



SPARK

newsmagazine

**THE OFFICIAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SURVIVAL GUIDE**

The Spark

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Pictured below is the tennis team who won the County Championship for the second year in a row.
Top Row (left to right): Molly Dillon (8), Sandra Piskor (8), Julianna Divincenzo (7), Marissa Saba (8), Lauren Gross (8), Brooke Rogers (8)
Middle Row: Oliver Brum (8), Nelson Lu (8), Grant Burroughs (8), Niklas Pinto (8), Spencer Cohen (8),
Bottom Row: Dalton Burroughs (6), Alexander MacKenzie (6), Joseph Calleja (6), Adam Homer (7), Jack Scarlett (6) The middle school tennis teams won the County Tournament on October 22 for the second year in a row. PHOTO BY JONAS MEYER



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Familiar Faces, New Places

By Sam Wright

With the coming of a new year, middle school is filled with familiar faces in new places. Pine View's teachers, both old and new, have been shaken up and are starting off their years teaching new subjects, students and grades.

Liz Ballard

Spending time in the portable villages of Pine View, one can spot a recognizable face go about her day. Who could this be? Liz Ballard! Despite being a long time P.E. coach at Pine View, Ballard has taken two periods out of her day of exercise and energy to teach World History to sixth graders.

Despite the drastic change in environment and curriculum, Ballard enjoys the switch. Ballard said her adjustment has given her a new perspective of teaching and her students.

"I'm so blessed to work with these kids," Ballard said, "There are people who have PhDs and have been on archeological digs who would love to be in my teaching position."

Jack Francis

The story of Jack Francis's career in recent years relating to Pine View? The short version is here, away, and back again. Francis, however, has a much longer story to tell. He decided to swap schools, going from Pine View to the charter school Sarasota Suncoast Academy. The driving force behind the switch was that Francis's wife worked at SSA and he wanted the chance to work with her. He began as the seventh-grade history and speech teacher as well as the basketball coach. His favorite aspect happened to be his position as basketball coach, which surprised him.

However, Francis is clearly back. He began missing the Pine View students and his friends at Pine View, so he decided to return this year.

"The teachers at Pine View are very, very, lucky," Francis said. "If you don't like [Pine View], try another school...this school is the best place to work."

Stephanie White

Stephanie White has left the iconic Building 16 as a fifth-grade teacher and can now be found on the schedules of sixth-graders all around campus. White made the leap to get closer to older students as one of the sponsors of the class of 2021, but not split too far from her elementary teaching experience. White also liked the sixth-grade curriculum and wanted to challenge herself.

"I have learned to never say never," White said. "I remember myself saying that I would never teach middle school, but here I am now."

Wendy Hazlett

English teacher Wendy Hazlett was first inspired to teach by the teacher who made learning fun for her. Hazlett started her teaching career in Michigan, then Texas and for two years in Sarasota before taking a ten-year break from education. During her break, Hazlett lived in Sarasota and began her family. She ended up teaching at multiple schools as a substitute, including Pine View.

Her teaching career began blossoming again when she took a position teaching fourth grade at Pine View, and this year moving up to teach sixth-, eleventh-, and twelfth-grade English.

"I wanted to move from the elementary classroom to the secondary classroom for a new challenge and because I relate well to older kids and aim to be an adult who connects with and supports them during their teenage years," Hazlett said.



Art takes heart

By Gwen Cushman

Growing up surrounded by theater, art teacher Haley Brown has strayed only slightly from her arts background. Brown grew up in southern Florida and was influenced by teaching the arts her whole life; yet, she eventually found an interest in teaching through her mom.

She came from an artistic home and a mother who worked as a teacher in Charlotte County. Despite all this educational influence, Brown initially did not consider teaching as a career.

Even at a young age, Brown did all she could to immerse herself in the world of theater and art. She did many dance classes including ballet, tap, jazz, musical theater, hip hop, acro, pointe and modern lyrical. Her dreams were being a

star on Broadway, but she found her passion later in teaching art.

Before going to college, she taught theater to young children for seven years at the Charlotte Players.

While pursuing an education in Florida State University, Brown blended her passion for art and theater, painting sets and eventually becoming a scenic painter for local theatres. By the end of her college years, Brown earned her bachelor's degrees in studio art and theater with a focus in scenic design. Her master's degree is in art education.

Now, Brown has mixed her own passion for art with her teaching style.

When it comes to making her own work Brown said, "Instagram and Tumblr have so many talented people creating art on them and they inspire me



Pictured above is art teacher Haley Brown. Brown has had a diverse set of interests, ranging from theater to painting. PHOTO BY GWEN CUSHMAN

to make my own."

Other than social media, many movies also influence her art and her lesson plans. Nature has also had an impact on her life as shown by her elaborate plant decorations throughout her classroom.

Brown is always broadening her art styles and skills as a teacher and a creative.

"There are just so many types of art that I want to try,"

she said.

So far, Brown is enjoying teaching at Pine View, and her students enjoy her style as well. In regards to Pine View's environment, she said the school offers a unique experience.

"I think my favorite thing, is how self-motivated the kids are, and how they are more interested in what we are learning, which makes the classroom more productive," Brown said.



Pictured above is Pine View's new middle school assistant principal, Melissa Abela. Abela previously worked as a teacher in Miami. PHOTO BY LEO LENERZ

By Courtney Nelson

"Every time that I think about my job, I just have to pinch myself, because it's absolutely amazing that I work here. I can't believe it, and I'm so proud to be here," new Middle School Assistant Principal Melissa Abela said.

Since starting at Pine View, Abela has been working to integrate new ideas and instill a positive impact on middle school students. Having experience teaching students in Miami, Abela expressed her contentment being with

middle school students once again. Additionally, Abela explained how she seeks to understand middle schoolers and their own perspectives.

From her experience, she's found that sixth-graders deal with transitioning into middle school. Whereas in seventh-grade, Abela sees how certain students are unclear about their interests. Yet, Abela has seen eighth-graders grow to find their own individuality.

"Middle school is so different from elementary and

Meeting Pine View's new assistant principal

high school, because each year is totally different and unique in their own ways. When I had taught English as a teacher in Miami, I grew such a strong connection with the students. I saw the impact I had on those students. But I decided to become an assistant principal, because I realized how much of a larger impact I could have on the school," Abela said.

In Abela's transition from Booker High School, she worked alongside previous Middle School Assistant Principal Sue Fair.

"Everyone has been amazing and so welcoming. Ms. Fair has made my transition even easier," Abela said.

In terms of goals for the coming years, Abela seeks to implement ways for everyone at Pine View to grow closer. While at Pine View, she hopes

that student-teacher bonds can improve, and their learning environments are as welcoming as possible.

Abela addresses how everyone has different needs when learning and how it's important that educators grow relationships to reach everyone's desire to learn. Whether by holding the door or smiling at someone, Abela models her expectations, reinforcing positivity in the school community.

"My goal is that every teacher has the tools to create relationships with others. It's truly inspiring to see how students of such similar age all can be so different...Just being positive and yourself is appreciated. When teachers are happy it all trickles down, and to me, students are the most important." Abela said.

Saying ‘hello’ to the newest AI on campus

By Faith Bossman

Tech savvy and ready to make change in their community, Suncoast Coders is applying their computer science knowledge to Pine View’s campus.

The STEM club has been working on a Google Assistant attachment called Hello! Pine View.

“When we finally completed Hello Pine View and the attachment was deployed by Google, I was so excited because it had been turned down so many times,” said eighth grade club-member Devin Gulliver.

The attachment has officially been deployed on Google Assistant and is available for download. Everyone can access the attachment by simply saying, “Talk to Hello Pine View.” The questions go to a server to see if an answer is available. Certain questions are always available to answer, but some are only

available on certain days. So if a question wasn’t answered today, it might be there tomorrow.

Currently, you can ask the app simple questions like, “Who is the principal?” and get a pre-programmed response. Daily questions also are being programmed, so one can ask “What is today’s lunch?” and be updated on a more complex everchanging question.

The Hello! Pine View app doesn’t even require coding experience to add one’s own questions and responses.

Suncoast Coders and their development team didn’t begin with such a massive and public undertaking. Suncoast Coders grew out of the Girls Who Code club, which began in 2015. The group of girls began following the preset curriculum. Quickly, however, these developers grew out of the curriculum and start-



The computer science club, the Suncoast Coders, have focused their efforts upon creating the “Hello! Pine View” app. Suncoast Coders initially began as Girls Who Code in 2015. PHOTO BY FAITH BOSSMAN

ed their own independent club.

Their first project as a group was a model of the Weasley Clock from the Harry Potter movies. The model was fully functional and able to track ones preset locations.

Other than these models and apps, the club members also created their own websites through a program called Cloud 9. Club members get tons of ex-

amples of hands-on experience with coding and development.

In the future, Suncoast Coder’s seeks to continue building their repertoires through new projects and growing their coding skills.

To contribute to Hello! Pine View and learn more about coding, come to Suncoast Coders on Fridays at 1 p.m. in Roger Siegel’s room.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS

Dungeons & Dragons

Fridays 7th period with Dr. Bell

Release your inner creativity and create your own world with friends.

Crate Diggers

Fridays 7th period with Mr. Pauling

Enjoy the chill atmosphere while going through thrifted and collected vinyl records.

Odyssey of the Mind

Tuesdays 7th period with Mrs. Novak

Learn to solve creative problem solving program and get exposure to other creative outlets.

Science Olympiad Club

Fridays 7th period with Mrs. Kehler

This club prepares students for the Science Olympiad competition based on subjects like forensics, anatomy, and more.

Sixth Graders: The Adventure Guide



Adam Teffenhart

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Jiayi Zhu



Alan Daniel

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Brenna Cullen



Allen Lin

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Shelby Brann



Anna Buchmeier

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Andres Cortes



Ariana Washburn

Previous School:
Taylor Ranch Elementary

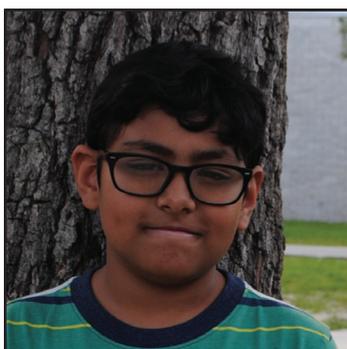
Interview by:
Shelby Brann



Fran
Squires

“After 20+ years here at Pine View and the last 10 in 6th grade, each day continues to be a joyful opportunity to enrich the academic performance of my amazing students.”

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY SAM WRIGHT



Ankur Bishayee

Previous School:
Everglades Elementary

Interview by:
Faith Bossman



Anthony Dedovets

Previous School:
Lakeview Elementary

Interview by:
Donelle Grone



Ava Glover

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Ryan Purdy



Brett Duggan

Previous School:
Robert E. Willis
Elementary

Interview by:
Madilyn Hagney



Brianna Qeraj

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by:
Emma Reynolds



Brooke Rogers

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Aaron Schroeder



Chase Bertrand

Previous School:
Fruitville Elementary

Interview by:
Christian Batista



Chelsea McKay

Previous School:
Bay Haven Elementary

Interview by:
Brenna Cullen



Christian Gomez

Previous School:
Tatum Ridge Elementary

Interview by:
Emma Reynolds



Clark Keyvani

Previous School:
St. Joseph's Catholic
School

Interview by:
Faith Bossman



Dev Patel

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by:
Ryan Purdy



Dalton Anderson

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Zlata Basarevskja



Eila Chandra

Previous School:
New Haven School

Interview by:
Shelby Brann



Elizabeth Khodzhaieva
 Previous School:
 Collen Bevic Elementary

Interview by:
 Shelby Brann



Emmett Russo
 Previous School:
 Phillippi Shores Elementary

Interview by:
 Aaron Schroeder



Ethan Cherry
 Previous School:
 Cherryville Elementary

Interview by:
 Coltrane Marcusky



Evelyn Hunt
 Previous School:
 Island School

Interview by:
 Jiayi Zhu



Franklin Boyer
 Previous School:
 Imagine Palmer Ranch

Interview by:
 Faith Bossman



Gabrielle DeLeo
 Previous School:
 Phillippi Shores Elementary

Interview by:
 Donelle Grone



Gabriel Yamada
 Previous School:
 Phillippi Shores Elementary

Interview by:
 Brenna Cullen



Grant Miller
 Previous School:
 Fruitville Elementary

Interview by:
 Madilyn Hagney



Greyson Dawes
 Previous School:
 Phillippi Shores Elementary

Interview by:
 Brenna Cullen



Hadley Thompson
 Previous School:
 Lakeview Elementary

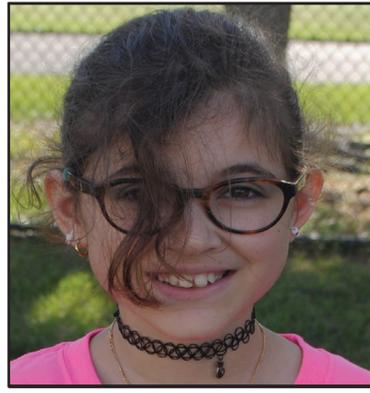
Interview by:
 Jiayi Zhu



Harrison Williams

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Lindsay Luberecki



Helene Giraud

Previous School:
Gulf Gate Elementary

Interview by:
Molly Whipple



Isabel Jerome

Previous School:
Cranberry
Elementary

Interview by:
Zlata Basarevska



Jace Ekes

Previous School:
Fruitville Elementary

Interview by:
Liana Le



Jack Berke

Previous School:
Boyette Springs
Elementary

Interview by:
Christian Batista



Jackson Mitchell

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Emma Reynolds



Jack Venesky

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Emma Reynolds



Jacob Feldman

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Lindsay Luberecki



Joseph Calleja

Previous School:
Lake View
Elementary

Interview by:
Andres Cortes



Joseph Tricarico

Previous School:
Public School 8,
Staten Island

Interview by:
Emma Reynolds



Kane Ryan

Previous School:
Boyette Springs
Elementary

Interview by:
Tanvi Senthil



Kannon Morrissey

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Lindsay Luberecki



Kaia Yturalde

Previous School:
Out-of-Door Academy

Interview by:
Zlata Basarevskaja



Kinley Thompson

Previous School:
Lakeview Elementary

Interview by:
Jiayi Zhu



Lanie Fineman

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Coltrane Marcusky



Laura Herrera

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by:
Molly Whipple



Layla Thach

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Brenna Cullen



Liana Schlabach

Previous School:
Bay Haven Elementary

Interview by:
Molly Whipple



Laird Foley

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by:
Coltrane Marcusky



Lila Mertzlufft

Previous School:
Tatum Ridge
Elementary

Interview by:
Donelle Grone



Lilia Checcone

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

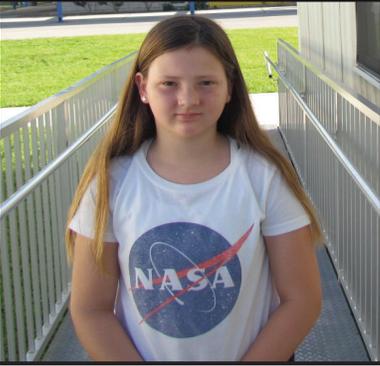
Interview by:
Andres Cortes



Luke Purdy

Previous School:
Sarasota Christian
School

Interview by:
Emma Reynolds



Margaret Halperin

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Aaron Schroeder



Marie Sanchez

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by:
Tanvi Senthil



Michael Hu

Previous School:
Limona Elementary

Interview by:
Molly Whipple



Mirai Mehta

Previous School:
Tatum Ridge Elementary

Interview by:
Donelle Grone



Natalie Hoffman

Previous School:
Tatum Ridge Elementary

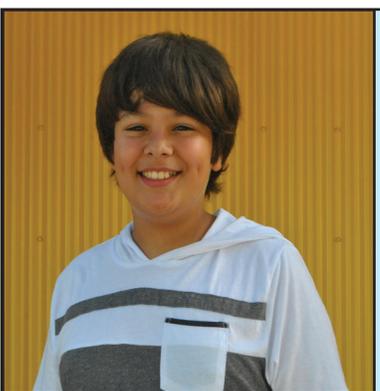
Interview by:
Christian Batista



Nathanael Hearon

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Donelle Grone



Nathan DeSouza

Previous School:
Robert E. Willis
Elementary

Interview by:
Madilyn Hagney



Nathan Fehr

Previous School:
Bay Haven
Elementary

Interview by:
Liana Le



Natalie Anis

Previous School:
Apollo Beach Elementary

Interview by: Zlata
Basarevskja



Noah Brum

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by: Shelby
Brann



Noah Stewart

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by: Jiayi Zhu



Olivia Jernigan

Previous School:
Blue
Water Elementary

Interview by: Jiayi Zhu



Phineas Monsul

Previous School:
Out-of-Door Academy

Interview by: Lindsay
Luberecki



Samuel Oh

Previous School:
Braden River Elementary

Interview by: Ryan
Purdy

Teachers offer encouraging words

The adjustments to Pine View’s challenging classes, far-reaching campus and new classmates may be intimidating for new students. Nevertheless, Pine View’s middle school teachers look forward to making new memories with all their students, as they share their own experiences teaching.



Alventina Lazareva, sixth-grade social studies

“I’ve been teaching for 12 years – since 2007, starting here at Pine View. The students have given me great memories and helped make me more patient and understanding.”



Sophie Yturralde

Previous School:
Out-of-Door Academy

Interview by: Faith
Bossman



Tais Gadar

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by: Ryan
Purdy



Takumi Fenderson

Previous School:
Boyette Springs
Elementary

Interview by: Tanvi
Senthil



Turner Hamley

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by: Tanvi
Senthil



Tyler Ellerson

Previous School:
Out-of-Door Academy

Interview by: Coltrane
Marcusky



Valeria
Gonzalez-Heredia

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by: Emma
Reynolds



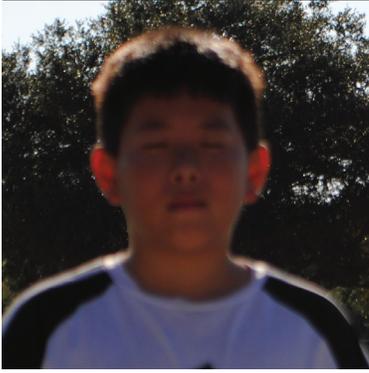
David Yotsuda, seventh-grade science

“My favorite part about teaching is the excitement from middle school students. They have kept me, as far as perspective-wise, to always be curious and to always ask questions.”



Marybeth Maiello, eighth- grade science

“I have been teaching middle school for 27 years. They teach me new stuff everyday... I want to make [middle school] a safe, fun, non-emotional, non-stressful time period.”



Sam Wang

Previous School:
Lakeview Elementary

Interview by: Tanvi
Senthil



Sarah Gray

Previous School:
Ashton Elementary

Interview by: Aaron
Schroeder



Scott Wells

Previous School:
Fruitville Elementary

Interview by: Emma
Reynolds



Sebastian Cuellar

Previous School:
Ashton Elementary

Interview by: Andres
Cortes



William Warren

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by: Coltrane
Marcusky



Yael Rodriguez

Previous School:
Bay Haven School

Interview by: Zlata
Basarevskaja



Avery Johanning

Previous School:
Tatum Ridge Elementary

Interview by:
Zlata Basarevskaja



Isabella Zmiyiwsky

Previous School:
St Martha's

Interview by:
Tanvi Senthil



Camille Kesling

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Christian Batista



Ivan Tkachou

Previous School:
Glen Allen Elementary

Interview by:
Aaron Schroeder

Evolution on Pine View's Campus



Annika Biggs

Former school: Sarasota Middle
Interview by: Lindsay Luberecki

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

Woodshop club; I like to work with my hands.

What challenges have you faced with the change to middle school?

There's a lot more homework and a lot more walking from class to class.



Daniel Rudin

Former school: Coleytown Elementary, Westport
Interview by: Jiayi Zhu

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

I would start a football club because I really enjoy playing it.

If you could change one thing at Pine View, what would it be? Why?

I would change the time we get out, so we could get out earlier than 4:00. It would give me more time to do what I want after school.



Austin Rollings Zepponi

Former school: Davidson Middle
Interview by: Molly Whipple

What challenges have you faced with the change to middle school?

Well, a few, there's a lot of organization involved, a lot more preparation, studying. Mainly just academic stuff to be honest.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?

I do have a twin brother.



EllaRose Sherman

Former school: Laurel Nokomis Middle
Interview by: Shelby Brann

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

Animation club because I like art.

If you could change one thing at Pine View, what would it be? Why?

Less weekend homework so I can enjoy my weekend more.



Donelle Grone

Former school: State College of Florida Collegiate School
Interview by: Brenna Cullen

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

Horse riding club because I love horses and ride every day.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?

I think Pine View is a great switch from my previous school and I don't regret anything.



Evan Rollings Zepponi

Former school: Davidson Middle
Interview by: Courtney Nelson

If you could change one thing about Pine View, what would it be?

Beyblade club... It's a great way to meet new friends and to have fun.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?

I'd make sure that there would be different intervals in which the teachers would put their tests.



Daniel Zamora

Former school: Charles Rushe Middle
Interview by: Ryan Purdy

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

I would start the Meme Club where a group of students review memes.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?

People who put gum on the floor are psychopaths.



Freya Melbourne

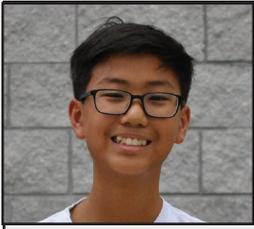
Former school: Sarasota Middle
Interview by: Liana Le

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

I would want to do food tech because it's fun to look forward to and it's a bit more hands on.

If you could change one thing at Pine View, what would it be? Why?

Making longer transition periods.



James Hostetler

Former school: Rippon Middle in Rippon, Virginia
Interview by: Shelby Brann

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

A martial arts club because I like it a lot and think other people would.

What challenges have you faced with the change to middle school?

Lots of homework. And it's hard to walk across campus.



Jonathan Pushkash

Former School: Woodland Middle
Interview by: Shelby Brann

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

I helped my friends start a Minecraft club already.

What challenges have you faced with the change to middle school?

Not much. It's pretty much the same amount of homework, just a lot more classes.



Raphael Haslam

Former School: Magdalen College School in Oxford, England
Interview by: Madilyn Hagney

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

A table tennis club because it's fun and we had it at my old school.

What challenges have you faced with the change to middle school?

Homework, classes. It's more relaxed here, but there's more work at a higher level.



Santo Valenti

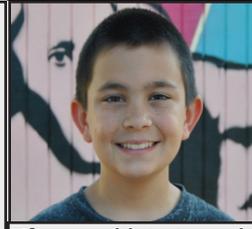
Former School: Laurel Nokomis Middle
Interview by: Aaron Schroeder

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

I would start a videogame development club, to open more career options in the future.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?

I like chicken wings, and love to draw in my spare time.



Ryan Purdy

Former school: Sarasota Christian School
Interview by: Andres Cortes

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

Star Wars Club, because I like Star Wars and I'd like to talk to people who like Star Wars and all that stuff.

If you could change one thing at Pine View, what would it be? Why?

The amount of time they [teachers] give you to work on tests; I think they should give more time.



Liana Le

Former School: Brookside Middle
Interview by: Zlata Basarevskaja

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

I would probably make a cooking class, because I really enjoy cooking and baking but I'm really bad at it.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?

I play piano, I have a shopping addiction and I talk a lot.



Marcus Gutierrez

Former School: Saint Martha's
Interview by: Donelle Grone

What challenges have you faced with the change to middle school?

The challenges I've faced are the homework load and the size of the school.

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

I would like to start chess club because I like to play it and want to get better.



Matthew Bury-Lugo

Former School: St Martha's
Interview by: Christian Batista

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

Lego club for some Lego enthusiasts. Maybe for the younger kids.

What challenges have you faced with the change to middle school?

More work, more responsibilities, and harder classes I guess.

SUCCESSING IN SEVENTH

Keep up with your homework

Remember you're halfway there

Value yourself and friendships

In the Final Stretch: New Eighth Graders at Pine View



Patricia Bury-Lugo

Interview by: Courtney Nelson

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?
I used to go to Saint Martha's, it's a Christian school. We'd always wear uniforms and we'd use chrome books for everything, like our homework, so our backpacks were lighter.

How would you describe yourself?
I'd describe myself as funny, kind, sweet and obviously new!

What professions are you interested in? Why?
I'd like to be a lawyer. Both of my parents are lawyers, so it's pretty inspiring.

What would you do with a million dollars?
With a million dollars, I would love to travel the world, experiencing new culture and languages. I'd make sure to put some into my will for my future family, and of course donate to some charities.



Ethan Wang

Interview by: Leo Lenerz

What other places have you lived in/traveled to?
I went to California, New York and Taiwan.

What or who inspires you? Why?
My mom inspires me because she works hard to help us with homework, extracurricular activities and more.

What professions are you interested in? Why?
Engineering because it involves math and I like to do math.

What have been your first impressions of Pine View? What challenges have you faced at Pine View?
It's a nice place, but when it rains, it floods. [Some challenges I have faced are] finding the right bus and sometimes when I get picked up from the shell lot, it is flooded.



Florentina
Klingenberg

Interview by: Leo Lenerz

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?
I went to Sarasota Middle School. The campus was a little bit smaller and I wasn't in the gifted program.

What places have you lived in/traveled to?
I have lived in Austria and Massachusetts. I have traveled to Iceland, California, Arizona, Colorado, Italy, Norway and Germany.

What would you do with a million dollars?
I would give some to charity, travel the world and get a dog.

If you could have a super power, what would it be?
I would have the power to stop global warming and all the problems that humanity has put on Earth, such as climate change.



Maria Clara
Melo-Fontoura

Interview by: Monica Hennaway

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?
Before, I went to Bridgewater Middle School.

What professions are you interested in? Why?
I'd like to be a fashion designer. I like planning things out and making them look nice and neat.

What would you do with a million dollars?
I'd donate some and use the rest for life savings.

If you could have a super power, what would it be?
All knowledge, so I could pass all tests and quizzes, and do whatever I want.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF MIDDLE SCHOOL



A bucket list to make sure that you leave middle school without any regrets

MAKE A NEW FRIEND

Try and get to know everyone instead of just sticking with your main friend group. People may switch schools after this year and you don't want to regret never getting to know someone.

GO TO AN 8TH GRADE DANCE

In the moment you may feel that you are too cool for it, but with your besties you'll have a blast. These are memories you will always cherish.



SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY

They are your built-in-friends – they will always be there for you, so appreciate them. Not to mention that you'll probably have some of your most fun times with them.

GIVE BACK

Volunteer in your community as a way to be a positive influence and broaden your horizons.

JOIN A CLUB

This is a great way to explore your interests, so when you get to high school you have some direction. Pine View offers many clubs so there is something for everyone.

LEARN TO COOK SOMETHING



Although cooking may not be high on your priority list, cooking can be a great creative outlet and tastes amazing. You can also surprise your friends and family with a new delicious dish.

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR FUTURE SELF

This can be a very cathartic experience and will let you reflect on your middle school years.

VISIT AN OLD TEACHER

Go back to your elementary roots and visit an old teacher that you connected with. They always have great advice as they've seen you grow up.

BY NAINA CHAUHAN



Molly Dillon

Interview by: Faith Bossman

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?
SMS, there are more lockers here and more homework.

What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?

All of my teachers are good, but I like PE (Coach DiGiacomo) the most.

If you could have a super power, what would it be?

Completing my homework in 1 second and getting the answers all right.

What or who inspires you? Why?

My dad inspires me the most because he is a firefighter and saves people's lives.



Tyler Tricarico

Interview by: Sam Wright

What professions are you interested in? Why?

I'm looking for a career in the arts; my main goal is to be a Disney animator. But if that doesn't happen, I'd want to be a writer or default to another career in relation to my hobbies.

What or who inspires you? Why?

I take after my dad [who is an artist] and other artists.

What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?

I like art with Mrs. Brown and I'm working on starting an animation club.

What would you do with a million dollars?

Half for college, half for charity, maybe get a house.

Seventh-grader breaks glass ceiling and state record

By Madilyn Hagney

The scent of chlorine and the sounds of splashing fill the indoor pool complex. Sidney Brann speeds down lane 4, then heaves herself out of the water. Cheers fill the venue.

A voice booms overhead, "Coming in first place with a time of 2:25.87 and breaking the FLAGS and LSC records... Sidney Brann!"

In one race, Sidney Brann broke two state swimming records for the 200-meter backstroke, FLAGS (Florida Age Group Swimming), which was two minutes and 29.53 seconds, and LSC (Local Swim Committee), which was two minutes and 27.43 seconds.

Brann has been swimming for about four years and shows extraordinary skill according to her coach.

"She's a good leader for the group," her coach, Ira Klein, said. "She could be training with the older group. She has a promising career."

Klein has also praised Brann for her work ethic. Both Klein and Brann's teammates admire her commitment and skill. Brann attends swim practices regularly, training to compete for multiple tournaments; this takes a large portion of her time.

"Our goal should be to try and beat the national record and beat our rivals," teammate Toby Schwenk said.

Two of her teammates, Toby Schwenk and Val Smirnov, spoke very highly of her, Schwenk saying, "She's funny sometimes."

Not only is Brann perceived as an impressive swimmer, she's also admired by her teammates for her hard work and persistence.

Smirnov especially expressed joy to have Brann on her team.

"She helps me get through practice," Smirnov said.

Brann said that she will remember her accomplishment, since she's been training for it her whole swim career. She also said she plans on pursuing swimming in the future.

Brann said she believes that swimming is a sport that can really get her somewhere in life.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHRISTINE BRANN

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A short drive from Pine View School

The teachers.
They're amazing
because they all care
about their students.

Samuel Angel, Grade 7

My friends because
they are all very
supportive.

Melis Wiesinger, Grade 8

I loved physical
science because my
teacher is amazing

John Folvig, Grade 8

I love PE because it
is great to let out
steam from the
rest of the day.

Leon Jarczyński, Grade 6

My favorite
class is ELA
because I love
to write.

Arabella Carlson, Grade 7

I'm part of NJHS and
Math Counts, I love how
diverse the clubs are
and how fun they can
be.

Stephen Fancher, Grade 7

What is
your
favorite
part about
Pine View?

Who is
your
favorite
teacher and
why?

Dr. Bell because he is
really nice and is a
great club leader.

Emma Li, Grade 7

Mrs. LaVallee because
she makes learning
fun.

Morgan Hale, Grade 7

Mr. Maron because he
is very nice...and when
he makes a mistake, he
apologizes.

Holden Macdonald, Grade 7

Mr. Stumpf, cause
he's nice [and] he
has a calming voice.

Chance McArtor, Grade 7

Mr. Murray
because he is
really nice.

Jonah Orchard, Grade 7

Mr. Gardner because he
is nice, lets us sing, and
is very sarcastic.

Cyrus Kuhn, Grade 8

Leaping Lizards: Caring for Pine View's most exotic animals

By Shelby Brann

Typically, most students that have pets may have a dog or cat, or a fish or a lizard. As for others, they may even have no pets at all. Many students at Pine View have pets, and certainly all students love them! But when you ask Anne Mel-Luver if she has pets, she'll reply with a whole list of various creatures!

According to many students who have been brave enough to venture to her house for a meet-up or a sleepover, they'll tell you that Mel-Luver has two ostriches, five peacocks, two hogs and a crocodile named Jeffrey, not to mention the giraffe she has been housing.

"I have many pets at home. Some people are confused as to why some of them are so interesting, but I always say

that's the fun of it!" Mel-Luver told several teachers.

"It's hard to have so many sometimes, but when choosing between seeing a movie or hanging out with my lizards, I'll choose Gary every time. The only problem is, no one believes me when I tell them my pet ate my homework!"

Mel-Luver feeds them every day at the crack

of dawn. She lugs water to her giraffes, then fills her dogs' bowls. With a slight struggle to reach the ostriches' field, she is careful to give them their favorite nuts and seeds. While she walks by her swamp, she has to watch for her crocodiles to be sure she's giving them the

right meal. After this chaotic feeding, she rushes to school, trying her best to make it on time.

"It takes a while to feed them all," she said. "They have very different appetites, which makes it so difficult. Gary likes apple slices with cinnamon, but Bobby, who's a hippo, hates cinnamon. Two of my peacocks adore pumpkin seeds, but they always end up fighting over the burnt ones. In the end, it's a lot of work."

With someone such as Mel-Luver having to labor over countless animals, it makes the average person think twice about owning a dog. Nevertheless, Mel-Luver has five of the country's most beloved pets. With two Burmese mountain dogs, one German Shepard and three great Danes. The animals can especially be tiresome for her, as she has to juggle with Pine View homework as well.

"Pets are extremely hard to take care of and they require a lot of attention. But at the end of the day, it's totally worth it," Mel-Luver said.

“Some people are confused as to why some of them are so interesting, but I always say that’s the fun of it.”

Anne Mel-Luver, eighth-grader

SURVIVING PINE VIEW RAIN:

What You Need

Kayak - from \$48.99



Use: near the media center

Waders - from \$15.99



Use: in the picnic table area

Bathing Suit - from \$9.99



Use: anywhere

Pool Float - from \$11.95



Use: in Portable City

Snorkel - from \$15.99



Use: anywhere

Surfboard - from \$85.00



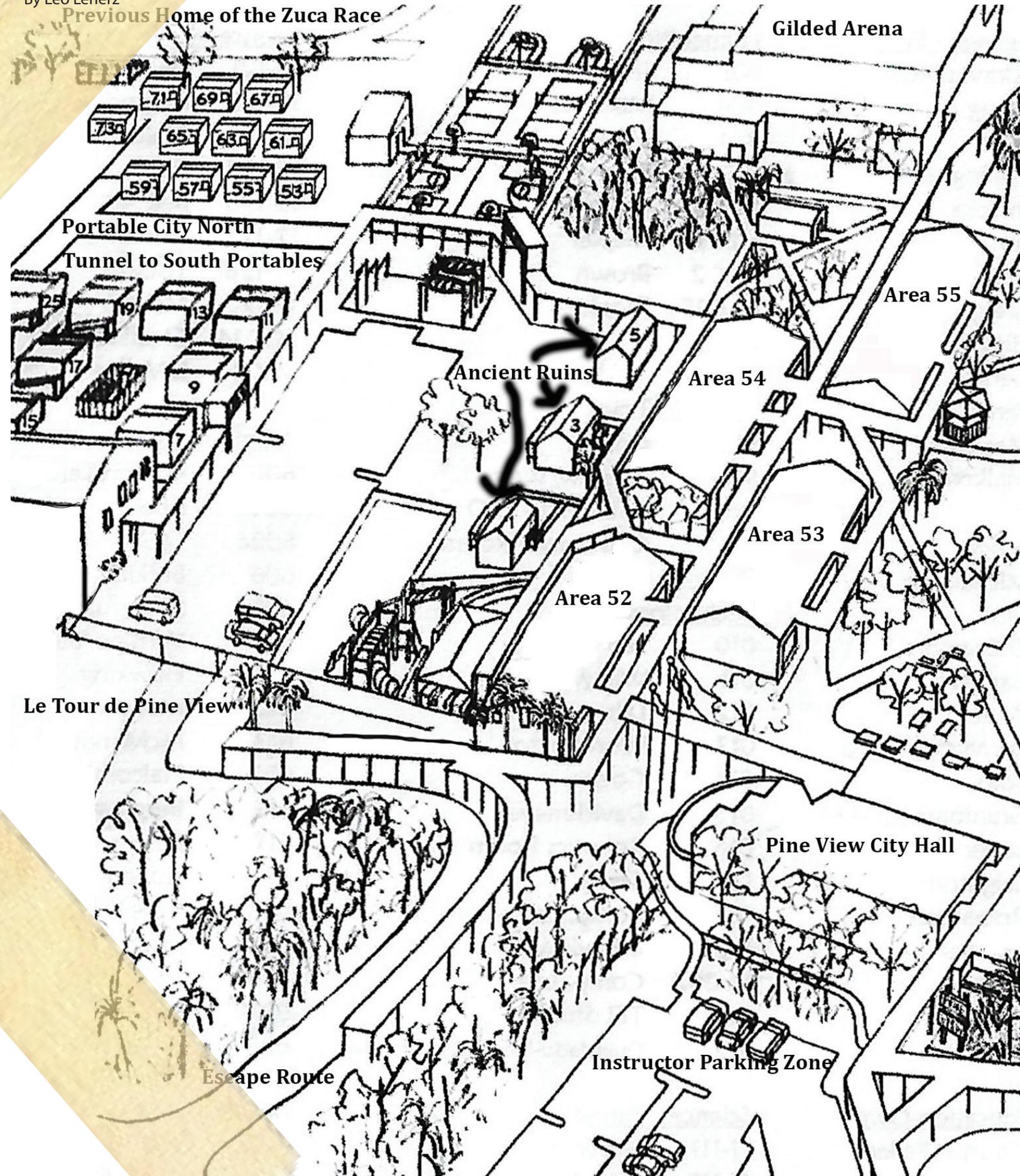
Use: near the shell lot

by Lindsay Luberecki

A Journey through Pine View

By Leo Lenerz

Previous Home of the Zuca Race



Gilded Arena

Area 55

Area 54

Ancient Ruins

Area 53

Area 52

Le Tour de Pine View

Pine View City Hall

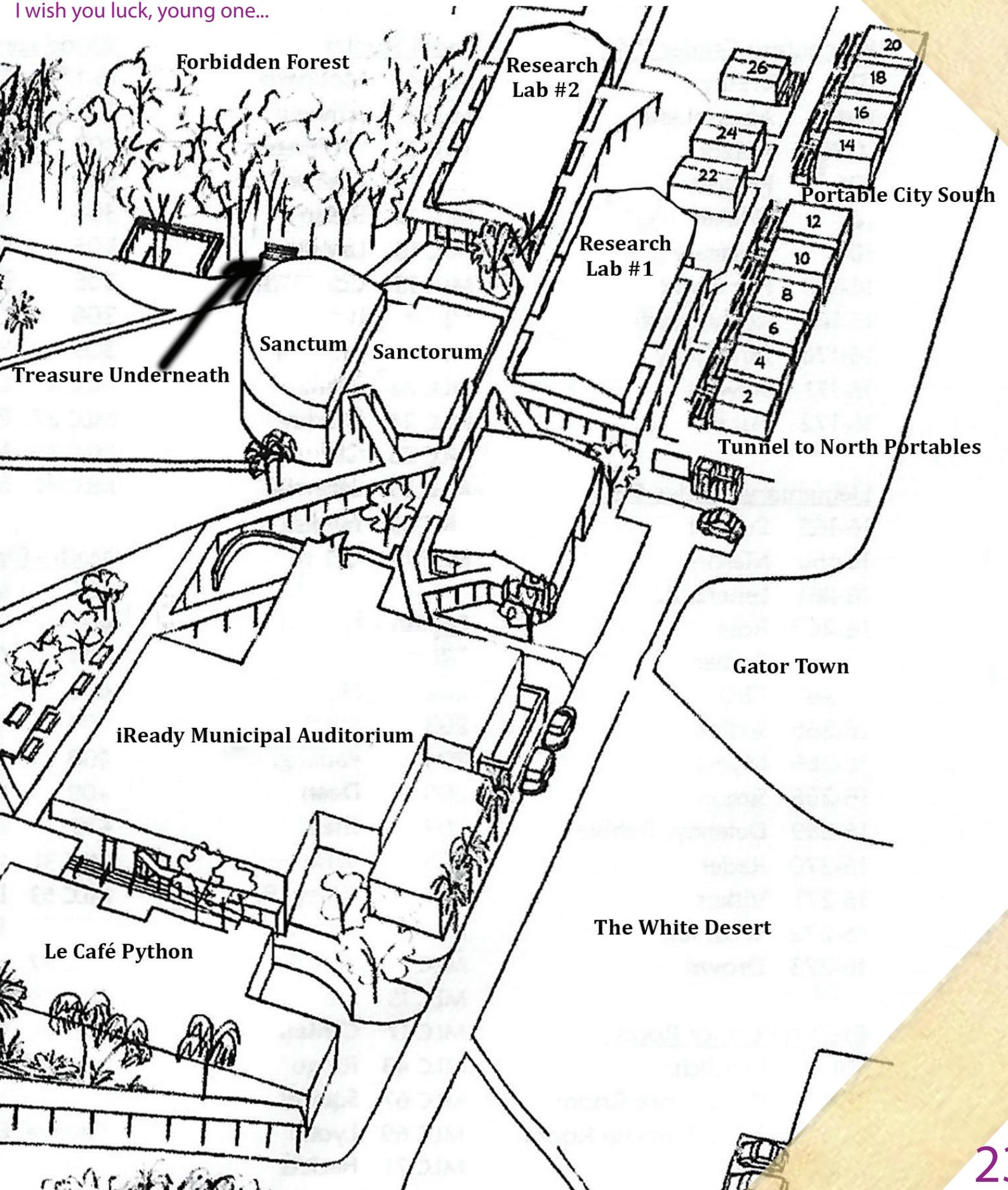
Escape Route

Instructor Parking Zone

Portable City North

Tunnel to South Portables

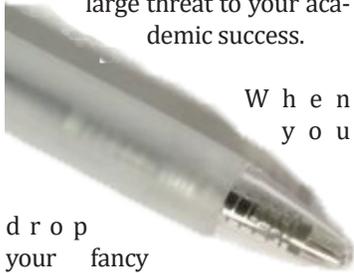
Dear travelers,
For eons, I have wandered this vast land and discovered the stunning sights and curious finds of Pine View.
Before you, I have the very map I created while wandering this vast land, documenting paths and marking hidden adventures in every spot.
I wish you luck, young one...



The insidious alliance hiding in our pencil pouches

By Courtney Nelson

Being highly skilled and professionally trained, stationary thieves could be anyone. They could be behind you or seated next to you, but to any school student, they pose a large threat to your academic success.



When you

drop your fancy gel pen but can't seem to find it anywhere on the floor, or when you misplaced your new mechanical pencil, look for the Stationary Thieves, the ones to snag it first. Stationary Thieves have terrorized Pine View in the shadows for far too long, and it's time to bring these shady stealers to light.

It was the second day of school, my fancy new Mildliner annotation highlighters in hand,

when the head of the Stationary Thieves Organization (STO), Stealio Pen, comes to me, innocently asking to use my mint colored Mildliner. At this point I didn't know how to handle this; all eyes were on us. I only had two options: give him my mint colored Mildliner, that I loved ever so dearly, or face the wrath of STO.

My friend, Vicki Tem, had the audacity to deny Penny Bandeet, another thief, her beautiful set of gel pens to "color her science project," which we all knew that was just code for "give me all your pens." When Tem rejected Bandeet's offer, things took a dark turn. I haven't seen Vicki since the incident. STO is a merciless group of individuals.

From what I've heard, the organization runs from a top-secret location on campus, collecting a surplus of pens, pencils, highlighters and notebooks. I've always wondered what the

thieves do with all this stationary, but through investigation, the truth is finally coming to light.

I got in contact with a former thief trainee, who wishes to remain anonymous.

"I was just there to get in on the beautiful bounty of stationary, but it became more than what I had bargained for. I was inducted into the organization by having to become 'one with the pen'; I had to ingest the ink of the pen. It was traumatic."

The thieves have taken what we love, destroyed our faith, and weakened the soul of our school. I shall not stand for the terror that has been forced upon us! We

must stand strong and forge a plan to fight back against those who have degraded our quality of stationary and life at Pine View.

Students across Pine View have been devastated by the actions of these delinquents, and once we accomplish a revolt, we, as a school, will grow to become a safer school. But for now, we will be in the



shadows of these mischievous marauders.



What's behind the Batman Bench?

By Gwen Cushman

Friday, September 13, 2019: Dear Diary,

Today I adventured into the forest behind the batman bench carrying my large camping bag because I thought it would be fun to disappear for a few days.

Items I brought with me:

- 1 cans of raid for those pesky ants
- 1 fly swatter
- 1 family sized bag of Bugles
- 1 cup decorated with Hello Kitty for collecting rainwater
- 4 of my favorite onesies
- 1 glow in the dark flashlight
- 1 knife for cutting stuff
- 3 survival guides
- 1 swimsuit for swimming in toxic ponds
- A few calculators for calculating the time, date, and how many calories I eat

Throughout the entire day I feel brave and adventurous but, I did run into some trouble. I decided to make a camp which included a tent made from some huge branches and palm fronds and a campfire which would be useful mostly at night. After the camp looked perfect, I went exploring. I saw many mushrooms, trees, birds, and a few old four-square balls.

Saturday, September 14, 2019: Dear Dairy,

Today I awoke to find that my leg was covered in rashes. I took a very estimated guess and decided that it was from the mushrooms I ran all over yesterday. Eventually I was able to blink the sleep away from my eyes and ate some berries from a near-by bush; they were very tasty. After dragging one of my onesies around, I finally found a plant that looked like aloe vera and spread the juice all over my legs; it stung a lot, so I tied my onesie to my legs. Once

again, I slowly crawled back to my home base to prepare lunch. By the time I got back my legs felt better so I made the greatest decision: to go hunting. I grabbed my knife, one of the bags of Bugles, and headed off into the dense ever-

greens.

As I was walking, I was able to identify some of the amazing plants due to my knowledge of the Pine View Trail Guide that I brought along. Somehow, I drifted off into daydreaming and 'awoke' to find myself stalking a bird; I seem to have a great subconscious. The bird was very dumb, so I easily used the Bugles as bait, killed it, and brought it back to my camp. After I struggled to cook it over the fire, I settled down on a tree stump to eat dinner (dinner + lunch).

Sunday, September 15, 2019: Dear Diary,

Today I realized that there wasn't an adult in site, so I jumped around and screamed "I'm free!" Eventually I decided that it would be best to stop my nonsense and read another survival guide.

After a few pages about acid rain had been read, it started to rain in real life, so I grabbed my Hello Kitty cup and danced around

catching raindrops. I really hoped that I had captured acid rain, but it was just normal rainwater. By the time it had stopped raining I had drunk five and a half cups of water, which was then recorded in my calculator.

I still wasn't hungry thanks to the bird I had previously eaten, so I thought about going swimming instead. Wandering off to the near by pond I carried my swimsuit, another survival guide, one of the raid cans, the flashlight, and my fly swatter. I used the raid to spray a large palm frond to get rid of any bugs that could have been on it and placed my 'boat' into the pond.

After a long time of reading and slashing at bees with my fly swatter, I decided to cannonball into the pond. As I headed back to my camp it was dark, so I finally used the flashlight to guide me.

Monday, September 16, 2019: Dear Diary,

Today I awoke to homesickness so I ate the left over Bugles to try and cure it. After awhile I got bored of sitting around so I got one of my onesies and waved it around in the air to the beat of my favorite songs.

After the sun had rose a little higher, I packed up my camp and kissed it goodbye; my homesickness had grown too much. So, as much as I loved my adventure, I gave up and trekked back to Pine View. On the way I thought about all the fun I have had these past few days and how I was really going to miss the freedom of doing whatever I wanted.

As I neared the school I realized that I should record my journey so I could keep forever. I paused and sat down on a patch of sad looking grass. I recorded my great adventure, which you are now reading, and headed off to school with a smile.

Today I adventured into the forest behind the batman bench... because I thought it would be fun to dissappear for a few days.."

Gwen Cushman,
eighth-grader



Jeff Reynolds

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The Secret to Sustainability in our School Lunches

Seeking solutions to plastic pollution at Pine View

By Courtney Nelson

You're standing in the long lunch lines extending out all the way to the doors, mingling among other hungry kids who are anxious to get their hands-on lunch. You pick up a Styrofoam lunch tray and grab what's being served on that day. In the masses of students, you sit down, plastic utensils in hand, fruits smothered in plastic wrap, cups and packages.

This daily routine, you realize, has contributed to the massive amount of plastics and non-recyclables thrown away at Pine View each day. Even if you didn't want to use this much plastic, or if you wanted to at least recycle what you've used, you can't.

Pine View lunches and many other take away options pose a glaring problem: massive amounts of plastic pollution, much of which cannot be recycled.

According to the Sarasota County Schools' website, it says, "The district's Food and Nutrition Services Department serves about 32,000 meals each day." Thus, in Sarasota County's schools alone, 32,000 people per day use at least one piece of plastic, amounting to thousands of thrown out trays, wrappers and silverware. For students who seek an environmentally sustainable lifestyle, especially if they rely on school lunch, the emissions as a result of simply eating a school lunch can be disheartening. The good news is that we as a community can push for change.

"We can't stop plastic waste individually. There is strength in numbers, and we should work together to use less waste and make a change,"

“...we should work together to use less waste and make a change.

Casie Ryan,
eighth-grader



Trash, primarily plastic, is found wrapping our food at school. Solutions to plastic pollution can be found in prioritizing unwrapped food or finding alternatives to plastic utensils. PHOTO BY SAM WRIGHT

eighth-grader Casie Ryan said.

On a school wide level, one of the biggest changes is implementing reusable trays. Every lunch comes with a tray; that's about 32,000 trays used per day for an entire school year. The switch could dramatically reduce the amount of waste we produce and will eventually prove beneficial in regards to budget.

Another way we can improve our lunch is by changing how we wrap food. Prioritizing fresh food, without the plastic wrap can help reduce waste. And plastic isn't just waste, it's oil. The thousands of pounds of plastic wrapping we throw out is made out of an already dwindling resource that we should be shifting away from.

Plastic utensils can also be swapped for more ecofriendly options. Compostable materials such as bamboo or reusable metal options can help combat the masses of spoons, forks and knives entering our trashcans daily. Compostable options can even contribute to gardens around campus.

Surprisingly, the cost of unpackaged versus packaged food is essentially the same. In fact, there is a common misconception that unpackaged, fresh foods are more expensive. A new study published by the USDA revealed that packaged food is not cheaper than unpackaged food. As well, food wrapped in less plastic can be beneficial for the environment while remaining cost effective. Pine View has come so far in making efforts to conserve our resources, and so many students on our campus care. If we become aware of the inadvertent damage we are causing, we can make strides toward making change.

Respecting religions: The diversity that goes unrecognized at Pine View

By Monica Hennaway

Christian holidays are not the only holidays. So why are they the only holidays taken off the calendar? Yes, Christianity is the most common religion in Florida, but according to statistics from Pew Research Center, 6% of Florida's population consists of other faiths.

To make a convenient schedule for everyone, it would be best to give more holidays time off, and meet everyone in the middle. There are several ways students can be guided and helped, and it would be useful to have a more specific policy.

Since only Christian holidays are given time off, it can be difficult for students of different religions, who do want to participate in activities regarding their religion, to handle school sometimes. Some leeway is given

to Jewish students, because teachers are not allowed to assign homework during some of their holidays, but not all teachers choose to adhere.

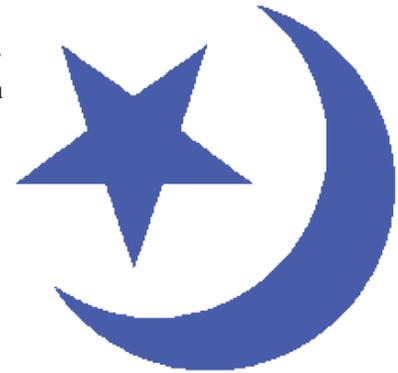
For example, one of the more popular Hindu holidays is Diwali. To celebrate, Hindus pray, buy clothes and participate in other festivities, according to National Geographic (celebration differs from region to region).

Students are often discouraged from missing school, even

for important holidays. Think of the average workload of a middle schooler, especially in a school like Pine View. Juggling world language homework, math homework, social studies homework, language arts homework, science homework, and sometimes even elective work can be hard. Combine all that homework (including studying), with other tasks students have to do, and celebrating.

Of course, there's always the problem of having important tests or assignments falling on holidays like midterms or finals. Once teachers have their schedule set in stone, it's not always ideal to change it. Which is why planning ahead and applying more stress on these holidays is important, and more policies being implemented would be helpful, if the day cannot have time off.

Thus, kids should be allowed to take the test earlier during another class, if not much is going on in that class or at lunch. That would make it easier for students whose holidays aren't off the schedule, and fairer to them since kids whose holidays align with the schedule wouldn't have the advantage.



PINE VIEW HOMEWORK: BY THE NUMBERS

60%
of eighth graders do
homework for two or
more hours per night

**1-2
Hours** is the average amount
of time sixth and
seventh graders report
spending on homework

20%
of sixth graders report
spending two or more
hours on homework
per night

