey in the sport since the very beginning. "Back then [when he started] it is just a bunch of running around often in the wrong direction and scoring on the wrong goal. He's obviously improved since those days, becoming a very smart player and now also becoming more aggressive," Varone said. "He loves playing with his friends on his team and especially during lunch at school."

Taylor expects he will continue playing the sport for about two more years, until the start of middle school, when he will cease his practices in favor of another sport. "I really like soccer, but I want to play basketball for a job," he said.



Fourth-grader Bryson Taylor poses at FC Sarasota's soccer field, where he practices soccer every Tuesday. Last year Taylor's team won the Wesley Chapel division of the Sarasota Cup tournament. PHOTO PROVIDED BY KAREN VARONE



Sixth-grader Jack Scarlett returns a volley at Pine View's tennis court. Scarlett plays on Pine View's middle school tennis team as well as at Laurel Oak Country Club. PHOTO BY LUCY COLLINS

Student has a 'love' for tennis

by Lucy Collins

Sixth-grader Jack Scarlett began swinging a tennis racket at the age of just five. Since then, he has competed in over 30 tournaments and even won the County Tennis Championship with the Pine View Tennis Team.

Scarlett practices at Laurel Oak Country Club an hour a day for four days a week. There, he plays sets, which are portions of a match, against others while his coach observes and critiques his technique.

"My favorite part of tennis is playing singles and forehand [a type of swing]," Scarlett said.

He competed in many tournaments including the United States Tennis Association and through the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Association. He even made it

to Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Association's national tournaments playing singles in Houston, Texas last September.

To prepare for the Pine View Tennis Team tryouts, Scarlett participated in extra practices at Laurel Oak. "I didn't think I would make it on the team because of all of the older kids trying out," Scarlett said. Ultimately, he was one of only two sixth-graders that made it. The Pine View Tennis Team won the county championships against Sarasota Middle School, and Scarlett himself won in the doubles tournament along with eighth-grader Joshua Weisman. "The best part of the team was becoming friends with [my teammates]. They were really funny and good at tennis," he said. "I defi-

nately planning to try out next year too."

Last summer, Scarlett traveled to Florida State University for a week to attend a tennis camp. He practiced six hours a day and stayed in the dorms on campus. "[The camp] helped me be able to play tennis for longer periods of time," Scarlett said. Over the years, he has also played at recreational summer camps at Laurel Oaks.

"Jack injured his thumb the week before the county tournament and he still found a way to get out there and play," Pine View tennis coach Wayne Robertson said. "He's one of those guys who is going to go out there to play and win and have fun."

Moving forward, Scarlett said he will continue with sport, ceaselessly honing his abilities.

Kick-start to competition

by **Kasumi Wade**

Fourth-grader Shanthi Marmash gave karate a first shot at the age of just 3 years old. After six years of hard work, she has earned herself a first-degree black belt.

Marmash originally became interested in the sport when she saw her older brother, eighth-grader Duncan Marmash, practice it as well, and she has been in love with it ever since. Duncan is a third-degree black belt and is an instructor at the dojo. "Shanthi has worked very hard to get where she is now and continues to work hard to achieve her goals," he said.

Marmash said her brother is still her inspiration for karate today because of his dedica-

tion to the sport.

She currently does karate at Ming Wu Martial Arts where she practices a few times a week for an hour. Right now, she is not part of the competitive team, but said she would like to be as she gets older and continues to hone her abilities.

Marmash said the hardest part of karate is the rigorous practices. "You have to train pretty hard because there are a lot of new things to learn at practice," she said.

At practice, she learns various forms, hand techniques and disciplines, as well as using weapons such as a staff.

Marmash enjoys being able to work and learn new things from her instructors at

Ming Wu. "I am able to learn a lot from my instructors, and they motivate me to be better. I always have a lot of fun while I am there," Marmash said.

When doing karate, Marmash said she feels happy and strong. According to Marmash, karate has been able to affect her life outside of the sport as well because it has taught her perseverance and how to be confident.

In the future, Marmash wants to continue the sport all the way to high school and would like to join the competitive team at some point. "She is such a special student because of her great discipline and respect. I love being able to teach her," her karate instructor Si Gung Jessie Vi said.



Fourth-grader Shanthi Marmash, a first-degree black belt, demonstrates a side kick at her dojo. Marmash has been doing karate for six years, after being inspired by her older brother eighth-grader Duncan Marmash. PHOTO PROVIDED BY DUNCAN MARMASH

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What makes you feel brave?

Bravery and I

by Sidney Brann, Grade 6

I feel brave when I have those I love around me, such as my family and friends. I find that I am capable of anything when I have the support of my family and the strong words of encouragement from my friends. After all, bravery and strength hide in the strangest places. All in all, I can do anything with love from my family and friends.

Being brave doesn't always come with swords and dragons and knights in shining armor. I myself had to find bravery last April when my grandfather passed away. It was hard for my parents, and they had to take care of my grandmother. However, I had my sister and cousins and friends beside me, supporting me, with love and help so I could be happy I knew such an amazing grandfather. Finally, bravery isn't always where you expect it to be.



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

A gifted school

by Shelby Brann, Grade 6

Bravery is trying something new and knowing that you are taking a risk. You know that you may not succeed at what you are trying, but you do it anyway. You try and give it your best. A friend can help encourage you to be brave and try something new. Family members can support you when putting on a brave face. This could be auditioning for a play, taking an exam, or tasting a new food. The time I felt bravest was when I went to Pine View.

I went through a lot at my old school. Negative attitude, bullies and loneliness accompanied me at my time at Ashton Elementary. I came to Pine View looking for what immigrants look for when they come to America: a fresh start, a place to start over. I was so nervous and afraid that everyone would ignore me or try to hurt my feelings. I knew very few people and expected everyone to be crude. I was wrong. Instead, I was welcomed with open arms. I met many people I will know for a long time and maintained excellent grades throughout the school year. I never would have had this great experience without first having the bravery to go to Pine View.



“I like acting, and acting makes me feel brave because I can feel like I’m in a different world than where my troubles are, and it just makes me feel better about my worries.”

— Tamina Mickish, Grade 5



“Relaxing music or good friends makes me feel brave because my good friends, they encourage me to do stuff so that I’m not just by myself and lonely, and music is just really uplifting.”

— Gaby McFarlane, Grade 5



“What makes me feel brave is doing art because I’m not really good at art, but I try my best to do it and do well.”

— Jaida Livingston, Grade 2



“Climbing makes me feel brave because I’m usually scared of heights, but whenever I climb, I don’t get afraid of heights anymore.”

— Andrew Lyda, Grade 2

[student question submission]

What was the Underground Railroad?

Question submitted by fourth-grader Michael Tagle



PHOTO BY NAINA CHAUHAN

by Naina Chauhan

Imagine running through the night, cold wind whipping against your skin, using stars to guide you through the night on your way to the next safe house. This was the life of a fleeing enslaved person traveling the Underground Railroad during the 1800s.

In the northern states of the United States, slavery was abolished in 1804; however, it was not until 1865 that slavery was universally abolished throughout the United States. Prior to that, enslaved people of the South still lived brutal lives of grueling labor, hunger, and unspeakable abuse.

To combat the evil institution of slavery, the abolitionist movement was born. Abolitionists were a group of people who believed that slavery was wrong and that enslaved peo-

ple were entitled to respect just like everyone else.

According to History.com, the Quakers “established abolitionist groups that laid the groundwork for routes and shelters for escapees.” This was the beginning of the Underground Railroad. Once the Quakers had organized a system of routes and safe houses for fleeing enslaved people in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, many abolitionists joined the efforts and thus the Underground Railroad was born.

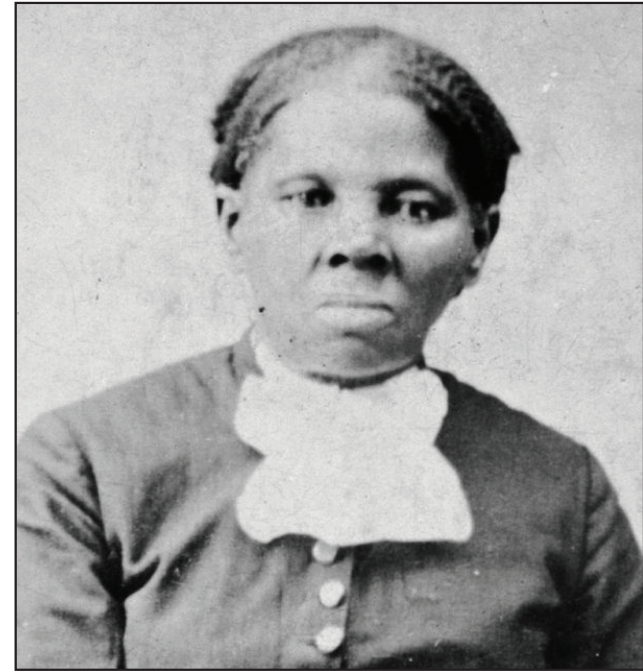
The Underground Railroad was a highly organized system that protected slaves who were escaping to the North in order to attain freedom. The Underground Railroad stretched thousands of miles from states in the deep south like Georgia all the way to Canada. It was not an actual railroad; however, it used code words like “passenger,” the fleeing enslaved people; “conductor,” people who guided the enslaved people; “stations,” the safe houses; and “station masters,” the owners of safe houses.

One famous conductor was former enslaved person Harriet Tubman. Tubman escaped from her plantation in 1849 with two of her brothers. However, instead of remaining in the North and enjoying her

freedom, Tubman returned to the South, bringing more enslaved people to freedom. According to PBS, Tubman made 19 trips to the South and saved around 300 people, never losing a “passenger.”

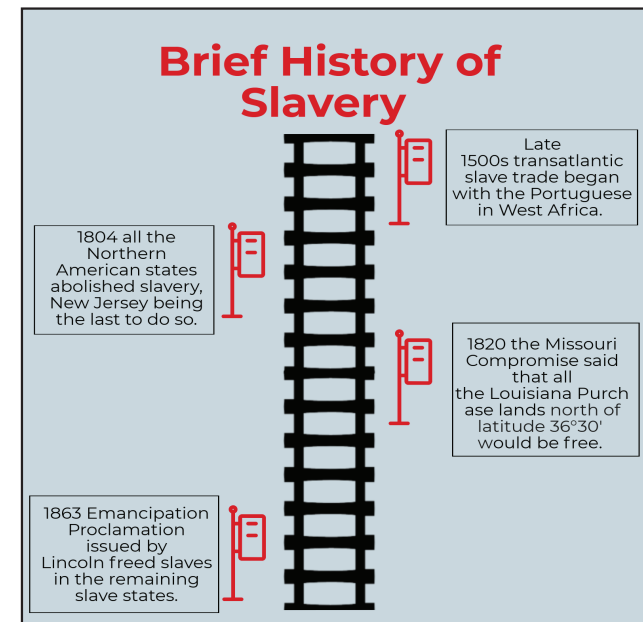
While the Underground Railroad brought thousands of slaves to freedom, it was a very perilous journey that many failed to complete. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 allowed slave masters to “recover” their slaves that fled, so many slave masters sent out “slave hunters” that were paid large sums to find and return them to their masters. Many enslaved people were then captured and returned to their master where they faced grave punishments. Despite the risks, many enslaved people went forth in hope of freedom.

The Underground Railroad ended its operations around 1863, two years into the Civil War, and two years later enslaved people across the United States were granted freedom. The Underground Railroad was life-saving, freeing thousands upon thousands of enslaved people. According to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, approximately 100,000 enslaved people were saved; however, it is difficult to estimate due to the lack of records kept.



Harriet Tubman was one of the most famous conductors of the Underground Railroad. Tubman helped around 300 enslaved people escape to the North for their freedom.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WBUR



GRAPHIC BY NAINA CHAUHAN

Home is where the star is

by Gwyn Petersen

On our way out of the Solar System, my curiosity finally got the best of me. “So, Gorax,” I said to my strange new green friend, “Tell me about yourself. How long have you been a space explorer?”

“Well, Jupie,” he said, frowning his four eyebrows, “I have to be honest. This is my first adventure out of my star system. I suspect the Goraxian conversion rate to human years places me at around your age, and I’m just a young and inexperienced explorer.”

Despite the fact that I had just learned that Gorax was a fourth-grader too, something else about this revelation made me pause. “Hold on. Goraxian? Like your name,

Gorax?”

He nodded solemnly. “On my planet, we are all named Gorax. I am Gorax 34229.”

That made my head spin. “Doesn’t that get confusing?” I imagined a world where everybody was named Jupie. Yikes!

He shrugged his six shoulders and sighed. “Sometimes.” I decided to leave it at that.

As we approached the Rasol system, I started noticing some similarities between this strange new place and our universe. In fact, it looked like a mirror image of our Solar system! I couldn’t believe it!

“Take a right at the big orange planet, Retipuj, and swing just by Sram. I live on

Htrae, the green-blue planet,” Gorax said. I followed his instructions and approached my friend’s home, a planet that looked very much like our Earth.

“I live in a place called Atosaras, Adirof. Just down there.” As we made our descent, I noticed that the water was green, not blue, and the land was blue, not green. As we landed, I could make out several more creatures identical to Gorax amassing next to the ship.

“It was great to meet you, Jupie. Thank you for the ride home. You’re free to visit anytime you’d like.” Gorax said, waving goodbye with all six of his arms. I smiled at him, and prepared for takeoff. Once



Space explorer and fourth-grader Jupie Terr travels with alien Gorax back to his home planet. The pair met when Terr was recruited to an astronaut program.

GRAPHIC BY MADI HOLMES

I left Htrae’s atmosphere, I called home.

“Houston,” I said, observ-

ing the Rasol system and all of the planets I had left to explore, “I’ve got work to do.”

GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON



Miss the first installment of the story above? View Part 1 by scanning the QR code.

Joke Box

1. What do Snowmen call their offspring?
Chill-dren
2. What do you call a snowman’s temper tantrum?
A meltdown
3. How was the snow globe feeling after the scary story?
A little shaken.
4. How do you scare a snowman?
Pull out a hairdryer.
5. What’s a snowman’s favorite snack?
Ice Krispy treats

Home, teach home

Confessions from an over-dedicated teacher

by **Nathalie Bencie**

As a second-grade teacher at Pine View, many of my students have requested that I offer a tour of my home, sweet home: the comfy confines of my classroom. Having taught here for the last five years, I've spent hours perfecting my classroom's decor so that it can function as both your comfy learning environment and my cozy home. From me to you, welcome to my open house tour!

The first question students ask me about is often times in regards to where I sleep. Have you ever wondered what that giant, locked cabinet in your teacher's classroom holds? Duh, it's your teacher's

fold-up bed!

Sometimes, after I've completed my lesson plans and correcting tests, I like to watch television on my bed using the classroom ActivBoard. Since the screen is so big, it's like my own, personal movie theater. The school WiFi also works well so I can watch some of my favorite shows on Netflix.

I particularly like to snack when I watch TV, and my classroom has the perfect facilities for me to cook up a warm meal whenever I'm feeling hungry. I use the mini-fridge not only to hold snacks for the class day, but also my dinner for the evening that I will heat up using the classroom microwave; normally, I like to heat up soup.

Following my meal, I use the sink to scrub my dishes and to wash my hands.

Personal hygiene can be really difficult to sustain at school. Although I use the class bathrooms and sinks to use the restroom, wash my face, brush my teeth, etc., I have to use the showers in the gym to bathe, which can be so cold in the evenings! Sometimes, it can be embarrassing to run into fellow teachers when you're wearing a bathroom robe, so I prefer to shower in the evenings when all other teachers are asleep in their own classrooms.

My favorite part about living at school, however, is the playground the teachers and I



Second-grade teacher Liv N. Klass poses in front of her classroom that also serves as her home. Many students often ask her questions regarding her experience of living at school. GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

get to use once the school day ends. It can be hard to watch your students enjoy the monkey bars during recess, especially when you're stuck in

boring meetings or grading classwork instead. It's nice to have personal access to the playground after school, that way the teachers can play, too.



From the surrounding forest, new animal pupils gather for a night time lesson at Pine View. Administration announced its plans for Nocturnal School earlier this fall.

GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA HANSEN

Nurturing nature at night

by **Isabella Gaskill**

Earlier this fall, administration announced that Pine View will be opening doors to accept more students than ever before next school year. Human students will soon be sharing their campus with the newly-formed Nocturnal School, comprised of any young animals who live in the surrounding woods of Pine View and beyond. From squirrels and crows to foxes and bears, Pine View is eager to create a learning environment that allows every student to thrive.

The principal of the breaking expectations Nocturnal School is Dr. Stephen Crowvert, who recently transferred from End of Day Evening

School in Venice. Crowvert is eager to start the school year this spring and is excited to have the opportunity to share Pine View's campus with such a great student body. "Pine View kids really are amazing, so I hope that we will be able to learn from them as we start this new school," Crowvert said.

Conversations about the formation of a full-time gifted school for animals began in November of last year, when several parents and teachers suggested the idea of merging the potential school with Pine View on its campus. "Gifted students thrive with other gifted students, so it would benefit them all if there was a full-time gifted school for outdoor students," Nocturnal School

teacher Linda Lionns said.

After several meetings, committees, and an abundance of paperwork, Nocturnal School became a reality in partnership with Pine View.

Nocturnal School has enrolled about 600 students as well as around 100 students from abroad for the upcoming school year, but they are looking to include more students in the following years. International student Grizz Lee Bair from Canada is looking forward to starting the new school year and to spend time living in Florida. "I am thrilled to be learning with all these new students. Nocturnal School is very different from schools in Canada, so it's all just really exciting," Bair said.

Student is a 'model' citizen

by Madi Holmes

Fourth-grader Ezra Lerario is always picture-perfect when it comes to his full-time acting and modeling career. Beginning his modeling and acting career at the young age of 4, Lerario has posed for a wide range of companies, including some of the largest household brands in the United States such as Walt Disney and Nike.

Lerario started modeling through a professional actress and family friend who urged Lerario to jump into the business early on. Allison Lerario, his mother, however, was hesitant at first about bringing Lerario into the business at such a young age, but is now glad she went along on the journey. "This is his long term goal and absolute dream," she said.

After his initial leap, it didn't take long for Lerario to rack up bookings with huge brands like Disney, Coca-Cola and Nike. The young model is featured in print modeling advertising Disney's theme parks, and can also be seen modeling some of their youth clothing collections. Lerario has also acted in multiple commercials, including one promoting Disney's famous Magic Bands, patented bracelets that operate as room keys and park tickets.

Lerario's busy and lengthy schedule is even handled by multiple managers based in Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando and Tampa, as well as a full time agent based in Atlanta.

"A couple months ago,



Fourth-grader Ezra Lerario (far right) is on camera on the set of "In the Dark," a short film. Lerario also models for a variety of big brands, with talent managers across the country. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALLISON LERARIO

Ezra flew into LA for a film call-back, and I had the opportunity to sit down and get to know him and his dad. He is such a fun kid and was

"You can just be yourself; no one's going to be better at being you than you."

Ezra Lerario, Grade 4

making me laugh the whole meeting. He is such a little pro and an incredibly natural talent," Abby Johnson, Lerario's talent manager based in Los Angeles, said.

After just a short amount

of time, Lerario sparked a love for the entertainment industry, and soon wanted to dive even deeper into the business. He has since starred in many short films, including: "Arizona", "In the Dark" and "God's Will," where he played the role of Mini Bad Boy.

Lerario uses acting and modeling as a way to blow off steam and feel comfortable in his own shoes. "You can just be yourself; no one's going to be better at being you than you," Lerario said.

Lerario's bright future is just now starting as he has already managed to gain an in with some of the most well-known brands in the world. According to Lerario, hopes to one day become a household name, and make it big in the entertainment industry.

[a column]

First Impressions



Elizabeth Hopkins, Match Editor-in-Chief

As a small child, my mother always used to tell me not to judge people until I really got to know them, as first impressions are often misleading. Although it may be easy to ignore parental advice, several years ago, I learned this lesson first hand, and it transformed my perspective forever.

My Uncle Charles is severely autistic and has lived his entire life in a special home. Over the years, my contact with him was fleeting. We rarely saw him. Even during these trips to visit, my sister and I would take a step back, actually meeting with him only once or twice. As a small child, he frightened me. Even though it was explained to me that he was disabled, that word meant nothing to me. It was impossible to compare him to anyone I had ever met before. Obviously, I felt nervous around him, but I could deal with it. It was all too easy to just keep my distance.

In 2010, my parents decided to move Charles closer to home. As part of his transition, we spent the summer with him. I was afraid; now, I would

have to spend my days with someone who made me feel extremely uneasy. It was not just him who made me nervous, but other residents as well. All of a sudden, my approach of avoidance was not effective.

One day, Charles left the garden hose on in the home's community garden, leaving a pool of water. A staff member told him to turn it off, though I sensed Charles was confused. Hoping to quickly remedy the situation, I ran over, shutting off the tap myself. In my haste, however, I slipped and had to reach through the sticky, dark mud, squeezing it in my hands, trying to get up. Viewing my remarkable lack of coordination, Charles laughed. He started to play with the dirt, and soon we were both laughing. Suddenly, he was not the big, scary man I thought I knew. He was my uncle, delighted by mud. The reasons why I was so afraid of him became what I liked about him the most; I understood that those qualities made him remarkable. After that moment, I no longer took his instability as a direct threat.

Growing up, I began to learn how our culture tends to marginalize people who are atypical, leaving them voiceless. This trip allowed me to eventually realize the importance of advocating for people who do not have the ability to speak out for themselves.

To see beyond ourselves can be difficult, but to stay in our comfort zone means we miss out on great opportunities for growth.