



SPARK

newsmagazine

FACING NEW REALITIES

The Spark

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The Spark

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Editor-in-Chief Brianna Nelson

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Principal Dr. Stephen Covert

News Editors Shelby Brann & Lindsay Luberecki

Student Life Editor Emma Reynolds

SciTech Editor Molly Whipple

Entertainment Editor Faith Bossman

Opinion Editor Brenna Cullen

Humor Editor Jiayi Zhu

Staffers Eighth-grade Journalism Class
Seventh-grade Journalism Class

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Changes at Pine View

By: Calista Ream

With COVID-19 and remote learners, you would think that this year is hectic enough. But if you were to look straight past the quad, you would see a busy construction site, with dedicated workers building a new 3-story addition to Pine View. This building is supposed to accommodate all the teachers and students currently in portables on the campus.

The project lies under Tandem Construction and Harvard Jolly Architecture and should be finished by January of 2022. Many students and teachers, such as Lucy Justus, a new seventh-grade student to Pine View, are very excited about the new changes and look forward to the new building.

"I have classes in the north portables, and it's a very long walk back and forth to them. This addition will shorten the walk. It will be great," Justus said.

But what will happen to the portables? According to Assistant Principal Melissa Abela, the oldest portables such as 1, 3 and 5 would most likely be disassembled while the other portables would be transferred to multiple other schools.

Abela said she is "extremely excited to undergo this project because it's her second year and she has never done something like this before." The portables take up most of the space on the north end of campus, so, if they were removed, large chunks of field space would be empty.

However, Abela has a plan. She describes ideas for a new sports field on the north side of the campus and outdoor classrooms on the south.

Plans are not final; they want your opinion. Scan the QR code to the left and take the survey on forms. Share your thoughts - What do you want in the fields?



PHOTOS BY MADILYN HAGNEY

New (Masked) Faces

This year has already given us many new changes. Luckily for middle school students, many of the changes are positive! The new school year has brought lots of amazing, dedicated teachers. Coming from all over Florida and the United States, these new additions to the staff are more than ready to face the upcoming challenges and excited for another year of opportunities. Since this year is so different and hectic, there are also many long-term subs joining the family as well, but featured here are permanent additions. Welcome to the Python Family!



"I have always wanted to teach math! It's my favorite subject. But I studied engineering, so I started out working in IT and then as an engineer in a factory."

-Beth Bailey
Pre-Algebra, AP Statistics



"...when a student is struggling, and then they have that 'aha' moment right in front of you — it's a really nice feeling to see that."

-Shane Melton
Pre-Algebra, BC Calculus

Interviews by Terry Shen, Photos by Shelby Brann and Faith Bossman

"It's a different world here."

-Dean Ball

French; sixth and eighth grade
Spanish: seventh grade



"I like the atmosphere here at Pine View and I enjoy the students and parents."

-Brian McCombie

Pre-Algebra, Algebra



"I love how all of the staff is so inviting and willing to assist anytime...it is an awesome sense of team unity that you don't get everywhere."

-Ashley McLeod

Civics and US History





The Isolation Effect

The Pandemic's Effect on Students' Mental Health

By Jiayi Zhu

Aftershock

The idea that COVID-19 has affected millions of lives is far from a controversial topic. On a large scale, the virus has affected the economy, sending thousands into unemployment and bankrupting companies. But take an even closer look and find the average student, looking dejected and crestfallen. COVID-19 has clear effects – but sometimes the biggest ones are those that are hidden beneath a halfhearted smile.

Students' poor mental health can be attributed to a variety of causes – they can't all be pinpointed in one place. Every student is different, and every student will have a different situation. Whether or not a student is remote or learning in-person also does not determine their mental health. However, there are a variety of other possible factors that could contribute to a student's mental well-being. School psychologist Tim Gissal proposes one main potential reason.

Safety, Security, and Social Interaction

"Safety and security are one of the [prima-

ry needs], and these days people will feel a lot less secure. There's a heightened awareness, and people generally feel a little less safe," Gissal said.

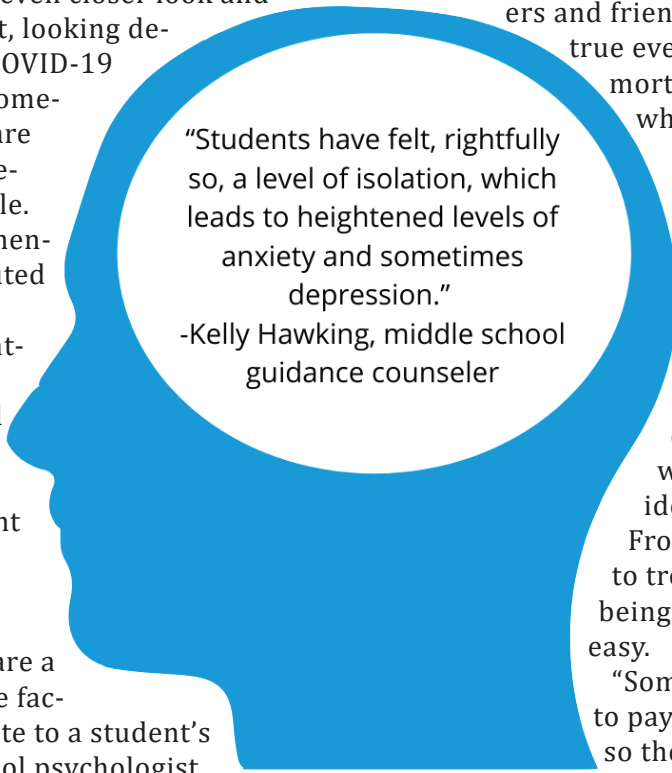
As well as a feeling of unsafety, lowered levels of social interaction can lead to a feeling of isolation. Students can sometimes take for granted the daily, yet small, social interactions with teachers and friends that come with school. This is true even for students who are brick and mortar, as social interactions everywhere have seen a major decrease.

"Students have felt, rightfully so, a level of isolation, which leads to heightened levels of anxiety and sometimes depression," middle school guidance counselor Kelly Hawking said.

Eighth-grader Emily Fung can attest that adjusting to the foreign ambiance of an online set up wasn't elementary, especially the idea of staring at a screen all day. From a myriad of technology issues to trouble keeping up with friends, being a remote student is far from easy.

"Some of my friends find it harder to pay attention in class remotely, so they're more stressed," Fung explained.

Despite the challenges of technology issues and various other issues that can come with the concurrent learning platform Sarasota County has been using, it still allows for remote and brick and mortar students to collaborate and coexist through options such as breakout rooms, which can prove to



be extremely vital in a learning environment.

Smarter, Not Harder

"[The concurrent learning platform] does add a certain level of connection for our students who are remote to the students and teachers who are in the classroom," Hawking said. "I think that the ability to still be able to communicate and ask questions during a live instruction is very important and helpful for all of our students... ongoing communication between staff, families, and students is super important as well."

Whether a student is brick and mortar, having to adjust to mask wearing, or a remote student still navigating Blackboard and Zoom, the transition can be difficult. Nonetheless, there are numerous approaches to maintaining, or achieving a healthy mind.

Reaching Out

"Look for the optimistic viewpoints and people who provide you with good feelings," Gissal said. "Try not to get sucked into the doom and gloom of the situation... make sure you look for something positive in your life and for most of us, that means interacting with others. Communication, reading a book, reading something positive, watching something else besides the news on television or social media - make sure you balance that out."

According to Gissal, not only is communication between friends and family important, but communication with those who can help is also necessary.

"We're all aware of the stressors and the mental health needs, especially during this pandemic. We're aware of the increased difficulties that some students are having... people need to communicate with [teachers, school psychologists, school social workers, and school guidance counselors]. If somebody is struggling, encourage others to reach out for help. It's not healthy or good to struggle in silence. In addition to doing well academically, socially, [and any other things going on,] mental health is still a very important component in feeling good about yourself," Gissal said.

Virtual Hugs and Sticking Together

In a world where it's found 'unsafe' to even hug the people you love, it's inevitable to occasionally feel detached and alone. Gissal and Hawking feel that, despite this, the virus has affected everyone in some shape or form, and although it's easy to feel alone in your experiences, you're less alone than you think. Through a good mindset and sticking together, we can all remain undeterred in the hardship of a pandemic.

*"If somebody is struggling, encourage others to reach out for help. It's not healthy or good to struggle in silence."
- school psychologist Tim Gissal*



Racial Justice in Sarasota County

By Shelby Brann and Lindsay Luberecki

The year 2020 has not been kind. A virus has taken hold of the world. Thousands are unemployed. A cutthroat election has gripped the nation. Peace within politics has come to a dead stop. Throughout the summer, millions waited and watched, for months, as the news seemed to get worse with every day. Fights have broken out, nearly ripping the country in two. People question the moral standings of law enforcement. Even more question the moral standings of daily society. Over the summer, tensions rose around the ideas and terms of equality. The movement has taken a new stand for racial justice, around the world, country, and Sarasota county.

Things are constantly changing, but there's one thing that will never fade away? Pine View students are more ready than ever to fight the good fight - attending protests and writing petitions. From former alumni to new freshman, students are getting ready to take hold of the world once more.

Moxie Bonifield attended a downtown Sarasota protest over the summer, joining dozens of protesters in the fight for equality.

"Everyone was very emotional, shouting all the chants, I almost cried, and everyone was sharing the same emotions and we were all in it together," Bonifield said.

She went with her sister and mother, shouting the chants that echoed all over the country for Black Lives Matter. Then, for a few minutes, the crowds went silent, no longer chanting or shouting. Bonifield told of how the organizers of the event had everyone quiet down for nine powerful minutes - the amount of time a police officer knelt on George Floyd's neck until he could no longer breathe. In that moment, the crowds weren't for anything except the simple rights denied to many. They were connected for nine precious moments that had forever changed the world. Bonifield, along with many others, seeks justice and equality for African-Americans, and hopes that Sarasota County is inclusive and impartial to all races.

It's not just the students who are taking action, however. Teachers and administrators alike are joining together to create a better sense of inclusiveness and equality in their schools.

8

While students and other com-

munity members took to the streets, Scott Wolfinger, long-time Pine View history teacher, wondered what he could do as a teacher to help. The answer?

"It really came down to what can I do. I can teach history," Wolfinger said. This year, in addition to eighth grade US History and AP US History, Wolfinger is teaching African-American History, a high school elective style course.

In middle school, when students think of electives, they tend to think of art, or band, or chorus. However, in high school, electives can range anywhere from journalism to Women's Studies, to, this year, African-American History.

"I wanted to approach 'Black History Matters.' I had a desire to learn more about it, and there's no better way to learn about something than to teach it," he said.

In the usual history classes at Pine View, African-American and other minority histories are discussed, but because these histories usually are not a focus of end-of-year exams, they are taught quickly and not in-depth.

"This class is a great opportunity for students to learn the things they should be learning, but there's just no opportunity for," Wolfinger said.

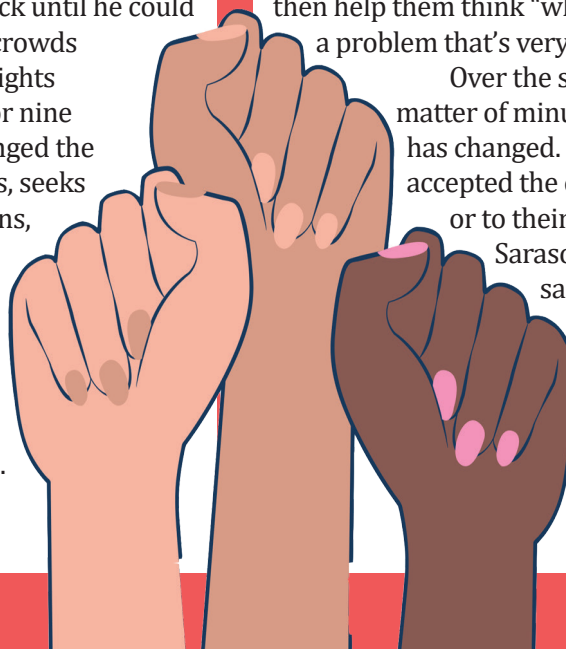
He believes that learning is the first step to trying to solve a problem. The course will teach African-American history in the US from slavery to the position we are in today.

"Learning about African-American history and the struggles that all minority groups in the US have gone through could help understand why we are where we are, and therefore help us [move forward]," he said.

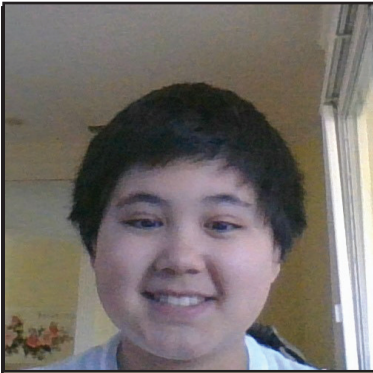
Wolfinger hopes that this course will help further students' understanding of why we are where we are, and then help them think "what can we do as a country to fix a problem that's very hard to fix."

Over the summer, the world changed in a matter of minutes. No matter what, everything has changed. Students and teachers alike have accepted the challenge, taking to the streets or to their desks to change Pine View and

Sarasota County forever. Wolfinger said it best: "At Pine View there is a need for a better understanding of diversity, a better understanding of other people's points of view, a better understanding of tolerance so that we can engage in tolerance."



New Sixth Graders



Tyler Andros

Previous School: Robert Willis Elementary

Interview by:
Eleonore Cantin



Nathan Bowden

Previous School:
Toledo Blade
Elementary

Interview by:
Camilla Famiglio



Rayyan Asif

Previous School:
Ashton Elementary

Interview by:
Camilla Famiglio



Jack Brion

Previous School:
Bay Haven

Interview by:
Liam Dingman



Madelyn Bailey

Previous School:
Taylor Ranch
Elementary

Interview by:
Camilla Famiglio



Paul Buermann

Previous School:
Hough Street Element-
ary School

Interview by:
Avery Johanning



Niya Bobban

Previous School:
Southside
Elementary

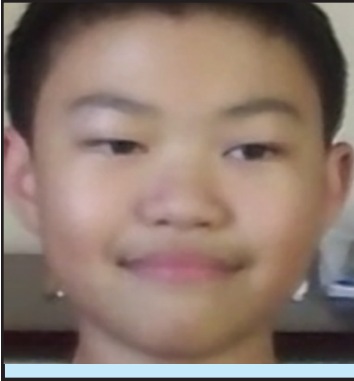
Interview by:
Liam Dingman



Daphne Cavus

Previous School:
Imagine School at
North Port

Interview by:
Liam Dingman



Ying "Kai" Deng

Previous School:
Gorrie Elementary

Interview by:
Zachary Johnson



Jack Fogarty

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Calista Ream



Gabriel Djakov

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Avery Johanning



Yash Gadgil

Previous School:
Robert E. Willis
Elementary

Interview by:
Anna Kim



Manas
Doddapeneni

Previous School:
Manatee Elementary

Interview by:
Calista Ream



Lilly Glaubach

Previous School:
Southside
Elementary

Interview by:
Calista Ream



Daisy Doyle

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Zachary Johnson



Katherine Grosso

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Gabrielle Mussey



Kelsey Elton

Previous School:
Johnson Wakeland

Interview by:
Zachary Johnson



Giorgi Hilgenberg

Previous School:
Venice Elementary

Interview by:
Anna Kim



Robert Lifsey

Previous School:
Out-of-Door Academy

Interview by: Gabrielle
Mussey



Olivia Pettinato

Previous School:
St Martha's

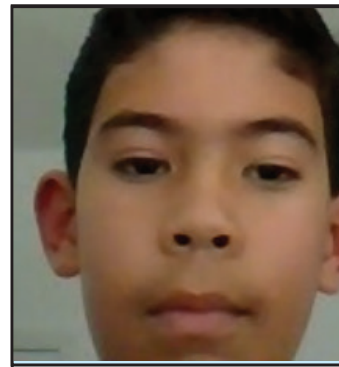
Interview by:
Tanvi Senthil



Kathryn Logan

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by: Gabrielle
Mussey



Santiago Preciado-
Ferray

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by:
Sofia Giannattasio



Amanda Martin
Nunes

Previous School:
Ashton Elementary

Interview by:
Adeline Von Wowern



Julian Regar

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by: Sofia
Giannattasio



Jude Nance

Previous School:
Bay Haven School of
Basics Plus

Interview by: Michael
Hu



Sam Roy

Previous School:
Phillippi Shores
Elementary

Interview by: Zachary
Johnson



Hymn Paothong

Previous School:
Casaidai School

Interview by: Adeline
Von Wowern



Cale Sandburg

Previous School:
Bay Haven Elementary

Interview by: Cora
McGinnis



Charles Shoemaker
Previous School:
Southside Elementary

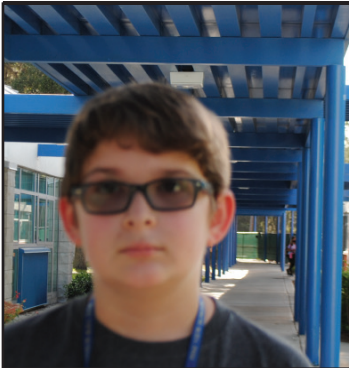
Interview by:
Sofia Giannattasio



Alexander Teich-DiLorenzo

Previous School:
Anna Maria Elementary

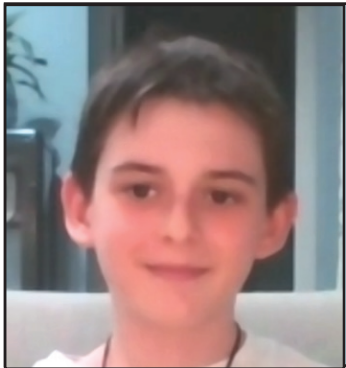
Interview by:
Samuel Wang



Kayn Sims

Previous School:
Tuttle Elementary

Interview by:
Cora McGinnis



Luca Tuero

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by:
Samuel Wang



Marie Paige Six

Interview by: Eleonore
Cantine



Ezra Weinstein

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by: Camilla
Famiglio



Kayla Skaarup

Previous School:
Ashton Elementary

Interview by: Cora
McGinnis



Charlotte White

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by: Samuel
Wang



Antonia Tata

Previous School:
St. Martha's Catholic

Interview by: Samuel
Wang



Melissa White

Previous School:
Gulf Gate Elementary

Interview by: Gabrielle
Mussey

New Seventh Graders



Kaya Bury

Former school: Imagine Middle School at Palmer Ranch
Interview by: Calista Ream

What would you do with a million dollars?

I would give half of it to my parents and help my dad move to Florida.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I see myself living on the road with one pet and then (not on the road anymore) having two kids and owning a restaurant.



Claire Feit

Former School: Laurel Nokomis School
Interview by: Gabrielle Mussey

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

It would probably just be a social club, where we could go and hang out after school.

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

I would say tht everyone has the motive to work here. It's very different.



Mia Liang

Former school: Hunter's Creek Middle School
Interview by: Anna Kim

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

There's a lot more classes; my old school barely did any classes, and my reading teacher only did one class for the entire school year during COVID-19.

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

I play piano. I have been playing for 6 years. I also like to draw and have been doing art for 6 years.



Gabrielle Mussey

Former School: Haile Middle School
Interview by: Avery Johanning

If you could change one thing at PV, what would it be?

I would change reading classes, so that they are more immersive.

What would you do with a million dollars?

I would invest some of it into curing cancer.



Landon Jarvis

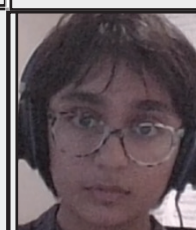
Former School: Sarasota Middle
Interview by: Michael Hu

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

The main difference is the amount of intelligence at this school, that's why I transferred.

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

I would change the lunch because it is way too long in my opinion, especially for the new kids who have no friends and must sit alone for an hour.



Lila Pamnany

Former School: Sarasota Suncoast Academy
Interview by: Zachary Johnson

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

In an alternate dimension.

What are some of the differences between PV and your old school?

Pine View is better, my other school had extremely slow curriculum.



Lucy Justus

Former School: Brookside Middle School
Interview by: Calista Ream

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I see myself living in London, England as a successful writer with two pets and a significant other.

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

I'm on the swim team, I have 4 pets, and I love to bake!



Calista Ream

Former School: Silver Sands Middle School
Interview by: Camilla Famiglio

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

I would start a tutoring club because it feels good when you help people.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I see myself as a lawyer, maybe in Washington D.C., living nicely with a significant other. Maybe a dog, too.



Shivani Manivel

Former School: Oak Hall
Interview by: Adeline Von Wowern

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

Acting or theatre club, because I really like acting.

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

I would like the homework load to be less because there is a lot of homework every night.



Robyn Schoenberg

Former school: Sarasota Academy of the Arts
Interview by: Sofia Giannattasio

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

I would like to go to school and for the pandemic to be over, but I understand why I should stay home.

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

One of the difficulties is that at my last school, Language Arts was much easier. But, the difficult work is more fun.



Nicholas Still

Former School: Sarasota Middle School
Interview by: Liam Dingman

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

I would probably start some sort of gaming club.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I see myself with a nice job, house and car, and I would still live here.



Adeline Von Wowern

Former School: Brookside Middle School
Interview by: Eleonore Cantin

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

Community service, to help other people.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Having a good career.



Ryan Verwey

Former School: Sarasota Middle School
Interview by: Liam Bingman

If you could change anything at Pine View, what would it be?

I think I would change the work to be harder, but give less overall work.

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

I have a pet cat and bird.



Julia Wang

Former school: Hunter's Creek Middle School
Interview by: Cora McGinnis

What would you do with a million dollars?

I would donate it all to charity.

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

The teachers are nicer at PV.

New Eighth Graders



Leon Chen

Interview by: Abhinav Reddy Yeruva

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?

I used to go to Laurel Nokomis. It was different because there was less time to eat lunch and it was a smaller campus.

How would you describe yourself?

I would describe myself as kind and sarcastic.

What professions are you interested in? Why?

I am interested in being a doctor since I have the chance to save people's lives.

What would you do with a million dollars?

I would be an investor on Shark Tank.



Ethan Kim

Interview by: Donelle Grone

What other places have you lived? Have you experienced snow?

I used to live in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. I have experienced snow.

What or who inspires you? Why?

My dad because he helps me when a problem arises.

What have been your first impressions of Pine View? What challenges have you faced?

PV is big and there are a lot of kids. A challenge is getting to class on time.

How would you describe yourself?

Confident when I want to be.

Yearbooks and Eighth Grade Recognition Pages Available Now!

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Jada Davidson

Interview by: Madilyn Hagney

What hobbies/sports do you participate in?

I like volleyball and basketball. I played basketball for five years and I just started volleyball this year.

What are your first impressions of PV? Are there any challenges?

PV has definitely given me much more homework..I've also had to make new frienwds.

What or who inspires you?

it's probably my one friend from Maryland named Stormy, because she's always been an amazing friend to me, and she's always been there for me and I learn so much from her. Words cannot describe how grateful I am to be her friend.

How would you describe yourself?

Indescribable.



Jack Perrella

Interview by: Donelle Grone

What are your first impressions of PV? Are there any challenges?

It was a little easier than I expected. Trying to make friends.

What professions are you interested in? Why?

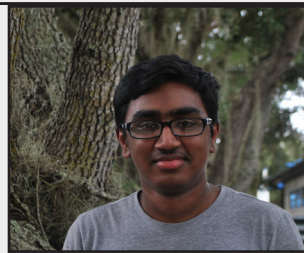
Engineering, because I love roller coasters and would love to design them.

What or who inspires you? Why?

My parents because they work hard to make sure I have the best life.

What would you do with a million dollars?

I would save 30% for college, give 30% to charity, and the rest for my family.



Abhinav Reddy Yeruva

Interview by: Ethan Kim

What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?

I like the class of Civics, because I like learning about history and art.

What hobbies and/or sports do you participate in?

Tennis and reading manga.

What professions are you interested in? Why?

I am interested in either archaeology or paleontology since I like history and studying about the past- it intrigues me.

Who or what inspires you?

My dad inspires me since he has a leadership role at his company.



www.srqtsunami.org

Community, Clubs, and the Coronavirus Pandemic

By Lindsay Luberecki

With the coronavirus pandemic, social distancing regulations, and concurrent learning, clubs at Pine View have taken a hit. Many middle school clubs have been cancelled, and others postponed until the undefined point of “being back to normal.”

Sixth grade science and Astronomy teacher Dylan Bell is one of the club sponsors delaying his clubs until things get better. Last year, Bell sponsored three middle school clubs: Dungeons and Dragons, Nintendo Club, and Playing Cards Club.

“I made the personal decision to delay having clubs in my room until after COVID-19 has at least died down somewhat and we’re no longer in what we’re considering a pandemic,” Bell said.

Since these three clubs would be held at lunch in a classroom, he feels that, during the pandemic, allowing them to happen is “not the safest thing to do.” However, Bell said that he will miss having that community in his room.

“I was able to emotionally connect [with the students]. Having the conversations were the best part of having the students in here, I miss it,” he said.

Not all traces of community in Pine View clubs are gone this year, though.

2D art teacher Haley Brown is beginning her second year sponsoring the Animation Club, a club for middle school students to “come and talk about animation.”

“The biggest thing is building friendships and making bonds,” Brown said about the club. In addition to learning how to animate or furthering animation skills, members can also meet new people and become part of a community and practice building a diverse schedule for high school, in a laid-back club atmosphere.

“I find it very fun to be able to bring your own creations to life and make them move,” said eighth grade student EllaRose Sherman.

Sherman was a member of the club last year and is joining again this year.

During the pandemic, Brown plans to hold the

club in her classroom for in-person students. A Zoom meeting will be open for the students online, and the students in class will be socially distanced/wearing masks in her classroom.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), run by eighth grade English teacher Pamela Novak, is an organization where members volunteer and give back to the community.

“Students are able to share their gifts or give their time in a way that honors and encourages volunteerism,” Novak said about NJHS. Members must maintain a 3.5 GPA or above and must not have any referrals to be a part of the organization, and in normal times, must collect at least 15 volunteer hours per year.

This year, due to the pandemic, Novak is planning to run things a little differently, but is still trying to keep the organization going.

“When the pandemic killed everything, I felt deflated, but I feel excited that I think there are ways that we can still make it work,” Novak said. She is planning to try to hold virtual meetings, instead of the auditorium gatherings that took place last year. She is also hoping to have a virtual induction ceremony, and maybe elect officers from the returning eighth graders to help manage everything.

“I’m really stretched for time in a way that I haven’t been before, so having some students take on some roles in running the meetings and gathering volunteer opportunities could help take some of the administrative aspects off of me,” Novak said. She still wants to make sure the organization can happen, though.

“It’s a lot right now, but I know it’s a really valuable organization, and students in it last year were getting a lot out of it, so I wanted to figure out how to make it work,” Novak said.

For more information on the Animation Club, email Haley Brown or visit MLC 2. Information on other middle school clubs can be found on the Pine View website.

Black holes collide

By Ethan Kim

Black holes have mystified scientists and have inspired science-fiction writers around the globe. However, a new discovery will shock minds.

May 29, LIGO, or the National Science Foundation's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory, felt vibrations from deep space. These vibrations were actually ripples in the fabric of space. These ripples were named GW190521. For less than one-tenth of a second, the vibrations were picked up by LIGO. This was the farthest and most massive gravity-wave source the world has ever received.

"This doesn't look much like a chirp, which is what we typically detect," said Nelson Christensen, a Virgo team member. "This is more like something that goes 'bang,' and it's the most massive signal LIGO and Virgo have seen." This isn't where it ends, however.

On September 2, three NASA telescopes spotted two black holes that merged 7 billion light years away. The binary merger is correlated towards the vibrations from 2019. When the black holes merged, they sent waves of gravity, roughly equal to eight Suns, around them.

This may not seem like a big deal, after all, black holes aren't a new discovery. However, what was seen was truly revolutionary. Before September 2, astronomers categorized black holes' masses as stellar-mass or super-massive, in relation to the Sun. There has never been a middle mass black hole before. It was hypothesized to be impossible for a star to collapse into an intermediate-mass black hole, because of something called pair instability. In short, because of this phenomenon, there should be no black holes in the range of 65-120 solar masses.

However, the larger of the pair of black hole merger was found to be roughly 85 so-

lar masses, right in the middle of the place where black holes aren't supposed to exist.

"Now we can settle the case and say that intermediate-mass black holes exist," Christopher Berry told National Geographic. The LIGO team member is absolutely fascinated. "It's smack-bang in the range you'd expect pair instability."

This new discovery creates confoundment among astronomers. It shows that everything about black holes they thought they knew was now warped. Alan Weinstein, a LIGO member and the professor of physics at Caltech, is equally enthusiastic as many other scientists are.

"This event opens more questions than it answers... it's a very exciting thing." He reminisced on how the team wanted to discover something new. "[We wanted] something unexpected, that could challenge what we've learned already. This event has the potential for doing that."

Covid affects the environment

By: Jiayi Zhu

When COVID-19 comes to mind, most people think of several things – the mass number of deaths, uncomfortable mask wearing, and the scariness that comes with the idea of a worldwide pandemic. But what about the positive effects that COVID-19 has had? Not many will affiliate COVID-19 as something benevolent to anything, regardless of the environment. It may be hard to visualize positive things coming from something so adverse, but even good things can come from the worst.

The main effect of quarantine on the environment is a drastic difference in air pollution. A main source of air pollution comes from human activity – including cars, buses, and airplanes. When it becomes unsafe to use these modes of transportation and a decreasingly smaller number of places to safely travel to, the amount of pol-

lutants dispersed into the air declines considerably.

According to cntraveler.com, there was a 95 percent drop in air passenger traffic and at least half the planes in the world are currently not in use. A study analyzing the percent reduction in concentration of PM 2.5, or particle pollution, in Ghaziabad while in lockdown (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) demonstrates there was around a 40% difference in reduction rates.

To the average person when hearing there has been a drop in air pollution, there's an obvious positive response. However, what does this decrease in pollutants really mean? Firstly, the declination of air impurity has huge health benefits. Although this certainly does not compensate for the number of deaths lost by the pandemic, it surely saves lives that could've been lost otherwise.

For example, "...the reduction in air pollution caused by the industrial shutdowns is likely to have saved between 53,000 to 77,000 lives in China alone," <https://www.science.org.au/> states. Additionally, there are estimates that air pollution causes 4.2 million premature deaths each year by augmenting the risk for disease, cancer, and detrimental births.

While there has been a radical positive change in the environment, it's likely to not have long term effects unless action is taken to control it. Nevertheless, the positive effects are lucid. This begins to make experts wonder if such a positive change could be achieved by cleaner and more efficient energy sources. Albeit these changes won't be permanent, it gives many a hopeful glance at what could be in the future.



At home experiments

By: Jada Davidson

Homemade Rock Candy

For this activity, you'll need a funnel, a large pot, glass jars (or cups), clothespins, LOTS of sugar, water and wooden candy sticks or bamboo skewers. Food coloring and flavoring are optional, but you'll want to use these for best results.

1. Trim your skewers to fit whatever jar/cup you'll be using and get rid of the tip of the skewer (if there's no point, skip this step).
2. Dip the skewers in water and roll them in sugar.
3. Set the sticks aside to dry completely.
4. Heat water in a pot on med-high heat. Add sugar when it starts to simmer and stop when there's a 1:2 to a little less than 1:3 ratio of water to sugar. Stir until the sugar dissolves and turn off the heat.
5. This will form a syrup, which you put through your funnel into whatever container you're using to make your candy and add food coloring/flavoring to each jar if you like. Let them cool to room temperature.
6. Put a clothespin on each skewer and make sure there is one skewer per jar. Also, don't let the skewers touch the bottom of the jars.
7. Place the jars in a safe place and wait 5-7 days before you can eat your candy! After you take the candy out, put them on a baking sheet to let the excess syrup drain off. You can now enjoy your creation!

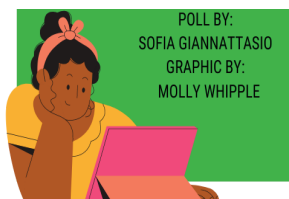
Walking on Eggshells

Everyone can easily crack an egg, so that means eggs are weak, right? In this experiment, you'll be assessing how strong eggs really are. To do this, you'll need 6-8 cartons of eggs, scissors, disinfecting wipes, trash bags, and someone to help you. Before doing this, make sure all cartons don't have cracked or broken eggs.

1. Make sure all pointy ends of the eggs are facing the same way
2. Take off your socks and shoes
3. Lay a trash bag down and put the egg cartons in two rows
4. Have whoever is with you help you onto on the eggs
5. Keep your feet evenly distributed as you walk

Did you crack any eggs? If not, wonderful job! If any eggs did crack, you skipped a step or didn't follow the experiment correctly. You should've learned that eggs are stronger than most people think.

Student Input: Technology



"I feel like Pineview's Tech Support hours could not be at the same time we're supposed to be in class."

- remote student
Elina Gonclaves

"I think so far, the school district is doing [all that it can,] and, until further notice, all cautions are reasonable."

- remote student
Layla Hewes

"I think it could be improved by having everything in just one place [online.]"

- remote student
Ginger Kreithen

EXPLAINED BY SCIENCE

WALKING ON EGGSHELLS

In the last experiment about eggs, you learned that you could crack a single egg by smashing it but can't crack multiple eggs by walking on them. The reason for this is that when you crack an egg, the force you apply to the egg makes the egg crack, while walking on eggs uses no force. When you walked on the eggs, your weight was evenly distributed onto each egg, therefore the eggs withstood your weight. The force you use to crack an egg doesn't evenly distributed the weight and power of you breaking it. In other words, you can walk on eggs without breaking them because the weight distribution is more even but can crack a single egg because the distribution of weight from the outside force (you) is not even.

YAWN LEADS TO YAWN

The answer is simpler than you may think. Yawning when someone else yawns is an involuntary reaction. This is an example of echophenomena, which is when someone mimics another person's words (echolalia) or what they do (echopraxia). Humans aren't the only ones that experience this - chimpanzees and dogs do it as well.

GRAPHIC BY: JADA DAVIDSON AND MOLLY WHIPPLE

ENTERTAINMENT

Ketchup and Mustard



A ghost from Charlie Brown's Special



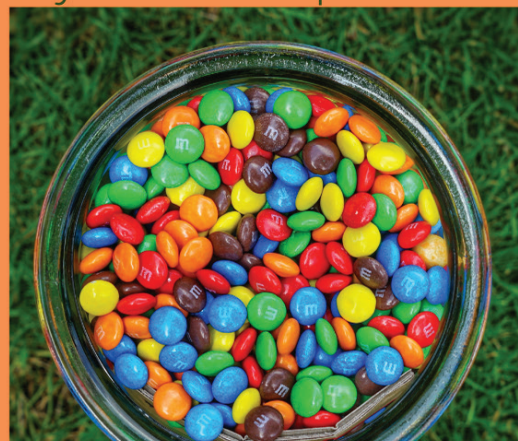
Last Minute Halloween Costumes

by Lindsay Luberecki

A crayon (use a poster board)



Be an M&M, its basic but you're desperate



SHELBY BRANN PRESENTS

HOMEMADE HALLOWEEN

Sweet treats to get you through the fall



Brownie Graveyard

Brownies

Pick a recipe, any recipe. My personal favorite is from the baking website Allrecipe.com, which never fails to come up with the best ideas. A stick of butter, white granulated sugar, 5 eggs, vanilla extract, unsweetened cocoa powder, flour, salt, patience and baking powder equals perfection. Mix together in one large bowl and pour into a greased 8-inch baking sheet, preferably square-shaped (Remember my salt trick!) Cook at 350 degrees for 30 minutes with love.



Brownie Graveyard

Boo!

While the brownies are cooking, mix together some milk, a cup of confectioner's sugar and a little bit of vanilla extract. Add milk steadily until the icing is thin and white. When the brownies are done and finish cooling, place a mini marshmallow on a small square of the chocolate treat, then carefully drizzle over some of the icing. Finish off with some eyes and a mouth created by writing gel and BAM! Homemade graveyard.

Should Pine View extend its middle school offerings?

By Brenna Cullen

Pine View School for the gifted is well-known for pushing its students towards academic success. The curriculum is said to be inclusive and extensive, featuring a wide variety of course choices. However, if we think about it, does Pine View really have a lot of middle school options? Throughout the years, many young scholars have felt constricted with the narrow number of foreign languages and sports.

First of all, although Pine View offers many middle school sports, such as basketball, volleyball, golf, track, and tennis, some students feel that there is still a lack of athletic diversity.

“I think it would be cool if we had a variety of sports,” eighth-grader Zoe Harrel said, “A lot of students would love to be active in sports like swimming, soccer, or football.”

On the other hand, some students feel that adding new sports would be pointless to Pine View’s educational purpose. Eighth grader Tanvi Senthil is one such individual.

“Pine View is a more academic orientated school; it shouldn’t need a lot of sports” Senthil said.

With Pine View being at the top of Florida’s school ranking system, it is completely logical for some students to focus more on their five main classes during the seven-period day.

However, as students grades 6-8 are debating this topic, it should be clarified that Pine View offers the same number of middle school sports as every other middle school in the Sarasota County District. So, although students may leave Pine View in their high school years to find a school with a larger amount of athletic diversity, Pine View’s middle school sports are the same ones offered in every other Sarasota County School.

The alleged lack of sports isn’t the only opportunity Pine View’s students feel like they’re missing out on.

A lot of middle schoolers are also disappointed with the three languages that are offered. Although Span-

ish, French, and Chi

nese are all beneficial choices to fit into the curriculum, a lot of students are upset that no additional languages are being taught at school.

“Pine View could definitely expand their selection of worldwide languages to German, Italian, Portuguese, as well as other Asian languages,” eighth-grader Christian Batista said.

Since Pine View is a school focusing on academic success, many students feel as though it would make sense to offer a larger variety of languages. To that statement, Senthil would disagree.

“I’m happy with the language program. I feel like French, Spanish, and Chinese, are going to be the most useful in our daily lives,” Senthil said.

Senthil explains that although students might benefit from a few

extra classes, adding more courses to Pine View would be a huge burden on the school’s faculty. To explain, in order to keep up with students’ demands, Pine View would have to sacrifice a lot of time and funding.

“Even if Pine View decides to invest their school funding into the incorporation of new classes, how many students would really be interested in shifting from their normal schedules?” Senthil explained.

Furthermore, sixth-grader Bridget Hanrahan expressed her belief that Pine View does not need to host anymore extracurricular activities.

“When a student is applying to a college, Pine View’s academic records make up for their potential lack of sports, music, or art skills,” Hanrahan said.

The belief that Pine View should include a more balanced school system for its students is debatable. But whether or not it is decided that Pine View provides enough options to fit the curriculum, it can be a unanimous decision that Pine View is certainly doing the best it can for its students.



Graphic by Brenna Cullen

A 2020 Debate: Who do you want to win the presidential elections?

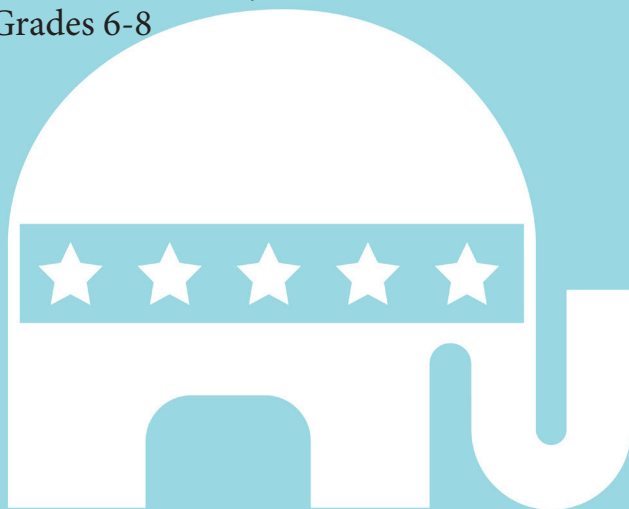


Joe Biden (50% of students)

Donald Trump (28% of students)

Undecided/Other (22% of students)

Based on a survey of 252 students in Grades 6-8



2020 is a year of many changes, with students and teachers taking new Covid-19 precautions. In addition to a pandemic, this year also brings the USA's national presidential election! The two main candidates running for president are Donald Trump (Republican), whose running mate is Mike Pence, and Joe Biden (Democratic), whose running mate is Kamala Harris. Other candidates include Jo Jorgensen (Libertarian), Howie Hawkins (Green), Roque De La Fuente (Alliance), and Don Blankenship (Constitution).

ZOOM FAILS

By Brenna Cullen

As unpredictable and erratic as technology is, a mishap over Zoom could happen to anyone. Whether it be accidentally unmuteing or forgetting that their camera is on, students around the world are struggling to stay unnoticed during their online classes.

For example, Ida Jerk, a seventh-grade student, was caught saying some very cruel things about his English teacher. “If soggy cereal had a personality, it would be his,” Jerk, who forgot to mute, had said. Although we reached out to Jerk, the seventh-grader had no comment on the event. However, his English teacher, Mr. Kelloggs, did.

“I knew that by becoming a teacher, some kids weren’t going to like me, but if you’re going to make fun of me, at least make sure you don’t get caught! I mean, c’mon! That’s the equivalent of stealing from a store but asking the managers to help you do it!” Kelloggs said.

Zoom fails aren’t just limited to students and teachers, there have been sightings of many parents as well. Some children used school as a way of escape from their judgmental parents, who may need a class or two in anger management. However, as more and more students are stuck in their homes, their seven hours of sanctuary is evaporating right before their sad eyes. Moms and dads across the nation have been linked with shouting matches, door slamming, and some even caught “coaching” their kids how to act during their online classes. I can only imagine how those conversations would go:

“Jennifer, sit up straighter and don’t look at me so much!” or “Luke, I swear if I catch you watching TikToks one more time I’m going to hit you with your textbooks. That’ll get some knowledge into you!” are only a few things that

could be expected in this kind of excessive parenting.

Tragic occurrences have also happened while screensharing. When presenting his art project to his class, one seventh-grader, Hope Bliss, accidentally pressed the wrong tab in Google. Instead of seeing a shading diagram, Bliss’ peers saw an animated tutorial of “How to get your art teacher to like you.” Bliss was promptly kicked out of the Zoom meeting by his very unimpressed teacher.

So, when you think about it, using Zoom has high stakes. It appears that all remote students are signing up for potential humiliation and a slightly different form of dehumanization. But, hey, if it’s not happening to you, sit back with your popcorn and enjoy the clown show!

How to not be a Dry Texter

Dry Texting- When you reply with something people can't respond to because it's so boring

Saying K to a paragraph, or sentence. Sometimes it's okay to use K, but most of the times its not.

Bad: my phone died, sorry.
Good: I left a note out for you.
K

Lower cases when laughing. It hits then the same thing with ALL CAPS

Bad: haha
Good: HAHAHA

Saying random letters as a replacement for laughing or words. (HDUCBWIC)

Bad: *Paragraph of funny story
Good: PLEASE HELP NCSCUNUD NREUVNEE how can I help.
By- Faith Bossman

These apply to texting habits. Texting dry is fine when you're busy, texting one hand, or just not in the mood to talk

AUTOCORRECT

GLOBAL CRISIS EDITION

AUTOCORRECT

By Molly Whipple

It isn't known exactly when autocorrect first struck, but the few sources there are tell us it was merely months ago. Within weeks you had yourself a global crisis.

We've all made our guesses about what was in Area 51, but nobody knew anything for sure until the government started sending messages out to unsuspecting victims.

There are certain archived emails that we cannot provide you with, the government also will deny the existence of such emails. These ominous emails were between the President and different government organizations and every member of the house of representatives where the President gives information about top secret projects having to do with Area 51. These exchanges show the president discussing unknown species that were recovered and delivered to labs for research all around the world, then were transferred to Area 51 at the request of the government with troubling results: these creatures shouldn't have been able to exist on Earth.

The emails tell that there was research being done on this for the past few months and scientist after scientist concluded that these creatures weren't from earth in the first place.

The responses to the emails were troublingly collected and, to the surprise of those writing the response, gave the President advice on how to handle the situation. Here is when the public got a hold of this information.

The President himself leaked this information by directly quoting these emails. The internet exploded.

All are familiar with what came next:

global crisis. People everywhere began to entertain their conspirator sides and other nations' governments questioned the authenticity of the announcement. While all the chaos we know so well ensued, autocorrect leaned back and enjoyed the view.

Now, we can't be sure of what exactly was going on. Experts say that the incident may have been a result of an accidental ctrl + c, ctrl + v. But do they really think it was just a coincidence that the President was reading an article on how Area 51 could have actually found an alien, copied it to send to his grandchildren to feed their conspirator tendencies, tried to email a picture of his nephew's cute pet bunnies to every member of the house of representatives and other organization leaders but accidentally didn't send the picture and sent the fake article? Do you really think that all the people who he sent it to were reading different articles on what people should tell the President if/when aliens are discovered, that they all just happened to copy the whole thing to send as a prank to their grandmother but accidentally pasted that in response rather than their actual response to the already troubling copy and pasted article that had been sent to them? I don't think so.

What happened you ask? There aren't actually aliens in Area 51. No, what happened is autocorrect took over the internet and all private relations to wreak havoc. It now takes what you type and writes whatever it wants in place of the text, and you can't correct yourself even if you try. Then, it dictates all responses so no conversation over any electronic device can be trusted anymore and everything can be easily blamed on autocorrect.

A GHOSTLY GATHERING

By Lindsay Luberecki

October 31 7:30 pm

Tonight is going to be the best night of the year! It's Halloween, my favorite holiday, and I'm keeping a journal this year since my friends and I are doing something awesome and stepping it up a bit from the usual door-to-door trick or treating. I'm meeting my friends at our school, Pine View! No one will be there, and we're all coming in amazing costumes and bringing tons of candy to eat while we just hang out. I think I see them now!

8:00 pm

My friend Hallie Ween and I are hanging out in the locker pod, but we can't seem to find Frank N. Stein and Trix O. Treat. Oh well, they'll turn up soon! Anyway, right now I'm enjoying some delicious Milky Ways and Snickers, and once we all meet back up again, we're going to go out to Portable City and play an awesome game of hide and seek! But for now, it's back to this candy!

8:23 pm

We're in the middle of our game, and I have some time to write since this spot is so awesome! When Trix and Frank came back, they looked like they had seen a ghost and were rambling on about some weird noises coming from the woods. Oh well, I'm sure it was just their imaginations! Uh oh, I think I hear someone coming...

8:32 pm

I'm hiding in the locker pod, and I've finally worked up the nerve to move enough to write. That was seriously creepy. I thought it was one of my friends coming to find me, but instead, it was this weird white shape that was almost floating. And when it got closer, it looked like a person, but clear. Like a ghost! And there were weird noises too, like it was trying to speak to me. Of course, I ran away, so no time to listen. I can't seem to get my friends on the phone either, its like the service stopped working. What is going on?

8:50 pm

We finally all met back up at the pod after a scary 20 minutes, and decided it was time to leave. We're walking to the gate...almost there...how is that possible? Its locked! From the inside! How does that even happen? It seems like we're stuck here. Yikes. The noise is getting louder too, like...like there's more than one of those things. We better run. Off to the science buildings we go!

9:30

Change of plans. We somehow managed to climb the blue awning in front of the art building, which was our only option after running around for a while, absolutely terrified. After we got back from the front of the school, we were greeted by at least one hundred of those ghost things, all milling around the campus! We're quietly observing now from the awning. It almost looks like a party, or some sort of gathering! They're going in and out of all the buildings, but of course through the walls, not the doors.

10:00

We were able to get out through another gate; that one must have just been jammed. It seems like there was a pretty popular ghost party going on. We most definitely learned the lesson to not try to go to Pine View at night. It looks like the ghosts have the campus pretty much reserved! The question now is just how often do these parties happen? Is it just a Halloween thing? What if the ghosts are wandering the campus all day, and you just don't notice?



A SOCIALLY DISTANCED HALLOWEEN



By Madilyn Hagney

It's that time of the year, ladies and gentlemen--Halloween! Ghosts and goblins, tricks and treats, masks and social distancing...

As much as everyone wanted just one night where contracting COVID-19 wouldn't be a concern, and as much as we all want to party and enjoy the full moon, we'll have to follow some simple guidelines this Spooky Season.

First and foremost, masks will be required at all times while out on the streets. A student survey showed that the most popular Halloween costume of 2020 is doctor/nurse or zombie doctor/nurse, followed by Darth Vader, with Michael Meyers and Jason tied for third place.

"I thought I'd incorporate a mask into my costume," says sixth-grader Hal O'Ween, "so I'm going as a cowboy. I can pull my bandana up over my nose and boom! COVID-safe."

Several students like O'Ween have also creatively incorporated masks into their costumes, proving that the student body won't be beat by the virus.

In addition to the masks, social distancing tape will be placed on the streets and sidewalks, and groups must remain at least six feet apart from others.

Houses handing out candy must either keep it sterile and never touch it or sanitize the outside of the wrappers before handing it out to children. Trick-or-treaters may not eat candy before they have returned home in order to avoid spreading germs.

It is recommended by the CDC that houses provide hand sanitizer and disposable masks in addition to candy, and, of course, that sick children stay home.

"Considering the toilet paper hoarding we saw in

the beginning of the pandemic," says Sheriff John Lawman, "we're expecting record numbers of houses being 'TP-ed' this year, so we want to make sure everyone knows to be on the lookout for vandals."

Costume parties, Halloween hoedowns, monster mashes, and especially graveyard smashes are not recommended by the CDC and should not occur.

Officials say that if anyone is caught breaking social distancing, congregating, or without a mask, their candy will be publicly incinerated.

"Safety is our primary concern," Mayor Buzz Killer said in a press conference. "We're hoping to have a working vaccine soon, and everything will be back to normal by 2030. Until then, stay strong. We're all in this together."



A NOT-SO-LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY NOT-SO- FAR AWAY...

The galaxy has been cruel to the heroes of the Milky Way. Darth Virus has expanded its cold grasp around the worlds of our shining empire. A bitter war has broken out among leaders. Chaos and inequality rampages throughout the many universes outside Pine View Solar System for Training Jedis. Many citizens ponder the fate of the galaxy. The Rebel Alliance of the Spark, led by Jedi Master Lenerz, has been secretly collecting messages to form this transcript for all those who seek the Light Side of the Force. Your new ally is the Spark, and a powerful ally it is...

.....