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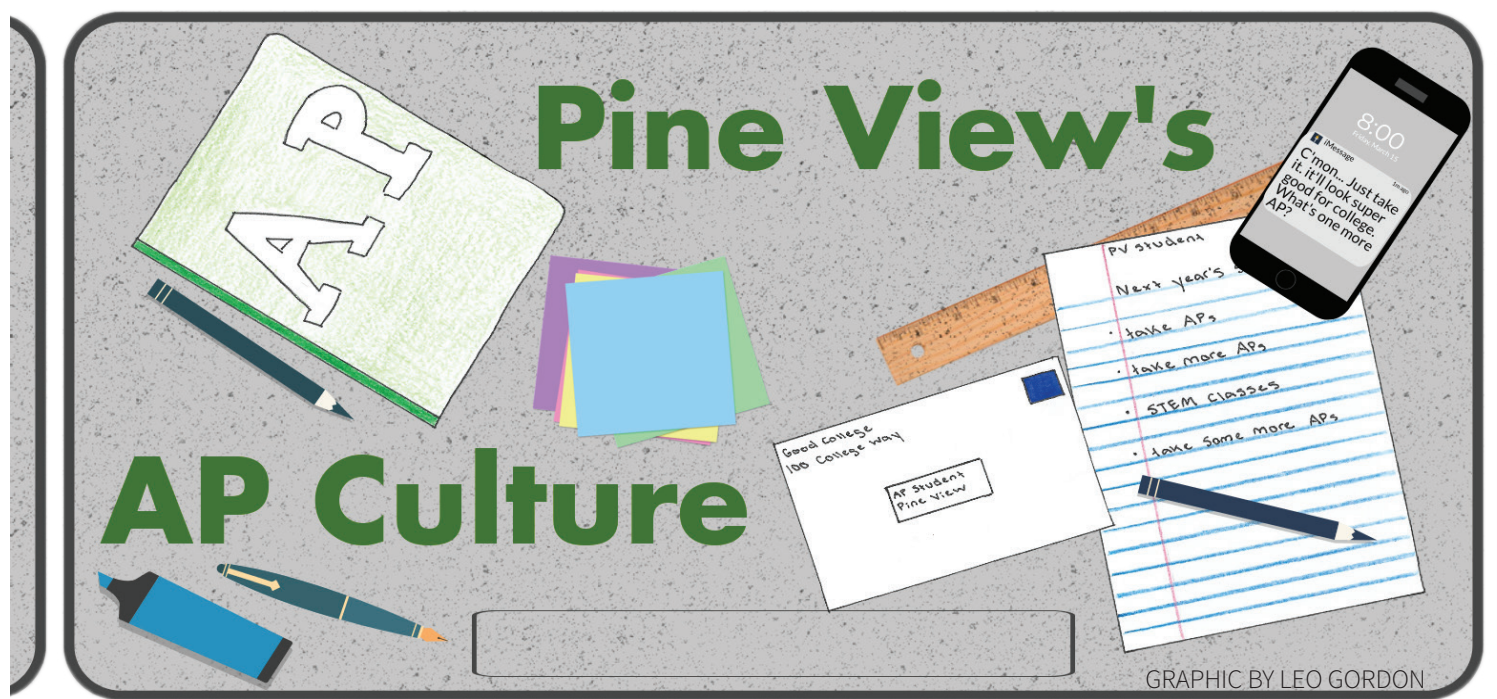


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by Anna Labiner
Features Editor

Pine View's tradition of excellence has been upheld for generations, and many can attest that the school's success is largely derived from the exceptional student body. Just this year, Pine View had one of the highest percentages of students receiving National Merit scholarships. Prominent accounts of success, such as this one, have painted the average Pine View student as a go-getter who pushes the limits and excels above the expected. However, some students have said that the competitive nature of Pine View students has cultivated a form of negative "AP culture," in which they feel the need to take the hardest AP courses, regardless of their interest in the class or their availability to take it.

However, this is not a trend that is unique to Pine View, as, nationally, the number of AP courses that high school students are taking has more than doubled in the last 10 years, according to College Board.

"The amount of AP classes that kids are taking is definitely greater than it used to be, and it's not necessarily a good thing," alumnus and

Pine View parent Bill Johnson said. "As much as high schools would like to say that the AP courses follow some sort of college-level guidelines, I don't necessarily think that's actually the case. I understand the reasoning behind taking all the AP courses, but I don't know [if] that's doing the student any favors."

Many students see taking an exorbitant number of advanced classes as a way to accelerate their education and reduce the amount of time they spend in college. In recent years, Pine View students have also found themselves compelled to take their last two years of high school at State College of Florida (SCF), thereby shortening their college experience.

However, college is more than just furthering one's education — college is where

students mature, and the pressure to take many AP courses is forcing students into adulthood much sooner. According to a survey conducted at Pine View, 78 percent of students have taken an AP class solely for the credit.

"The amount of AP classes that kids are taking is definitely greater than it used to be, and it's not necessarily a good thing,"
Bill Johnson,
alumnus and Pine View parent

students should be viewed as an opportunity to further their education and pursue their interests at an advanced level. "I see [AP culture] as more of an opportunity for students to engage in rigorous course work that better prepares them for

college and for life," testing coordinator Lori Wiley said. "I do recognize that there is perhaps a circulating question of if we should be channeling students into certain AP programs, but the truth is that we respond to the wishes of the students."

Unlike most high schools who require students to sign up for classes that have a limited number of spots available, Pine View builds its master schedule according to the requests of the students. Subsequently, if there is a class that very few students register for, the course cannot be continued. Such is the case for Psychology Honors, which is being discontinued next year in favor of AP Psychology.

"As teachers and faculty of Pine View, we do have to make sure that we encourage students to push themselves in their coursework, but it is also our responsibility to advise our students to not overburden themselves — we know that there are students that are aiming for their reach colleges, but there is also a part of us that wants to tell students that they should enjoy their high school years as well," English teacher Chris Pauling said.

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DiGS Club explores diversity gap in gifted education

by Odelia Tiutyama
News Editor

A year after Pine View funded a \$12,000 universal gifted screening program, the club Diversity in Gifted Schools (DiGS) is continuing to work toward a more diverse environment on campus. The program, introduced last year, uses the Naglieri Nonverbal Test-III Edition to assess students' eligibility for full-time, gifted education. The qualifying students are then offered a secondary test. However, with many obstacles keeping minority populations from gifted programs, DiGS is faced with many challenges.

Underrepresentation of minority groups is not only seen at Pine View, but it is seen among gifted education everywhere. According to the Council for Exceptional Children, Caucasian and Asian students make up approximately 75 percent of students enrolled in gifted and

talented programs although 44 percent of the entire student population is African-American. Pine View follows suit with this report, with less than one percent of students identifying as African-American.

Eleventh-grader and DiGS president Vinay Konuru first began to recognize the lack of diversity around campus when he moved to Pine View in third grade. "When I saw that less than 1 percent of Pine View students were from African origin, that really struck me. Every single day there's a student that's not being recognized for their talent that should be," Konuru said.

Continuing to explore lower-income areas after reading an article about the poorest county in America, Holmes County, Miss., Konuru and his brother, a Pine View Class of 2016 alumnus, decided to bike through the area and speak



Eleventh-grader Vinay Konuru was able to talk to many who live below the poverty line in one of the poorest counties in America, Holmes County, Miss. Konuru had the chance to talk to a farmhand who was fired when the economy in the area went bust, which caused him to have to take on any odd labor job to support his father. PHOTO PROVIDED BY VINAY KONURU

to locals about the economy in June 2018. Konuru and his brother wanted to see what poverty on this scale in the U.S. truly looked like, and they

were able to see it firsthand by talking to locals about their experiences.

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Ninth-grader jams to the beat
Annabelle Pietryka rocks on the bass

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Troy Riesenberger is a 'row' model
A tenth-grader's career in Sarasota Crew

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Religion's role in politics
The interplay between church and state

Looking into Pine View's AP culture

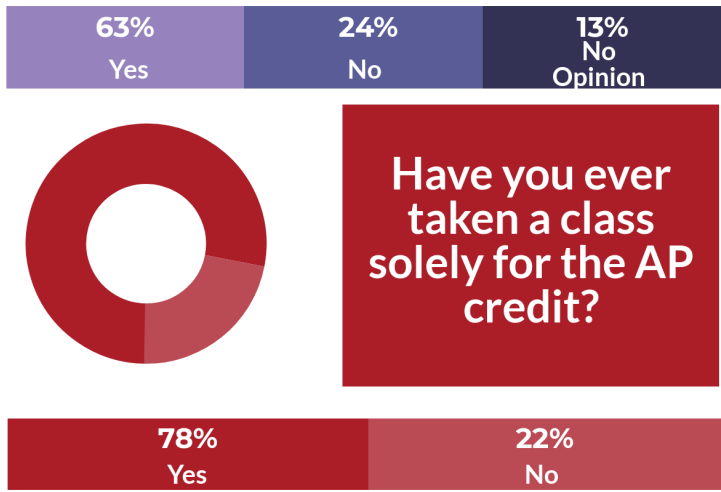
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by Anna Labiner
Features Editor

A recent attempt to inform students about AP classes was the new AP Spin Night held Jan. 10. Parents and students were able to speak face to face with all of Pine View's AP teachers and receive information about the courses.

Some are of the opinion that Pine View's AP culture positively pushes students academically to stay on par with their classmates. "I think there's definitely some pressure to take AP's. I think it actually comes from students themselves, not guidance, but it's never impacted my decisions about scheduling. I enjoy taking AP's because I like to challenge myself, but I'd never recommend taking a class because it 'looks good,'" eleventh-grader Alana Schreiber said.

When picking their courses for next year, Pine View students should keep in mind that measuring oneself against others academically is not an authentic measurement. There



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA GASKILL Based on a survey of 122 Pine View students in grades 10-12

Disclaimer: Seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders were not included in the survey due to the fact that it is usually only upperclassmen that enroll in AP courses. Although AP Human Geography is offered to ninth-graders, including those numbers would introduce an evident skew in our data.

will always be some form of AP culture among the student body at Pine View, for the sole reason that it is a competitive school with students who aim to be the very best.

DiGS works to alleviate the lack of diversity on campus

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by Odelia Tiutyama
News Editor

DiGS hopes to bring awareness to a lack of diversity in gifted schools across the nation. Konuru identified part of the problem as the admissions process when applying to a gifted school because students must be recommended by a teacher or parent. Complications arise because there are fewer minority students being recommended for these IQ tests. To help solve this issue, Principal Dr. Stephen Covert launched his universal screening initiative, and DiGS will be visiting each of the Title I schools that were a part of the screening to discuss test results with parents.

Another issue addresses the lack of comfort minority students face when they attend Pine View. "When I came to Pine View, I was one of a few people of color," eleventh-grader Waseh Khan said. "Finding a group is already something that's hard to do when you are younger, and it was even harder not having more than four people who I could associate with."

To minimize the discomfort that students of color may face on campus, DiGS hopes to



Eight students from Pine View's Diversity in Gifted Schools club attended a "Diversity Retreat" at Suncoast Technical College Jan. 28. The students participated in events such as discussing stereotypes and working to increase diversity at school. PHOTO PROVIDED BY VINAY KONURU

form a support group which would function as a safe meeting place to discuss experiences.

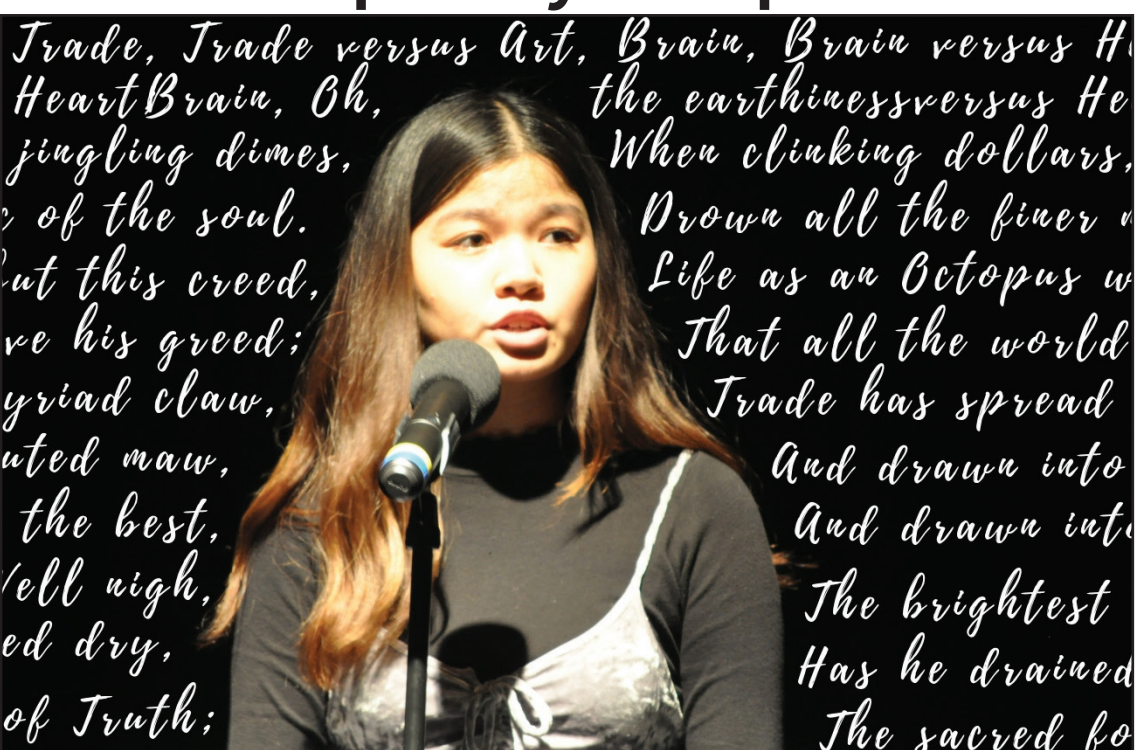
"Just as much as this problem disadvantages minority groups that aren't attending Pine View, it disadvantages Pine View students," Konuru said. "If we live inside a bubble, once we graduate, a lot of us might not know how to interact in the real world. Many Pine View graduates experience culture shock, which disadvantages us."

Further expanding their audience, DiGS has organized a workshop to take place April 27 at Pine View in hopes of in-

forming the community of the lack of diversity. It is set to encompass speeches by McIntosh Middle School Principal Dr. Harriet Moore, Assistant Superintendent Chief Academic Officer Dr. Laura Kingsley, Pine View School Principal Dr. Stephen Covert and community leader Edward James, with a keynote address from renowned speaker Dr. Joy Lawson Davis.

"A lot of these movements are started by students, if this Pine View generation can finally solve this issue after 50 years, it'll be an incredible legacy for us to leave behind," Konuru said.

Students compete and advance in annual poetry competition



Tenth-grader Joey Chen performs "Art vs. Trade" by James Weldon and "Very Large Moth" by Craig Arnold at the schoolwide Poetry Out Loud competition Feb. 13. Chen won the school competition and achieved third place at states March 2 at USF. PHOTO BY LUCY COLLINS AND GRAPHIC BY MELISSA SANTOYO

IN BRIEF

Investor's club holds first annual basketball competition as fundraiser

by Leo Gordon
Asst. Match Editor

In hopes to reimburse costs allocated for an end-of-the-year field trip to Wall Street, Investor's Club held its first annual basketball game in the gym Feb. 15.

The club, with a following of around 15 dedicated students, was founded by eleventh-grader Josh Widjaja in 2016. "I started the club initially to teach my friends how to invest wisely, but now it has expanded to be an open investing forum as well," Widjaja said.

Later this year, the club will travel to New York to learn more about the New York Stock Exchange and its inner workings.

Six teams of three players participated in the basketball game, which raised over \$100 for the club and its Wall Street travels. Members decided to hold the fundraiser in the form of a basketball game to effec-

tively reach a wide audience of students. "[Basketball is] fun and there isn't a person who doesn't know how to play basketball," Widjaja said.

According to club members, the main purpose of the fundraiser, aside from raising money for their trip, was to have a good time. "We're all about having fun," Widjaja said.

Each player was additionally provided with complementary pizza for their participation in the fundraiser, greatly contributing to the draw and success of the fundraiser as a whole.

Eleventh-graders Forrest St. Pierre, Brett Martinez and Daniel Feraco won bragging rights by taking first place out of the six competing teams. Although Widjaja only has one remaining year at Pine View, he hopes to continue the event next year and watch it evolve as the club takes on new leadership and a larger following.

School Board's cell phone proposal

by Zoe Merritt
Asst. Opinion Editor

On Jan. 22, Sarasota County School Board member Bridget Ziegler proposed a complete ban of cellphones across all grade levels. The current cellphone policy allows for cellphone use under teacher supervision for educational purposes, but they must otherwise be turned off and put away.

According to an article by the Herald-Tribune, district spokesperson Kelsey Whealy said, "Our policy is structured in such a way that our schools have the ability to adjust it for the specific needs of their individual community."

While Ziegler's concerns about cellphone use in schools are shared by many other board members, her plan is not. Board members, such as Chairwoman Jane Goodwin, are putting forward proposals for restriction and revision of the current policy. At a work-

shop Feb. 5, the following regulations were suggested: a complete ban for elementary school students requiring electronic devices to be powered off and away, middle school students be allowed to use phones in the classrooms under teacher instruction, and high school students can use phones between classes and during lunch but not in class unless specified by a teacher.

In an article by the Sarasota Observer, Ziegler said, "If we look at the current policy, I'd actually be OK with it if it was actually being adhered to."

Other issues come into play beyond student distraction, with members bringing up topics such as students from low-income homes and their access to technology, as well as how much jurisdiction will be left to teachers. The debate will continue at the next workshop April 16 to decide restrictions and revisions.

Model United Nations excels at annual out-of-state competition

by Manny Rea
Asst. Managing Editor

For their annual out-of-state trip, Pine View's Model United Nations (MUN) varsity team attended the NAIMUN LVI conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington D.C. from Feb. 14 to 17. A prestigious event designated for the best MUN teams around the world, students on Pine View's team had the opportunity to participate in dozens of United Nations simulations staffed by Georgetown University students. Ten delegates from Pine View took home awards for their efforts.

Eleventh-graders Alex Douglas, Hannah Sticht and twelfth-grader Shelly Barber earned fourth place in Verbal Commendations. Tenth-graders Julia Kourelakos and Jonathan Allen and eleventh-graders Marguerite Andrich, Dominic Marhoefer and Luis Guevara-Flores were recognized as third place in Honorable

Delegates. Gaining the highest honors, eleventh-graders Matthew Price-Palluel and Noah Gaertner were awarded second place winners in Outstanding Delegates.

"These out-of-state conferences give our team a chance to compete against some of the best Model UN teams across the globe," eleventh-grader and PV MUN vice president Kris Selberg said.

Delegates worked with students from countries including Puerto Rico, China and Australia. "A great experience is the cross-cultural learning we get from these other delegates," Barber said. "Other than the competition, these conferences also allow for students to explore new cities and colleges during their trip. I have been to Boston and Washington D.C. in the past two years for MUN, and they were amazing experiences that I will never forget," Selberg said.

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Previously unenforced Shell Lot policy now imposed

by Peyton Harris
Focus Editor

On a typical morning two weeks ago, a number of Pine View students would be sitting in their cars before school. While most were getting ready for the day ahead of them, a few may have been engaging in prohibited activities. As a result, beginning at 7 a.m. Friday, March 1, Pine View students began being ushered out of their cars in the Shell Lot by Deputy Hudson or a school aide.

The Shell Lot policy has always existed: the Pine View Parking Regulations/Motor Vehicle Registration form clearly states that "Students are not to remain in the parking lot upon arrival at school. The only time students are permitted in the parking lot is coming to or leaving from school."

However, this policy has only recently been enforced. Principal Dr. Stephen Covert said that administration had taken note of the rising number of students sitting in their cars. "The shell lot is not a place to hang out... We want students to be able to get to class on time,"

Covert said.

School resource officer Deputy Chris Hudson cited an additional reason for the enforcement. "We've received reports of vaping, drugs and alcohol consumption [in their cars before school]," Hudson said.

"We've received reports of vaping, drugs and alcohol consumption [in their cars before school],"

Deputy Chris Hudson, school resource officer

The enforcement has been received with criticism from some; complaints of worsening the traffic in the shell lot are common, as students are now all trying to leave the shell lot and enter campus, as others are pulling in.

This policy has become a source of controversy among the student body. "I sat with

my friend and we'd talk about what we'd do for the day and it was a good way to start the day," tenth-grader Kenna Bartlett said.

"I strongly dislike [the policy enforcement] because I don't think the other students should have to suffer the consequences of two-three kids who got in trouble. I actually do productive things in my car like study instead of going on campus and having nothing to do," tenth-grader Diana Kodra said.

However, not all the feedback was negative. "Honestly, I am okay with it," twelfth-grader Anthony Angelastro said. "It barely affects some of us. However, I would be upset if they enforced this during the winter. Sometimes you need to stay in your car to warm up."

It is worth noting, however, that the Student Union is open at 7 a.m. and offers breakfast, and coffee will be available in the near future.

For the immediate future, Hudson or another staff member will be in the Shell Lot during the mornings to ensure that students are in accordance with the policy.



TOP: School resource officer Deputy Chris Hudson and campus security aide Joanne Arbucci monitor student arrivals in the early morning in the Shell Lot. The recent enforcement prevents students from staying in their cars before school.

BOTTOM: Arbucci tells a student to exit their car after arriving on campus. This enforcement will continue for the immediate future. PHOTOS BY ANNA LABINER

Students donate supplies and backpacks to Honduras



TOP: Students in Spanish Honor Society package each of the backpacks with supplies such as pens and paper. Each of the orange backpacks were hand-decorated with markers by Spanish teachers Patricia Zdravkovich and Judit Pauling's students.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY PATRICIA ZDRAVKOVICH

BOTTOM: Students from Honduras pose with the backpacks. The photo was sent by Jose Antonio, a friend of Zdravovich who delivered the backpacks to the students. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOSE ANTONIO

by Peyton Harris
Focus Editor

Donating backpacks full of school supplies to 50 underprivileged elementary students in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Spanish teacher Patricia Zdravkovich carried out her project Feb. 15, helping one of the most violent cities in the world.

The idea was sparked by a family friend of Zdravkovich from Honduras. "She was telling me how every year she goes back [to Honduras] to visit her little sister, who's 5 years old, and the little sister goes crazy about my friend's backpack; she always ends up giving the backpack to her little sister. I thought, if the little sister goes crazy, then it must be all the kids go crazy [over the backpacks]. I asked her if I were to send backpacks with her, would the kids like it?" Zdravkovich said.

Soon, Zdravkovich approached another Spanish teacher, Judit Pauling, to collaborate on the project. Zdravkovich donated the backpacks and the other Spanish teachers donated the supplies. Due to the

backpacks all being a plain orange color, the teachers asked their students to give them a personalized feel, drawing designs on the backpacks with inspirational messages. Both teachers had their students decorate the backpacks with personalized messages as well as handwritten cards signed "from their friends in Florida."

"At first [the students] just thought of it as another classroom assignment, but once I explained to them that this is a special thing and the circumstances some of these kids face, they came up with these beautiful cards," Pauling said.

"[Designing the backpacks] was an amazing feeling because even though I didn't actually ship or buy them, I was able to make them special for those who were receiving them," ninth-grader Gracie Leonard said.

After the backpacks were personalized, the Spanish Honor Society helped fill the backpacks with supplies, such as notebook paper, pens and pencils. While the club is ser-

vice-oriented, this was a first for the students. "Everybody loved it and not only will it make a big difference, but it showed our club the importance of our connections through speaking Spanish," eleventh-grader and Spanish Honor Society president Marguerite Andrich said.

Family friend of Zdravkovich and deliverer of the backpacks, Jose Antonio, expressed his delight in assisting to make this beneficial project happen. "When the backpacks arrive, and the children receive them, we hope to have a video call so the kids can see the kids who designed these backpacks and everybody can feel that connection," Antonio said.

Expanding their service, the entire world languages department worked together to send backpacks to Guatemala as their next project, which was delivered by Feb. 22. "Some of them wrote 'todo es posible' [everything is possible] and perhaps the situation that those kids are in is one that makes them not want to come to school every day, but maybe the backpacks will make them feel like a team at school and they will want to come," Zdravkovich said. "I think that words that my students wrote, the designs they did, the kids receiving them may feel proud to go to school. What more can we ask of a child than to become educated?"



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PATRICIA ZDRAVKOVICH

Eleventh-grader organizes schoolwide art festival

by Alex Roumi
Asst. Sports Editor

In order to showcase all the art programs Pine View has to offer, eleventh-grader Gwyn Petersen will host the Pine View Arts Festival March 27. Petersen has been working in conjunction with the class of 2020 since late December to put this first-ever event together for students.

Petersen was first inspired when eleventh-grade class president Dominic Marhoefer asked the other class officers to come up with unique fundraising ideas that could potentially generate a large turnout. "I was at a Student Senate Representative meeting when Mrs. Spielman suggested the idea for an

arts festival," Petersen said.

"I think the event is very interesting. Pine View used to have an arts festival in the past, but it hasn't always been successful," eleventh-grade Tri Nguyen said. "I think it's a better approach that we are trying to do it closer to the school day rather than at night or on a Saturday."

The event will take place in front of the administration building, auditorium and Media Center. The event will be organized free of cost, as all materials will be donated and all organization directed by students. The art festival will also act as a celebration of art rather than a traditional fundraiser, although donations are welcome.

This schoolwide celebration of art is a chance for all creative students at Pine View to express their talents. "I have been here [Pine View] since second grade, and I've gotten to know so many wonderful, incredibly talented individuals over the course of ten and a half years," Petersen said. "There are so many people in this community with such a wide variety of creative interests. Each and every one of them is unique in their talents, and they deserve a chance to share it. It's so important to celebrate the things we're good at and what makes us different."

Art clubs and classes will lead workshops in which anyone will be free to partake. Petersen estimates that there will be 18 tables, each with a different group displaying and teaching a different form of art. Currently, English teacher Blake Wiley will hold a poet-

ry workshop and Pine View's Poets' Society is planning to do blackout poetry, where students will take pages from books and black out all the words except for the few that are used to create a poem. There will also likely be tutorials on sketching, watercolors and photography.

Live student performances will also be staged during the event. A jazz band quartet, Concert Crew and an cappella group have all shown interest in performing. If you are interested in performing, please contact Petersen at gwyn.petersen@pineviewtorch.com.

"Pine View is known for academics, so art is often

overlooked. This Festival is to show that academics and the arts are equal, and always should be," Petersen said. Petersen hopes to implement the festival as an annual event at Pine View.

In the future, Petersen wishes to take the event a step further and make it an annual event throughout all of Sarasota County with multiple schools participating along with Pine View. "Here at Pine View, at such an academic school, we take the arts for granted. My dream with this festival is to showcase the different arts at Pine View and how beautiful and different each and everyone is," Petersen said.



PHOTO BY KASUMI WADE

Pine View Arts Festival
March 27
12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Front office, auditorium and Media Center

GRAPHIC BY ODELIA TIUTYAMA

Sophomore class initiative: Python Praises

The class of 2021 spreads positivity on Valentine's Day with hearts containing positive messages regarding students and teachers

by Kasumi Wade
Sports Editor

To celebrate the worldwide day of love Feb. 14, the sophomore class officers put forth their own Valentine's Day initiative by creating "Python Praises."

For the 2018-2019 school year, Pine View administration wanted each high school class to organize a schoolwide initiative. With twelfth-graders implementing "Start with Hello" week in the first quarter and eleventh-graders starting "See Something, Say Something" in the second quarter, the tenth-graders came up with "Python Praises." They sought to spread kindness around campus and thought Valentine's Day was the perfect time.

"I wanted to do something that was interactive and something that the whole school could participate in, as well as something that would share love and kindness," sophomore class president Naina Chauhan said.

For a week and a half before Valentine's Day, the sophomore class officers gathered outside the administration building with a table full of paper hearts and colorful markers for anybody walking by to write their own message.

"I want to help spread positivity through positive messages. Even if you're just writing it for fun, it still puts you in a good mood to write

something nice about someone or to read a kind message about someone," tenth-grader and class of 2021 co-historian Grace Kim said.

The sophomore class also created a heart for every student in tenth grade. Additionally, each elementary student

"It was a very thoughtful and sweet thing to do for the school. Being able to see all the nice things people were saying made me smile,"
Nina Volpe,
eleventh-grader

was given four hearts to fill out, and Chinese and Spanish classes wrote messages in different languages.

The day before Valentine's Day, the sophomore class officers and student volunteers stayed late after school to hang up the paper hearts around the administration building, as well as the Student Union. They also covered the ground by writing

compassionate messages on the sidewalk with chalk, writing phrases like "You are my sunshine" and "Choose love."

When students visited campus on Valentine's Day, they were certainly surprised and greeted with heartwarming notes and hearts displayed around campus. "It was a very thoughtful and sweet thing to do for the school. Being able to see all the nice things people were saying made me smile," eleventh-grader Nina Volpe said.

As "Python Praises" was a success and a great opportunity to spread love and joy around campus, the sophomore class officers would like to come up with similar initiatives in the future.

"I think it had a really positive effect on being thankful for friendship on Valentine's Day. Also, as we asked students to write the positive message hearts, it was so great to see their eagerness to write a little phrase of joy on our hearts," tenth-grader and principal's council representative Camille Edwards said. "I would love to see our school opt for more of these efforts to decorate the campus in nice messages."

"It was easy to do, didn't cost anything and brought joy to many people," Assistant Principal Tara Spielman said. "Any time we can celebrate each other, we build our community in a positive way."



TOP: Tenth-graders Kiran Kadiyala and Grace Kim stay after school Feb. 13 to glue hearts on the white sheets of paper that decorated the front office and student union Feb. 14. Along with positive messages on hearts, the sophomore class officers decorated the sidewalk with chalk.

BOTTOM: Kadiyala hangs up posters full of complimentary messages on hearts. The sophomore class invited all to write kind notes for Valentine's Day. PHOTOS BY BEN GORDON

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Florida plans to pull out of common core

by Leo Gordon
Asst. Match Editor

Following conservative pushes to remove Common Core from Florida state standards, Governor Ron DeSantis issued an executive order Jan. 31 to remove the system from Florida's standards by the 2020-2021 school year, an order fulfilling one of his campaign promises.

For years, Common Core opponents have claimed the system intrudes on localized public education systems, brings more high-stakes testing to already tired students and deprofessionalizes teaching, all while simultaneously narrowing curriculum and reducing the quality of education offered to students.

"We want to demand excellence [in schools], but I think we want to do that in a way that's responsive to some of the concerns we've had over the many number of years," DeSantis said at a press conference.

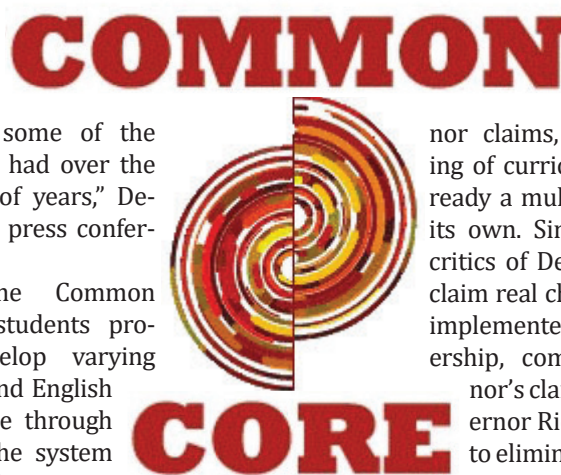
Under the Common Core system, students progressively develop varying skills in math and English as they advance through grade levels. The system was created following requests from colleges who saw students entering their schools without the knowledge necessary to succeed at the college level. For instance, under Common Core standards, third-grade students are expected to ask and answer questions related to a text, while referring specifically back to the piece for evidence.

According to a Harvard study from Feb. 2016 conducted in five U.S. states, the inclusion of such Common Core standards in math and reading curriculum is linked to significantly stronger student performance. Regardless of such studies, with strong support from his base, DeSantis decided to move forward with the elimination of the program. However, according to DeSantis, the impacts of the executive order will not go into ef-

fect until the 2020-2021 school year, as new standards must be written and approved. In compliance with the continuation of the system, DeSantis claims students will follow current standardized testing standards, like Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), for the final time next year.

However, with no future testing plans in place, the prospect of a final year of FSA testing next school year is unlikely. "The initial announcement about changing the standards did not mention also changing the Florida Standards Assessment," Tricia Allen, Pine View Assistant Principal of Curriculum, said.

Effectively, due to the lack of future planning regarding testing, Allen believes current standards and standard-



GRAPHIC PROVIDED BY
CORESTANDARDS.ORG

ized testing will stick with students for longer than the governor claims, as the re-drawing of curriculum alone is already a multi-year project on its own. Similarly, numerous critics of DeSantis' plan, who claim real changes will not be implemented under his leadership, compare the governor's claims to former governor Rick Scott's promise to eliminate Common Core from Florida's public education system. During his governorship, Scott, in an attempt to fulfill a campaign promise, altered and eliminated cosmetic aspects of the Common Core system. The substance of the program, which currently stands in place, remained largely intact throughout his governorship.

With Common Core set to leave in Florida, DeSantis' office recently released a public survey, which can be reached through the Florida Department of Education's website, in hopes to gain insight regarding the public's thoughts on the Common Core system. For updates, students and parents can reference DeSantis' survey on the Florida Department of Education's website, which provides insight on the future of Common Core.



Ninth-grader Josh Wang (left) and eighth-grader Ocean Bruinius (right) participate in the talent show in celebration of Chinese New Year Feb. 9. Run by the Sarasota Chinese Academy, the talent show featured numerous acts such as traditional Chinese singing and dancing. PHOTO PROVIDED BY GUOMING GUAN

Students partake in Chinese New Year celebration

by Ben Gordon
Entertainment Editor

Raising money to continue celebrating Chinese culture in Sarasota, the Sarasota Chinese Academy hosted a talent show Feb. 9 for Chinese New Year featuring a group of talented youth that take part in the Chinese academy.

The Sarasota Chinese Academy, established 12 years ago, aims to embrace and exhibit the splendor of Chinese language and culture. "Courses are available for adults, kids and people who are familiar with the Chinese language but don't speak it and people who are brand new to the entire language," eighth-grader and student at the academy Ocean Bruinius said. Classes and programs take place at the Sarasota Baptist Church every Sunday.

The talent show held helped raise money to pay for courses, teachers and facilities. Bruinius' mother organized the show and found people willing to perform for the

cause. Admission was \$25 and dinner was included in the cost of tickets.

During the show, Bruinius herself played the "Butterfly Lovers' Violin Concerto," a famous Chinese orchestral composition for the violin. Other acts included traditional Chinese dances and singing. Some teachers for the Chinese courses had their students perform mini skits. America China, for example, a group that includes an alumnus of the academy, sang Chinese songs.

"It was really cool to see how many people performed. People were coming to perform from all over Florida," Bruinius said.

In addition to performing, Bruinius was an emcee alongside ninth-grader Josh Wang throughout the talent show, introducing acts and providing some background for others who were performing. With the help of her mother, she also set up the decorations around the auditorium, which was located at the Sara-

sota Baptist Church.

Additional Pine View students also helped with the show. Eighth-graders Nathan Widjaja and Tiffany Yu helped facilitate VIP tables, which came with food, snacks and tea to take before the show began. "My favorite part of the event was seeing anybody not of Chinese or Asian background enjoying the performances, the food and the culture... I think that the main goal of the event was not only preserving culture, but also bringing joy to our community as a whole," Widjaja said.

Though it may have been a lot of work, the talent show for the Sarasota Chinese Academy raised thousands of dollars for the academy to continue to embrace Chinese culture. "I think I just liked to see all of the acts come together during the show. The whole show was a success and the school is doing well now," Bruinius said. "It went so well this year, we're planning on doing it again next year and in years to come."

Students attend national justice program

by Sarah Hassan
Match Layout Artist

Ninth-grader Maya Gordon and tenth-graders Anna Labiner and Leo Hellowell took part in the national social justice program L'Taken in Washington D.C. Jan. 25 to 28. Accompanied by Rabbi Geoff Hunting, the students attended with Temple Sinai, a synagogue located near Suncoast Technical College on Proctor Ave.

The program was organized by the Religious Action Center and was composed of over 2,000 Reformed Jewish teenagers from all around the U.S. Held at the Marriott Hotel, L'Taken not only taught the Jewish youth about social injustice in the world but also showed how each person can make a difference.

During the trip, students attended seminars hosted by the staff of the Religious Action Center and visited Georgetown University and the Pentagon City Mall. There were two 2-hour-long seminars for the program, and the students were able to choose which topics they wanted to attend, from the refugee crisis to gun control.

On Saturday, Gordon and Labiner attended the climate change and LGBTQIA rights seminars. For the latter, students were given a profile and then

would see the discrimination against them while being interviewed. "It was very powerful because it was such a simple activity, but it showed how something like this can affect someone's livelihood when it shouldn't because it is who they are," Gordon said.

Although Hellowell chose the climate change seminar alongside Labiner and Gordon, his second topic encompassed the Israeli and Palestinian crisis.

On Sunday, the students learned how to lobby by writing a speech on a specific topic, which they later delivered to the Department Chief of Staff. Each person was assigned a stance on the topic and had to use social media to lobby. One example was gun control, where the two sides were "Jews against guns" and "Jews for rifles."

A panel of judges later decided which side had won. Afterwards, they visited the Lincoln Memorial and held candles to mark the end of Shabbat.

On Monday, Gordon, Hellowell and Labiner explored the offices of representatives from each state. They were unable to meet the Florida governor due to a Senate meeting, so they met

"I think [the program] made us a lot more aware because there is a lot that we don't know...this really opened our eyes to what was going on [in the world],"
Maya Gordon,
ninth-grader



Students stand inside of representative Vern Buchanan's office with his Department Chief of Staff Sean Brady. Ninth-grader Maya Gordon and tenth-graders Anna Labiner and Leo Hellowell attended the national social justice program L'Taken Jan. 25 to 28 in Washington D.C. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANNA LABINER

and presented their speeches to the Department Chief of Staff Sean Brady.

One of the most memorable experiences of the trip for Gordon was Jan. 25 during a demonstration by a man who appeared to be homeless from the National Coalition for Homeless People, dressed in layers of clothes. The man began looking unshaven with unkempt hair and talking with a nervous tone. During the speech, he began to reveal himself by taking off each layer of his clothing. He later revealed to the group his position by wearing a suit and showing that he was, in fact, bald and shaven.

The presentation's purpose was to show that the National Coalition

had changed his life for the better, as he once was homeless. The message was that anything is possible, meaning that a person can change their own life if they work hard enough. "It was just very moving to see how one person can really change his life around," Gordon said.

After attending L'Taken, Gordon decided she wants to continue attending the program in the future and advocating for her rights. "I think [the program] made us a lot more aware because there is a lot that we don't know because we are so young, but this really opened our eyes to what was going on [in the world]," Gordon said.

Jazz Band earns first place in competition



Scan the QR code above to view the Pine View School Facebook page about the Pine View Jazz Band's success in winning first place at their most recent competition. As a result, this enabled them to open for trumpeter Randy Brecker's performance March 6 at the Sarasota Jazz Festival.

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'Fake it 'til you make it'

How school or workplace environments can lead to insecurity and self-doubt

by Olivia Hansen
Humor Editor

As individuals advance in school or the workplace, the internal notion that their accomplishments are invalid and unwarranted is profoundly common — especially among women and underrepresented minorities. Despite the academic status or talent of the individual, according to Medical News Today, this psychological obstacle known as Impostor Syndrome hinders the ambitions of nearly 70 percent of individuals in their lifetimes.

Impostor Syndrome was first discovered by psychologists Pauline Clance and Suzanne Imes in 1978 when they noticed a common pattern in high-achieving women: self-doubt and uncertainty. These women had internally convinced themselves that they were not deserving of the success they had achieved. Though the syndrome is widespread through all members of society, it's more commonly seen in people who grew up with certain family dynamics and sex-stereotyping environments.

Impostor Syndrome is more prevalent than one may think, especially among Pine View students. Growing up in an environment consisting of overachieving young adults often instills a feeling of constant inadequacy within students. When a student succeeds at a test or an assignment, that achievement just becomes the standard if everyone else succeeds as well — students with Impostor Syndrome are convinced any achievement is

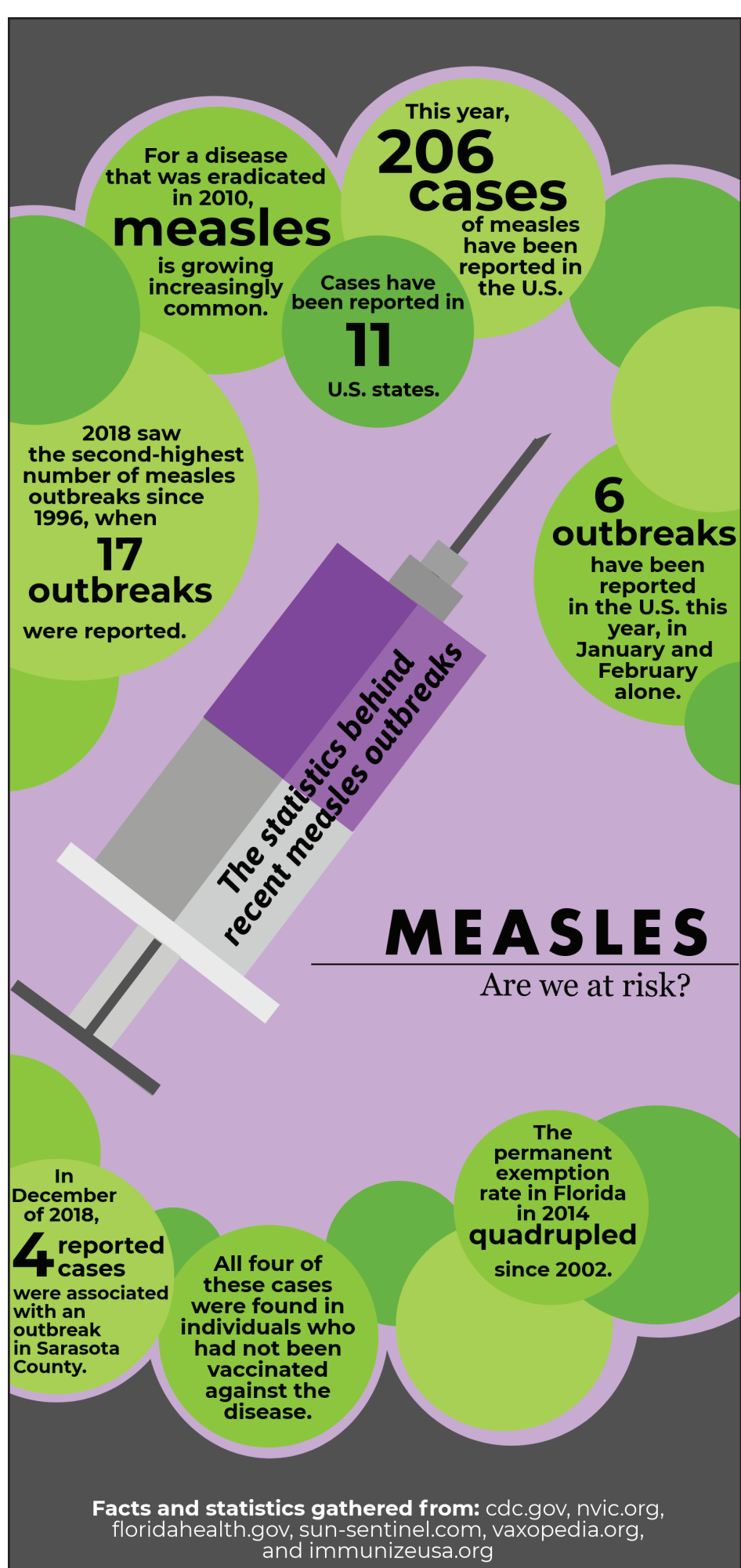
merely the result of dumb luck, rather than hard work and genuine intellect. This mindset even discourages some from applying for certain jobs or programs, holding them back from positions they may have succeeded in.

The condition is also linked to behaviors like perfectionism. People experiencing feelings of being an impostor may also feel the need to know everything there is to know about a subject before involving themselves in it, or feel incompetent if they make any mistakes.

This unwarranted insecurity is not easy to dismiss, as one can't ever understand how others around him or her function in order to achieve success. People experiencing Impostor Syndrome may also experience fear of being exposed as a fraud, despite their validity. However, the surest way to combat Impostor Syndrome is to discuss and normalize it. Even successful figures in history have grappled with the condition — Albert Einstein struggled with the condition in his later years. He once said to a friend, "The exaggerated esteem in which my lifework is held makes me very ill at ease. I feel compelled to think of myself as an involuntary swindler."

Revisiting sources of accomplishments is a common strategy to combat Impostor Syndrome. Reminding oneself of one's capabilities and achievements can cause a boost in confidence, bringing up self-esteem and assurance, and allow one to remember how much they are capable of doing.

Revisiting sources of accomplishments is a common strategy to combat Impostor Syndrome. Reminding oneself of one's capabilities and achievements can cause a boost in confidence, bringing up self-esteem and assurance, and allow one to remember how much they are capable of doing.



GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO

AP Environmental Science classes analyze our water

Students observe the nature of man-made particles invading local ecosystem

by Brianna Nelson
Opinion Editor

For many students, science is limited to the classroom, but teachers like Jason Miller are innovating their curriculum to provide real world experiences with important topics. As part of the various hands-on activities and presentations in his AP Environmental Science classes, students were able to participate in a microplastics water contamination experiment centered on the community here in Sarasota.

Microplastics, particles of plastic that are 5mm or smaller, are a growing threat to many marine and freshwater environments. Presenting themselves as small plastic fragments, microbeads or threads from synthetic materials, these plastics contaminate the water and are then carried up the trophic levels until they enter human systems through seafood. Although there are various types of microplastics, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the most common microplastic is synthetic threads eroded through laundry. These threads make up a shocking 63.1 percent of microplastics released into the environment.

Working with Dr. Abbey Tyrna from the University of Florida (UF) Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension, Miller reached out to set up a microplastics testing activity. Dr. Tyrna also ran a camp with UF about water contamination, specifically oriented around microplastics. The program offered by Dr. Tyrna provided all the supplies necessary

to test contamination levels including pumps and filters.

Students were encouraged to take home a collection container to gather water from local fresh or saltwater sources. "[The goal was] to participate in

said regarding her collection experience at Phillip Creek.

Once collected, students brought back the bottles with the water to be sent through a filter. Students who wore cotton and didn't pose a risk to contaminat-

eleventh grader Liv Brown, a volunteer in the filtration, said.

After the filtering was completed, Dr. Tyrna returned to the AP Environmental Science classroom to test the water with students. Through a process of identification, testing and recording, students began collecting concrete data about local pollution. Using microscopes and forceps, students were instructed on how to identify the difference between plastic pieces and commonly confused items such as natural fiber strands or microscopic marine animals.

Once plastic fibers or fragments were identified, Dr. Tyrna assisted in orchestrating a flame test, which confirmed the nature of the microscopic item. If the item became warped or melted it was determined to be plastic, versus if it frayed or was scorched which identified it as a non-plastic such as hair or cotton fibers.

"It was a fun hands on activity that I hadn't been able to experience in any other science class," eleventh grader Isaac Tellechea said.

Data was recorded to be sent to a database connected to UF to be analyzed and searched for trends.

The activity was part of an effort to offer more real-world experience with the topics discussed in class. "I'm always looking for opportunities for [students] to talk to people who are involved with the field, to experience things, to do things yourself that are going to add to your understanding of the issue and to participate in real world [science]," Miller said.



Under the microscope, eleventh-grader Nina Volpe observes particles in a water sample. The AP Environmental Science students were guided in identifying microplastics in local water sources by Dr. Abbey Tyrna of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension.

PHOTO BY BRIANNA NELSON

some real world science and learn something about the water and the contamination levels of the water around where [students] live," Miller said.

Many students took home containers to test the water near them. "I chose to collect because I have a particular interest in the environmental sciences... I hope this is one [of] my many in-the-field experiences," twelfth grader Jade Goyette

ing samples were also able to participate in this portion of the process. "Participating in the filtration was super interesting, especially comparing the vast differences between water samples all collected locally... I volunteered to participate because I'm concerned about local ecological issues and want to help preserve the beautiful Sarasota Bay Area, which wouldn't be possible without research,"

Student twirls from center stage to the screen

Twelfth-grader auditions to appear on hit TV-show 'So You Think You Can Dance'

by Cate Alvaro
Copy Editor

Showcasing years of hard work and dedication, twelfth-grader Lauren Teyke takes her talent to screens around the world auditioning for the TV show

“...I’ve watched the show for so many years now, and ever since I was little I always thought, ‘Oh I’m gonna do that. I could be on that.’ It’s never something you’d actually do. But now I’m actually doing it. I can’t think of what else I’d want to do with my life,”

Lauren Teyke,
twelfth-grader

mother’s studio, Ovation School of Music Theatre, but transferred to an all-ballet studio, The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School, in fifth grade to perfect her technique. She currently dances again at Ovation School of Musical Theatre, applying the skills she acquired from both studios to become the formidable competitor she is today.

“I’m auditioning for ‘So You Think You Can Dance’ because I’ve watched the show for so many years now, and, ever since I was little, I always thought, ‘Oh I’m going to do that. I could be on that.’ It’s never something you’d actually do. But now I’m actually doing it. I can’t think of what else I’d

want to do with my life,” Teyke said.

The application process to competing on the well-known TV show is quite complex. Dancers start off by sending in an online ap-

plication, with a video of them performing a solo piece attached. The producers sort through these applications and approve or deny certain dancers to receive an audi-

tion. Teyke submitted a video of her pointe solo that she originally choreographed in the Pine View fundraiser, Miss She passed this given

submitted a video of her pointe solo that she originally choreographed in the Pine View fundraiser, Miss She passed this given stage and was an invitation to audition in person for the producers. Teyke traveled to Los Angeles to compete for a spot on the show Feb. 23 and took home a golden ticket, signifying her passage to the next level. Dancers

rate group, where the producers review videos of them dancing to find the most unique athletes.

Teyke is now waiting for an email to notify her if she can audition in front of the judges, Nigel Lythgoe, Mary Murphy, Vanessa Hudgens and Stephen “Twitch” Boss. This is the first filmed audition that is broadcast on TV. If Teyke continues on the path she is now, she will gain a spot on the TV show and on the “So You Think You Can Dance” nation-wide-year tour.

Preparation for embarking on this physically-challenging experience includes rigorous workouts and practices. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed by her peers. “I am so incredibly proud of Lauren. Not only have I had the privilege to train alongside such a passionate and determined dancer and performer, I’ve been so insanely lucky to be able to watch her grow tremendously as a person through countless trials and tribulations and push towards success,” eleventh-grader Lindsay Farb, who used to dance with Teyke, said.

Through this experience, Teyke hopes to gain exposure to influential members in the dance industry. If she makes it on the tour, it will count as a year of hav-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAUREN TEYKE

who receive these highly

sought-after tickets are pooled into a sepa-

ing a job doing what she loves most, making this a great jumpstart to a successful career in performing.

‘Unspoken’ student rocks the bass guitar

by Naina Chauhan
Asst. Match Editor

Rockin’ and rollin’ to her own rhythm, ninth-grader Annabelle Pietryka has been playing bass for two years now, both alone and with her band, Unspoken.

Pietryka’s journey as a musician did not start with bass. She has been playing piano for six years, as well as experimenting with the ukulele and singing with the school choir. Pietryka’s parents urged her and her siblings to try piano when she was a third-grader, and this was the first step into her musical odyssey.

Pietryka initially started learning the bass through private lessons with a teacher to gain a solid foundation, but now she has ventured to bring her musical talent to the next level. Through Youtube tutorials, Pietryka fine-tunes her skills by practicing fingerings, scales and baselines. This past August, Pietryka auditioned to play for a band, Un-

spoken, as part of the band program at Music Compound. Pietryka was taking lessons at the Music Compound before her teacher urged her to audition for the band. While Pietryka enjoys playing alone, she says that playing with a band is a different experience. The band generally plays rock, and they have recently played “Seven Nation Army” and “Sunshine of Your Love.” Also in the band’s repertoire is “Billie Jean” and “Come as You Are.”

Pietryka’s band instructor, Jared Johnson, said, “As far as what I can say about Anabelle and her journey, I can say it’s been a real joy to work with her. She’s come a long way since she started taking private lessons over a year ago at Music Compound. Her musical repertoire has grown expo-

entially, as has her ability.”

The band is made up of two guitarists, a singer, a drummer, and Pietryka as bass guitarist. The band members prepare and practice their parts at home through a recording, and they practice together every Monday with their band instructor.

“When I’m playing alone with the recording, I’m restricted to what the recording is playing, but we have more freedom when we play together as band because we can change things to suit our own style, so it is more freeing,” Pietryka said.

With her band, Pietryka performs at Music Compound for their monthly concerts as well as their Beer, Bands, and BBQ event. They also perform outside of Music Compound.

In February, Unspoken performed at the Metro Diner Sarasota Music Half-Marathon. Pietryka said that performing in front of people is not nerve-racking because, “I know that if I make a mistake of any kind, my band will always carry me.”

“She’s honestly just great to have around in the Rock Band program. Some of our other rock band performers are a little shy, at least on stage, but it’s always great to watch Anabelle grooving, head bobbing in time while she’s performing. It makes for an engaging performance for the audience,” Johnson said.

Pietryka’s goal is to audition for the most advanced band at Music Compound, Red Vibes. She wants to continue to challenge herself, so that she can grow to be the best possible musician. For Pietryka, music has influenced all aspects of her life. “Bass has allowed me to be more creative in all aspects through expressing my creativity via music — it really helps overarchingly,” Pietryka said.

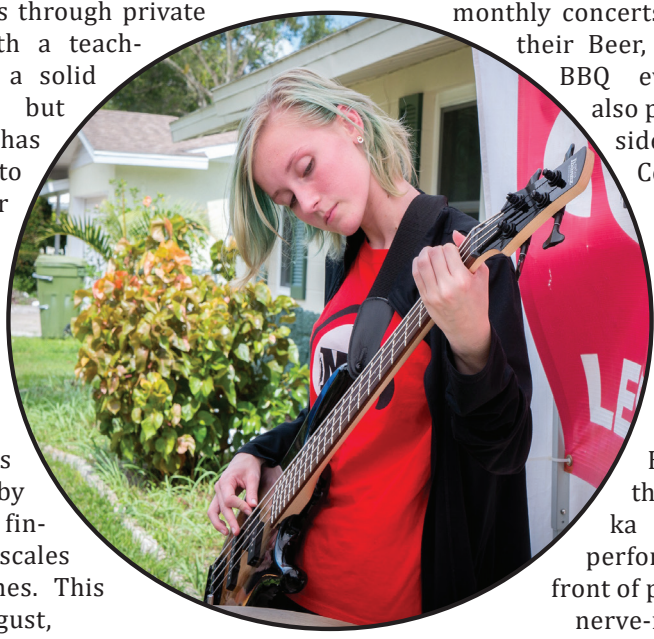


PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANNABELLE PIETRYKA

MARCH HOROSCOPES

AQUARIUS
(January 20- February 18)

While your success rate has been through the roof lately, your work ethic has been lacking. Sure, accomplishments are fantastic, but if you don’t back it up with quality work, you won’t achieve all you’re capable of. Take some time to refocus this week and you’ll be back to tip-top shape.

PISCES
(February 19- March 20)

As easygoing as you are, you tend to go with the flow regarding group decisions. However, there will soon be a situation where your opinion may be a little unconventional. Defend it! You have good ideas that deserve to be heard.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You’re a real life superhero, and you’re constantly coming to the rescue of those in your life. However, there will soon be a roadblock that may require you to seek the help of others. Remember to have the courage to admit it when you need help.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Spring has sprung, and that means it’s time to stop and smell the roses! Life may get overwhelming, but that doesn’t mean it’s any less beautiful. Appreciate where you are right now. It’s not such a bad place to be.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

You’ve been a bit reserved lately because of a conflict with someone in your life that you’ve avoided confronting. Time to face the music and have it out. You’ll be much happier once it’s all out on the table.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

While it’s alright to be nostalgic, don’t forget that variety is the spice of life. Be a little spontaneous this month! You might end up finding something you enjoy.

LEO
(July 23-August 22)

Seems like your telltale heart is weighing heavy right now! There’s a secret you’ve been hiding for some time now and it may be time to spill it. Don’t worry, your friends will understand.

VIRGO
(August 23-September 22)

You’re guilty of being a little overcritical sometimes and your attitude has gotten you in some hot water with a friend of yours. It can be hard to admit you’re wrong, but in this case, it’s necessary.

LIBRA
(September 23-October 22)

Be prepared, you’re about to meet someone who will change your life! Whether a friend, a mentor, or perhaps even a love interest, they’re sure to be captivated by your charming personality.

SCORPIO
(October 23-November 21)

Wow, you’re on a roll! You recently accomplished something amazing, so take a moment to bask in the glory. Remember not to get too caught up in victory, however, there are other goals to work towards.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 22-December 21)

You have one of the largest hearts of all of your friends, but lately you feel under-appreciated. Don’t feel too down about it! There’s a surprise coming your way. You didn’t hear it here, though.

CAPRICORN
(December 22-January 19)

You’ve got a big decision coming your way and it seems like it could define your future. Not to worry, there’s nothing to be scared of! You’re more prepared than you think you are, and you’ll make the right choice.

Chill Out!

With the winter months coming to a close and spring starting soon, Florida is beginning to enter its usual warm season, bringing with it an immense heat that will remain for more than half of the year. To survive the sunny season, *The Torch* presents a rundown of some of the best places in town to relax when the weather calls for something cold and delicious.

Siesta Key: Local Chill Artisan Ice Cream

by Sarah Catalano
Sci&Tech Editor

With its sleek new facade standing proudly on Ocean Boulevard across from the Beach Club, Local Chill Artisan Ice Cream pops out as cool and modern at first glance. On busy days, the droves of beachgoers, tourists and people out simply enjoying the beautiful weather can spill across the threshold and out into the shady portico; while quieter days lend to peaceful ambient vibes of relaxation and mid-summer laziness.

Featuring 18 rich flavors in floats, sundaes, sandwiches and more, the shop opened Nov. 19 of this year. The owner, Bob Davidson, first began formulating the concept with his brother and brother-in-law — the three worked on putting the idea into action for about a year and a half.

“I wanted to put something out on Siesta Key that was an elevated version of an ice cream shop,” Davidson said. “I wanted to do something that was a little different, a little upscale to what you typically see.”

Working closely with their manufacturers, Local Chill created flavors that are all unique to the store. Unique flavors include rich Valrhona Silk Chocolate, made with the high-quality Valrhona chocolate out of France, and the Plant City Strawberry, a lush balance of smooth, creamy ice cream and sweet strawberries. A “Plain and Simple” bowl costs \$4.50.

“The flavors are proprietary [to Local Chill]. One of my partners, Rick Monroe, is a chef by trade,” Davidson said. “The three of us got together and started cooking ice cream.”

The beach-inspired look of the shop is made complete with ocean-blue walls and cool gray counter tops. The light, airy space is dotted with booths and small tables looking out on a breezy veranda.

Everybody that comes in here is excited,” Davidson said. “It makes me smile when a little kid comes in, smiling from ear to ear because they’re getting ice cream.”

In years to come, Davidson plans to



Local Chill Artisan Ice Cream welcomes its guests with a chill hangout vibe and a convenient Siesta Key location. They feature classic ice cream flavors, like vanilla, mint chip and cookie dough, which coincide with more complex and gourmet flavors, like Valrhona Silk Chocolate-made of chocolate from France, and Plant City Strawberry, made using strawberries grown in Plant City, Fla.

PHOTO BY SARAH CATALANO

expand the business into a chain. For now, Local Chill continues to provide a cool, sweet relief from the Florida heat, and an open door to just chill. Local Chill is located at 5140 Ocean Blvd, Siesta Key, FL 34242, and is open 11:30

a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., and open Fri. and Sat. from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Rating: 5/5 Torches



Siesta Key: Made in Rome Organic Gelato



Made in Rome Organic Gelato, on Siesta Key, serves up delicious Italian gelato using traditional techniques and machines, something unique among Sarasota gelaterias. PHOTO BY ISABELLA GASKILL

by Lucy Collins
Web Section Editor

Whether wanting to escape the buzz of Siesta Key or just craving some incredible gelato, Made in Rome Organic Gelato is one of the best places on the island for a sweet treat. The

shop is family-owned and opened a mere 20 months ago.

The inside of the shop is cozy with seating inside as well as outside with a view of Ocean Blvd... Inside the shop is casual and comfortable, with newspaper on the tables that wel-

comes you to stay and relax. Overall, it is a calm place that gives a native a mini-vacation. The shop is loved by people of many ages, from teenagers after a long day at the beach to families taking a leisurely walk through the village.

By the register, they sell a multitude of Italian foods and pastries, such as sandwiches, cakes, Tiramisu, biscotti and olive oil. Vibrant Italian music fills the room as the sweet aroma of gelato being made fills the shop. Customers are able to watch the production of the gelato if they would like. Employees make the product from scratch using machinery similar to what is used in Italy. Made in Rome is the first establishment on Siesta to make organic gelato using these methods and machines.

Made in Rome offers 45 flavors to choose from, with every flavor made using organic ingredients along with

vegan and sugar-free options. They serve the gelato in a cup decorated with a waffle cone on top, the cone made of gluten free, kosher certified, vegan waffles. Both the cups and the

spoons are reusable and recyclable. The “Captain America” flavor features an American flag decoration, as well. A regular scoop of gelato comes in at \$3.95.

“I have tasted other gelatos [from other gelaterias] and this one particularly stood out. I had two different flavors and the price was reasonable,” Ninth-grader Victoria Kishioyian said.

Made in Rome is located at 5204 Ocean Blvd, Siesta Key, FL 34242 and is open Mon.-Thurs. from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Fri.-Sun. from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Rating: 5/5 Torches



Osprey: Crystal Cream Ice Cream & Tea

by Gwyn Petersen
Managing Editor

A new take on a popular craze, Crystal Cream and Tea is a family-owned business that combines trendiness and quality. The shop first opened in December of 2018, and serves a variety of both homemade sundaes and Rishi boba teas. Crystal Cream is owned by the Wizba family — Tim, Christina, Jason and Sierra.

The interior of the shop itself is clean, sleek and bright, with plenty of tables and chairs for customers who want to linger for a little while. They also offer free wifi, which makes it a perfect place to get some work done while enjoying a sweet snack.

Though the price of a sundae is a little steep at \$5, it is more than worth it. The organic, fresh and locally sourced ingredients make each bowl a delectable treat. The family believes this is

what sets them apart from other rolled ice cream shops. Typically, they are made from powdered mixes, as the main focus is on presentation. The Wizbas, however, thought they could change the game by focusing on both presentation and taste.

“It took a year to learn the process of making ice cream from scratch, but it was worth it,” Jason Wizba said.

The concept of rolled ice cream, or stir-fried ice cream, as it is sometimes referred to, originated in Thailand in 2009. It has since become a popular phenomenon. The family first learned of it while visiting Jason when he was a student at Ohio State University, and decided to try their hand at it.

“It was intriguing, it was interesting and it was a new way to do things,” Jason said.

The family does not have plans to expand at the moment, but hopes Crys-



Newly-opened Crystal Cream Ice Cream and Tea has been serving up delicious ice cream sundaes, rolled ice cream and Rishi boba teas since its opening in Dec. 2018. Rolled ice cream first originated in Thailand in 2009. PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

tal Cream will soon become a space for students to escape the warmer weather and enjoy a sweet treat.

Crystal Cream is located at 157 N Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229. It is

open everyday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Rating: 4.5/5 Torches



[an infographic]

Top 10 Highest Grossing **MARVEL** Movies

I am probably one of the biggest Marvel fans out there. Or at least, I'm the biggest Marvel fan on staff. I have the date of every upcoming movie memorized, I can't watch "Infinity War" without crying, and I love Bucky Barnes far more than the average person. So, I am going to give you guys the rundown on the ten highest-grossing Marvel movies leading up to the release of "Captain Marvel," and, eventually, "Avengers: Endgame." Be careful: there will be spoilers!

- 1. Avengers: Infinity War (2018)**
The latest "Avengers" movie managed to elegantly join several superheroes into one movie to fight Thanos, a sociopathic Titan with dreams to destroy half of all life in the universe by acquiring the six infinity stones. The different superhero groups must fight together to prevent Thanos from gaining the stones and causing mass destruction. Tears were shed and friends were lost.
- 2. The Avengers (2012)**
"The Avengers" is one of the biggest turning points in the MCU. It proved the franchise could bring together different superheroes and still produce a cohesive movie. Iron Man, Hulk, Thor, Captain America, and agents Black Widow and Hawkeye team together to take down Thor's evil brother, Loki. With Loki established as a threat to peace on Earth, the Avengers are brought together to fight their first battle and save New York City.
- 3. Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015)**
Stark and Banner decide to experiment with artificial intelligence and — unknowingly — an infinity stone. Eventually, they end up creating Ultron, an AI with a plan for human destruction. Although, this is definitely not the most well thought out Avengers movie, the scenes of Clint Barton's farm make up for it.
- 4. Black Panther (2018)**
"Black Panther" was a big step for the Marvel Cinematic Universe, as well as a movement in the right direction for diversity in superhero movies. Set in the fictional country of Wakanda, T'Challa is left to take up the mantle as king after the death of his father. The young king must assemble his allies to fight a force of evil and protect his country.
- 5. Iron Man 3 (2013)**
After the catastrophic events of New York, the Avengers return to their solo movies. In "Iron Man 3" we see Stark dealing with PTSD and anxiety attacks as a result of the events in "The Avengers." At the same time, he must save the love of his life, Pepper Potts, from immortal danger.
- 6. Captain America: Civil War (2016)**
After a destructive mission in Lagos, the Avengers are informed that the United Nations is preparing to pass the Sokovia Accords, allowing the UN to oversee the Avengers. They split into two, with Stark for the Accords and with Rogers against it. This marks the ultimate battle between the Avengers, with a surprise appearance from a kid from Queens.
- 7. Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017)**
High school student Peter Parker fights to find the balance between being a friendly, neighborhood Spider-Man and being a good student. After fighting alongside Stark in "Captain America: Civil War," Parker is seeking to use his newly-found powers for good. This struggle is accompanied by arguments with Stark and fights with an unlikely enemy.
- 8. Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2017)**
In the first movie, we learn about the death of Quill's mother and his abduction by the Ravagers, but everything that we thought we knew is changed in Vol. 2. Quill ends up meeting his real father, Ego, a god-like Celestial. After he learns that Ego killed his mother, Quill must fight him to prevent Ego from taking over the world.
- 9. Thor: Ragnarok (2017)**
With Thor's father dead, Asgard is left vulnerable to Thor's and Loki's hidden sister Hela, the Goddess of Death. As the brothers end up imprisoned on the other side of the universe, "Thor: Ragnarok" features a gladiatorial contest between Thor and an old friend. The two brothers must race to Asgard to save their people.
- 10. Guardians of the Galaxy (2014)**
"Guardians of the Galaxy" starts off pretty intense, with the death of Peter Quill's mother and his abduction by the Ravagers. However, after the flashback, the movie takes an uplifting turn and becomes a really fun film. This is also one of the most important movies when it comes to infinity stones. They have been mentioned and used in past movies, but this movie really expands upon their importance.

GRAPHIC AND INFO BY ISABELLA GASKILL

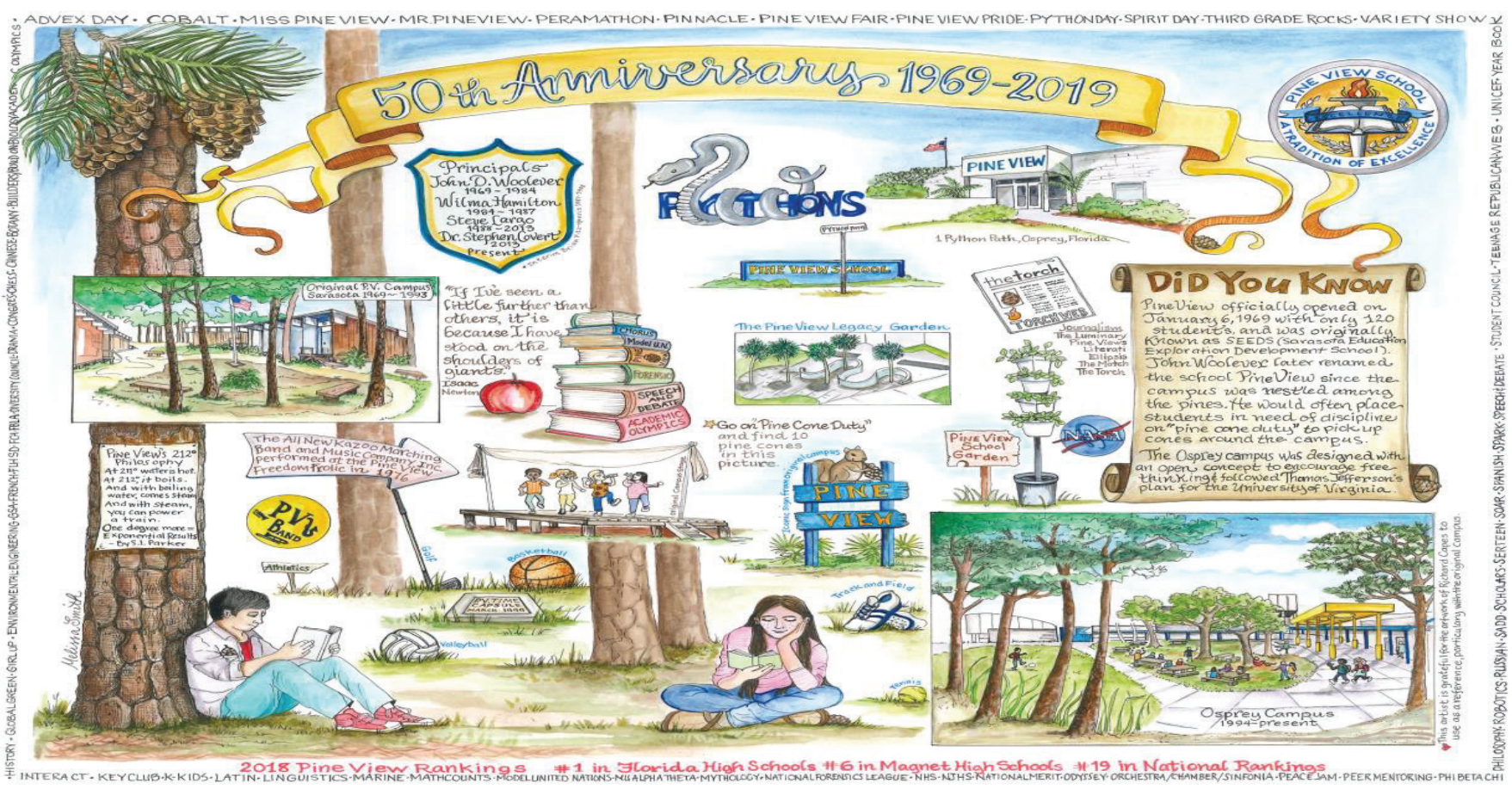
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Shaping your body through food and fitness



GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

Students and adults alike are constantly making new fitness goals and diet habits for themselves to achieve. However, it can be hard to balance both working out your body and keeping it healthy through nutritious food and drink options. Finding motivation to continue reaching these targets can be difficult, but it is certainly feasible. Whether one is trying to bulk up and gain muscle, tone their muscles, or trim their body by losing weight, there are a wide variety of exercises and food choices to pick from to ensure one's personal health goals are achieved.

Toning

by Cate Alvaro
Copy Editor

When seeking ways to build, as well as, define muscle, it is important that one's dieting game is just as advanced as his or her gym game.

According to, Eatthis.com, specific foods stimulate blood flow to the muscles, increasing the rate at which they repair themselves so they can grow stronger.

The website said, "pump-iron is important for muscle growth, but so is getting enough of the mineral itself." Nutrient-dense foods help muscles to become more toned, as well as lose weight and build lean muscle. Five items that help to tone the figure include kale, chia seeds, salmon, bananas and green tea.

Kale is a dark green leafy vegetable rich in iron which helps circulate oxygen to the muscles. The spread of oxygen promotes construction of muscle fibers.

To build endurance, chia seeds supply steady, long-burning energy that is beneficial for increasing stamina. The whole-grain

food is heavy in omega-3 fatty acids, which reduce inflammation and strengthen muscles.

Salmon acts as a high-quality protein, this type of fish improves heart health while preventing muscle breakdown. Salmon can be used as a central meat in a meal.

Another item promoting endurance is bananas. This

On the quest to get toned and lean, it is imperative to keep a healthy balance between eating and working out.

fruit has a high concentration in glucose that provides quick energy for working out. It has high potassium levels, which prevent muscle cramping.

As green tea boosts metabolism and fat burning, this beverage boasts multiple benefits. It is best to drink green tea in the morning or early at night for maximum benefits.

Moving on to working

out, a common misconception about exercising is that heavy weights should only be used to bulk up. However, lifting heavier weights with fewer repetitions strengthens muscles, thereby increasing metabolism and burning fat. It is also possible to get lean by completing exercises not requiring weights. Simple toning workouts to perform that do not require weights are push-ups, squats, burpees, planks and pull-ups.

According to Mike Samuels in an article for Live Strong, "For weight loss and toning cardio, you can't beat interval training. Increasing your cardio intensity by doing intervals not only saves you time, but also means you keep burning fat long after you finish your session."

On the quest to get toned and lean, it is imperative to keep a healthy balance between eating and working out. This regiment ensures a safe way to attain personal body goals and a positive lifestyle.

Bulking up

by Grace Johnson
Match Layout Artist

While many people struggle with the prospect of losing weight, gaining weight can be just as difficult an endeavor.

Opposed to simply gaining fat, bulking up refers to the building of muscle, offering a healthier way to gain weight.

When trying to bulk up, there is not a strict diet to follow. However, sticking to lean proteins and carbohydrates is the best way to go. Registered and licensed dietitian and nutritionist Ariel Faulkner said, "Studies continue to show that the more protein that is in your diet, the better your body will build muscle, and while proteins are the best for muscle gain, you can't go wrong with carbohydrates either."

One easy way to attain a more protein-rich diet is by replacing regular milk with

Fairlife Lactose-Free milk; it contains 50 percent more protein than normal milk. You can also add protein supplements and lean meats. Turkey and tofu are good options for this purpose. Simply put, one must focus on eating as many calories as possible to gain more lean mass.

While working out and trying to bulk up, one must en-

sure reaching failure when doing high-volume exercises. Muscles must reach a high enough level of fatigue during repetitive exercises that they reach the point where one cannot continue. According to the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, the harder one works to increase their resistance training, the more protein supplementation works to enhance muscle strength and growth.

The most effective exercises to complete when bulking up are those that build muscle while burning fat. A different, easy way to incorporate this into one's

No matter what body type you have, if you stay consistent with your training and calorie intake, you'll eventually see results.

Ariel Faulkner,
Registered dietitian

lifestyle is by running and walking with the addition of ankle weights. A more arduous, yet faster-rewarding method would be creating time to train in intervals of cardiovascular- and muscle-building exercises. Although each approach to training is different, they both show very similar

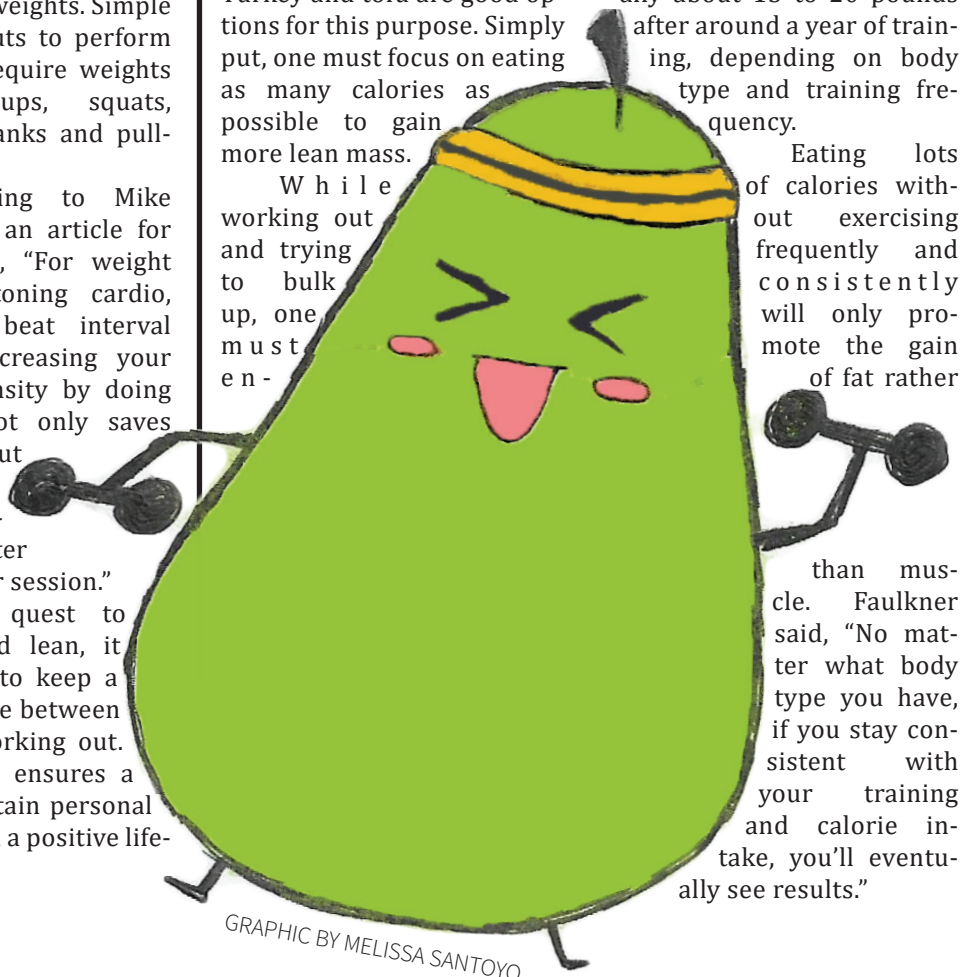
results. When beginning this training cycle, one may expect to gain around a half-pound per week and eventually about 15 to 20 pounds

after around a year of training, depending on body type and training frequency.

Eating lots of calories without exercising frequently and consistently will only promote the gain of fat rather

than muscle. Faulkner said, "No matter what body type you have, if you stay consistent with your training and calorie intake, you'll eventually see results."

training into workouts. Interval training causes your heart rate to spike but then come down, repeatedly. Weight loss and cutting can be completely normal when approached safely. Maintaining a steady, healthy diet along with a consistent and rigorous workout routine is the key to a slimmer figure.



GRAPHIC BY MELISSA SANTOYO

Trimming down

by Madi Holmes
Asst. Web Editor

When looking for a safe way to cut down unwanted body weight, it's easy to assume that trimming will require nothing but nonstop cardio. Although exercise contributes substantially to the healthy weight-loss process. The fastest way to get noticeable results is actually through a consistent and healthy weight-loss promoting diet.

Weight-loss diets are different for every person and body type. A traditional trimming diet, similar to most diets, typically all require the cutting back on daily calorie intake. The amount of daily calorie cut back ultimately depends on a person's weight, height, activity level and how much trimming a person is looking to achieve in an allotted time. Overall, the individual has the final say in how much calorie cut back

they should undergo, so personal judgement is best when beginning a new diet. Calorie deficit calculators are available online to assist in creating personal diet plans across a diverse range of body types.

Trimming down is achieved through the balance of regular diet and exercise. Starting a safe and effective diet has the fastest and greatest results when initially trimming down, but physical activity is critical when trying to keep the weight off in the future

Maxinutrition, a company that sells bodybuilding supplements and gives weight loss advice, supplies an ample amount of sample meals to eat while dieting on their website, maxinutrition.com. Sample breakfast options include protein powder pancakes, egg whites, toast and health smoothies. Lunch options include grilled chicken breast meals, wraps and

brown rice, followed by dinner options of tuna steak and stir fry.

Dieting isn't just limiting to certain foods, but it is also stressed in drink consumption too. It may be easy to overlook sugar in certain drinks, like juice and soda, but it is just as important as it is in food.

According to Maxinutrition, "the only drinks you should consume during a cut are water, green tea and if you must, black coffee. Other drinks either contain extra calories or have artificial sweeteners and other things that can detract from your cut."

It is important to stay hydrated with strictly water and tea. This way sugary drinks, like soda and juice, won't take away from the diet's calorie deficit.

When hitting the gym while trying to trim, it's important to find certain exer-

cises that one genuinely enjoys, or a trainer that brings an encouraging attitude into a workout. Finding an enjoyable workout makes maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle easy to maintain into the future.

Trimming can also be achieved more quickly through integrating interval

training into workouts. Interval training causes your heart rate to spike but then come down, repeatedly.

Weight loss and cutting can be completely normal when approached safely. Maintaining a steady, healthy diet along with a consistent and rigorous workout routine is the key to a slimmer figure.

Check PVTorch.com



Scan this QR code to read about Chris Lenerz's Whole30 diet experience.

Student 'rows' to the top of the charts

Tenth-grader continues to add to his list of accomplishments in Sarasota Crew

by Frankie Grasso-Clay
Asst. Humor Editor

Constantly improving to build upon his accomplishments, tenth-grader Troy Riesenberger has been rowing for over three years and currently rows on the varsity team, filling up his free time after school with hard work and dedication. The latest of these achievements includes his U17 quad win at the Youth Regional Challenge at Benderson Park, in which his boat placed first.

Sarasota Crew is known for its strenuous practice hours and workouts, not to mention the days of school missed for regattas. Riesenberger practices about 20 hours a week, but according to Riesenberger said he has learned to balance his school work and crew easily. "It's a really big time commitment and sometimes I need to miss a day of school to go to a regatta or something, but they don't really interfere," Riesenberger said.

Each practice depends on the weather, but commences with a warm up regardless of if conditions are favorable or not. After preparing for strenuous exercises, the rowers board boats and complete a workout on the water. Around 6 p.m., when it starts to get dark outside, the athletes exit the water and perform a land work-

out. The workouts vary when carried out in different areas, tailoring to the environment.

This past summer, Riesenberger took part in a crew camp, where he attended an Olympic Development Program (ODP) with USA rowing. While at the camp, he trained for a month with people from different teams from around the country. Riesenberger and his team later raced at Club Nationals in Camden, N.J., where

"I'd say, that if I had to choose a favorite thing it would just be all of the people I do it with. They really make it what it is."

Troy Riesenberger,
Tenth-grader

he placed third in the eight, which is a boat with eight rowers in it.

"Well other than simply rowing better, it was a good opportunity to meet new rowers outside of my team," Riesenberger said. "I was able to make friends with many of them and keep in touch with them. The camp also provided me with a good chance to compete on a higher level."

Riesenberger also had

the opportunity to compete in the Youth Regional Challenge back in December, where different regions select athletes to represent them. The athletes practice for a week in preparation and later race each other. Riesenberger won the U17 quad, placing first. Last spring, Riesenberger also won the freshmen eight at Florida State Rowing Association (FSRA) State Sweeps, which was one oar rowing. Likewise, he won the freshmen quad at FSRA State sculls, which is two oar rowing. Their team won the eight for the second time in a row and the quad for the fourth time in a row. "Troy was always positive, motivational, inspirational but most important: a real team player. Troy was one of our top rowers, and his commitment and dedication to the sport led our team to go undefeated during the 2018 season and to a tremendous victory during our Florida State Championship," freshmen boys novice coach Guardado Henriquez Hugo said.

Crew is such a big commitment and a lifestyle. I'd say, that if I had to choose a favorite thing it would just be all of the people I do it with. They really make it what it is," Riesenberger said.

He plans to continue crew into his college career, although he is unable to be



TOP: Tenth-grader Troy Riesenberger (left) waits at the start line of the U17 Quad at American Youth Cup (AYC) 1 at Benderson Park. **BOTTOM:** Riesenberger (second from right) poses with his Freshman 8+ boat teammates after winning Sweep States 2018 at Benderson Park. PHOTO PROVIDED BY TROY RIESENBERGER

recruited or talk to coaches until Sept. 1 of his junior year.

According to Riesenberger, he looks up to the whole Sarasota Crew pro-

gram and believes the seniors and team captains do a good job at leading. "It's more so a team mindset," Riesenberger said.

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A short drive from Pine View School

PV teachers launch school-wide yardsale

In order to share their beloved knick-knacks with students, faculty create the first ever on-campus event of this kind

by Elizabeth Hopkins
Match Editor

One teacher's trash was another student's treasure at Pine View's first annual Yard Sale, held on the quad Feb. 30.

Teachers from all grade levels partook in the event, filling the grassy knoll with all sorts of memorabilia, paraphernalia and collectibles from days gone by.

Wheeling out a selection of vintage Civil War general action figures, history teacher Scott Wolfinger peddled a wide-array of renderings of famed military heroes. Slowly amassing his collection ever since he was a young boy, after careful consideration, Wolfinger was willing to part with at least some of his collectibles. "They're not dolls," Wolfinger said. "I have some extremely rare finds. Good luck acquiring another miniature of Albert Sidney Johnston on the market!"

Wolfinger was not the only one on the field hawking replicas. Formerly a renowned aviator, science teacher Jason Miller, too, sold bespoke model airplanes. Miller typically spends approximately 40 to 60 hours a week assembling and decorating the aircraft, and he considers himself one of North America's preeminent model airplane enthusiasts. "Each one, I have painstakingly crafted myself," Miller said with a grin. "And it brings me great joy to apply the principles of environmental science when designing my creations."

Journalism teacher Chris Lenerz,

too, joined in on the fun. Selling his collection of haunted, antique dolls, Lenerz showcased dozens of his creepy Victorian-era pals. "The family has become too much; my collection numbers in the hundreds," Lenerz said. "I just don't have time to care for them all. Sometimes, you have to say goodbye to the things you love."

Noting that most of his pieces were in "remarkably good condition," Lenerz explained that his collection was one of the most popular with students, the first to be sold out. His own home becoming overrun with "dark spirits," Lenerz described the success of his stand as a "relief."

One anonymous buyer purchased "Lilith," cast with an especially potent hex. "It feels like it's hard to breathe," the buyer said, describing what it's like to be in the doll's countenance. Lenerz had a strict no return, no refund policy.

Psychology teacher and college resource adviser Lance Bergman also took to the quad with his line of hand-crafted bicycles comprised of antique, archival tuba parts. Inspired by the art pieces created by some of his favorite world music superstars, he often sells the bikes during his frequent trips to Miami.

All in all, it was a day for the Pine View community to come together, allowing teachers to share their prized possessions during this once-in-a-lifetime event. "It was weird Mr. Lenerz had so many dolls," ninth-grader El Dray said.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA HANSEN

S&D low-qual Tik-Tok goes semi-viral

by Melissa Santoyo
Editor-in-Chief

In an unprecedented turn of events, the latest in a Gen-Z propelled wave of Tik Tok influencers — PVS&D — was recently discovered to be the entirety of Pine View's Speech and Debate Club using a cracked iPhone 5c to increase member retention rates. The account, run by a horde of second-semester senior officers within the club, has gained thousands of views on its posted videos.

"It was just supposed to be a joke. After a novice tripped at one of our locals, we had just happened to catch the incident on film. We added Fortnite dance cuts to the video and posted it as a joke. We've accrued a massive internet following, though, which was totally unexpected. The club has managed to capitalize on the exposure, as it has been an essential part of our initiative to incentivize middle schoolers to join the club once in ninth grade," vice president of Original Oratory 21 Savage said.

The content the club posts keeps consistent to the original video that initiated their rise to stardom, keeping them on par with such internet content creators as pre-pubescent Twitch streamers and literally any Minecraft Youtuber. Their more recent hit features Speech and Debate

president Takashi 69 flossing on a skateboard as his fellow Extemporaneous Speech members perform the shoot in tandem; the Tik Tok is among their most popular productions, topping their first video with 1,500 more views than their initial 350.

The exposure has been great for their club enrollment numbers. "To be totally and completely honest, the only reason I joined this club was because of the Tik Tok. My Youtube channel hasn't been doing great lately, as my Mukbang outreach has decreased recently, so being a featured regular on the Tik Tok is doing wonders for me statistically," novice Trisha Paytas said.

In the cutthroat age of digital media where internet presence configures the social hierarchy of high school, Speech and Debate has found a compelling outlet for growth, outshining other clubs on campus like Model United Nations, which finds itself scrambling in the wake of the former's unprecedented outreach. Numbers cannot definitively predict whether this growth is sustainable, but the future of PVS&D on Tik Tok looks bright.

"We may only be relying on a single, cracked iPhone 5c, but that hasn't stopped the internet from enjoying our carefully catered content just yet," Savage said.



GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

WHAT PINE VIEW ENGLISH DEPARTMENT DAD ARE YOU?

1 What's your go-to drink?

- A. Trader's Joe Green Tea Bags (water poured first before placing the bag in)
- B. Unfiltered black coffee with the grounds at the bottom of the cup
- C. Classic Monster in a professional wood garnish Tumblr
- D. Iced tea, sweetened

2 What is your favorite music genre?

- A. Authentic jazz ONLY
- B. Your only top genre on Spotify wrapped was indie
- C. Exclusively Dave Matthews
- D. Classic rock

3 What's your dream car?

- A. Honda Fit
- B. White Jeep Liberty with gender neutral name
- C. Silver Toyota Camry
- D. Mustang convertible

4 What's your favorite thing to wear?

- A. Classic long sleeved button down with a snazzy tie and earring for flare
- B. Casual Fridays include skinny jeans, TOMS and a quirky graphic tee
- C. Collared top with some edgy VANS
- D. Sports jersey

5 What is your moral alignment?

- A. Chaotic evil
- B. Chaotic good
- C. Chaotic neutral
- D. It changes daily

RESULTS

Mostly A's-Dean: You are the one, the only, earring-donned Dr. Dean. A verifiable father and purveyor of impossible reading checks, your jazz loving and chess infused energy is palpable to everyone around you. Congratulations on being a witty sarcastic giggling king.

Mostly B's-Shea: You are the indie father of Pine View, trotting around campus with your unfiltered coffee and smug attitude about film and literature. Feel liberated sliding around campus in your TOMS.

Mostly C's-Pauling: Chaotic, loud, and man of charity, you're truly a wonderful father. You probably have great and impeccably edgy style. A man of the people all around.

Mostly D's-Wiley: Big dad energy. Wearing a hockey jersey and being a creative king is truly your strong suit. You have great music taste and cool cars. You're just a cool dad overall.

Meme of the Month

Origin

The video was originally posted on Vine by user Aspect Za'Vier. The video was posted on 9 October, 2014 on the app and has earned more than 200,000 likes, 140,000 revines and 18 million loops. In the original video, the three people featured in it are Vine user Aspect Za'Vier, his brother Dexter and their mother.



About:

The video resurfaced in November of 2017. The video was posted to twitter by user @hozierlesbian. The original video, which was posted on Vine, actually had the song "Drop" by Freco and Merlo in the background. The soundtrack was replaced by "Act My Age" by One Direction when tweeted. The post has received more than 6,800 retweets, 15,000 likes and 40 million views.

small mammals after the dinosaurs got wiped out



More Info:

Twitter users are not new to this subject and have made a plethora of funny captions attached to the meme. On 13 February 2019, Twitter user @smitcantread tweeted the video with the caption "small mammals after the dinosaurs got wiped out" (pictured above). The post received more than 66,000 retweets and 214,000 likes in five days.



Scan QR code to see video. Photos provided by Twitter

GRAPHIC BY FRANKIE GRASSO-CLAY

[a column] Disney channel built the music industry

It's safe to say the best music artists in today's world sprang from the most beloved form of entertainment: Disney Channel. Developing singer/songwriters who were featured as Disney's "Next Big Thing" (NBT) are now dominating every music platform.

A prime example of such prodigies is Cody Simpson, the original MCM. This beach blonde bae got his start from the star creating capitalist machine of Disney Channel. Big thanks to them for exploiting all of our favorite childhood superstars and lyrical geniuses.

Simpson has successfully influenced the lives of not only aspiring music artists, but fans of quality music. According to big-time Cody Simpson fan, 10th-grader Evan Hannon, "Cody Simpson's music slaps major time." Hannon has been a lover of Simpson for as long as he can remember.

The star's insane music causes him to commonly be regarded as the "next Stevie Wonder" throughout his fanbase and common radio listeners. Simpson's chart topping number one single, "Pretty Brown Eyes," caused the colored contact industry to boom. There is no ceiling on the way America feels for Mr. Simpson.

Nonetheless, actor, singer,



Olivia Hansen, Humor Editor

dancer and MCM Ross Lynch has made his impact on the music community as well. After starring on the hit sitcom "Austin and Ally," with superstar

Cody Simpson's chart topping number 1 single, "Pretty Brown Eyes," caused the colored contact industry to boom. There is no ceiling on the way America feels for Mr. Simpson.

coworker Raini Rodriguez, Lynch took it upon himself to showcase his lyrical and musical abilities through a band, comprised of only his family members (so cute). The band,

known as R5, was immediately unsuccessful; however, Lynch's superstar characteristics led him to extreme fame with an overpoweringly strong fanbase. "Ross Lynch is my celebrity crush." He is my MCM every week," tenth-grader Madey Holmes said, holding back tears.

An ode to unique and original clubs at Pine View

by Odelia Tiutyama
News Editor

In recent months, Pine View has dealt with an onslaught of repetitious clubs. Pine View hosts at least three environmental clubs, a million speech and debate clones, and infinite S.T.E.M. oriented acronyms that I cannot tell the difference between.

See, I get you all. We are all trying to resume-boost our way to Harvard, but can we at least have some creativity? I'd like to create an appreciation post for all the new clubs that aren't carbon copies of stuff we already have.

PVRFC: Thank you Pine View Rat Fighting Club. Offering a one of a kind experience, these folks are able to provide something no one else can. The academic enrichment of training and genetically modifying rats makes my school day better. I have learned so much about the rat genome — more than I could ever learn in a traditional classroom environment. I have never been able to catch my own rats right off the Pine View campus and then mold them into worthy gladiatorial competitors.

Even if you have no experience with rat fighting, it's easy to learn. I personally had no experience before joining, but now Twitch is one of the upper-level competitors. The club is truly one of a kind and a benefit to the entire Pine View student body. If you want to have your life forever changed as mine was, be sure to attend meetings every Friday at 1 p.m. on the auditorium roof.

Lettuce Club: Lettuce club holds a special place in my heart... or stomach. This club has taught me many valuable lessons that I will take with me to college and beyond: from what type of dressing goes best on a whole head of lettuce to the best technique to devour a pound of greenery in under five minutes.

I will forever be in debt to the founder of Lettuce Club. Nothing like it exists on campus, and it has allowed me to find and hone new skills I don't think I would have discovered otherwise. What other vegetable eating clubs on campus would allow me to search within my soul for these newfound skills? None, that's how important and unique this club is.

Now instead of going out and spending hours at the local cafe, I can just quickly put some ranch dressing on

lettuce and munch away! Be sure to support and follow Pine View's very own lettuce club on Instagram at @pv_lettuce_club!!

PB2PV: Originally beginning as a music enthusiast club, the Pitbull to Pine View club has attracted students from all grade levels. To this day, I still hear Pitbull's "Fireball" every night before I fall asleep, and

ting alone in my car belting out lyrics to all of Mr. 305's songs. After the sixth time that my neighbor knocked on my window and told me to stop, I finally decided to join PB2PV, where I am surrounded by like-minded people. They hold two-minute rallies that get so lit that the cops shut us down, unfortunately. But it's all worth it as Pine View would do anything for Mr. Worldwide.

If you have any taste in music, except country, then this is the club for you. Join your peers and have the time of your life with the one and only Pitbull.

Upper Echelon: I still to this day do not understand what echelon means, even

though I'm pretty sure it was a vocabulary word earlier this year. This not-so-secret society, begun by the class of 2019, is solving world hunger one step at a time. Modeled after a Princeton eating club, Upper Echelon takes eating and review-

GRAPHIC BY JAKOB JARCZYNSKI



I wouldn't have it any other way.

This music enthusiast club thankfully transitioned into the fandom it is today just two months ago. Before this club was established, I often found myself sit-

ing to a whole new level. Although joining this organization is by invite only, you will never be the same after you attend. Their reviews of everything, ranging from hotdogs to soup, really save my life when it comes to finding a place to eat. Now I never have to worry about going hungry.

In a recent press release, the members outline the goals of the club as "A standard conference for such esteemed members of Upper Echelon includes donning suits and subsequently sampling the Gulf Coast's finest selection of foods and wines."

Albeit, a strong connection with their humble roots is maintained, and when asked for drink preferences, modestly reply, "Tap water is fine."

Founding member, twelfth-grader Jakob Jarczyński said, "We espouse to the highest standard of intellectual existence imaginable. It's like GQ, but better. Our standard of living blows even Monaco out of the water."

Yale University Class of 2023 and Upper Echelon Extraordinaire James Kim added, "Even Morocco."

So, next year when trying to decide which of the nine community service clubs you should join on campus, take the enjoyable route and join one of the organizations listed above. Not only will you learn valuable and essential skills that you will use for the rest of your personal life and career, but you will also meet truly fascinating people who share your passions.

Too little too much: Facing women's body standards throughout time

by **Haleigh Brown**
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

You are too fat, too skinny, not enough, never enough. These words not only circulate throughout everyday conversation about others, but throughout the minds of women when thinking about themselves. The never-ending and ever-changing standard of the "perfect" female is not only exhausting but has led girls to look in the mirror and ask themselves, "am I good enough?"

During the 15th and 16th centuries, being thin was seen as a sign of lacking wealth. Therefore, those with rounded stomachs, large hips and fair skin were highly sought after by men. This body type slowly morphed into the standard we still follow today with the introduction of corsets in the Victorian era.

While this created the early idea of the hourglass figure, it also came with life-altering effects. Women of this time suffered from broken ribs, breathing problems and were unable

to sit down due to the constricting nature of the clothing. Many females have adopted modern-day corsets as a form of figure-shaping today.

This constant pressure to show off women's bodies changed drastically in the Roaring Twenties, which encouraged women to cover up their curves entirely. With the androgynous look, women of beauty were thought to have a boyish figure, with a flat chest and a boxy body. Girls would often bind their chests to achieve this look.

The hourglass shape once again returned during the age of Hollywood, from the late 1920's to the late '50s, when idols like Marilyn Monroe took center stage.

Women strived to achieve thin body-types in the '60s, then shifted briefly during the '80s to seek toned figures, but ultimately became worse in the '90s when being skinny was better in every way possible. This led to extreme drug use, the creation of dieting pills and other unhealthy weight-loss methods for women striving to reach this ideal figure.

In an in-

terview with Vogue, CEO of Victoria's Secret Ed Razek was questioned about the lack of body inclusivity on his runway shows (that only portrayed thin body types), to which he responded, "No, I don't think we should. Well, why not? Because the show is a fantasy. It's a 42-minute entertainment special. That's what it is."

While many today are still consumed by the idea of a thigh gap and waif-like figures, the opposite end of the spectrum is working to gain curves contributing to today's well-known standard, slim-thick. This idea carries the same concept as the hourglass figure.

With every woman's body built differently, it leaves many feeling dependent on the modern-science of plastic surgery to achieve these looks. While some have adopted the common practice of liposuction, many women have started receiving implants in areas such as the butt to achieve this new standard. Both procedures have left many with life-altering complications.

Controversy spreads over what body type should be shown in the media, the skinny models, known all too well on Victoria's Secret advertisements, or the body types that classify some models as being obese — which is more damaging to the mental state of

women today?

Emma McClendon, the museum curator of costumes at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, said in an interview with CCN, "We as a culture, as a society, are obsessed with size. It's become connected to our identity as people."

The real overall question remains, what is the standard beauty type expected of women in today's society? The fault is not in the overwhelming opinions of the public.

The real fault is asking this question at all. Everyone is born with different genes, some with faster metabolisms and others not, some with a wider bone structure and others quite narrow. No one is built exactly the same, and expecting otherwise is an impossibility.

Sure, you can classify yourself as the pear, apple, box, triangle shape; but what does that actually mean? It's all just smoke and mirrors.

Define ideal: existing only in the imagination; desirable or perfect but not likely to become a reality.

Define happiness: characterized by well-being and contentment.

Which are you working toward? Define yourself not by others' standard of ideal, but your idea of what makes you, in the truest sense of the word, happy.



RENAISSANCE

- Rounded stomach
- Large hips
- Soft shape



VICTORIAN

- Hourglass shape
- Cinched waist
- Large hips and breasts



TWENTIES

- Androgynous look
- Boxy, boyish figure
- Flat chest

GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT AND SARAH CATALANO

[staff editorial] Dissecting discrepancies for women in sports

Although the U.S. champions equality, gender equality remains a national disparity in both professional and collegiate sports. Female athletes remain frequently sexualized, underpaid and unacknowledged in the world of athletics compared to their male counterparts.

While it is true that women earn 77 cents for every man's dollar, the difference in athletes' salaries is not just a few cents, but rather in the millions. The average WNBA player makes just \$72,000 to the average NBA player's \$5 million.

As an added bonus, the winnings for athletic competitions is also grossly unequal, as women remain unfairly compensated in national events and competitions. According to the Women's Sports Foundation, in winning the 2015 Women's World Cup, the U.S. Women's National Team won \$2 million, whereas Germany's Men's Team were awarded \$35 million for winning the 2014 World Cup. The U.S. men's team finished 11th place and collected \$9 million, and each

men's team that was eliminated in the first round of the 2014 World Cup got \$8 million each, four times as much as the 2015 women's championship team.

Sports associations defend the difference in pay by arguing that women's sports have a smaller fanbase than their male counterparts, and thus generate less of an income. However, women's sports only receive 2% to 4% of all sports coverage, even though 40% of all sports participants professionally and collegiately are women. Female athletes can't match their fanbase to those of their male counterparts without proper coverage, thus leaving the wage gap of women in a vicious cycle of stagnant, underpaying salaries.

To offset this pay difference, female athletes seek sponsorships. As a result, they are often portrayed off the court, out of uniform in highly sexualized poses for advertisements or sponsorships that highlight their physical attractiveness rather than athletic ability.

However, opposing this

sexualization only leads to less publicity and less funding because sex appeal holds such a substantial influence in today's society. Female athletes who challenge the media's sexualization only alienate themselves.

Fortunately, many professional organizations have launched initiatives towards gender inequity in sports as the number of female athletes continues to increase. In 2007, Wimbledon announced for the first time that equal prizes will be awarded to male and female participants, while successful sports companies continue to sponsor female teams and create foundations that support gender equality, like Nike's Let Girls Play fund.

Women's equality increases as more girls participate, from high school to professional athletics. Support for female athletes can begin with larger turnout for games or simply viewing women's sports coverage on television. In a world where women's athletics are largely underrepresented by the media, every view counts.

The Verdict

Common Core: We are sad to see Common Core leaving the curriculum. Though often criticized, it has led to more consistent achievement around the country.



Spanish Class Donation: We are glad to see Pine View Spanish classes providing school supplies to children in Guatemala and Honduras.



AP Culture: We are sad to see students feel pressured to take AP courses where they may be unprepared or simply lack interest.



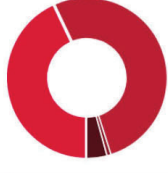
DIGS: We are happy to see DIGS working to make Pine View more accessible to low-income families and minorities.



GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

Analyzing college pressure at Pine View

How much pressure related to preparing for college do you think Pine View students are under?



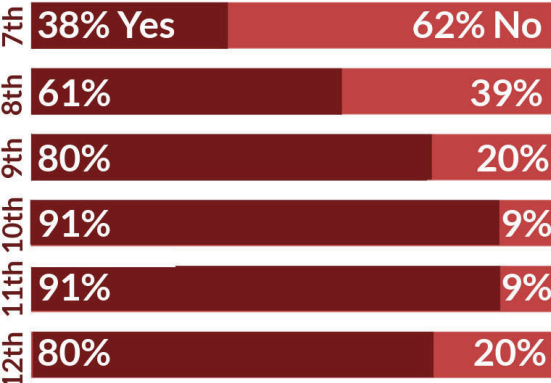
Based on a survey of 229 Pine View students in grades 7-12



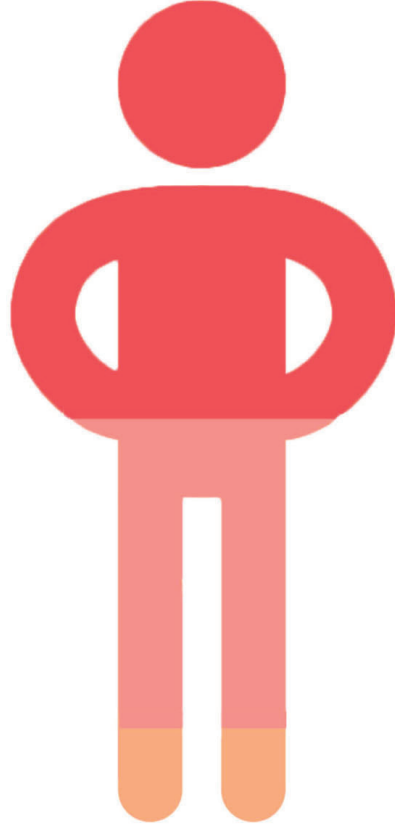
At what grade did you start to feel pressure to get ready for college, or at least consider it?

Based on a survey of 226 Pine View students in grades 7-12

Do you feel college related pressure right now?



From whom do you feel the most pressure?



Based on a survey of 226 Pine View students in grades 7-12

How has college pressure affected you? Briefly describe your experience

The whole process is crippling to a person
Grade 12

College pressure has not really affected me yet, but I do feel a bit when it comes to keeping my grades up and testing
Grade 11

The way I live life has changed to look good for colleges
Grade 12

I feel as though if I get one bad grade it will haunt me for the rest of my life
Grade 7

It has made me feel like I have to exchange classes I enjoy or have a real interest in for those that might make me more desirable to colleges
Grade 10

Panic attacks where I have landed in the ER
Grade 10

It has made me study harder, participate in more clubs, take more AP classes
Grade 10

It has helped me to really consider my educational plan and to put me on track when planning out my future
Grade 8

It has helped me strive to do better so I can get into a better school
Grade 9

It has made me study harder and be more active in the community
Grade 7

I am not pressured that much, but I know that many of my peers are
Grade 9

[a column] Understanding dog whistles in politics

America's political relationship with extremists has always been tenuous. Seeking to find a balance between moderates and reactionaries is something of a struggle for the establishment of both parties. However, one of the many tools used to establish this stability is euphemisms and dog whistles.

Dog whistles especially have an insidious power. Certain words have always had subtle meanings that were directed at a small subgroup of people within politics. They not only signal the true intentions of the word to particular communities, but also remain palatable to moderates and those outside the ingroup.

One of the most well-known historic dog whistle is the term 'states rights.' Without much inspection, the idea that states should be able to make decisions based on the needs of their constituents is positive. Most people can agree that home rule is beneficial.

However, Confederate apologists often try and change the real reason for the Civil War from slavery to states rights. Of course, that is a states right to hold slaves. This acts as a dog whistle by signalling to Confederate sympathizers that states rights is really about slavery while the uninformed believe the guise of nonpartisan states rights.

However, Civil War apologists aren't the only ones who use dog whistles. 'Law and order' is another dog whistle meant to elicit positive ideas. Nobody wants crime and violence, but the hidden implication co-opted by both Democrats and Republicans is

punishing Black communities. However, aggressively criminalizing racial minorities in an effort to 'keep them in line' stays hidden to most moderates.

Another common dog whistle is the term 'western culture' within alt-right circles. When you hear 'Western culture' you might think of Greek philosophers, the Enlightenment, and Beethoven — and that's what the alt-right wants you to think.

Extremists hold the goal of reconnecting with Western culture. But, its clear that this disguises the goal of a White ethnostate. Once again, the true intentions are disguised. However, members of the alt-right know its racist, antisemitic implications.

The crux of dog whistles is positioning oneself to be visibly moderate or universally agreeable to hide radical intentions.

Being aware that not everything is as it seems when handling extremists is critical. If they can convince you with a dog whistle, they can convert you to their extreme ideologies. Keeping a close eye and a discerning ear is key to handling this surreptitious language.



Brianna Nelson, Opinion Editor

The crux of dog whistles is positioning oneself to be visibly moderate or universally agreeable to hide radical intentions.

How should the church handle politics?

by Joanna Malvas
Asst. News Editor

Being raised as an evangelical Christian, religion has always played a major role within my life. More than just the prayers before meals, weekly bible studies and attending church on Sundays, religion is essential to my views and beliefs.

This lifestyle has taught me to value the teachings of the Bible above all else. Yet, when faith is confronted with increasingly controversial politics, that set of values can easily be convoluted for Christians, such as myself. Even among those within the church, the labels 'left' and 'right' can be a driving force of division. Hence, religion should not be exploited for a single political party, nor should religion be completely kept out of politics.

To an extreme end, some Christians with political standing justify and impose their views on others within the congregation through claiming the mandate of God over their favored party, shaming those who may not be conservative or vice versa. Yet, this is not reflective of what the Bible teaches.

Impactful figures in the Bible such as the apostle Paul traveled and wrote to numerous churches scattered in the Roman empire. The collection of his writings resulted in many of the books in the New Testament. And Jesus himself

was not conservative, nor liberal leaning. Instead, both apostle Paul and Jesus exercised their faith in a way that rose above the politics of their society and instead promoted the Bible's teachings.

For instance, during the time of Jesus' life, the Roman empire had dominated the Mediterranean. Israel lived in oppression under Rome's rule. This caused a sharp tension between the Jewish people and Romans, who were referred to as Gentiles. Jesus, however, did not succumb to this sociopolitical division of his time. He didn't approve or

laud Roman rule, nor did he encourage a vicious rebellion in retaliation for the harsh oppression that Israel faced. Instead, Jesus spoke of the value of fostering unity within the

community in a cruel society; he spoke of the purpose that his followers held in a divided, secular nation.

The apostle Paul also

Christians must act upon faith intentionally for the benefit of the church and the community. This means going forth to address and offer solutions to the present conflicts that transcend party lines.



GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

Paul stated that those who believe in Christ are united through Christ, no matter the race. This challenged the prejudices within the church through how Paul put the gospel above the people's social conflicts.

There is a need to get involved in politics and government, but not through allowing religion to be exploited by politics; hence, dismissing politics altogether and not addressing the pressing social issues is not justifiable either. As stated in chapter two of the book of James, one cannot claim faith without deeds. "Faith without works is dead." Thus, there is value in the demonstration of faith and your moral values. This easily applies to the political views we hold. Therefore, it is important to address politics, but not in such a way that religion is politicized and restricted to one party; instead, Christians must act upon faith intentionally for the benefit of the church and the community.

This means going forth to offer solutions to the present conflicts that transcend party lines. In this way, the congregation can deal with issues within the community that the Bible calls Christians to combat. Issues such as supporting those in poverty, helping the orphaned and the widowed, feeding the homeless — these deeds are what the church is called upon to do.

The history behind the Broadway hit: Newsies

The Torch presents a closer look into the historical aspect of Pine View Drama Club's spring production, "Newsies" with commentary by the cast

by Clyde Morgan
Asst. News Editor

This 2018-2019 Drama Club musical production is, drum roll please, "Newsies!" The tragic and triumphant story of children selling 'papes' on the dangerous streets of New York will be presented in the auditorium April 4 to 6. This will be Pine View's third Broadway production, and the play has quite a history behind it.

Newsies is based on the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899. The New York newsies — young boys and girls who sold newspapers in the streets of New York — rose up against two big newspaper publishers, Joseph Pulitzer of the New York World and William Randolph Hearst of the New York Journal, to fight for a livable wage.

During the Spanish-American War, New Yorkers thirsted for shocking headlines, and circulation boomed as a result. However, once the war ended, people were less inclined to buy newspapers. This led to newspaper publishers refusing to lower the newsies' cost-per-paper back down to the prices before the war. The newsies went on strike, as they could not afford to pay more for their papers to make up for a lack of headlines.

The newsies decided to go on strike — their goal was to

make the newspaper tycoons treat them as legitimate members of the multi-million dollar newspaper business. The strike lasted two weeks, from July 20 to Aug. 2, 1899. The newsies eventually came to a compromise with the publishers: The price would stay the same, but the publishers would buy back any papers that the newsies couldn't sell that day.

The newsies' strike was a significant moment in history: it inspired underage workers all around the globe, as it was one of the first strikes that was carried out by children, and it ended successfully in compromise.

Pine View's Drama Club is extremely eager to work with such a valued play. The Torch caught up with two members about their thoughts on the play, eleventh-grader Gregory Karcz, who plays Joseph Pulitzer, and tenth-grader Sanchi Pandey, who plays Katherine Plumber.

Torch: When did you join Drama Club and how many productions have you been in?

Karcz: I joined Drama Club in seventh grade. I've been involved in every production since I joined, playing Milo in "The Phantom Tollbooth," a Winkie/Munchkin in the "Wizard of Oz," Juror 12 in "12 Angry Men," Robin Hood's

understudy in "Robin Hood," Tour Manager in "Elephant's Graveyard," Daddy Warbucks in "Annie," Orin Scrivello (Dentist) in "Little Shop of Horrors," Christopher Boone in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime," and Tweedledee in "Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There."

Torch: What is your role in Newsies and what do you like or dislike about that character?

Karcz: In "Newsies" I play Joseph Pulitzer. Personally, with this character, I try to highlight the fact that he isn't some dictator businessman, but rather that he is still human and is just trying to make the correct business decisions, no matter how ill-advised they may be, in order to bring out his character to be more than just a trademark Disney antagonist.

Torch: What is your character in Newsies and what do you like or dislike about the character?

Pandey: I am Katherine Plumber, a young reporter in the late 1800s. Katherine has been one of my dream roles since I got into theatre, and she truly inspires me so much. In the musical, she is not only fighting for equality for the young "newsies" who are treated poorly but also fighting for



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: twelfth-grader Alyssa Steinbaum, tenth-grader Sanchi Pandey, and tenth-grader Kenna Bartlett, as well as other Drama Club members, rehearse for the upcoming production of "Newsies." The play was based on a real-life strike of the New York paperboys. PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIE TAYLOR

women's rights and her independence in a working industry. At this time, women reporters were only looked upon when writing entertainment pieces and reviewing shows. By taking it upon herself to help these boys and write a riveting article on their working and living conditions, she is breaking barriers that were previously set for women, making her an extremely inspiring and exciting character to be able to play.

Torch: What is it like being the director for this show?

Pandey: This show is the

first time I have had a director position, and I am helping with vocals and choreography for the show. Teaching is one of my favorite things to do, and being able to work with the cast on all the songs and dancing is extremely fun and fulfilling, especially since they are all so insanely talented and hard working. The feeling I get when watching them go through choreography for a song, or see their energy when singing songs is unexplainable and fills my heart with unimaginable joy.

Tenth-grader finds unexpected results in DNA testing kit

by Anna Labiner
Features Editor

"I think I'm your sister" was the unlikely message that 20-year-old Gustavo Garcia received one afternoon from a 15-year-old girl living in Sarasota, Florida, named Keleigh Koeniger. Although the message was rather concise, those words would change both Koeniger's, and Garcia's lives forever, and would connect these two strangers in a very personal way.

In recent years, the sale of ancestry DNA kits has skyrocketed, with consumers all around the globe longing to learn more about their heritage. The kit has become a popular holiday gift, and tenth-grader Keleigh Koeniger was one of many who received the DNA kit on Christmas day of 2017. After a month, Koeniger's father decided that it was finally time to put the test to use. A few weeks after sending in her DNA sample, Koeniger received some shocking results. Being adopted from Guatemala as a baby, she showed a strong match to one Garcia — her potential brother.

"We weren't necessarily taking the test to find relatives for me," Koeniger said. "But when we got the results back it said that I had an immediate match, which was really unexpected." Koeniger's simple inquiry about her unexplored family history had ended up with results much more groundbreaking than she could have ever imagined.

For 15 years, Koeniger was unsure if she had any siblings and now she finally had her answer. Garcia, who had taken the Ancestry test about a year and a half prior to Koeniger, had been adopted from Guatemala at the age of 6 and moved to Illinois with his adoptive parents. Currently, Garcia is attending the College of DuPage where he is studying to become a psychiatrist.

Promptly after hearing her results, Koeniger shot Garcia the short message, much to his surprise. "I was pretty freaked out," Garcia said in an interview with the Herald Tribune. Garcia also mentioned that he almost didn't



Tenth-grader Keleigh Koeniger sits alongside her brother, Gustavo Garcia in March 2018. Koeniger discovered the existence of Garcia through a DNA kit. PHOTO PROVIDED BY KEILEIGH KOENIGER

open the email, assuming it was spam at first. "You get a lot of spam emails that say things like that from Ancestry.com, but I'm really glad that [Garcia] chose to open that one, or I might have never gotten to meet him," Koeniger said.

After trading emails and speaking on the phone, the pair decided that it was finally time for them to meet. Coincidentally, Garcia's adoptive mother current-

ly lives in a condo on Siesta Key, just minutes away from Koeniger's residence. Garcia stated that he had visited the condo several times prior to his knowledge of Koeniger's existence. "It's just crazy to think that there were times when we were only miles apart from each other. It's kind of frustrating knowing that he was so close to me and I didn't even know that he existed," Koeniger said.

After much anticipation, the siblings finally met at the Southwest Florida International Airport over spring break last year. Koeniger and Garcia immediately felt a connection. "It was like I was looking at myself," Garcia said in

an interview with the Herald Tribune. While catching up and getting to know each other, Garcia and Koeniger found that they had a lot in common: their favorite animals were both birds, their ring fingers on their right hands curve the same way and their left pinkie toe twists to the same side. In addition to these small similarities, the siblings look almost identical, and have similar personalities and mannerisms.

"Keleigh is the most important person to me," Garcia said. "I will do anything to ensure her happiness." Before returning home, Garcia gifted Koeniger a necklace with a bird wing on it, and Koeniger says that she still has not taken it off.

"We are so happy for both Keleigh and Gustavo because Ancestry.com brought them together. This is their story of their life and nothing should ever keep them from knowing it all. For both of them this is a life changing experience and we are thrilled to have been part of it," Koeniger's mother said.

It's just crazy to think that there were times when we were only miles apart from each other."

Keleigh Koeniger, grade 10

[a column] Second Semester: Feel the Burnout

by Melissa Santoyo
Editor-in-Chief

Spring Break — finally.

I can't stress enough just how stressful senior year has been. What I find to be normal within Pine View culture, my life and that of many others was a one-way track leading up to college decisions.

So, following the tumult of first semester and the initial wave of either immediate joy or indescribable sadness, a lot of my classmates and I now find ourselves in limbo.

We're either waiting to leave or waiting to see where we'll be heading after graduation on May 19 (only 66 more days to go, not excluding weekends).

During this period of general inactivity third quarter bears, we lose sight of what's immediately in front of us, too busy waiting for what comes next. Life as a Pine View student is so fast-paced that when everything starts to settle, I can affirm that we get restless.

Cue the burnout.

We skip assignments, classes, exams, etc. It becomes within our nature to be absent — not just physically, but mentally too. Our natural tenacity lulls as this waiting period drags onward, seemingly endless. But we shouldn't let ourselves remain idle. I hate boredom more than anyone else.

The intellectual stimulation my classes have begun to lack isn't all bad. Going through the motions of class and homework has provided me with incentive to dedicate my time and curiosity to oth-



Melissa Santoyo, Editor-in-Chief

er outlets. I took up art again — something I gave up after freshman year because I was too busy and my schedule too filled. I've begun reading for fun once more — something

I honestly never believed I'd have time for.

It's not to say I have that much free time. My responsibilities are ever-present, but like the majority of my classmates, I've grown listless, looking into the future for solace. But that isn't a viable solution. So, this break I'm looking toward a lull in the bigger, extended lull. Some time for myself, my art and my books.

A break from the burnout is something we all need, regardless of if you're a second semester senior, or just someone trying to navigate the overwhelming workload of Pine View. Try to use this little vacation we're allotted as an opportunity to explore the things you've missed out on during the chaos of third quarter, and to revisit the passions that have been cast aside with last night's abandoned pre-calc homework.

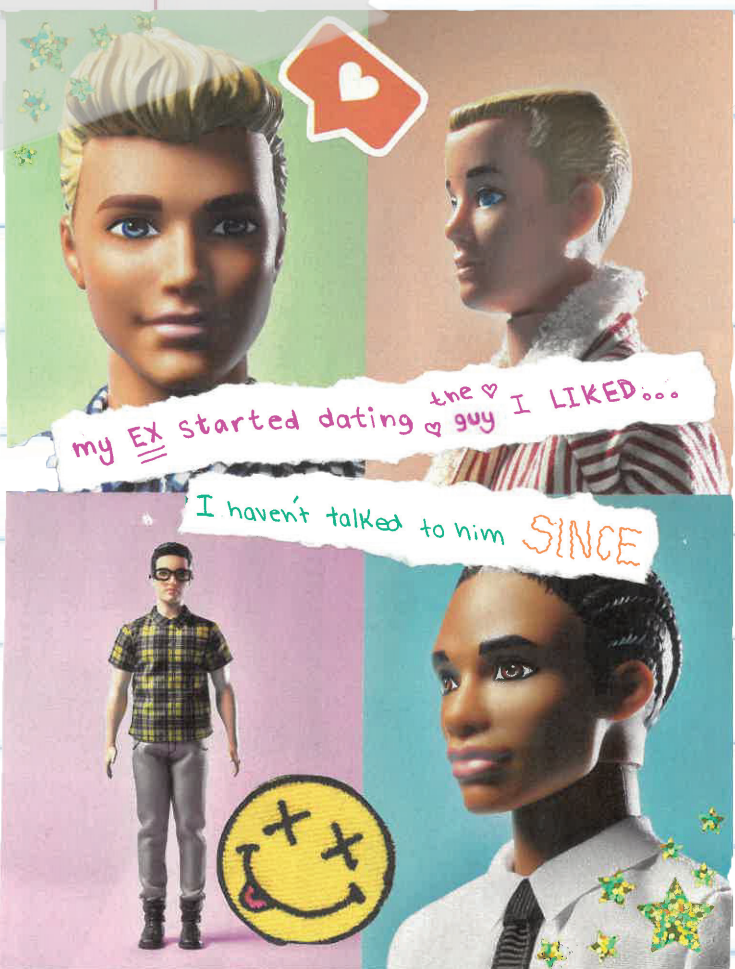
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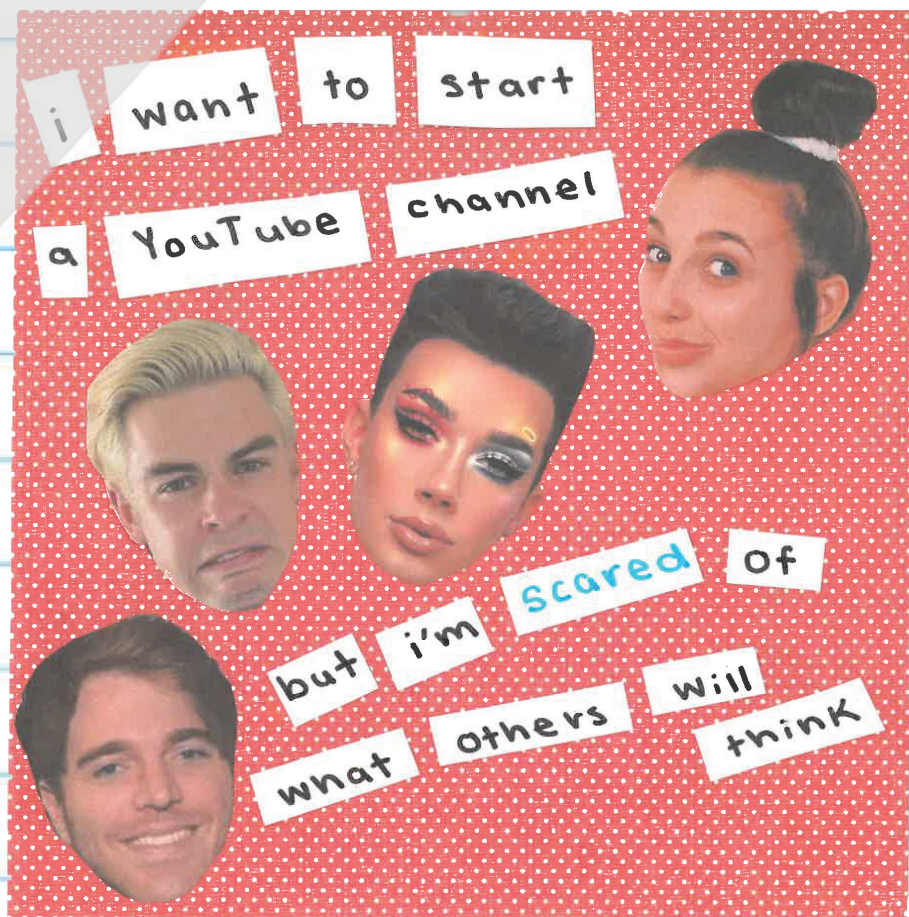
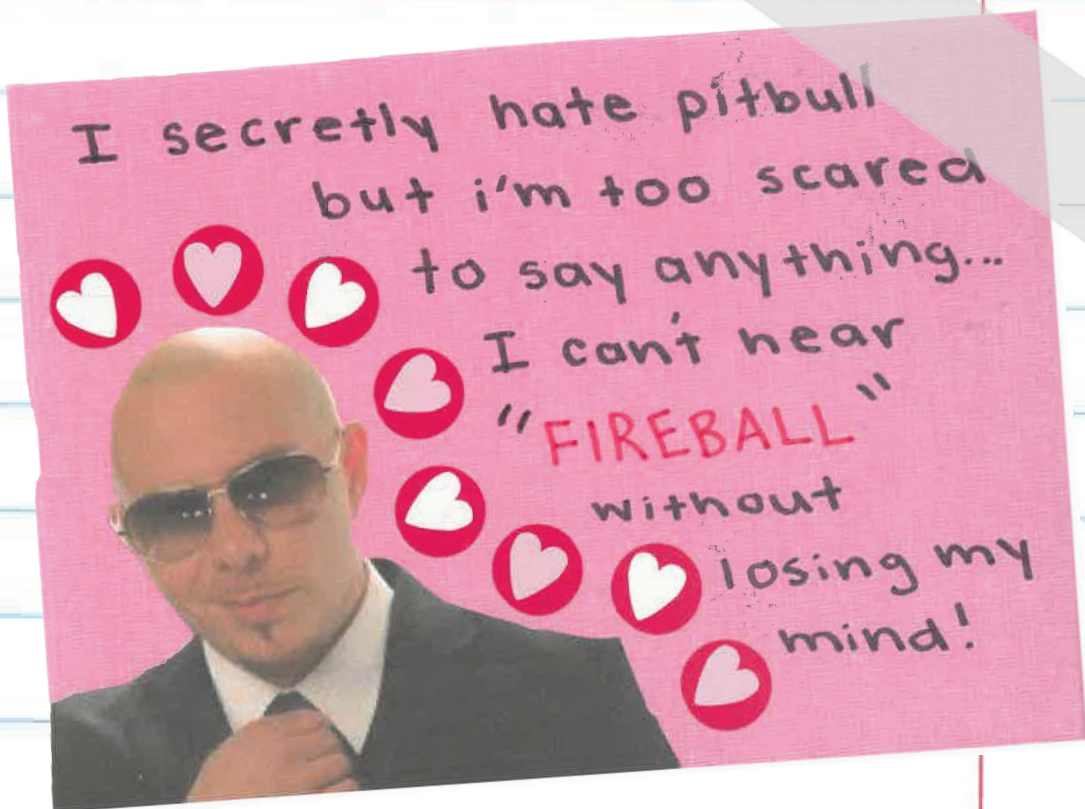
THE TORCH SECRET

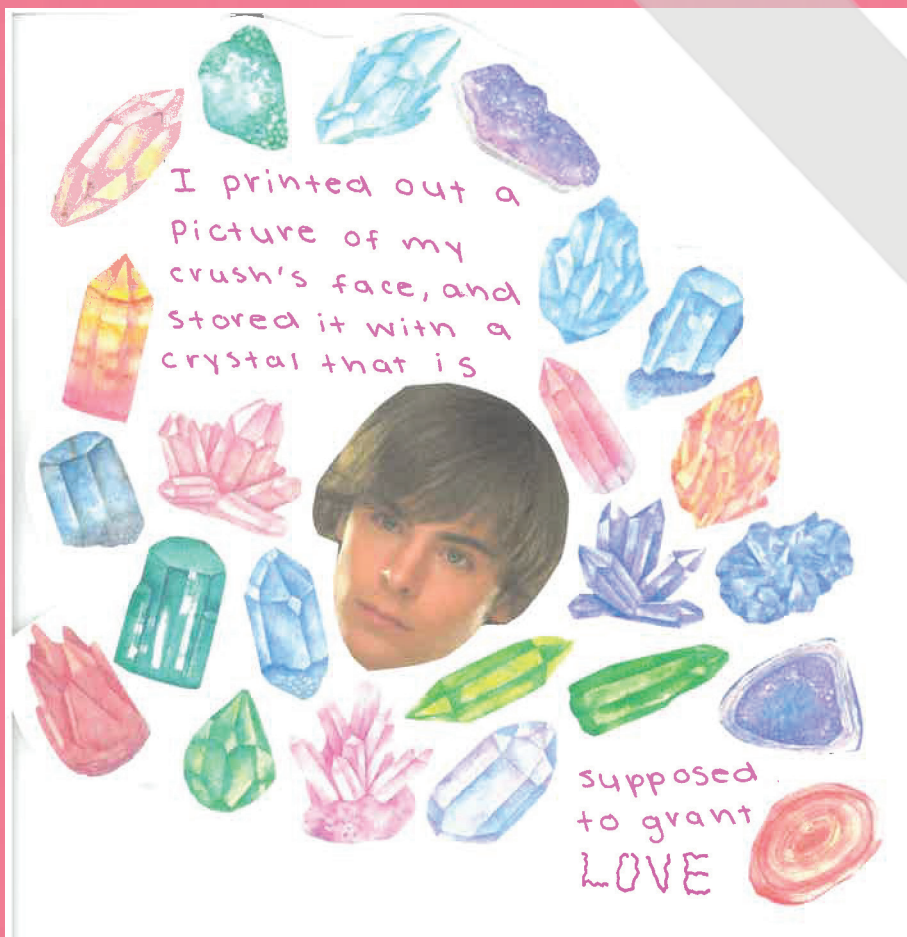
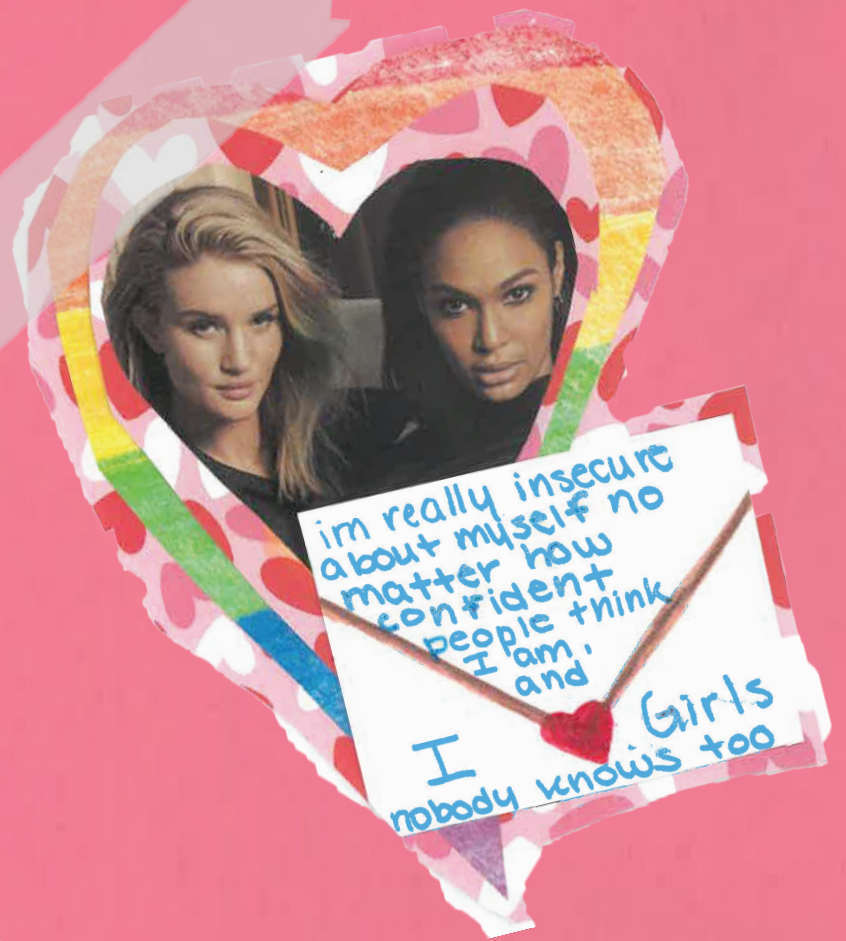
Torch readers,

We know – you see it, you got it. But in this issue of The Torch, you'll be seeing a lot more than just news. We've amassed the deepest and darkest secrets from our student body, just for your viewing pleasure. No Regina George nor Ariana Grande Burn Book could ever live up to the dirt we're about to dig up. When you ask us how much tea we're willing to spill, we say "the limit does not exist."

Thank you, next!







*ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE ANONYMOUS AND ARE ASSUMED TO BE ARTISTIC WORKS OF FICTION AND FALSEHOOD

GRAPHICS BY ANNA LABINER, MELISSA SANTOYO, ZOE MERRITT, GRACE JOHNSON, PEYTON HARRIS, SARAH CATALANO, AND SARAH HASSAN