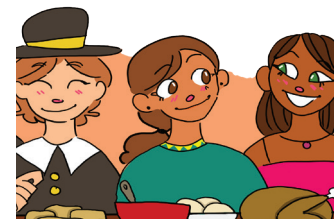


The Match

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Fall Parade commences amid pandemic

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THE MATCH

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FRONT PAGE: Costumed students walk the Pine View Campus celebrating book characters, homophones, homonyms and idioms in the annual Fall Parade, undisturbed by the pandemic. See news page 7. PHOTO BY SAMUEL WANG

RIGHT: One student wears a slice of cake on his head to symbolize the idiom 'a piece of cake', another holds an umbrella to represent the phrase 'it's raining cats and dogs.' PHOTO BY SAMUEL WANG



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TOP: Dr. Sheppard and a fall-themed meal
PHOTO PROVIDED BY GENA BUFKIN
BOTTOM: Second grade student Bobby Nee made a cheese tower in quarantine
PHOTO PROVIDED BY: LAURA BRADLY



Playground and the Pandemic

GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO

by Joanna Malvas

With the iconic yellow and blue playground being closed for the first three weeks of school due to COVID-19 concerns, the Sarasota County School District launched a new disinfectant procedure in order to ensure that younger students can freely frolic under clean conditions once again. For this procedure, the custodial staff would spray all playground equipment once a month.

Despite the district taking initiative

wards playground

safety, playgrounds nationally have been closed for the past few months. Kaboom!, a not-for-

profit organization that raises funds for playgrounds in the US, found that playgrounds are closed or assumed closed in 16

states and in Washington D.C.

Moreover, in 40 states, mandatory public school closures of playgrounds have been passed, impacting play time for nearly 34 million public school students.

This is an important issue for many students going back to school because recess is beneficial to learning. In fact, an educational blog from Rasmussen College reported that physical activity from recess can improve brain function, promote

social skills, and relieve stress.

Similarly, elementary Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle believes that recess is especially essential now, with the added stress of adjusting to masks and virtual classrooms.

"I think [recess] is very important for not just elementary. I think it's important for everyone to have a break. Especially elementary children at their developmental ages and stages that they are at to get outside, blow off some steam, and have something that's not as structured. Free play is very important at a young age," Sprinkle said.

However, even though playground time is important, safety is still the main priority for families. Therefore, second

and third grade teachers have taken further precautions when using the playground. Teachers have assigned areas of playground equipment, such as the jungle gym or the monkey bars, to specific classes periodically.

On the other hand, to ensure that her kids are able to get the mental breaks that they need, second-grade teacher Joan Hershberger takes her students outside for occasional mask breaks and extra playground time.

"We take a break in the morning and a break in the afternoon... Different things that we do, sometimes we'll have to go outside to look for something in science, and that's like a break as well," Hershberger said.

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Introducing Roy Sprinkle

by Sarah Hassan

Taking a life-changing opportunity choosing a career in education over the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) years ago, now Elementary Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle settled into his new-found place in Pine View's administration.

Having plentiful experience in the education department, Sprinkle's last job was the Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor for the Sarasota School Board. In addition, he has been a principal for each level of education, allowing him to easily adjust to Pine View's grades 2-12.

"I've known Pine View

for a long time through Dr. Covert, Steve Largo, we were friends, and I've always wanted to be here," Sprinkle said. "I asked to come to Pine View, and I was granted that request. I knew it was a great school. I thought that it was a good match for me because of my K-12 experience."

With being completely exposed to working with children from previous jobs, Sprinkle also has his own personal experience with them since he has two of his own, twins, who are in their freshmen year at River-view High School.

Although having a mul-

titude of jobs pertaining to education, Sprinkle did not have a career in education marked as his first choice. He applied for the CIA after graduating from Indiana University, where he majored in Public Affairs and minored in Criminal Justice. However, he took a life-changing position as a sub-

“I asked to come to Pine View, and I was granted that request. I knew it was a great school. I thought that it was a good match for me because of my K-12

experience.”
Roy Sprinkle,
Assisant Principal

stitute teacher while waiting for regional interviews.

"I put that I would work with any group, and I ended up going to a day school, which is kind of like our Oak Park here for our special needs students," Sprinkle said. "I very much enjoyed working with them and knew that's what I was meant to do."

After this sudden revelation of purpose, Sprinkle



Dressing up as Johnny Appleseed, new Elementary Assistant Principle Roy Sprinkle displays his costume to Misty Tucak's second grade class. In this garb, Sprinkle read a book about his character to the students. PHOTO BY SAMUEL WANG

went to Purdue University and received a Masters in Education.

As Sprinkle set down his path in schooling, he worked in two different states: Indiana, his home state, and Florida in a total of four different counties, Sarasota included. When he first came to Florida, he had researched different counties in the state and saw Sarasota as the top option. Twenty years later, Sprinkle still resides in Sarasota County.

At Pine View, Sprinkle actively involves himself with the community by going around campus and into classrooms along with helping the administration. Administrative Assistant Gena Bufkin spoke of Sprinkle's involvement and helping hand.

"He tries to make everyone feel relaxed. He likes to ask, 'What can I

do for you?" Bufkin said. "He went to the second grade classroom and dressed up wearing PJs, superhero PJs... He's helped a lot with our hiring. We've had so many teachers who went on leave, and so many teachers who have retired, so he has really helped Dr. Covert's assistant Maggie Adler."

After a long ride working in education, Sprinkle decided to make Pine View as his final stop before retirement.

"I knew [Pine View] had an opening working with elementary children, which I really, really enjoy the younger group, and I thought it would be a great place to finish up my last six years before I retire," Sprinkle said. "I look forward to seeing my little ones move from the elementary into high school. I'll enjoy that and eventually see them graduate."



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Volunteer volume drops due to virus

by Alyson Mizanin

Masks and social distancing are not the only changes that have occurred in schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the summer, Sarasota County Schools suspended adult volunteering for the district for the 2020-2021 school year. This decision was made in accordance to research and suggestions from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health. The county explains on their website that the suspension was made because “the safety of students, families, and staff is our number one priority.”

Due to the new rule, parent volunteers are no longer allowed on campuses across the county. Though other lo-

cal schools have undoubtedly been affected, Pine View’s relationship with parent volunteers is unique; the lack of volunteers has led to a disconnect that is felt around the campus.

Second-grade teacher Misty Tucak normally enriches her curriculum with volunteers. Parents regularly came into the classroom to help students struggling with math and reading, and to help facilitate experiments in science. To make up for the lack of volunteers, Tucak has put together individual packets per subject area that cover 9 weeks’ worth of content for her students.

Educational activities are not the only

holiday parties must be run entirely by the teacher, if done at all, as strict social distancing limitations also exist.

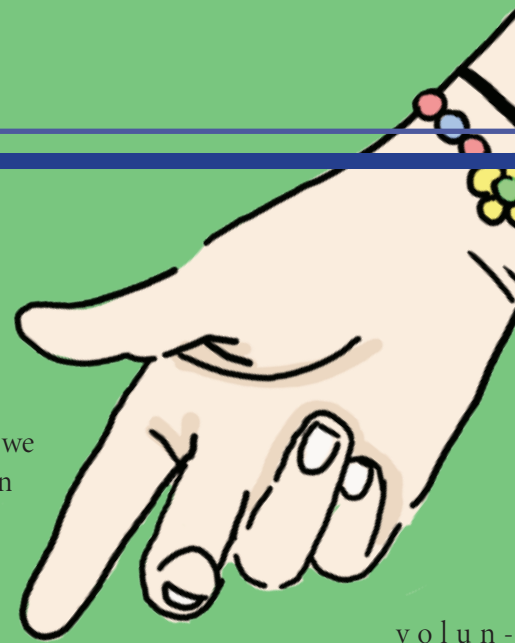
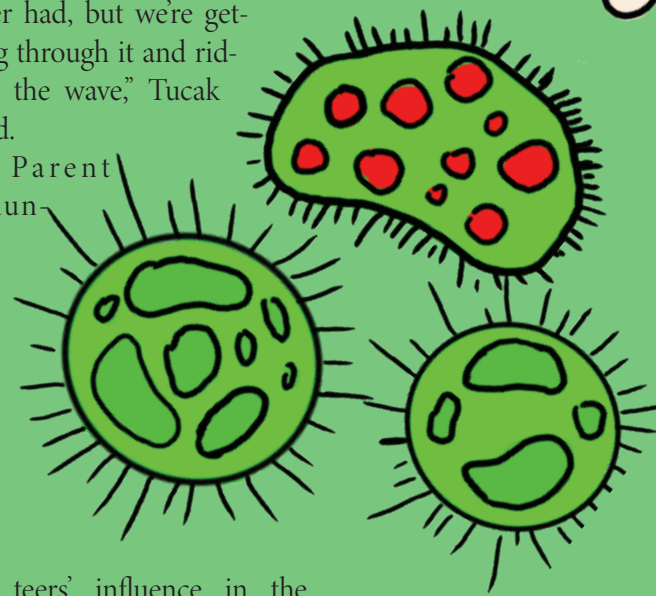
“I’m trying to stay hopeful and work day by day and hope that the best occurs. It’s been one of the most difficult years in my 37 years of teaching I’ve ever had, but we’re getting through it and riding the wave,” Tucak said.

Parent volun-

teers’ influence in the front office is missed by receptionist Jenny Reyka. Each individual volunteer typically dedicated one day of the week to assisting Reyka with miscellaneous office tasks, such as answering student questions and taking calls.

“The whole office has been affected by the loss of the volunteers. They helped do jobs that now need to get done. The parents would come in early and stay over their assigned times to help

get a job done,” Reyka wrote via email. “I know we will get through this pandemic, but we have missed out on friendships that we have made.”



volunteers are allowed on campus again, a traditional Peramathon cannot happen. In the meantime, Yu and Mankovich are trying to plan what might end up being a virtual run.

Though their methods this year are not typical, PVA continues to support Pine View any way they can.

“No volunteers are allowed on campus right now, but PVA and our members are continually doing monthly meetings and anything we can do to help our teachers and students. Whether it’s giving out snacks to teachers or holding welcome back lunches for the teachers, we’re still communicating with PV administration on a regular basis to see what else we can do to help the school and teachers and students in these challenging times. Physically, we can’t be there, but we are still working very hard and trying to come up with creative ways to support PV,” Yu said.



GRAPHIC BY LILY QUARTERMAINE

things affected by the lack of parent volunteers. Classroom activities such as

November and December Events and Teacher Birthdays

Nov. 21

Ms. Greig's birthday

Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 15

Coach Thorpe's birthday

Dec. 28

Coach Digiaco-mo's birthday

Dec. 31

Mr. Maron's birthday



In Laura Bradley's all-remote learning classroom, students dress up for an online fall parade through Zoom. The students were assigned to dress up as an idiom of their choice. Pictured: Eric Mattison, Amani Satia, Gurbaj Singh, Mikhail Sultan, Calie Valente. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LAURA BRADLEY



Scan the QR Code to meet Pine View's new elementary teachers!

IN BRIEF

Free lunch offered to all students

by Brianna Nelson

Working to ensure all families remain fed, Sarasota County Schools will be offering free breakfast and lunch to all students up until December 31 through an extension from the US Department of Agriculture.

The program seeks to address increased food insecurity brought on by financial hardship we have seen nationwide and in our own community due to COVID-19. There are few limitations on who can access meals, meaning in-person, online, homeschool, and even students not enrolled in Sarasota County Schools are able to eat free food.

"It helps give nutrition and it's the right thing to do regardless of status," said Sara Dan, Director of Food Nutrition

Services at Sarasota County Schools.

In-person students are able to simply go to the cafeteria which is relatively straightforward, while other students are able to order through a My-SchoolBucks account where orders for free food may be placed. Meal packets ordered online can simply be picked up through designated drive up locations throughout the county, including Pine View's pick up on Tuesdays from 10am-10:30am. Valid student ID is required for students, which can take the form of state-issued ID, birth certificate, or copy of a student report card.

"Members of staff have been working hard to keep everyone safe and to keep food safe and it's all a learning process," said Dan.

Fall Parade continues amid pandemic

by Leo Gordon

Honoring a decades-old Pine View Tradition, second- and third-grade students dressed up and paraded across campus in a variety of costumes for the annual Fall Parade Oct. 30.

In costumes ranging from "Harry Potter" House homages to "smart cookie" and "peas in a pod" metaphors, students participated in the event despite COVID-19 and its hand in postponing or reshaping most traditions and large events at Pine View.

Because of the pandemic, some teachers incorporated their

remote-learning students on Zoom by carrying around their computers during the parade.

Throughout the parade, students and teachers were met by groups of enthusiastically-waving middle and high schoolers. For some of those older students, the event provoked a sense of nostalgia.

"It's nice to see that, even with coronavirus, the kids were still able to participate in the parade," twelfth-grader Keleigh Koeniger said. "I remember being a part of it myself ten years ago, and I'm glad to see that it's still a tradition."

Remembering Dr. Sheppard

by Grace Johnson

After a purposeful life full of laughter and love, Former Pine View Elementary Assistant Principal Dr. Allison Sheppard passed away July 5 due to health concerns unrelated to COVID-19. While she only worked at Pine View for one academic year, Sheppard's legacy will continue to be felt in our community, as well as every other community she has touched throughout her life.

Sheppard was born in Kentucky and grew up in Virginia surrounded by a familial love of education and French culture. Her father was a French professor at the college of William and Mary, and on celebratory occasions they would make French dishes like the *Buche de Noel*, also known as a Yule log cake.

Sheppard spent a lot of time

in France throughout her childhood, at one point even living in Provence, and adopted her family's appreciation for the culture and followed in her father's footsteps in receiving a doctorate to pursue education.

Attending Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, VA, Sheppard was on the tennis team, played the Clarinet, and adopted her family's passions as her own, pursuing a career in education and harboring her own appreciation for French history and society.

It was at Lafayette High School where Sheppard grew close to her fellow classmate Mary Foley. Foley's affection and admiration for Sheppard were tangible, even over the phone.

"[Dr. Sheppard] was a year ahead of me in high school;

like a lot of things in life, she was always a bit ahead of me," Foley said, chuckling. "One of my greatest overall memories of Allison is that she was just so easy to be around and laughed very easily. We spent a lot of time laughing together. At the same time, she had a very deep heart and a very deep soul. We would have these long conversations about life and what was important as we were sorting through that and becoming young adults."

Even in high school, Sheppard knew she was drawn to education.

"She always had a love for education," Foley said, expanding on Sheppard's passion towards working with younger children in education. "College is great, but it's an age where kids can appreciate it. She was able to create a different impact with a different kind of energy."

Attending the same college, Mary Washington University, for their undergraduate degrees and working at several schools in Virginia together before coming to Pine View, Sheppard and Principal Dr. Stephen Covert's lives were often intertwined.

"I have known her for almost 30 years," Covert said. "Over the years I have many, many fond memories of Dr. Sheppard... I miss her, and I miss our conversations. I miss being able to talk about gifted education because she was such a passionate advocate for gifted kids and gifted education as a field of study."

Covert revealed that Shep-



Dr. Allison Sheppard poses for a picture with middle school assistant principal Melissa Abela. In her life, Sheppard cherished her work in education.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GENA BUFKIN

pard was a large factor in why he ended up at Pine View. She studied Gifted Education, and was one of the first to point out to Covert that his son, now Pine View Alumnus Ben Covert, might be gifted. After getting his son tested, Sheppard's suspicion was confirmed. Covert, then working as a principal in Virginia, began to look for a position where he and Ben could both benefit from being around gifted students and teachers. In this search, Covert found Pine View.

"Dr. Sheppard earned her doctorate in Gifted education and her doctorate was actually a case study about gifted education. Not many people know this, but her case study subject was actually Ben. Looking at her dissertation, it is dedicated in part to him," Covert said.

Sheppard had a personal impact on Covert's life, just as she did on countless other individuals. She helped many families achieve a better, more targeted education for their gifted students, even starting the

first Gifted Advisory Council in Spotsylvania, Va. Sheppard didn't invest so much in education for prestige or distinction, though. Rather, she cherished each student and teacher whose life she could improve through her endeavors. This was apparent to everyone who worked with her, Administrative Assistant Gena Bufkin included.

"[Dr. Sheppard] had such a way about her that you knew she cared about you, and you knew she cared about all the students. She would call the students her babies, and she was happiest when she was with them," Bufkin said in a tribute on a webpage made to celebrate Sheppard's memory, forevermissed.com/allison-sheppard. "When we started teaching remote in March, she really found her niche. The teachers were nervous and scared, and she knew just the right things to say to comfort them... Allison had one of the biggest hearts I knew, she gave everyone her undivided attention, and truly cared."



Former Pine View Elementary School Assistant Principal Dr. Allison Sheppard drives around campus in a decorated golf cart. Sheppard passed away over the summer from health concerns unrelated to COVID-19.

Book Review: 'El Deafo'

by Isabella Kulawik

This year, some students are remote and some are in-person, creating a divide within our community no matter what technology we use. Reading can be used as an escape for those who struggle to be alone all day. With the heartfelt adventures of a girl who is deaf and navigates the world, "El Deafo," a graphic novel by Cece Bell, will captivate any person.

The story and the main character, CeCe, are based on Bell's experiences in elementary school after falling ill from meningitis and losing her hearing. Bell introduces interesting and funny characters like the overbearing friend, Laura, the

caring sidekick, Martha, and her crush, Mike Miller.

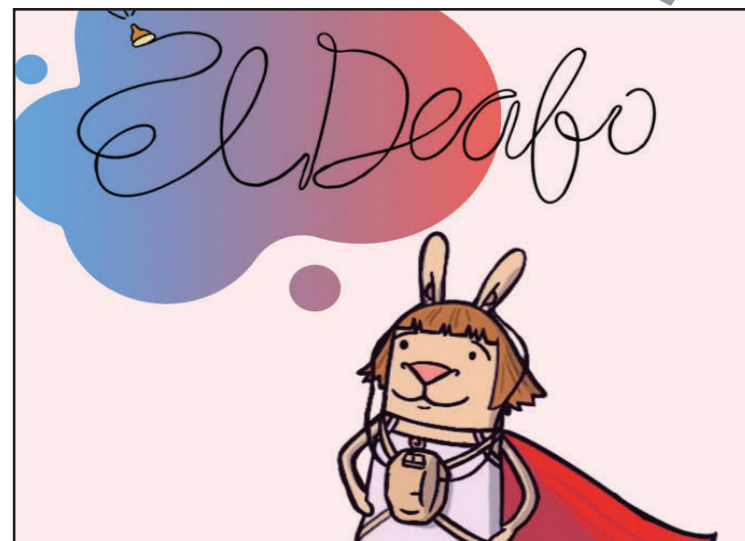
The book revolves around the topic of feeling different and left out. CeCe often describes feeling like she is in a "bubble of loneliness" because people do not approach or accept her because of her disability. However, she does not let that feeling control her.

Using her phonic ear, Cece is able to hear teachers throughout the school. Teachers wear a special microphone made for the phonic ear, and whether they are in the bathroom or gossiping about students in the teacher's lounge, if they have the microphone on, she hears them. Cece then creates "El

Deafo," a new superhero persona to go along with her hearing power that she uses to conquer her fears and loneliness.

"El Deafo" is directed toward elementary students, but the writing shows a relatable perspective for all ages. As a ninth-grader, I reread the graphic novel recently and I found it just as poignant as I did when I read it in fourth-grade. The illustrations also add a humorous and imaginative facet to the plot.

Bell drew all the people in her story as rabbits; she used it to show her emotions and as a visual metaphor representing how Bell felt like the one rabbit without working ears.



Cece Bell depicted herself as a superhero on the cover of her graphic novel, "El Deafo." Bell drew all of the characters as rabbits in her book about growing up with a disability. GRAPHIC BY KAI SPRUNGER

The story of Bell's elementary years shows readers what it is like to be different along with the fun and awkward experi-

ences of growing up, meaning that everyone, no matter how different they are, can relate to her entertaining story.

Student 'Zooms' into acting

by Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan

Fifth-grader Dylan Grantham steps onto the stage, acting with grace and emotion. Grantham earned a standing ovation from the audience when playing Anna in her theater group's production of "Frozen Jr."

This all happened last year, before the COVID-19 pandemic. As drama groups closed around the country, Grantham was stuck acting through Zoom. Bottled up inside her house, this did not fit her off-the-wall energy well, but she persevered until she was allowed to go to in-person acting camp.

The four-week long summer camp followed all the nec-

essary procedures: they used hand sanitizer constantly, did temperature checks every day, and masks were worn by everyone. Unfortunately, they didn't have a stage, but they had the next best thing for the people who attended the camp through Zoom.

"The camp was really fun and instead of a stage, they had a greenscreen and a bluescreen," Dylan Grantham said.

Grantham attends two theater groups regularly; one is with Spotlight Theater Productions, where she does a three-hour class every Monday. She participated in "Madagascar" last year with them and this year, they practice various musical numbers.

The other group she goes to is the Broadway Theater Troupe, where she goes every other Sunday evening, acting and practicing lines to prepare for a huge performance they do once a year. She was in "Once on This Island" two years ago, and "Frozen Jr." last year. This year, she is a part of the ensemble in "James and the Giant Peach."

"She is a high energy performer, and she has always loved music and dancing. She would always put songs on out loud as a child and choreograph a dance to it," Summer Grantham, her mother, said. "It's fun to be a parent of someone who does musical theater so that we can learn to love it, too."

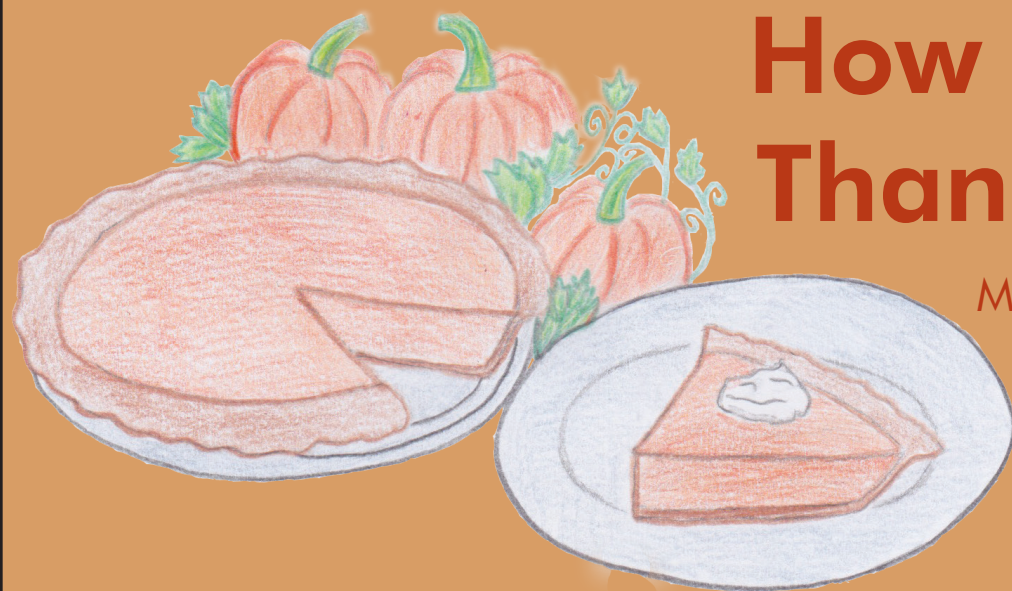


Fifth-grader Dylan Grantham (left) played young Anna in the Broadway Theater Troupe's production of "Frozen Jr." last year. Grantham is a member of two different theater groups. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUMMER GRANTHAM

How to 'spice up' Thanksgiving

Many families have their own Thanksgiving traditions, but changing it up can be fun, too. Here, the Match provides three festive and kid-friendly recipes to add something new to your table this year.

GRAPHIC BY LORA RINI



Vegan Apple Pie

by Mahitha Ramachandran

I am far from a skilled baker. I watch baking shows, where other people masterfully do what I wish I had the knowledge and talent to do. Though I can't taste their creations, they certainly look delicious, and I long to create something as spectacular for myself. The problem is, I never have the time nor motivation to find a recipe and bake. Until now.

Yes, that's right, I baked something: a vegan apple pie. Now, I'll be honest—I'm not a huge fan of pie, but I decided to tuck away my personal picky eating habits, get in the fall spirit, and make a beautiful vegan apple pie for my family. As you can imagine, it did not go quite so smoothly, but I made all the mistakes so that you don't have to.

First, I found a recipe from Tasty.co to make my vegan apple pie. Before I could begin baking, I went to the grocery store to get some ingredients. After gathering

everything I needed, I warned my parents that I was about to make a mess, and then began.

The dough for the crust turned out to be simple to make. The recipe's directions were clear, and I followed them exactly. Once my two disks of dough

were in the fridge to chill, it was time to make the apple filling.

The first step in making the filling is to peel, core, and thinly slice 7 granny smith apples.

When I first read that, I didn't think much of it. It was only after

my exhaustion from peeling, coring, and thinly slicing two apples that I realized I would need some help. My dad helped me with the rest of the apples, and it still took us a significant amount of time, so I would recommend

a helper or two.

After following the next steps of the recipe and mixing in the rest of the ingredients for the filling, I was ready to construct the pie.

Construction time! The first thing the recipe said to do was to roll out both disks of dough to 1-inch thick each, but I

ended up rolling it out to approximately a half inch. Getting the round of dough into the pie pan in one piece, however, proved to be difficult. I enlisted the help of my mom, and she skillfully did the job.

Once I was ready to pour in the filling, I looked from my small, 8-inch pie base to the huge mountain of filling I had set aside earlier, entirely perplexed. Long story short, do not peel, core, and slice 7 apples for your filling. This is my biggest critique of this recipe. Four will probably suffice, maybe five. After pouring in as much filling as I could and placing the second round of dough on top, I crimped the edges together, cut slits in the top, and finally placed my apple pie in the oven.

When the timer beeped and it was time to take my pie out, I was nervous. The kitchen was infused with a wonderful cinna-

mon apple smell as I took out the pie. After letting it cool, the only thing left to do was try it.

As I said before, I don't like pie, but part of me was hoping that after tasting this pie I would turn into a pie lover. That did not happen, but my family seemed to like it. So, would I recommend this recipe? Maybe. The crust was a little dry and the filling a little too zesty, but again, I don't like pie. The recipe, though, was easy to follow, and although it was messy, I did end up with an apple pie. Sure, my pie may not have been anything close to what I see people make on baking shows, but I had a lot of fun doing it with my parents. So even if it is not this recipe, I recommend baking with your family this Thanksgiving.

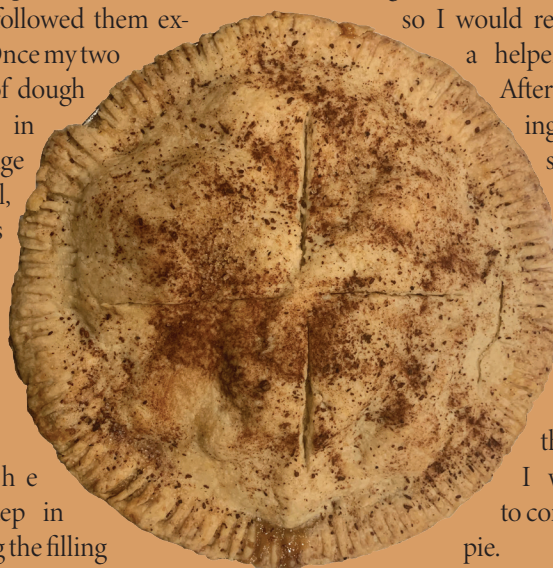


PHOTO BY MAHITHA RAMACHANDRAN



Rating: 3.5/5 Torches

Carrot Souffle

by Anna Labiner

I, for one, am a devout Thanksgiving traditionalist. I'm willing to incorporate new dishes or customs into the celebration, but if anyone comes in between me and my cranberry sauce, there will be trouble. It is for this reason that I was initially hesitant about welcoming a carrot souffle into my family's Thanksgiving palette. However, this dish, from dinneratthezoo.com, is now a staple at the Labiner family Thanksgiving meal, and for good reason.

Adding a pop of color to your Thanksgiving table this

year, a carrot souffle is a lesser-known side that incorporates the familiar fall flavors of some of America's favorite dishes. It may seem off-putting at first to imagine carrots with a mashed-potato-like consistency, but I promise it's worth a try.

In terms of preparation, making the souffle does require a food processor or blender to blend the carrots (which requires help from an adult), but other than that, the process of making the dish is fairly easy and does not involve much preparation or equipment. It is honestly pretty difficult to mess

up the souffle, and I'm speaking as someone who isn't the most gifted in the kitchen. Besides the food processor, the recipe is very accomplishable for younger kids, and resembles recipes for similar dishes like a sweet potato casserole.

In addition to its easy preparation, the carrot soufflé is always a crowd-pleaser, especially among those with a sweet tooth. The final result produces a texture similar to that of pumpkin pie filling, and the intense color of the carrots creates a beautiful dish that is sure to stand out amongst your other Thanksgiv-



Pictured above are the ingredients required to make a carrot souffle. A carrot souffle is an untraditional but delicious dish that will add something new to your Thanksgiving table.

PHOTO BY ANNA LABINER

ing creations. So when creating a game plan for your Thanksgiving meal this year, try throwing in a carrot souffle.



Rating: 4.5/5 Torches



When planning your Thanksgiving breakfast this year, consider making these turkey cinnamon rolls. They are a fun and festive treat that will get you and your family into the Thanksgiving spirit. PHOTO BY LUCY COLLINS

Turkey Cinnamon Rolls

by Lucy Collins

While family members work tirelessly in the kitchen all Thanksgiving day preparing the meat, stuffing, and vegetables for later that night, many forget the most important meal of the day: breakfast. These turkey cinnamon rolls are perfect to share with your friends and family on the holiday.

Reading the recipe from livecrafteat.com, it's pretty easy to replicate. Make sure an older sibling or adult watches nearby, though. An electric mixer completes most of the hard work.

Kneading the dough then rolling it into a rectangle is the best part, almost therapeutic. Between cycles of kneading and rolling out the dough, one must cover and set it aside to rise for 20 minutes. Decorating

the dough with cinnamon and brown sugar creates the flavor of the bun. Make sure to roll the bun into a tight swirl so it stays together in the oven, then cut into 12 even pieces and place onto a non-stick pan. While they might appear small, the cinnamon rolls will expand in the oven for 15 minutes and come out large and fluffy.

Fresh out of the oven, the rolls carry a beautiful golden tint and are deliciously crispy, filling the room with their incredible smell. For the best results, you should apply the glaze, created from powdered sugar, water, butter, and vanilla, while they are warm. The frosting-like substance melts over the sugary bread, encasing it in flavor. Now, add the bacon to give your creation some feath-

ers and place a candy corn on the bun to simulate a nose for your turkey. As candy corn is usually only available around Halloween, if you cannot find it at the store, use an orange sour patch kid or tic tac.

The bun softens in your mouth with a slightly crispy exterior and a buttery interior. The sweet frosting wonderfully contrasts with the salty, pretzel-like bun. Cinnamon bursts of flavor spread with each bite. Sit back, relax, and enjoy your turkey-cinnamon masterpiece as you turn on the Macy's parade or watch a Charlie Brown special.



Rating: 5/5 Torches

Writing, Receiving, and Responding: Pen Pals

by Naina Chauhan

Social distancing may mean things with your friends are different, but it doesn't have to stop you from having a great time! Yes, you can text or call them, but nothing is more personal than a handwritten letter. So try writing a letter to friends, cousins, or anyone else you can't see in person right now. That person will become your "pen pal" — whenever anything happens in your life you can send a letter over and wait for a response back!

1. Getting started

Begin by finding a friend, teacher, neighbor, or family member you would like to get to know or create a better friendship with. Out of all the steps, this may be the most difficult. After choosing, get a pen, paper, and some markers or colored pencils. You've taken the first step towards having your own pen pal!

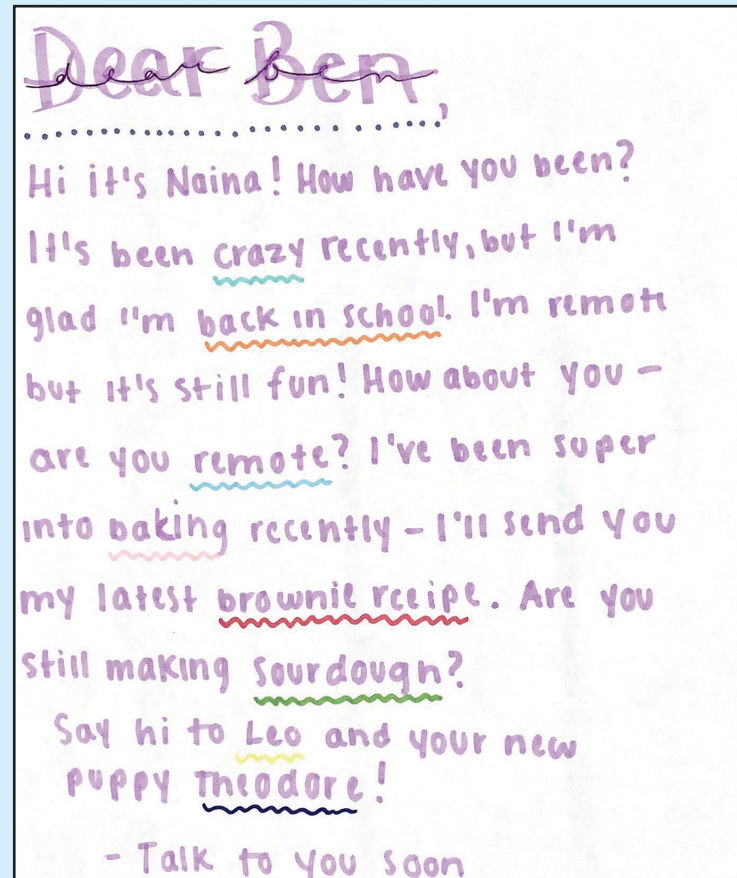
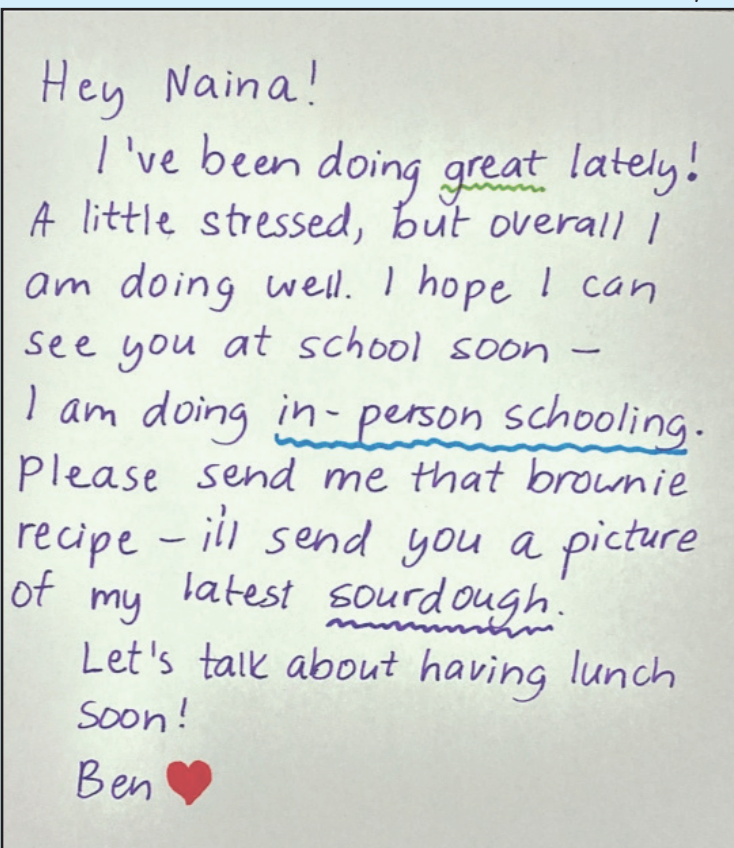
2. Writing the letter

Now that you have your supplies, you can get started writing. In your letter, try talking about what living in the pandemic has been like for you. Did you learn anything new in quarantine? What did you and your family do to stay active? How has school been either remotely or

in person? Write about anything you would have normally shared with the friend you're writing to!

3. Signing off

Once you have written your letter make sure to sign it — you can say sincerely, love, or my personal favorite: as ever. Signoffs are important, as they are the last few words of the letter.



4. Showing your colorful creativity

You may have the writing part of your letter finished, but this is your way of sustaining friendships and spreading love, so don't forget to make the letter colorful! Use markers, pens, highlighters, or colored pencils to decorate the card with anything you choose to add.

5. Preparing to send the letter

Now that your beautiful letter is completed, make sure you put it in an envelope. Once you have sealed the envelope, add a stamp of your choice and the address of whoever you are sending the letter to. Ask a parent to help you with filling out the rest of the envelope.

6. Sending your letter

Finally, put the letter in your mailbox and turn the flag up so your mail carrier can pick it up.

7. Receiving a response

After you receive a response, repeat by sending another letter!

Spectacular Strumming

by Peyton Harris

At first glance, fourth-grade teacher Eduardo Maron's classroom is reminiscent of a typical elementary school experience: colorful posters, cheerful cutouts, math textbooks strewn about. However, as Maron paces the room with an unparalleled enthusiasm, detailing and demonstrating the various instruments he keeps around the classroom, it transforms from an ordinary learning environment into a catalyst for student creativity.

Maron was born in Chile and immigrated to Massachusetts as a teenager. During this time he joined a Chilean folk band, in which he played the guitar and the cherango, a small, Andean stringed instrument.

Before coming to Pine View, Maron

worked at Glen Allen Elementary where the school's music teacher lent him ukuleles. This, Maron explained while demonstrating the specific sound of the cherango, is what inspired him to establish the Glen Allen ukulele club.

Through this club Maron established a hefty collection of ukuleles;

he gained a new collection, eventually founding Pine View's ukulele club. Although, the club was cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19, Maron still houses a

majority of the collection in his classroom.

The collection is composed of roughly 12 ukuleles, as well as a drum and mouth harp, which Maron is currently learning how to master. He also has a guitalele, a guitar-ukulele hybrid.

Maron can often be found taking student song requests during class "thinking time"; his students

are particularly fond of the

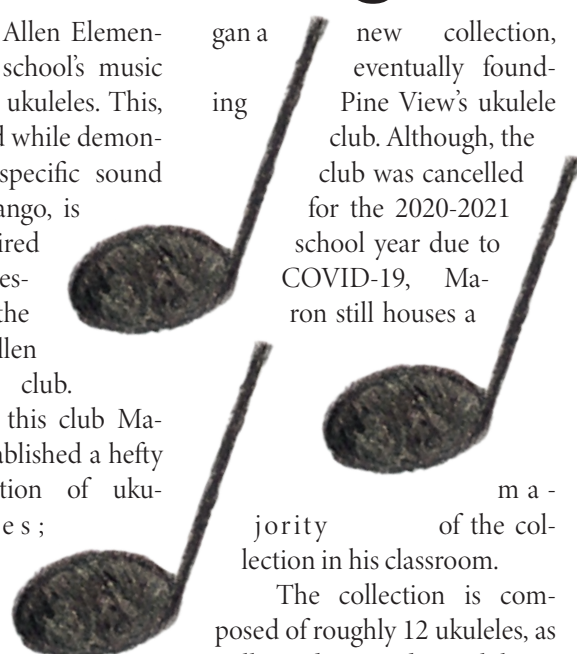
guitalele.

They learn better with the power of music, he finds.

"I believe they really enjoy it. I especially like it when they share their own musical talents with the class," Maron said.

however, when he began teaching at Pine View he left the instruments at Glen Allen as a parting gift.

Gradually, Maron again be-



Posing with his extensive collection of ukeleles and other stringed relatives, Eduardo Maron gleams with pride. Maron has played many instruments, starting guitar as a teenager. PHOTO BY PEYTON HARRIS GRAPHICS BY SARAH HASSAN



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The Match's Thanksgiving Table: From Beginning to End

by Sarah Catalano

The First Thanksgiving Story

After arriving in Massachusetts, a group of about 100 English colonists (now known as Pilgrims) suffered a harsh first winter aboard their boat, the Mayflower. Many died of exposure or disease.

In spring of 1621, the remaining colonists came ashore and were greeted by an Abenaki

Native American named Samoset, who spoke English. Together, Samoset and another Native American named Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to survive in their new environment — passing on their knowledge of poisonous versus helpful plants in the area, as well as how to grow corn, catch fish, and extract sap from maple trees.

When the harvest proved suc-

cessful in autumn of that year, the governor of the newly formed colony invited some of their Native

allies to share the feast. The feast lasted three days, featuring foods like venison, wildfowl, shellfish, berries, fruits, pumpkins and squash.

Why is Thanksgiving celebrated by everyone?

The Plymouth colony celebrated Thanksgiving again in 1623. After that, many New England settlements adopted Thanksgiving practices. After the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, first President George Washington declared a day of Thanksgiving. Multiple presidents after him also declared nationwide days of thanks, while individual states held their own celebrations with

varying dates.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, narrowing celebrations

down to one day: the best Thursday of November.



How has it changed since the first Thanksgiving?

While original and modern-day Thanksgivings share the tradition of bountiful feasting, the actual foods have shifted since the first feast in Plymouth. For example, while pie is a staple of modern-day celebrations, Pilgrims most likely would not have had any baked goods due to their low supplies. Additionally, traditions like the

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade show how the holiday has become more flamboyant since the first occasion.

Regardless of how it is celebrated, Thanksgiving serves as a remembrance of one of the few positive interactions between early settlers and

Native Americans. The holiday is also a reminder to people across the country — a reason

to be thankful for what one has.

THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

- Today, the heart of Thanksgiving is a shared meal with family.

- Turkey is the representative food of the holiday, along with mashed potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce.

- It is common for families to spend time watching and playing football together.

GRAPHICS BY LILY QUARTERMAINE



Rallying the Run Club

by Courtney Nelson

When the cycle of testing and classwork every day gets to us, it can affect grades, relationships, and general well-being. Sometimes having a break from the tedium and never-ending impact of schooling can actually be beneficial.

When students feel overwhelmed, it's essential for them to take a break and center themselves. When little time is given for students to socialize and exercise between studying, writing essays, and taking tests; students have a limited and harder time getting to exercise and have an opportunity to spend time with friends in school.

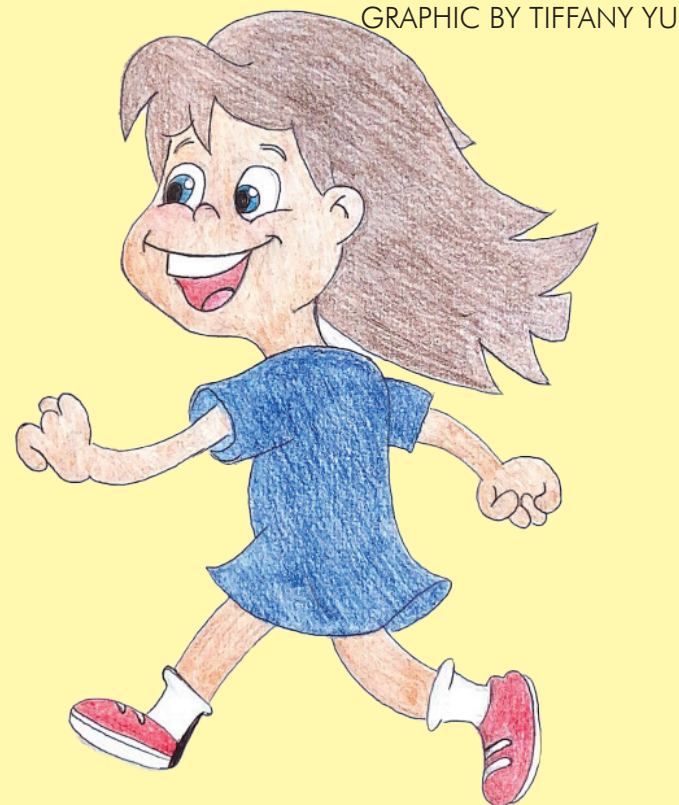
Run Club gives students an hour window to take a break and do something active. Kids walk or run and their progress is monitored and tallied, certain goals can be met throughout the year through a personal quota.

"Run club is about getting together with the common cause of exercise and making friendships along the way. You don't have to run, you can walk the track, listen to music and talk with friends," Pine View Aide Lenny Gross said.

Run Club started with fourth-grade teacher Amanda Simon, as a way to get younger students active and learn about

their fitness goals for the future. It has continued for four years with leadership of Gross and fifth-grade teacher Cynthia Wozniak. It's an idea that's only been implemented at Pine View, and with many students arriving early, it helps give kids a way to get outside with proper supervision.

According to Gross, run club is a supportive community of staff and students where everyone pushes each other to work harder and set new goals. Goal setting can lead to interest and maintenance in fitness later in life and proves how possible it is to workout and include working out at any time even



The students who are part of Pine View's very own Run Club pose for a photo on the track.

Run Club meets every morning from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY LENNY GROSS

with busy schedules.

Many students participate in activities after school; a lot of them play in organized sports like tennis, swimming, baseball, football, and dance. The extra exercise keeps kids mentally and physically well. Regular exercise is great for boosting energy and reducing tiredness. When one works out, oxygen and nutrients travel to the heart and lungs, which improves the cardiovascular system, endurance, and overall stamina. So, by getting a chance to exercise early in the morning, students may feel more energized throughout the day, which can help motivate them for other activities.

In addition to increased energy and health benefits like a better cardiovascular system, better endurance, and stami-

na; running and working out can even improve grades and help students find the best way to learn in school. According to the University of British Columbia, researchers found that "regular moderate aerobic exercise increased the size of the hippocampus," a part of the brain responsible for memory. Exercise helps to reduce stress, increase students' attention spans, and can even heighten creativity.

"There is of course the exercise. Doing exercise in the morning dramatically improves academic performance, studies have shown," Gross said.

Starting the school day right each day by going for a morning run, creates long term benefits. Friendships can be improved and one can learn more about health.

Breaking Boards and Barriers

by Kai Sprunger

Through the challenges of COVID-19, third-grader Akira Patel continues to break boards and kick pads in Taekwondo.

Patel has been doing Taekwondo for a year and a half and plans on continuing until she reaches black belt. Currently she is a purple belt at ATA (American Taekwondo Association). Right now, Patel is practicing form segments, one steps, breaking boards and kicking pads.

Normally, Taekwondo would be taught in a studio, but because of COVID-19, Patel is now learning Taekwondo online through Zoom and finds that

she misses in-person classes. She misses her instructors and how she could see and learn better.

Patel's older brother, sixth-grade student Patel, inspired her to start doing Taekwondo. Yash has also helped her a lot in Taekwondo, whether it's during class or after class.

"We would teach each other form segments when we got home," Patel said. "Last time we were in-person, I was with my brother; when I wouldn't understand stuff, I'd ask him."

Patel and her brother used to go to class together until recently when her brother reached blue belt.

Not only did her brother inspire her to begin Taekwondo, but Patel's father and uncle did as well. They both got black belts in Taekwondo, which made her aspire to earn a black belt, too. Patel misses her brother but still enjoys doing martial arts. She encourages others to start doing Taekwondo.

"Have courage in yourself," Patel said, advising others interested in starting Taekwondo.

Patel's mother Nehal Patel is glad to have her daughter in Taekwondo and encourages people, especially kids, to do the sport.

"Taekwondo is a good skill for kids to have and it will help



Patel proudly poses with her brother and inspiration Patel. They both attend the American Taekwondo Association.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NEHAL PATEL

them in the future with security and protection," Nehal Patel said.

Even though doing Taekwondo on a Zoom call may be different and a bit more compli-

cated to understand, Patel still enjoys Taekwondo and, taking her own encouragement to heart, wants to continue until she reaches her goal of a black belt.



The Match's very own Editor-In-Chief, Grace Johnson, was a scholastic cheerleader when she was in middle school. She can be seen raising school spirit by smiling and waving to passing cars on Game Day.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY GRACE JOHNSON

Is Cheerleading a Sport?

by Eva May Elmer

First of all, let's make one thing clear. There are multiple different types of cheerleading, and no, cheerleading isn't just about cheering on a school football team.

There are four different types of cheerleading: scholastic, all-star, recreational and pro.

Scholastic cheerleaders are what first comes to mind when one thinks of a "cheerleader." They cheer for other sports teams and raise school spirit. There are junior varsity and varsity teams depending on grade and skill level. Since they represent the school, academic success (or lack thereof) is factored into the team member selection.

All-star cheerleaders compete through tumbling, stunts, gymnastics and dance all in the

same sport. They don't cheer for a team; they are their own team. They focus on practicing for performances/competitions and usually go through a lengthy tryout process. It can also be expensive, as parents have to pay for uniforms, traveling fees, etc.

Recreational cheerleaders cheer for sports in leagues and are often run by parent volunteers. Whoever signs up makes the team and has the opportunity to compete in competitions. There is little to no cost for participation and other cheer teams often pull potential members from this type of team.

Pro cheerleaders are more entertainment and dance based than any of the other types of cheerleading. It's a difficult process to become part of the team: your ability to dance, perform

and communicate factors into the selection process. They get opportunities to travel and perform, but get paid a small amount for the work they put in. Most cheerleaders in this type of team have another job and use it to help them get into the entertainment field.

The official definition of a sport, according to Oxford Languages, is "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment." This shows that any form of cheerleading is a sport as all four of the types require physical exertion and skill. Not all of the cheerleading types compete but they all provide entertainment and/or spirit. Cheerleading is as much a sport as football is, just in a different way.

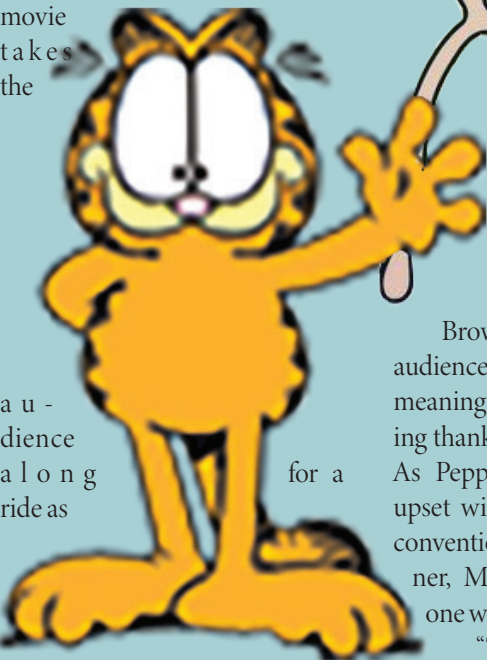
Which Thanksgiving flick reigns supreme?

The Case For Charlie Brown

by **Kasumi Wade**

Although there are plenty of Christmas movies at one's disposal, it is often difficult to find similar programs regarding Thanksgiving. Even with only a handful to choose from, any movie with Charlie Brown and the Peanuts cast is sure to be a holiday delight, and the 30-minute cinematic masterpiece of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" is nothing less.

The movie takes the



audience a long ride as

Peppermint Patty invites herself and her friends, Marcie and Franklin, to Charlie Brown's house for Thanksgiving dinner. Charlie Brown had plans to eat at his grandmother's house, but does not want to leave his friends without a proper Thanksgiving feast.

With Snoopy and Woodstock as his sous-chefs, Charlie

Brown constructs a delicious meal of toast, popcorn, pretzels, and jelly beans. Peppermint Patty had bigger expectations for dinner, though, which starts a quarrel between dinner guests. Charlie Brown's grandmother saves the day when she invites them over for a more traditional turkey dinner at the end of the movie.

Through Charlie Brown's adventures, the audience is taught that the true meaning of Thanksgiving is being thankful for your loved ones. As Peppermint Patty becomes upset with Charlie Brown's unconventional Thanksgiving dinner, Marcie enlightens everyone with a meaningful speech. "Those early Pilgrims were thankful for what had happened to them, and we should be thankful, too. We should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by 'Thanksgiving,'" she said.

The Peanuts' creative production not only leaves the audience at the edge of their seats, but gives an insightful and sympa-



thetic look into what it means to be truly thankful.

Even with its comedic and heart-warming twists, the movie is still able to depict a brief history of Thanksgiving. Through Linus' speech, the audience is informed of Wampanoag chief Massasoit, Governor William Bradford, Captain Miles Standish, and other important figures that have shaped the gratifying holiday. As it is easier to learn through a memorable movie, anyone watching the movie will be sure to remember the historical facts surrounding the first Thanksgiving.

"A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" has rightly earned its position as a Thanksgiving tradition for many and as an American holiday staple, and what it means to be truly thankful.

GRAPHIC BY LORA RINI AND MAHITHA RAMACHANDRAN

The Case For Garfield

by **Odelia Tiutyama**

Move over Charlie Brown, everyone's favorite grumpy (and hungry!) cat Garfield is the perfect way to unwind after stuffing yourself with turkey this Thanksgiving. While the Peanuts serve up a stomachache of a feast (including buttered toast, pretzel sticks, popcorn, jellybeans, and ice cream), Garfield is forced to go on a diet during the worst possible day of the year.

In the short film 'Garfield's Thanksgiving,' Garfield's famous sarcastic personality distinguishes it from any other holiday special. The lesser-known film follows Garfield as he demands a large breakfast only to remember that he has a visit to Dr. Liz Wilson, where he is unwillingly put on a diet. Garfield's owner, Jon, however, is extremely excited and invites Liz to Thanksgiving dinner as he gets help from Grandma Arbuckle while Garfield moans in distress over his diet.

Humor categorizes the entire movie as Garfield complains of hunger, and Jon stresses over his dinner outfit. However, the film is genuinely tied together in a touching moment when everyone is at dinner, enjoying their meal with a quality song playing in the background.

On the other hand, not only does 'A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving' use language such as "blockhead," "idiot," and "stupid" during a time dedicated to thankfulness, but the movie sends mixed messages about the true meaning of the holiday.

Beginning in the opening scene, Lucy is incredibly mean to Charlie Brown. Then, Peppermint Patty has a meltdown, and Snoopy refuses to share any of his dinner with the other Peanuts. The film is not an accurate depiction of Thanksgiving and only shows negative characters!

'Garfield's Thanksgiving' is the superior Thanksgiving program. It makes way for many good laughs along with subtle yet meaningful sentiment towards the holiday. The animation also beats 'A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving' with a colorful background and keen attention to detail. The only lesson that Charlie Brown got across is that it is always helpful to have an adult or intelligent friend bail you out of trouble. Garfield, on the other hand, demonstrates the importance of relationships and good humor. For a great laugh, be sure to check out the film 'Garfield's Thanksgiving' and prepare for the upcoming 'A Garfield Christmas.'

Should Kids Get More Freedom?

by **Isabella Gaskill**

Everybody knows someone with parents who are a little too overprotective. Maybe you have a friend whose parents don't let them go to sleepovers or do things on their own; maybe you are that friend.

Every parent hopes to raise independent kids who are able to look after themselves as teenagers and adults. But strict parenting comes with a cost. How can kids be expected to mature without allowing some independence during childhood?

There is a fine line between strictness and leniency, and extremes on either end can have negative effects. A study conducted in 2015 by Makassar State University shows that parents who are positive and openly communicative with their kids are most likely to raise kids who can be independent. It also shows that parents who are authoritarian or lack discipline are likely to raise kids who cannot be self-sufficient later in life. The study illustrates how being both too strict and too lenient negatively impacts parenting.

There are also cultural differences when it comes to raising independent children. In Japan, for example, people are raised to be independent from a very young age.

Japanese kids as young as

5 and 6 are expected to be able to, by themselves, get ready and

of independent thinking is almost unheard of in the United

of sending their kindergartener on public transportation

to some, we can still learn a lot from this attitude toward independence. By allowing children to do things independently, parents are also giving them the freedom to learn how to make decisions for themselves early on, a skill that will be vital later in life.

Of course, there are differences between American and Japanese culture that means we can't emulate Japanese parenting exactly. Japan has a very low crime rate, more accessible public transport, and a different community feeling towards raising kids.

Despite these cultural differences, we can still adopt certain aspects of Japanese parenting into American parenting, such as allowing young kids to be responsible for getting themselves ready for school in the morning.

Parenting is a very personal matter. The amount of freedom granted to kids is something that will differ from family to family, but a parenting style that encourages independence has, across the board, led to more self-sufficient adults, making it something to be considered by all parents. So while you don't have to push your kids out of the nest right away, allowing them a certain amount of independence can only help them in the long run.

INDEPENDENCE IN JAPAN

The Japanese proverb "Kawaii ko ni wa tabi o saseyo" means "Send the beloved child on a journey." This means that children should take on challenges and learn to take care of themselves early in life.

Japan has a low crime rate and a culture of collectivity around raising children.

The popular television show Hajimete no Otsukai challenges children as young as two or three to run errands alone while a camera crew follows them.

take public transportation to school. This early enforcement

States. Many American parents would shudder at the thought

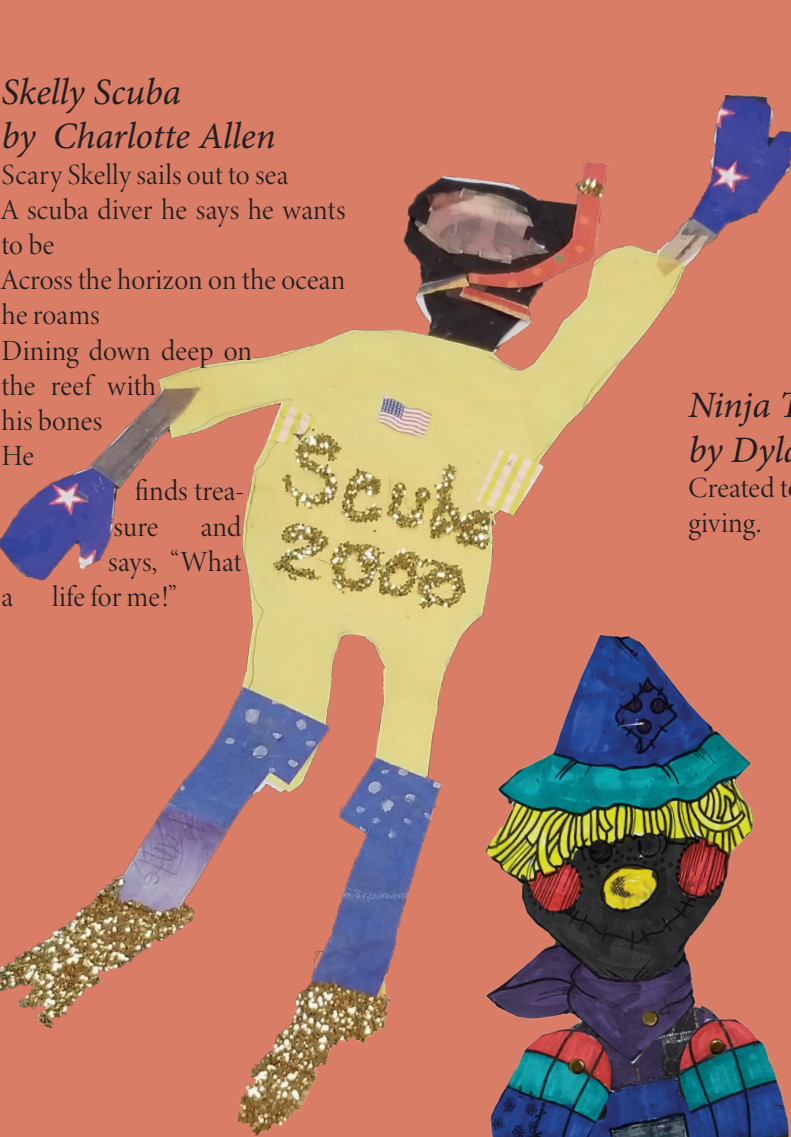
alone. Even though this type of parenting may seem shocking

GRAPHIC
BY ISABELLA
GASKILL

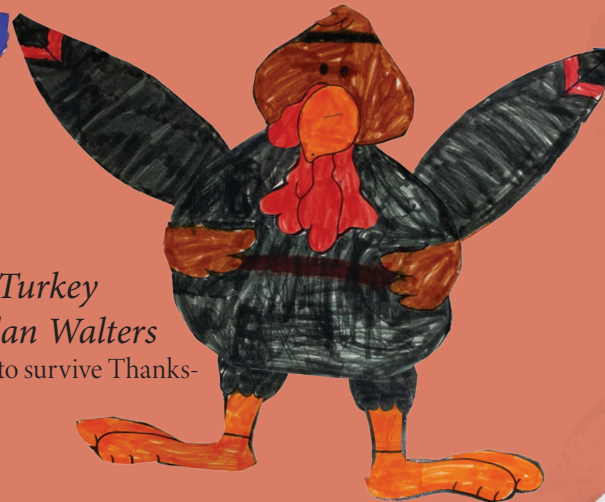
Hearty Holiday Artwork

Student Submissions from Misty Tucak's and Joann Hershberger's Second-grade classes.

Skelly Scuba
by Charlotte Allen
Scary Skelly sails out to sea
A scuba diver he says he wants
to be
Across the horizon on the ocean
he roams
Dining down deep on
the reef with
his bones
He
finds trea-
sure and
says, "What
a life for me!"



Ninja Turkey
by Dylan Walters
Created to survive Thanks-
giving.



Skelly Acrobat
by Michael Masica

Scary Skelly loves
acrobats
She flips cartwheels while
she chats
She practices hard every day
And hopes to be on Team
U.S.A
To win a medal upon the
floor mats!



Scarecrow
by Rayna Shah
Created to celebrate
Halloween, the Fall Parade,
and Hershberger's Birthday



Ice-skating Skelly
by Juhi Rajeev

Ice-skating Skelly Loved to play
She Practiced on her skates
every day
A competition
she wanted to
claim
So she can be known with her
great fame
And recieve accolades from
beautiful boquets



What kind of things are in the Mariana Trench?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by fifth-grader Leo Tondryk

by Tiffany Yu

Fun (or not so fun) fact: the Mariana Trench is so deep, the pressure can dissolve a person's bones! The Mariana Trench, located in the Philippines off of the shores of the Mariana Islands, is a crescent-shaped trench that goes about 32,600 feet down.

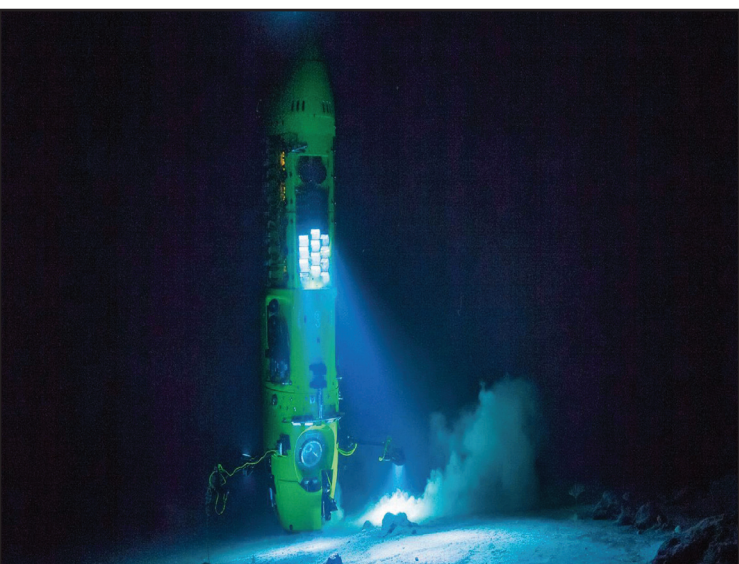
The Challenger Deep, located in the Mariana Trench, is the deepest point of the ocean in the entire world. Only three people have ever had the opportunity and resources to go to the bottom of the Challenger Deep.

The most recent dive was performed just last year by Victor Vescovo, who broke the



PHOTO BY TIFFANY YU

world record for the deepest dive in history. The title had previously been held by widely renowned film director and environmentalist James Cameron, who dove the same spot back in



Cameron's submersible, the Deepsea Challenger, is hoisted from the depths with a winch. Cameron helped design the vessel which he used for his voyage back in 2012.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

2012.

Prior to both of these men's journeys, very little was known about what lurked within those depths. Were there ginormous fish that could swallow a ship whole? Eels with forty eyes? Sharks with legs? Well, not exactly.

There is some very unusual life, but not in the way people may think. First, they found a completely new species of shrimp known as stylodactylid shrimp. It may not be as 'cool' as an eel with forty eyes, but the feeding behaviors in these shrimp had never been seen before, making it a very cool discovery in the world of marine biology.

In addition to these unique shrimp, one can also find invisible sea cucumbers and supergiant amphipods, which are shell-less crustaceans. The typical amphipod is usually only a few inches long. Supergiant amphipods are twenty times as large!

Some of the more bizarre fish that can be found include snailfish, which suck their prey into their mouths like a vacuum, and anglerfish, a frightening bony fish that uses bioluminescence to draw in and capture its prey.

Not many sea creatures can survive the arduous conditions of the bottom of the Mariana Trench, but one pervasive



The Mariana Trench is located off the shores of Asia. The Mariana Islands, however, are a territory of the United States.
GRAPHIC PROVIDED BY MAPS OF WORLD

man-made creation continues to push the boundary over and over again: plastic.

According to the National Geographic, while on his record-breaking dive, Vescovo observed a plastic bag drifting through the current. Despite the unfortunate nature of the event, Vescovo's discovery simply proves how permanent and persisting people's carbon footprint is on our planet.

In the end, even with the new found discoveries of a

variety of unique and bizarre creatures, the Mariana Trench remains widely unexplored. There are many things that remain unknown, not only about the creatures found in the Mariana Trench itself, but also about the Mariana Trench itself. Over time, with the further development of technology, hopefully the depths will continue to be explored and new information about the beautiful and mysterious Mariana Trench will be discovered.

The Mask of a Turkey Lover

by Leo Gordon

Fourth-grader May Flour is a self-proclaimed turkey-lover. For years, Flour has found joy not only in the excitement, chatter, and optimistic nature of the Thanksgiving season, but also in her favorite thanksgiving meal — the turkey.

The obsession, Flour's mother, Bukweet Flour, claims, is not a recent development. As a four-year-old, Flour reportedly entered her dining room early on Thanksgiving morning before devouring her family's entire Thanksgiving Turkey, six servings of mashed potatoes, and two pumpkin pies.

"For some reason she just loves Thanksgiving," Bukweet Flour said. "It's an obsession. We thought about therapy for a while, but no one would take her."

Last month, out of respect for her daughter's obsession and in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, Flour purchased her daughter a turkey face mask for school.

"It's the little things," Flour said, "that bring joy to our lives. She saw the mask at Target one day and fell in love with it, so I wanted to do something nice for her."

As school returned in November, Flour decided she was ready to wear the mask to school — her way of paying homage to the start of the Thanksgiving season. Walking out the door, she thanked her mother for the gift and made her way to the bus stop.

Upon arriving at school, Flour heard a strange noise. It was something she had never heard in real life.

"Was that- was that a gobble?" Flour said. "I must be imagining things."

Dismissing the noise as a figment of her imagination, Flour walked into the classroom, taking short, hesitant steps toward her seat. After arriving in class, the sound stopped.

Relieved, Flour listened to her teacher, Cornew Copia, as he spent ten minutes describing his favorite part of Thanksgiving Dinner.

"The end all, be all is the turkey," Copia said. "They are just truly delicious. In fact, I could really go for one right now."

In that moment, a high-pitched, bird-like "NO!" echoed throughout the room as the entire classroom jumped in shock.

Flour's mask, the turkey mask from Target, had just screamed at the teacher.



Warning: be careful when buying your masks! May Flour found her mask yelling out in the middle of class!
GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA HANSEN AND MADI HOLMES

The greatest mask-fits around the country

We are living in scary times. However, we are living in a time of revolutionary fashion, with the new accessory, masks, being sported by people around the globe! Here are some of our favorite fits.

So cute!

Paw-don me by Isabella Gaskill

To whom it may concern,

These last few months of quarantine have been amazing. As the resident cat of the house, I have been getting more attention than I could possibly ask for. Almost everybody was home all day with nothing to do except laze around and spoil me. So, you can imagine my shock and disappointment when the two kids of the house, Emily and Ryan, were gone when I woke up on August 31.

I figured it was just a one-time thing. They would be back to staying home all day soon, right? How wrong I was. It's been weeks now and they still get up to leave bright and early at 8:30 a.m. and don't come home until 4:30p.m.! And when they get home, they are stuck doing something called "homework" for hours! Apparently, it's for "school." I vaguely remember such a concept from many months ago, but this just seems outdated and unreasonable.

This "school" has severely cut into the amount of attention I get, which is something that I cannot stand for. So naturally, I am writing in to complain. I'm sure that you can understand my plight. According to my calculations, my average daily petting has decreased by at least 50%. I am also getting only 3 treats a day, significantly less than the usual ten. Outrageous!

You must stop taking away Emily and Ryan for so long every day. I get that "school" must be "important" or whatever. But, my needs are also important! Are all five days a week really necessary? Could we not cut it to three or four school days a week? At least let them come home earlier.

I hope that you take my complaints seriously. I'm sure many of my fellow house pets feel the same. I just miss Emily and Ryan and am hoping to come to a compromise that works for both of us.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Mittens



Mittens the cat has come up with rolling on the floor as a coping mechanism to deal with his deep longing to see his owners again. GRAPHIC BY KAI SPRUNGER



Ruff the dog waits for his owners, who have gone to school for hours, and has started crying out of worry. Ruff is a friend of Mittens. GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

Day in the life of a Custodian

by Felicity Chang

At around 5:45 a.m., Raymond McKee starts his day. Getting ready for work, he walks his dogs and makes coffee. After his wife, English teacher Tammy Madden, wakes up, the two get in the car and head to Pine View in time for the school day to start. Breakfast is eaten on the way there, with the usual being pre-made sausage biscuits heated in the microwave.

McKee's work day begins with loading up the sprayer, a sanitizing device, and spraying down the campus while avoiding groups of students congregating before class. He starts off in the Student Union by disinfecting the doors, bathrooms, and water bottle refill station. Next, McKee moves into the commons, wiping down the benches, tables, doors, Building 16 stairwells, and gates surrounding the campus.

He repeats this routine throughout the day for a total of five rounds; the second starts at around 9:15 a.m., the third at 11 a.m., the fourth at noon, and the fifth spans the afternoon. McKee said that his job does get tedious and very warm. However, in the midst of a laborious day, McKee enjoys people watching.

"Seeing kids playing, some things that haven't changed in hundreds of years...Kids get together and they play," he said. "They might play different games but they play. I saw some girls chasing lizards. I saw some girls obviously playing Harry Potter; they were practicing their defense against the dark arts... The

boys still run races against each other; they still try to climb trees. It's just typical kid things, fun to watch. I also chased critters when I was little. I tried to climb trees. I hung out in the woods."

According to McKee, his favorite part of the day is 1 p.m. because he gets to eat with Madden. Moreover, McKee said that he belonged to an "eclectic" myriad of occupations before coming to Pine View, including custodial work at a school in Georgia.

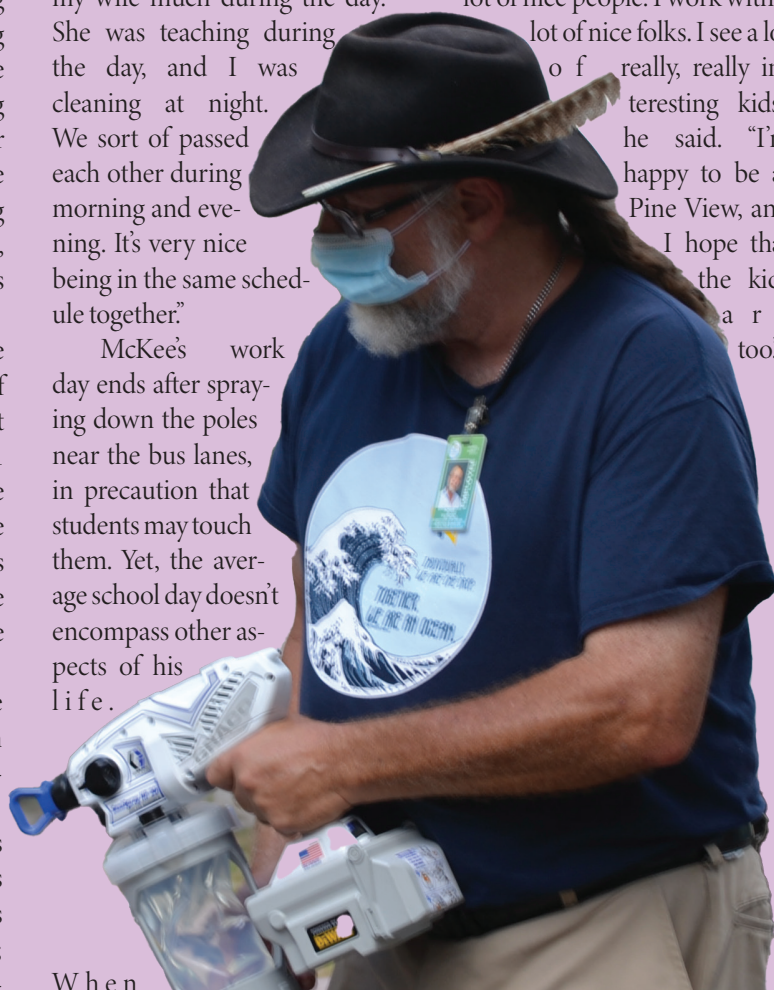
"There, I was an evening custodian," he said. "I didn't see my wife much during the day. She was teaching during the day, and I was cleaning at night. We sort of passed each other during morning and evening. It's very nice being in the same schedule together."

McKee's work day ends after spraying down the poles near the bus lanes, in precaution that students may touch them. Yet, the average school day doesn't encompass other aspects of his life.

are not present on campus, McKee works as a groundskeeper – cutting grass, clearing weeds, and cutting bushes. Around once a week, he is a Dungeon Master in the tabletop game Dungeons & Dragons for his son and his son's friends. In addition, he often wears kilts on the weekends, an ode to his heritage.

Despite only working at Pine View since the beginning of this academic year, McKee has developed a liking for several aspects of his job.

"I'm outside a lot. I meet a lot of nice people. I work with a lot of nice folks. I see a lot of really, really interesting kids," he said. "I'm happy to be at Pine View, and I hope that the kids are too."



When students

PHOTO BY GABRIELE NAVICKIS

[a column]

Choose to be you



Grace Johnson, Match Editor-in-Chief

Hi Pine View elementary! My name is Grace Johnson, and here are some unique things about me: I am the second of four kids, my brother Trey is in elementary school like you guys; I am an enormous fan of The Beatles and Harry Styles; I love adventures from zip-lining through a rain forest or just driving to Target; and I whole-heartedly love to write stories — for The Match, The Torch, and otherwise. It's important to recognize what makes you unique.

"She wears cuter clothes than me," or "I'm not as funny as him," are the types of thoughts sometimes floating through my mind lately. Comparing yourself to others is natural, but it is important to recognize when you are being too judgmental of yourself. Without this recognition, we can forget what makes us unique.

Coming to Pine View, I noticed that kids here celebrate differences, but I still worried that I wouldn't make any friends. I didn't have many friends; I felt lonely and eager to form friendships at Pine View.

The people who I decid-

ed were cool acted one way, so I tried to emulate that. I would constantly compare my outfits, grades, even mannerisms to the people I admired. I was successful in forming friendships with these students, but I was scared to be my true self around them.

I felt like an impostor, and that I had to change my personality and the things I enjoyed because I was so frightened that I would be all alone again.

Eventually, I showed my true personality, and lost friends because of it. We didn't grow apart consciously, though. Instead, I stopped trying to conform my interests to theirs. I stopped forcing myself into a mold of which I didn't fit.

While losing friends sounds scary, it helped me find friends who accepted even the weirdest of my characteristics. More importantly, I found a friend in myself. I didn't like the person who I was with the 'friends' I ended up losing. Now, I no longer fear being alone, because being alone doesn't equate to being lonely. Hanging out with myself can be just as fun as hanging out with friends. Sometimes, I even prefer it that way.

Forming a sense of self and loving your personality doesn't mean you'll never feel lonely again. After recognizing the value we each hold as unique individuals, you will still make judgements and unfair comparisons of yourself to others. The difference is that you can stop listening to them.