

SPARK

newsmagazine



The Spark

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Teacher Trinkets

By Monica Henaway

Among the itinerary of teachers at Pine View, quite a few possess peculiar trinkets. From oceans worth of chocolatey milk and a whole animal kingdom of pink vibrant flamingos, these trinkets bring new life to the classroom and lead to even more peculiar student teacher interactions.

Mr. Lamela's Chocolate Milk

By Leo Lernerz

A knock on the door to the portable. In comes a student, revealing a carton of chocolate milk in their hands. Although odd to some, this is U.S. History teacher Roberto Lamela's day-to-day life.

Lamela has "always been drinking milk," long before chocolate milk became a part of his morning routine. Though this may come as a shock to some, his morning drink used to be something other than chocolate milk.

"My normal morning routine was milk and coffee. [It was] like a latte... café con leche, a traditional Cuban drink," Lamela said. Though he did enjoy that drink, he eventually decided it was time for a change.

"To replace caffeine, I switched to chocolate milk...I really like chocolate [and] I've always liked

milk, so it's the perfect combination," Lamela said.

He drinks it in class most days, and his students have noticed. "

Some [students] ask me why I drink so much milk. They think it's funny," Lamela said.

Eighth grader Trey Murphy jokingly explained, "Chocolate milk is Mr. Lamela's fuel. Mr. Lamela needs chocolate milk. He can't create history without chocolate milk."

Students tend to give chocolate milk to Mr. Lamela as well.

"[I received] some holiday gifts related to chocolate milk." It's not just on holidays that students gift chocolate milk to him, though. "Since students know, they bring me a lot. Some 'reward' me with chocolate milk they bring from the cafeteria...The more I have, the more I drink," Lamela said.

Mrs. Squires's Flamingos

By Faith Bossman

Francis the flamingo was different. He was bullied for his short legs. One day, a car drove by, almost running over the flamingo that bullied him, but at the last second Francis swooped in and saved the day. After that day, Francis was no longer bullied. This is the award-winning story of "Francis the Flamingo," written by Evan Squires when he was in the second grade.

This book written by Fran Squires' son was the start of her flamingo franchise. Her third grade students had an idea. A flamingo classroom! Soon after they named the classroom "Flamingo Fortress," in honor of all of the flamingo décor.

"It became a whole flamingo theme that just exploded. Everything from flamingo curtains, pil-

lows, and every cute thing, says Squires, sixth grade English teacher. Even today, Squires still receives flamingo themed gifts from students.

Her flamingo collection ranges from expensive to cheap. . her favorite flamingo is a "...1940's flamingo artwork." Squires also owns an antique flamingo brioche collection. She has an estimate of 50 briochees, sometimes she jazzes up her outfit with one.

Squires loves flamingoes so much, she adopted a flamingo from Jungle Gardens. The class named it Francy. She said the name is a combination of "Fran and Fancy."

Squires believes, if possible, every room should be able to feel the joy of having its own flamingo.



The Parkland Impact

The impact of Parkland on the Florida Legislature and Pine View students

By Shelby Brann

Looking Back

Those of us who were here before our school was surrounded by fencing, locked in by gates and protected by bullet-proof glass, we often reflect on what schools were before they were “unsafe”.

We never had to worry about whether we would go to school the next day and not come back. We never had to force our parents to drive us to school, because they were so afraid we wouldn’t be on the bus when it came to drop us off at the end of the day. We never had to even think about walking through the hallways, knowing that one of us wanted to kill the rest.

Our parents don’t understand — more precisely, they don’t know. Teenagers today face far more than adolescents in the past. With constantly changing legislation and looming mental health days, students have more to worry about than ever.

What Should Have Been a Normal Day

February 14, 2018. It should have been a normal day. Teenagers and employees filled the halls and classrooms of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School — 17 didn’t make it home, while another 17 went to the hospital. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting — also referred to as the Parkland shooting — is the deadliest high school shooting in history. Yet, what’s scary is how close it was — it could’ve been our school. It could’ve been our friends. It could’ve been us. Two student suicides chased

the shooting, both over a year after the event.

Seventh-grader Isabella Nealon said, “It was really, really sad. So many families were hurt. It needs to be talked about, obviously, because this is a real issue.”

The Next Step

What emerged from the tragedy was the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Legislation. The most recent model, the 2019-22 legislation, reflects on amending certain parts of the first legislation (2018-3). The recent legislation declares that sheriffs must provide access to the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. This program is known by the name of the assistant football coach of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, who shielded two students during the shooting and died from two fatal bullets. The program talks about armed personnel who aid in the prevention of school shooter incidents — these personnel must pass psychological and drug screenings and complete 144 hours of training. Teachers now have the opportunity to partake as ‘guardians’ in this program in agreement with the legislation. They are now doing their duty by watching and reporting for suspicious or threatening behavior.

The legislation also mentions threat assessment teams. Each district school board must take on policies to establish threat assessment teams at each school in the district. These teams coordinate assessments and interventions of both adults and children who may be a threat to the safety of school staff using models developed by the Office of Safe Schools. The legislation goes on to describe a

new zero-tolerance policy. The school boards will promote a “safe and supportive learning environment in schools by protecting students and staff from conduct that poses a threat to school safety.”

These threat assessment teams will find the best solution for threatening behavior, whether it be expulsion, teen-court, or civil citation (an alternative to arrest for a specific crime.) To find a suitable punishment, they use the zero-tolerance policy, a code that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Legislation mentions numerous times.

Enter Tim Gissal

Tim Gissal, Pine View’s school psychologist, as well as Venice High’s, is a part of this team.

“The ‘Zero-tolerance Policy’ was established to address serious behavior concerns that typically involve the possession or use of a weapon or with making serious threats,” Gissal said.

He went on to explain the policy. The severe actions Gissal mentions normally require expulsion and to be referred to the criminal or adolescent justice system. If a student shows a pattern of threatening behavior, the legislation requires that the threat assessment team must consult with law enforcement.

Another part of the legislation is the mental health assistance allocation. It was created to fund school districts in establishing school

mental health assistance and care. Trained educators and other staff respond to mental health issues while connecting students and their families with services that could help them. Mental health providers are asked to enhance student service for mental health. The providers include certified counselors, psychologists, social workers, and mental health professionals who generally specialize in school service.

School hardening, something frequently talked about in the legislation, mainly affects the physical properties of the school grounds. The majority of Pine View has already been ‘hardened. Bullet-proof glass, one of the recent changes, was placed in the office last year. The chain-link fence has been set up over the past couple years, as well as self-locking doors near the car loop. Now, it’s extremely difficult to get into Pine View without funneling through the front office doors.

At What Cost?

The legislation, whether we realize it or not, brings major changes into Pine View and every other school in Florida. It affects our school day, our schedule, our way of life. We face so much within the span of a single school year. Will we be able to sleep soundly at night? Do we now, think peacefully, of school? The world is changing — the Marjory Stoneman Legislation will keep us kept up. But at what cost to the students?



END GUN VIOLENCE!
SIGN THE PETITION

Another School Shooting...

5

Students explore publishing with Desiree Schell

By Sam Wright

Desiree Schell, eighth-grade English teacher, started the Publishing club after she noticed that every year, when she assigned her students to write stories as a project, many of them wanted to continue to write the story even more after the story was due. She wanted to help her students to continue the stories they wrote as well.

"I would [also] spend most of my time tutoring students writing stories with them," Schell said.

After consulting with her students, Schell got the idea to start a club. She began selling punch cards, which would allow her students to attend the club, at Pine View and to her tutoring students in the 5th grade and up. In this club, students would spend time writing stories until it was finished. The story would then be published on Amazon's self-publishing programs.

Many students signed up and would begin



to meet at Barnes and Noble every Friday since it was a book store with an in-store Starbucks.

"It's nice to be near a place to eat while you work," Schell said.

Schell invited many students even after making the club, and many students signed up. One long time member of the publishing club is eighth-grader Hayley Peace.

Peace has been very invested in the club, doing "housekeeping" work such as tracking attendance of members. She also has gone as far as to begin taking private courses on how to edit stories, and, because of such, Schell has referred to her as the Publishing club's "Jr. Editor."

"I want to help the younger kids publish stories as well," Peace said.

Whether or not one likes writing books, the publishing club can provide some valuable insight into writing stories. So if students are interested, maybe they should talk to Mrs. Schell about attending the club.



What does the future of education look like?

By Gwen Cushman

The future creates a vast space for creativity. It is a mysterious and complicated subject that many people think about. Honestly, no one truly knows what the future has to offer. There may be a crazy scientist trying to create time travel right now. When it comes to the future there are things that come to your mind first, most likely flying cars or the American rapper Nayvadius DeMun Wilburn aka Future. School is an important thing to think about when it comes to what lies ahead.

You come to school every day, but the size of classrooms in most schools hasn't changed since kindergarten. The amount of technology and the way you are taught have changed little. In the past there have been few changes but will more happen in the future.

Motivational speaker and Youtuber Prince Ea argued that there have been major changes in transportation and technology, but schools and classrooms have not changed in 150 years.

"I did a background check on you and let the records show that you were made to trade people to work in factories, which explains why you put students in straight rows nice and neat. Raise your hand if you want to speak, give them a short break to eat, and for eight hours a day tell them what to think. Oh, and make them compete to get an A, a letter that determines a product quality hint grade A of meat," Prince Ea said in his YouTube video, "I Just Sued the

However, there are many possibilities of change. For instance, issuing every student a laptop to do their school work or flying backpacks to bring students from class to class. Future schools could teach through augmented reality, 3D printing, cloud computing, social media, flexible displays, biometrics, eye tracking, multi-touch LCD screens, and more. Teachers could assign their students more projects instead of bubble tests that use no skill other than the use of what they memorized for the test.

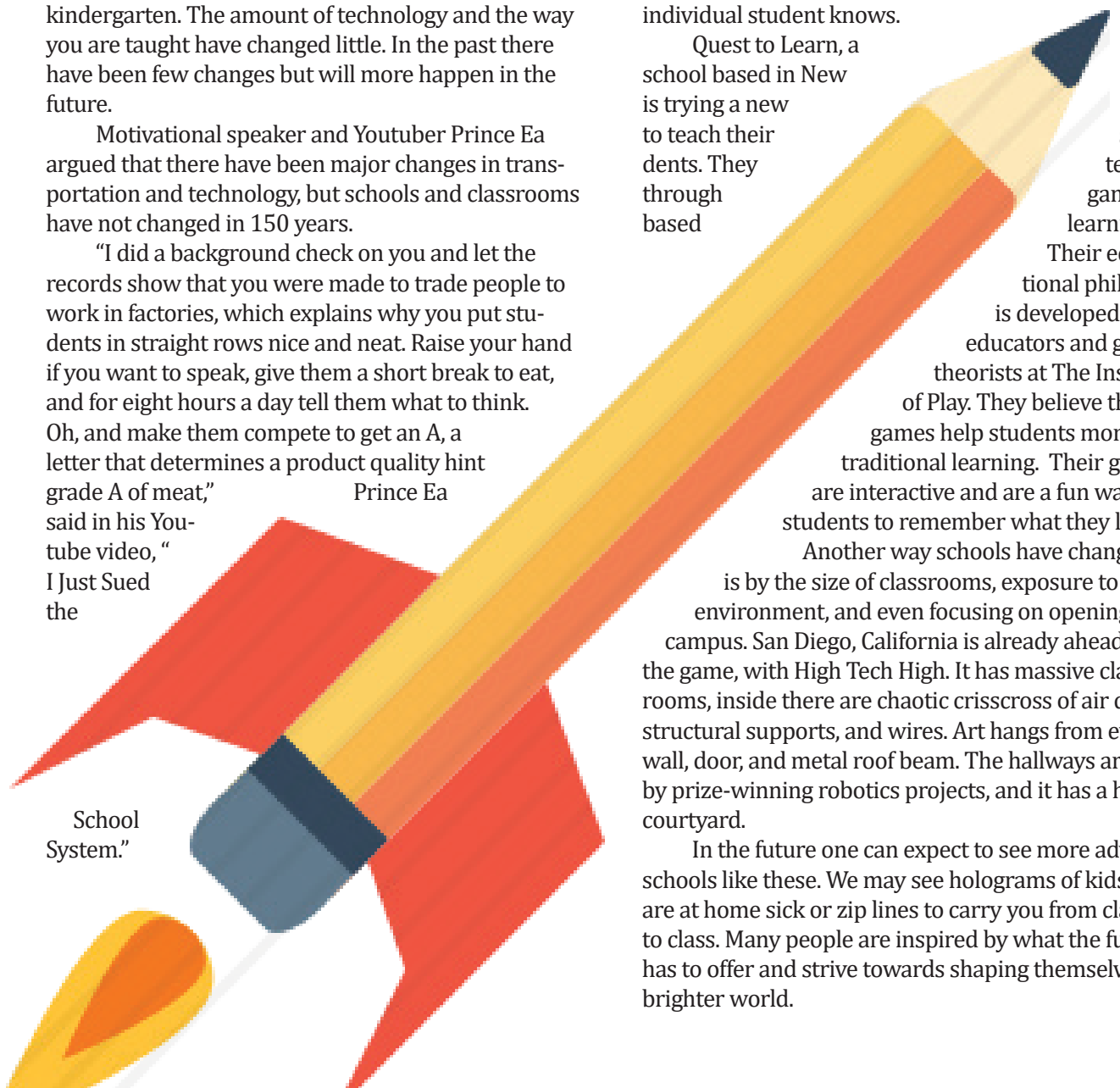
Yes, it is true, teachers may favor exams over projects when it comes to assessing knowledge because they are private and show what an individual student knows.

Quest to Learn, a school based in New York, is trying a new way to teach their students. They teach through game-based learning. Their educational philosophy is developed by top educators and game theorists at The Institute of Play. They believe that games help students more than traditional learning. Their games are interactive and are a fun way for students to remember what they learn.

Another way schools have changed is by the size of classrooms, exposure to the environment, and even focusing on opening the campus. San Diego, California is already ahead of the game, with High Tech High. It has massive classrooms, inside there are chaotic crisscross of air ducts, structural supports, and wires. Art hangs from every wall, door, and metal roof beam. The hallways are lined by prize-winning robotics projects, and it has a huge courtyard.

In the future one can expect to see more advanced schools like these. We may see holograms of kids who are at home sick or zip lines to carry you from class to class. Many people are inspired by what the future has to offer and strive towards shaping themselves a brighter world.

School System."



The Curious Case of DNA

By Courtney Nelson

Many evolutionary theories imply that we evolved from a species similar to chimpanzees and gorillas; and it makes sense. We share a ton of similar DNA patterns with apes, and, like us, they are highly intelligent and can exhibit human-like behavior. However, you may have heard the shocking news that we share 50% of our genes with bananas, but does that really mean we are half of our yellow counterparts?

So that poses a question, are we all just bananas? No, we share 50% of our genes with the fruit. Genes only make up 2% of our DNA, so to everyone who loves bananas, we, unfortunately, only share 1% of our DNA with bananas. The information of us being half banana likely originated from a program run by the National Human Genome Research Institute back in 2013.

However, that just skims the surface of wacky and wonky things that share similar DNA with us. For example, although dogs might be man's best friend, they also happen to share 84% of our genes.

According to National Geographic, "humans and dogs have exchanged bodily fluids or DNA, thus causing our genetic makeup over the millennia to become very similar to one another. As a matter of fact, the top ten diseases that affect us humans, also are the top ten diseases amongst purebred dogs including cancer, epilepsy,

But shockingly, cats are more like us than you'd think. A 2007 from a Genome Research study found that about 90% of the genes in the Abyssinian domestic cat are similar to humans.

It even turns out that they might have also purposely



inserted themselves into our homes. Evidence suggests these guys self-domesticated over 10,000 years ago by helping farmers in order to get a little extra protection and food.

Many of our domesticated pets are very similar to us, but when it comes to birds, it's rare to find much DNA crossover with humans, that is, unless you're talking about chickens. We share about 60% of our genes with them. Genome researchers estimate that the chicken has about 20,000-23,000 genes in its 1 billion DNA base pairs, compared with the human count of 20,000-25,000 genes in 2.8 billion DNA base pairs.

Finally, out of all the lovely animals in the world we get to be genetically related to the common fruit fly. When it comes to insects' DNA, humans have a bit less in common. For example, fruit flies share 61% of disease-causing genes with humans, which was important when NASA studied the bugs to learn more about what space travel might do to your genes.

There are so many different and exciting species that we are related to like the chicken, banana, dogs, flies and cats. Eventually we will discover even stranger things that we're related to.



heart disease, allergy, retinal disease and cataracts.

You probably thought dogs were a little closer on the evolutionary scale, since they're supposedly our best friends.

Keeping it Local: Coffee Shops

By Jiayi Zhu

Project Coffee is not your average coffee shop, IT strives to create a sustainable, health-focused ambience. Coffee lover or not, this shop is the perfect place for a morning boost or afternoon study trip.

Ian Steger, the owner of Project Coffee aims to provide a low-key vibe and welcoming setting for people of all ages, particularly people of the younger spectrum in Sarasota, ever since its opening in July 2019.

Project Coffee's eye-catching, minimalistic design and appetizing menu options attracts Scustomers, and provide for a perfect place to spend your day. It's easily accessible with plenty of surrounding parking, and is also situated in a calm, quiet location in downtown Sarasota.

At Project Coffee, you are welcomed with open doors. The workers greet you with a smile, and you can't help but feel like a regular, even if it's your first time. There's a wide variety of menu options ranging from lattes to carrot cake. Project Coffee makes it effortless for anyone to order with their vegan, lactose-free menu.

They also provide fair wages of \$15 per

Project Coffee

hour to its employees, an attribute of the shop Steger takes much pride in. Steger believes that providing fair wages is important in creating the upbeat aura of the store.

"I think what makes Project Coffee stand out is when you have employees and co-workers who feel valued, who feel dignified, and who feel happy in their job. They're more likely to have that exude from them personally. I think we have a very good energy in our shop," Steger said.

Although Project Coffee draws in plenty of customers, there's still plenty of seating available. The quiet chatter of the rest of the customers and the mellow background music falls into place as you get to work in your own space. Be prepared for a wonderful experience at Project Coffee where you can work at your own pace, while enjoying a quick bite. Project Coffee is located at 538 S Pineapple Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236 and is open seven days a week 8 am to 4 pm. What are you waiting for?

Bean Coffee House

By Luke Rominecki

In the beach town of Siesta Key, one would assume that you would only find surf and sandwich shops. Though, by going down Ocean Blvd, the Bean Coffee-house would be found.

With the usual strong smell of coffee when walking in, it would be thought that this would be a regular coffeehouse.

Take their cold brew for example. A cold brew is such a regular drink, why would it be worth raving over? Well, this cold brew tastes exactly the way great coffee smells. Perfect strength and perfect flavor.

When asking barista, Ty Shott, what he thinks makes their coffee shop special from others in the town, he said, "We use mostly organic milk and coffee, and our

coffee is locally roasted."

This is a very eco-friendly coffeehouse, from their paper straws, to their many organic items.

They are overall masters of caffeine. Not only can they make a great coffee, but they also make great teas.

And the food is worth noting, too. The ham, egg and cheese sandwich is amazing and uses homemade English muffins.

When walking in on a Sunday morning, it might be scary, due to how crowded it is in a small facility. Surprisingly, they can still operate very quickly, and coffee and food will be served in the matter of a few minutes.

Overall, Bean Coffeehouse is an amazing coffee shop with very friendly people, "Working in this coffee shop is one of my favorite jobs I've ever had. I'm glad to be serving great coffee to the community of Siesta Key," barista Ty Shott said.

Bean Coffee House is located at 5138 Ocean Blvd, Siesta Key, FL 34242 and open from 7 am to 2 pm.



Clever Cup Coffee Shop

By Emma Reynolds

Looking for a cool coffee spot to hang out with friends? The Clever Cup has you covered!

The Clever Cup is known for two specialty drinks. The two specials are their hot chocolate and the golden latte. The hot chocolate provides a sweet option for those who don't drink caffeine, though it may be a bit sweet for some consumers.

The golden latte is very earthy, with a hint of clove (sweet but with a sting). If you are not expecting this flavor, it would be quite a shock!

For those with a fondness for somewhat healthy coffee, this is the choice for you. There is cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, ginger, and turmeric in the coffee. There are a few pastries, including

several gluten free options as well.

The interior of "the cup," as it is sometimes referred to, is cozy, with enough space at a table for 2-3 students to work. In terms of activities, there are board games available to play, some fairly common, others you may have never heard of.

The employees are welcoming and will make recommendations if you ask!

To conclude, the Clever Cup is a nice place to meet up with friends, relax, and pass the time before or after school.

The Clever Cup is located at 6530 Gateway Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231 and is open from 7 am to 6 pm.

Female figures trend in the cinematic superhero industry

Over the past decade or so, female superhero cinema has begun to catch up with a primarily male-dominated industry, with the first up-and-coming Black Widow movie set to come out May 1 this year, while the second Wonder Woman movie will be premiering in June. From Catwoman to the Wasp, female superhero movies are just getting set up in the theater.

Starting to become more modern and popular, "Suicide Squad" (2016) featured Harley Quinn, an independent and slightly crazed woman who sought her own fortune after becoming the Joker's girlfriend in past comics. While "Suicide Squad" was a bit of a disappointment, Harley Quinn was the true reason we flocked to the theatre. It was amazing to see a strong, if not crazy, female superhero, especially one who gave the orders and waved aside the rules. Her character has often been sexualized, frequently wearing less than formal clothes. However, the character has adopted the look, using it to her advantage and she's more the just a pretty face. She's also mad.

Wonder Woman was one of the original superheroes, believed to be one of the three influential heroes created. "Wonder Woman" (2017) was an excellent film, but we're all a bit sad at the ending. (No spoilers!) It was a true inspiration to see a non-sexualized female superhero. It's disappointing to say that there aren't that many. Wonder Woman's influence has traveled far beyond the screen. She's one of the first original female superheroes of DC (unlike Supergirl or Batgirl, who were based off of their male counterparts).

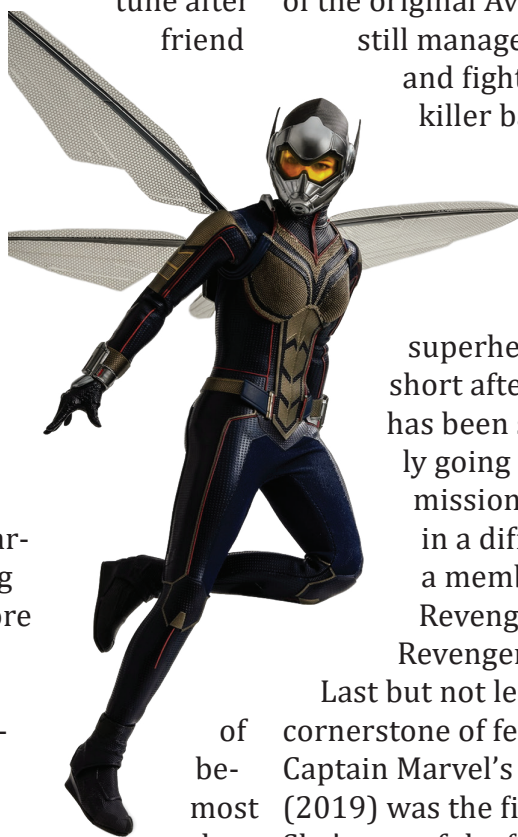
Another popular movie, and one extremely

recent, is of course, "Avengers: Endgame" and the majority of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) movies that have presented independent female superheroes. The MCU features the Black Widow, the Wasp, Ironwoman (Pepper Potts), Okoye, Shuri, Gamora, Mantis, Nakia, Captain Marvel, and the Scarlet Witch. These movies have been extremely helpful in promoting female superheroes, especially the Black Widow.

The Black Widow is one of the best superheroes created- not just in female heroes. She's one of the original Avengers, is a sterling assassin, and still manages to keep her head in the game and fight the good fight, always. With a killer backstory and an even deadlier weapon, she takes insults in stride, leading the Avengers to glory against any enemy.

The Wasp, or Hope Pym, is one of the lesser known superheroes and she's always pulling up short after Antman's appearance. The Wasp has been shown as Antman's sidekick, rarely going off by herself to complete her own mission. In many comics, she's portrayed in a different universe as the Red Queen, a member of the supervillain team the Revengers (differentiating from the MCU Revengers).

Last but not least, Captain Marvel was a huge cornerstone of female superheroes in the MCU. Captain Marvel's first ever film, "Captain Marvel" (2019) was the first-ever female solo MCU movie. She's one of the first entirely non-sexualized female superheroes, never being featured as anything less than a strong, independent woman (with a seriously cool haircut). She's a leader, a warrior, and a hero wrapped into one, with plenty of heart and passion to make her the perfect combination of awesome, representing everything a superhero should be and is. Captain Marvel, along with countless other female superheroes, have begun a long trek toward inspiring the next generation of women. We'll have to wait and see what the next movies bring.



2015

The Wasp

Scott Lang/Antman's number one partner in crime (well, fighting), she made her debut in cinema in "Antman" (2015) and emerged fully into the light as the Wasp in the 2018 movie "Antman and the Wasp". The movie itself wasn't amazing, but we all were dying to see the next Marvel film after the tragedy that was "Avengers: Infinity War".

2020

Black Widow

The Black Widow first appeared in the cinema in "Iron Man 2" (2010), while spying on the genius playboy billionaire and philanthropist Tony Stark for S.H.I.E.L.D. She worked closely with Captain America in two of his films and is one of the original Avengers. The assassin/hero is appearing in her first ever solo film in May. In that movie, we'll see exactly what happened after "Captain America: Civil War", taking a deeper dive into her backstory.

2017

Wonder Woman

Wonder Woman had made her debut in "Batman V. Superman: Dawn of Justice" and followed her solo movie by appearing in a lead role for "Justice League" (2017). Her first solo movie, "Wonder Woman" (2017), showed her coming into the light of humanity at the height of World War 1.

2019

Captain Marvel

Captain Marvel's first ever film, "Captain Marvel" (2019) was the first-ever female solo MCU movie. And it certainly did not disappoint!

2020

Wonder Woman: 1984

"Wonder Woman: 1984" will mark the second solo movie in her franchise, as well as cameos and side roles in other's movies. This movie will feature Wonder Woman at what many people consider her prime time; the 80-'s- at the height of the Cheetah's reign.



PHOTOS BY LEO LENERZ



Pine View student activists take initiative

(n.) stu·dent ac·tiv·ism: work by students to inflict environmental, political, economic, or social change.

This is being seen in the world right now, in a big way.

By Lindsay Luberecki

Many people all over the world are taking to the streets in a movement sparked by Greta Thunberg, a 17-year-old activist who has traveled around the world to raise awareness about climate change.

However, Thunberg is not the only person pushing for people in power to do something about the climate crisis. Many students in our generation are participating in these movements.

In our world today, and a little closer to home, there are many student activists walking around campus. Some have chosen one of the many popular causes: the environment.

In the club G3, or Global Green Group, run by David Yotsuda, science teacher, students work on projects to help the Earth and strive to spread information about the climate crisis.

Yotsuda believes that student activism is “really about calling to attention issues that involve everybody globally and really how that affects students.”

Yotsuda emphasizes the point that students should be able to advocate for the future that they are going to live out.

“With student activism, adults need to

remember that students really are part of the population and really also the generation that’s going to take over making important decisions,” he said.

Sometimes, people can overlook students advocating for a cause, or they may not take these students seriously, but activists will argue that their voices need to be heard. While the environmental cause is a popular one among activists, it is not the only cause that Pine View students care about.

“Activism goes in a lot of different places, and students are affecting change in many ways,” eighth-grade Algebra teacher Summer Grantham said.

To further this point, Grantham defined student activism as “a pretty broad category, but...taking a role or speaking out or choosing a cause and fighting for that cause” and said that students have done this and have had a lot of concerns “in terms of the environment, and gun control.”

She later said that for example, BuildOn, fights for gender equity and education, and that there are many causes that an activist could advocate for.

In this issue, The Spark will take a look at student activists making a difference in their own community.

Eighth-grader volunteers for the Humane Society

By Courtney Nelson

"It was truly an amazing experience to see all the animals being looked after with such care, it really makes me happy," Sophia Lopez said.

Eighth-grader Lopez has found a passion for caring for all sorts of animals through the Humane Society. The Humane Society is a group that aims to stop animal suffering due to cruelty or other reasons.

Lopez began volunteering with a program they offer called the Teen Club this August. The club offers a five-month training before volunteering at the Humane Society. The teen club gave Lopez a chance to learn about the animals' conditions and how to care for them. For those who have an interest and passion for helping animals the program focuses on developing teens to become responsible pet owners and future volunteers.

"I found it as a place to volunteer, but it means so much more than that. It's a place where people do anything to help others and animals, and that's why it's amazing,"

Sophia Lopez,
Eighth-grader

One of the things that broke Lopez's heart was to see animals being hurt by apathetic people just trying to earn a profit. Humane Society's amazing treatment inspired Lopez.

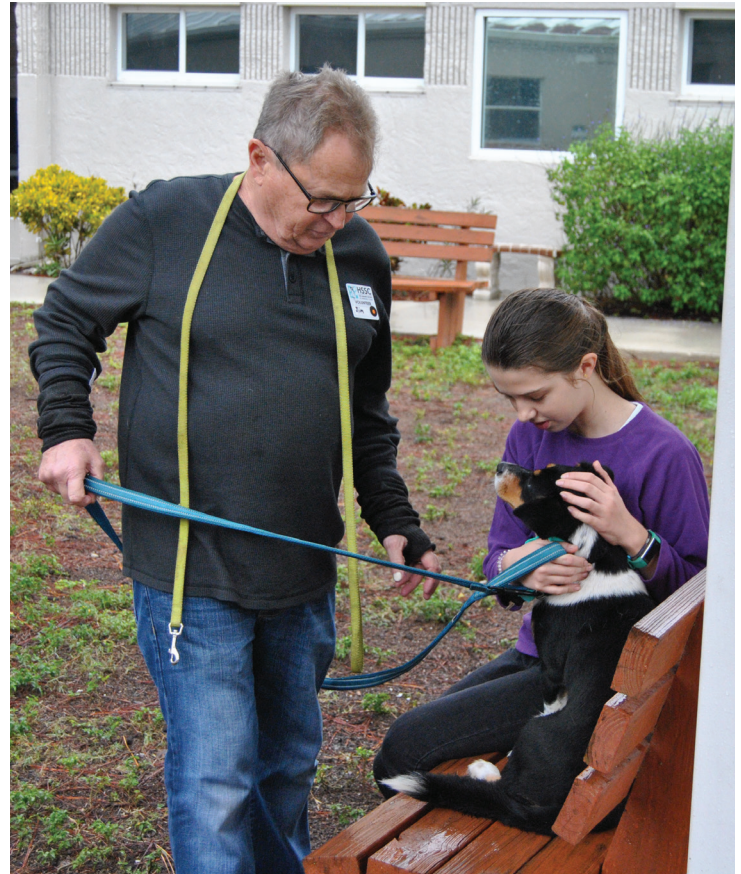
"When I see how much work is put into all of their care in-

cluding medicine and food; it's truly inspiring. What really made the Humane Society the best choice was when I found out that they had a no-kill policy, it would make me so emotional to worry about all the animals that don't get adopted," Lopez said.

Lopez loves all animals; however, she does secretly prefer dogs. The Humane Society lets her spend time with all sorts of animals, which is one of the most gratifying things to Lopez. Although her love of animals is strong, she doesn't get to see them anywhere besides the weekends mornings that she spends there.

"Unfortunately, both my brother and dad are allergic to dogs. So, I always get excited to volunteer at the Humane Society where I can see the sweetest and cutest animals," Lopez said.

Because Lopez already works with many other groups and clubs such as National Junior Honor Society and Odyssey of the Mind, while also playing



Sophia Lopez pets Oreo, a dog she works with at the Humane Society of Sarasota. She originally began volunteering for community service hours but has since fallen in love with the dogs and will continue to volunteer in the future. PHOTO BY LEO LENERZ

piano, juggling her schedule can be challenging. However, the Humane Society allows her to be flexible with all her extracurriculars and be the best volunteer that she can be.

"It makes me so happy to be there and although I miss them when [the animals] leave, I'm glad to know that over 98% of them are adopted. It's gratifying work that puts the animals' needs before profit," Lopez said.

Many shelters put down animals that aren't adopted, and it hurt Lopez to see so many amazing animals get hurt.

While Lopez originally found the Humane Society as a place to volunteer, she discovered that it means "so much more than that."

"It's a place where people will do anything to help others and animals, and that's why it's amazing," Lopez said.

Lopez finished her training recently and plans to continue volunteering at the Humane Society to be a better person and find a passion within herself.

By Lindsay Luberecki

When you believe in something, you fight to make your cause heard. This is what eighth-grader Devin Gulliver has been doing for about a year; he's a student activist.

"I really wouldn't say that a year ago, but now I think I would, it's just been really cool doing everything," Gulliver said who does not let being a student stop him from making his cause heard.

"You're not exactly an adult yet, but you still have this belief and you need to promote that," Gulliver said.

His belief centers on a main cause: the environment. His first protest was on March 15, 2019, when the Fridays For Future movement had begun to catch on.

"Nothing was planned [for Sarasota], but I decided to show up anyways, and so did 16 other people," Gulliver said about his impromptu strike.

Moving along in the year, September 20, 2019 was his "biggest strike yet" with an estimate of 400 people that attended.

Gulliver and his group of activists, self-named Sarasota Students 4 Climate, are now promoting the global strike on April 24, 2020, which is planned to be their biggest endeavor yet. They are even petitioning (as of late January, 2020) to have the School Board allow excused absences for that day.

"We are out of school because what point is learning about our future if our future is just going to be drought and ruin," Gulliver said.

Gulliver feels inspired to stand up for

his planet.

"It's the planet I'm living on, I'd like to have a nice green Earth... I want our generation's kids to enjoy nature, and I just want a cool, livable planet," he said.

Through these protests, Gulliver has come to the realization that his voice can be heard.

"Honestly, it feels kind of empowering [to suggest a protest] and then 600 people show up, it was like 'I have a voice.' Students can actually do stuff, just because you can't drive, just because you can't vote — it doesn't mean you can't do something," he said.

In addition to his outside-of-school work at these strikes, Gulliver has implemented some big changes inside of our campus as well. In the G3, or Global Green Group, club, he and others have managed to bring back an important part of the fight for a better climate: recycling.

"Just in G3, we've been able to promote recycling...at one-point recycling stopped on the campus, that was scary...and we were able to get that started again, just in January," he said.

"Devin's been instrumental with the climate issue, so, really, he's generated a lot more interest in that," David Yotsuda, sixth- and eighth-grade science teacher, and sponsor of G3 said. "He has been a great resource for issues we were not always aware of."

Gulliver has, both inside and outside of school, advocated and protested for a future that he wants to be livable, and has made his voice heard far and wide in Sarasota County.

"Honestly, it feels kind of empowering [to suggest a strike] and then 600 people show up, it was like 'I have a voice.'"

Devin Gulliver,
Eighth-grader

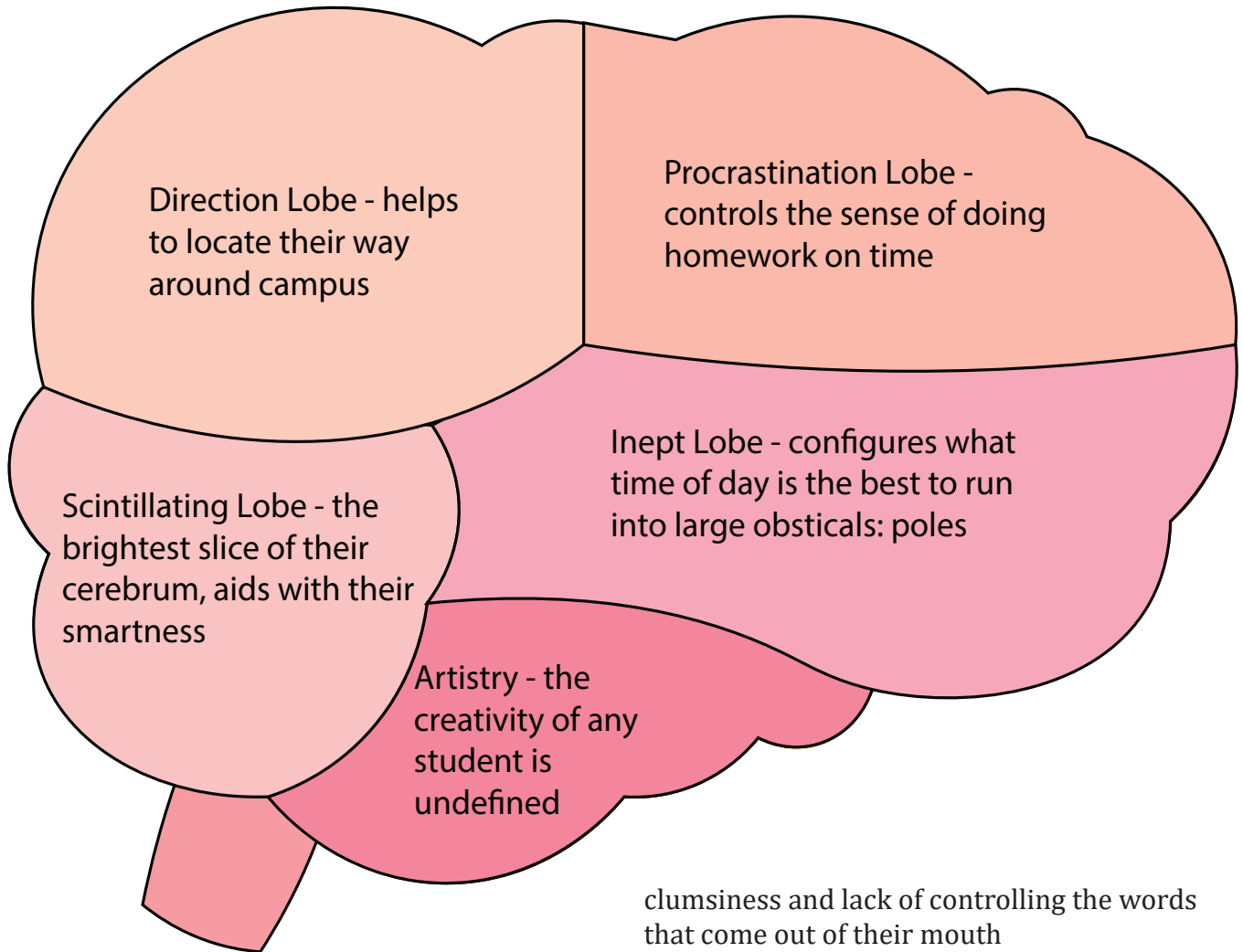
Making your voices heard



Devin Gulliver presented the idea of allowing students to skip school and participate in a climate change strike at a school board meeting.

PHOTO BY FAITH BOSSMAN

Inside the Mind of Pine View Student



By Gwen Cushman

A Pine View student's brain is unique and different from the average person's brain. It is so special that scientists have created new names for the parts of their brains. As a researcher, I have done studies on their brains myself and I have found many features that are unlike any I have seen before.

During my exams I found out that these students are great at stalling and doing their homework on the way to class. I also discovered that most students cram food into their mouths as they walk to class stress eating before their tests. Both the scintillating lobe and artistry have a lot of power when it comes to their knowledge.

The knowledge in their brains goes through the brainstem and continues throughout the nerves in their body. That bit of power controls their every movement and every thought. I figured that the inept lobe contributes to their

clumsiness and lack of controlling the words that come out of their mouth

Pine View students are very strange, they tend to have very weird thoughts one student Rain Bo Iris said she likes to think of "eyeballs" another student, Tate R. Tott, said she only thinks about "potatoes."

They have a keen sense of direction and when they close their eyes, a clear map of campus appears out of the dark. This is how they know the campus like the back of their hand. They tend to notice their hand turning purple whenever they write essays at midnight, which leads to their procrastination. When I was doing tests on their lobes, I always wondered why they either do their homework on the way to class or simply just never do it at all.

In the end I have come to find that Pine View students are terrible at doing their homework and being graceful, but they are extremely smart, and they know their school very well. They are easy to work with, but they will complain if they have too much homework or if they have to do extreme amounts of classwork.

Stages of completing your homework

By Donelle Grone

Have you ever procrastinated on studying for a big test that's the following day? Have you ever had a night like this?

At 4 pm you've probably just gotten home; you think, "It's alright, I have plenty of hours until the morning. I'll just relax and take a short little nap with my cat that likes to cuddle with me."

At 5 pm, it's snack time, and while you're at it, watching some videos online sounds good; "I'll do it in an hour."

After perusing your pantry and watching far too many videos you settle for eating an apple and playing with your animals.

At 6 you have soccer practice. "I'll just hop in the car and when I come back, I'll work on my homework."

At 7, you want to take a nice long hot shower. "While I take a shower, I'll sing my favorite song and listen to my favorite podcasts using my Alexa."

At 8, it's dinner time! This is generally the best part of the evening, especially if you're a hardcore foodie!

At 9, you start working on your math homework. Which, let's be honest, ultimately

falling flat, there's better things to do after all.

At 10, The Office has a brand-new episode that you need to watch. (At least, that's what you told your parents.) The new episode is premiering, and you want to be the first to watch it at your school.

At midnight, your friends are trying to facetime you. You're going to talk to them about your problems with this boy that likes you, and you like him, but you're scared to ask him out because of rejection.

At 1 am, you fall asleep.

At 2, you wake up and realize that you still must complete your English essay. It's going to take a long time because it's a very boring topic and you hate writing, overall.

At 3, it's getting late, but the night is still young. "I'll just start studying for my test for an hour and then finish my science homework. It's pretty well known how organized and on top of things I am."

At 4, you fall asleep and keep

sleeping until 7. Three hours of sleep? That seems like plenty!

At 7 your mother yells that your bus leaves in 30 minutes. When you get to school, you see you'll be fine.

At 4 pm when you get home from school, you tell your mother that you got a 10% on your math test and unfortunately, she gives you a whole talk on it.

So, if you really think about it, procrastination might not be the best idea in the end. But does that mean you won't continue procrastinating? Of course not, you procrastinator. 19



How To Survive a Zombie Apocalypse: Pine View Edition

By Tanvi Senthil and Brenna Cullen

You're walking to math class with your friend as usual, but suddenly, something starts to feel... different. The air seems colder than usual, the sky is dark, and a strange smell starts to fill your nostrils. Then you see them. Zombies. They seem angry. Probably because they spent the last hour chasing children to no avail. As soon as your friend sees them, she immediately starts to run, but not before a zombie catches her and throws her onto a picnic table. She dies immediately from impact. If only it had been different. Too bad. At least you survived, for now. If this is a real Zombie Apocalypse, you would probably be asking yourself two questions. One, is this really happening? Which, if you ask me, I have no answer. Second, what should you do? Where should you go? I can help you with that. Who am I? That's not important. Just read this map and your chances of survival will increase. No promises though.

Safehouses on Pine View Campus:

Portable City- Provides a brief amount of shelter. You can hop into one of the classrooms and restock on food or weapons, or you can attempt to hide under the portables. Make sure wnot go there when it's raining, because you are surrounded by large conductive metal boxes.

Building 16- Supplies the most hiding places. Unfortunately, it is likely that this building will be overrun l small children toppling over each other to escape.

The forest- One of the escape rou You can hide up a tree, or stealthily sneak around in a bush. Survival is not guaranteed.

The school store- For any reason, if you're dying of boredom, you ca venture out to the school store to t yourself a companion, probably in the form of a fluffy llama or squish bear. The store is also one of the be places to find weapons, like paperclips or pushpins.

The Auditorium- A perfect place browse through netflix in your last moments and, maybe, binge watch Grey's Anatomy.

The student union- A place where you can hoard all the food, but be warned, this place is popular among the students, and everyone will likely be trying to do the same thing. Also, try to avoid eating the plastic cheese, instead, save it so you can throw it at the zombies. You should also stop by the Snack Shack for extra nourishment.

The nurse's office- Provides all the supplies you need in case you get hurt. Plus, a bathroom where you can lock yourself in and cry yourself to sleep, and this time it won't be about your lack of friends.



Steps to Survive

Step 1: Grab some friends: You need to have a variety of people, including: a stealthy ninja, a fighter, a positive person, a smart person, a leader, and you, probably the sarcastic and anticlimactic one. Also, if possible, try to find some annoying kids and steal their backpacks (leaving them defenseless) to use as shields just in case any zombies find you... I mean, what?

Step 2: You will need to find some weapons, of course, in school there's nothing extreme, but you could still make do with a ruler, scissors, or some chemicals and a fire extinguisher from the science labs just in case.

Step 3: Make an escape plan. Your group can steal a car in front of building 16 or hijack a golf cart by the office, but it won't guarantee to get that far, as zombies or other desperate students can easily attack from the

sides. If you're near the bus loop, try to overthrow the bus driver and escape. If you can't find an escape vehicle and a zombie is on your tail, you need to somehow get to the nearest Publix. The cookies there are delicious, and you have the chance to eat them all before you take your dying breath.

Step 4: While you're escaping, make sure to stop by the front office. This is your chance to discover some tea, eat some cake, or change your terrible grades while everyone is distracted. Don't forget to find the WIFI password!

Step 5: Well... I haven't gotten to step five. Just try to survive. And remember, at least you don't have to worry about your math homework that you never finished.

Be Safe,
Your annonymous friend.

Graphics by Brenna Cullen



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PV MOODS

By Faith Bossman



When you stayed up until 2 am watching Netflix and fail your math test

When you hear people discussing tea



When you give a free test answer and they still get it wrong



When your teacher is calling on random people and you're still finding the page



Different Shades of Love

By Molly Whipple

Some people think to decide you're gay in middle school is too early. We're too young to start dating, too young to know our sexuality, too young to know what it's like. There's only one thing wrong with thinking this: no matter how many times we're told that we're too young, it's still happening.

Another thing that's out there is hate. Homophobia means the dislike of homosexuals, people who have a sexual attraction to other people of the same gender. Many of Pine View's LGBTQ+ students find themselves scared of a homophobic family member being suspicious of their sexual orientation. The fear of loved ones having homophobia is a prominent one.

"I told [my sister] I'm gay, but I didn't tell anyone else because my parents are big homophobes. So, I kind of secluded myself from my parents and my older sister," one seventh grader said, who we'll call Jane as she wished to remain anonymous.

Being gay is like you're at a restaurant and you order cake. Then some rando from across the room, who will be playing the part of the narrow-minded person, leans back in their chair and shouts, "Waitress, cancel that cake. I'm on a diet and can't have cake, therefore you can't have cake."

Meaning, if someone sees a gay person, why should they go out of their way to tell that person they're wrong and they can't like someone they like. It doesn't make sense.

"I mean if they try to hit on you, you can say 'Sorry, I am not interested, goodbye.' and that's that" Jane said.

Jane thinks that you shouldn't let hate affect you, but it isn't okay for it to happen in the first place. She finds that ignoring people who are unnecessarily hateful works best because they really don't have a say in your life. You have the authority on your decisions and your future, no one else does.

From Whitefield Academy, a Christian school in Kentucky, a fifteen-year-old girl referred to as "K.K." was expelled from her school late last year after a picture of her on her fifteenth birthday was posted online. She was posing next to a rainbow cake wearing a rainbow shirt. K.K. was expelled due to her presumed sexuality.

Students at Pine View find this disturbing. First, students wouldn't be expelled for this at a school that isn't religious, unlike the school K.K. attended. Second, the school assumed her sexuality, she might be straight and really like rainbows. And finally, this reasoning may or may not be legal.

Because LGBTQ+ only make up a small portion of the population, we have to work together to make this world see our side of the story, our shared experiences. We have a responsibility to make ourselves known. We need to pull together to make a stand against hate. People who don't accept us are people too, but so are we.

Going pro-meat: Why meat is essential to your daily diet

By Margaret Toth

According to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), meat consists of 20-25 grams of protein for every 3 ounces consumed. It is recommended that woman need 46 grams of protein per day and 56 grams for men, so just eating 3 ounces of meat provides you with almost half of your recommended amount.

People come in all different shapes, sizes, and metabolisms, so the amount of protein different people need will be different. For a lot of people, however, meat is a reliable source of the daily protein we need. According to Natural News, "The truth is that everyone is biochemically different. Just as we have unique fingerprints, our bodies function best on different mixtures of fat, carbohydrates and proteins."

Not only does meat supply us with protein, but it is a major source for five of the B-complex vitamins: thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B6 and vitamin B12 and supplies an abundant amount of iron.

Another aspect of meat is that it can forestall some preventable diseases. Iron deficits put you at risk for anemia and low energy, which is why anemia can be a chronic problem if meat is not substituted in your diet. Meat can make someone energized, as it is seen as one of the best sources of iron out there.

The nutrients that meat provides are hard to find in other foods, yet they are essential to human development and growth. According to Live Science, "Eating meat and cooking food made us human, the studies suggest, enabling the brains of our pre-human ancestors to grow dramatically over a period of a few million years."

It's not a secret that meats in America are processed to no end and are unhealthy, but this may be the cause of why death rates have risen by extreme numbers over the past few years — not meat itself. As a result of the tight quarters animals are housed in, disease can fester and spread rapidly. To combat this, farmers inject their animals with drastic doses of antibiotics. Any use of antibiotics

can result in resistance.

When animals are given antibiotics for growth promotion or increased feed efficiency, the bacteria in their bodies are exposed to low doses of these drugs over a long period of time. This type of exposure to antibiotics may lead to the survival and growth of the resistant bacteria. That bacteria, along with antibiotics are making their ways into our food.

Ultimately, the antibiotics in and bacteria found

in animals are in the meat that we eat, making it unhealthy and increasing death rates. But the extensive nutritional value of fresh, undisturbed meat is hard to find

in other foods and is extremely beneficial with all the nutrients supplied. There are still companies out there who believe in healthy animals to produce healthy meats such as 365 Everyday Value, Applegate, Coleman Natural, KOL Foods, and Wellshire Farms. These companies are taking an initiative to help make the world healthier and to prove that meats themselves, are not the issue.



GRAPHIC BY ANDRES COR

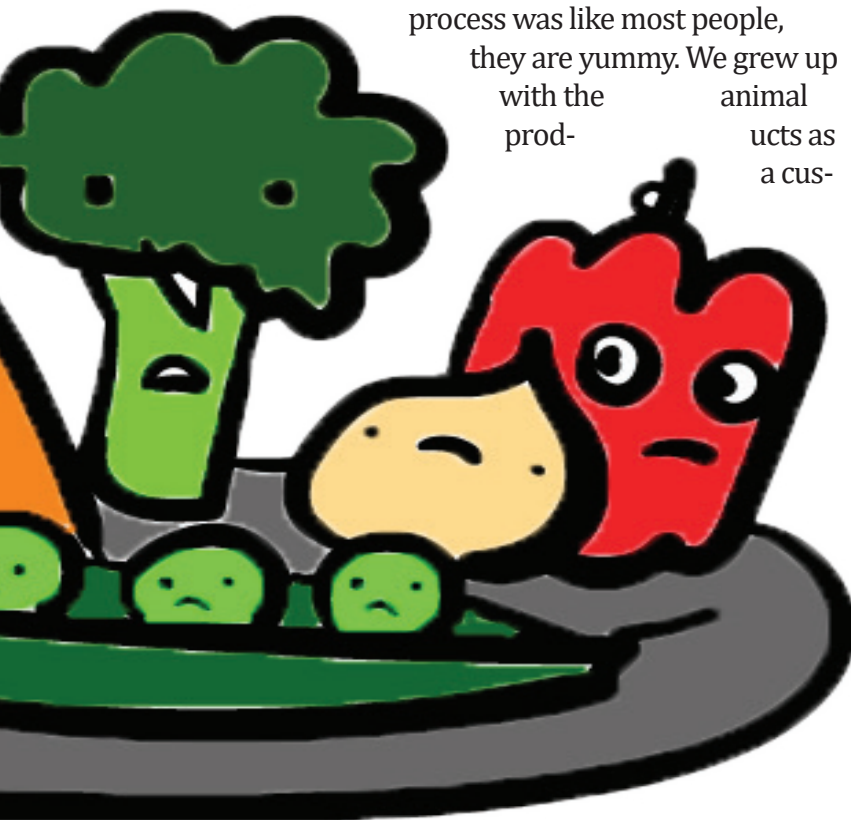
Going pro-plant: Why you should veer towards a vegetarian lifestyle

By Faith Bossman

It's a nice day, and I'm walking to my next class with a friend. My friend asks me, "Why are you vegetarian?"

At first, I didn't have my thoughts together, and I use animals as my reasoning. But as I look more and more into the diet, I began to see more impacts.

Before I was vegetarian, I would eat steak and chicken because my brain process was like most people, they are yummy. We grew up with the animal products as a cus-



CORTES AND JOANNA MALVAS

tom, so why stop now? It's not meant for you!

First off, we are like every other mammal. We scream when in pain, we drink milk from our mother, and we have a brain with all 5 senses. What gives us the right to take their lives?

Some people say it's the circle of life. For some animals, this is correct. But look at us. We don't have the parts of a predator. We were made to be vegetarian. Our nails aren't talons to rip apart other animals and our teeth

aren't sharp to bite them. We can't really kill an animal without the help of a man-made tool, so why kill them at all.

It's not only the eating of animals, but the products they produce. When you're a baby, your mother is supposed to feed you. Just like every other mammal. But why do we have cow's milk when we grow older? That milk is supposed to go to their children. Therefore, people are lactose intolerant. When we are babies, our bodies have lactase, the enzyme that helps us break down milk. But as we get older, we lose lactase, so our body becomes intolerant to the milk.

Switching to plant-based has many health benefits. This includes a lower risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and obesity. Not only is a vegetarian diet healthier, it also is much better for the environment. It takes less water and fossil fuels to produce non-animal based foods and grow plants. They also don't produce harmful emissions such as manure or methane that meat does. One-hundred years ago, eating meat was a special occasion, now being vegetarian is more expensive. The reason meat is becoming cheaper is because of the fast production rates. This means more factory farming than actual free range animals and happy cows

From an early age, we were taught that eating cows, pigs, and chickens was just natural. But, eating dogs is no different. So why do we find it a crime to eat domestic animals, but not farm animals. They all have a brain and feel pain. Instead of just writing essays about animal abuse and dog hoarding, change your diet all together.

For the critics suggesting that without meat, there's no protein in your diet, there are in fact plenty of protein-full alternatives. Tofu, beans, mushrooms, and seeds are only a few of the possible nutrients that can substitute for meat protein.

As long as people keep buying meat, they are still supporting animal cruelty around the world. Join the movement, and save the earth.

A photograph showing two hands reaching out from the top of the frame and holding each other. The hand on the left is wearing a grey sweater, and the hand on the right is wearing a red sweater. They are positioned in front of a chain-link fence, with a dark green wooden structure visible behind it. The background is slightly out of focus, showing some trees and a bright sky.

Is Bullying Less of a Problem at Pine View?

By Jiayi Zhu

In October 2013, two Florida teens gloated about being the cause of a twelve-year old's suicide. After repeated cyberbullying, the victim committed suicide. Afterwards, one of the girls bragged on Facebook about the victim's death and being the cause of it. Is this case representative of bullying here in Sarasota County?

According to new students here at Pine View, Florentina Klingenberg, EllaRose Sherman, and Freya Melbourne, bullying here is a lot less occurent, although they still didn't see much bullying at their previous school either.

So, what exactly is a bully? Sure, some may know the basic definition - according to stopbullying.gov, "Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance." This includes verbal, social, physical and cyberbullying.

The one time seventh-grader EllaRose Sherman saw bullying - specifically physical bullying - at her previous school, Laurel Nokomis, was on the morning of FSA Testing.

"All of us were sitting there - we saw it happen - and [the victim] fell on the tile and the tile cracked... according to my friend, the crack is still there," Sherman said, recalling the day of the fight.

However, things like this don't happen at Pine View. Why is this?

"I think it's because here, people are a lot more focused on school, whereas people at [my school] found it as a place to go, there wasn't really much work going on," seventh-grader Freya Melbourne said.

According to injurylawyers.com, there were 6,107 reported cases of bullying in Florida, yet 64% of victims do not report that they have been bullied.

Meanwhile, Pine View's middle school counselor, Kelly Hawking, suggests that the word "problem"

isn't the best word, as students should realize the difference between real bullying and a situation that isn't. Hawking believes strongly in the motto "empathy over apathy," and believes it is something that can always be improved with everyone in the community.

"Ask yourself three important questions, when you're about to say, do, or share something. Whether it's in person, or on social media, is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?... What are the short and long-term effects of the choice that you make?" Hawking said.

There are also many initiatives taken here at Pine View as well as in Sarasota County to combat bullying. This includes the "See Something Say Something" program, mental health modules, and "Away for the

Day."

"I can attest that since the "Away for the Day" policy has been implemented, there has been a drastic decrease in bullying... I see students now conversing a lot more, interacting with each other, and also more clubs – so it's just a more pleasant experience," Hawking said.

Typically, bullying here is a lot less occurrent compared to other schools, but bullying is a topic anyone, anywhere can improve on.



