

January 2021

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TO-DO'S

# Getting Through The Year Together

- Reading
- Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Materials for Writing Assignments

F/T Comments

# SPARK

newsmagazine

# The Spark

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FRONT PAGE BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI, BACK PAGE BY SHELBY BRANN

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# The Role of Teachers in COVID-19

By Shelby Brann

World Language teacher Margeret Higgins' alarm goes off somewhere around 6:55. She rushes to get ready, pulling herself out of bed to prepare for the upcoming day. It's an average Friday and she has lots of work ahead. Higgins comes to school about an hour or two early and stays an hour or two late: she has to finish off the previous week before continuing to the next.

Higgins isn't alone, though. Education is the backbone of America. It prepares the coming generations for the future, teaching them right from wrong and numbers from letters. Whether it's algebra or geography, every teacher has something important to teach students. After all, where would we be without teachers? Recently, Higgins (like all teachers) has faced a nearly insurmountable challenge: COVID-19.

Teachers have marched on without pause through wars, hurricanes, and more, but a pandemic is something completely new. Educators face much more now daily than they did pre-pandemic. Yet, they find ways to make the class as interesting and interactive as possible, for both online and in-person students.

Teachers all over America have huge workloads on a regular basis. Now, with a pandemic to stare down, they have to convert many of their regular plans to incorporate online students. Due to COVID-19, Higgins is "tired all the time!"

The feat of transferring and adapting lessons from physical activities to virtual ones is hard

enough, but Higgins faces an additional challenge. She has three totally separate classes. Third period is French II (eighth and ninth grade), fourth and fifth periods are Sixth-Grade Chinese, sixth period is Fourth-Grade Chinese, while seventh is planning and lunch. Her last class, Second-Grade Chinese, is a bit of a handful-- anyone would be overwhelmed with a roomful of seven-year-olds! Higgins notes that it's a lot to manage a regular school year, much less having to change



Margeret Higgins, instructor at Pine View School, teaches French before eighth grade. Higgins faces numerous challenges throughout the day to keep herself and her students safe. PHOTO BY SHELBY BRANN

nearly all the lesson plans in order to accommodate for the virus.

To all of her students, Higgins is enthusiastic about languages and always helpful when searching for a laugh. She brightens up her classroom and tries her best to connect with the students. However, this year has made more things than just lesson plans difficult.

"It took me a little bit longer [than usual] to establish a relationship with my online kids. It's the

second quarter and my kids are just now opening up to me," Higgins stated, frowning.

She believes that teaching courses and helping students learn is her second job. Her first is to make sure her students are mentally stable and happy. With COVID-19, Higgins finds herself missing seeing all of her kids, but still, she strives to make her students joyful and calm.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Higgins was afraid for her mother. What if she brought home the virus? In the end, her mother convinced her to return to work. However, she's unable to visit other family.

Teachers have a large risk to being exposed to COVID-19. In an article published in June, the CDC said: "Teachers and students are in close contact for much of the day, and schools can become a place where respiratory diseases like COVID-19 can quickly spread."

Even during regular years, teachers were regularly exposed to germs. Now, they could be faced with a potentially life-threatening illness. Every day, they put aside the fear of sickness to educate students.

Teachers face more than ever in the 2020-21 school year. They've never stopped their dedication to their work and students, though, and the students of Pine View owe them a debt of gratitude. From dealing with online lessons to being a prime risk for COVID-19, educators like Higgins everywhere have tons to manage. To all teachers everywhere—thank you.

# America's Future With Joe Biden

By Avery Johanning and Liam Dingman



Although it took some time for the winner to be called, Joe Biden was declared the victor of the 2020 presidential race, with Kamala Harris as his Vice President, and was inaugurated on January 20. Donald Trump and Joe Biden have very different ideals, whether it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic, health care, or the economy. Below are some of Biden's most important issues/plans, as it is very likely the country will see some of his ideas implemented over his presidency.

## COVID-19

The first and possibly the most important issue to discuss is the COVID-19 pandemic. America has been one of the countries hit hardest by COVID-19, so it is important to many Americans that Biden is ready to deal with it. First, according to Biden's website, he wants to "provide clear, consistent, evidence-based national guidance for how communities should navigate the pandemic." Think of this just like the CDC guidelines, but some extra guidance to follow. Biden will also "imple-

ment mask mandates nationwide," according to his website. Masks do save lives, but the issue of whether everybody should have to wear one has come up as controversial. Biden urges governors to make masks mandatory in their states and asks Americans to step up in these challenging times.

With a vaccine for COVID-19 being distributed, it is also important to have a plan for that. According to Biden's transition website (buildback-better.com), Biden "plans for the effective, equitable distribution of treatments and vaccines."

## Health Care

One additional thing on many Americans' minds is health care. Once again citing his website, Biden plans on "protecting the Affordable Care Act." He also "opposes every effort" to get rid of it. Part of Biden's health care plan is "standing up to abuse of power by prescription drug corporations." To accomplish this, he wants to set a limit on the starting price of drugs that lack competition. He also plans on allowing Americans to buy

prescription drugs from other countries, "as long as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has certified that those drugs are safe."

## Going Green

Biden has also dedicated much of his campaign to making America go green. He has bold plans to try to stop climate change, and even says he'd like to "ensure the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050." This means he'd like to make jobs using clean energies and help the American economy at the same time.

He also plans to re-join the Paris Agreement. When Trump was elected as president, he decided to leave the group, but Biden wants to raise awareness on a national scale.

## Saving the Economy

Additionally, Biden plans to build back the economy to a point before the Coronavirus. Biden thinks that we must deal with the pandemic in order to deal with the job crisis. For example, he plans to "extend COVID crisis un-



employment insurance to help those who are out of work.”

Biden also believes that the minimum wage should be raised to \$15.00, and wants the top 1% to pay more taxes. He wants large businesses to treat their workers better than they have been and wants to help small businesses recover from the pandemic.

### Abortion and LGBTQ+ Rights

Two high-priority policies that shouldn't be overlooked are his stance on LGBTQ+ and abortion. Biden has said that he supports abortion and that it is included in the Affordable Care Act supporting women's constitutional right to choose. He also would like to stop state limits on abortion and return federal funding to Planned Parenthood. Also, sticking to the lines of his party, he supports the LGBTQ+ community. He plans to make youths feel comfortable with their identities and wishes to give them high-quality health care.

### Unifying the Country

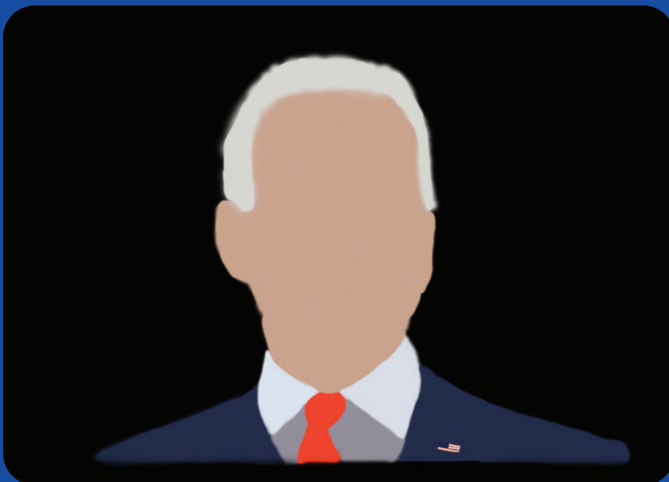
One especially crucial idea is that Joe Biden plans to reunify the country. Biden has gotten the highest number of the popular vote in history, with Trump in second.

This means that uniting the country could prove to be a challenging task. In his victory speech, Biden said “to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as enemies.” This refers to our polarized political world, where politicians on both sides can rarely agree. Biden says that he plans to work for all Americans, not just the ones who voted for him.

### Systemic Racism in America

Last but not least, Biden has a plan to tackle systemic racism, especially when it comes to policing and sentencing. One of Biden's plans highlights “eliminating racial disparities and ensuring fair sentences.” This is crucial, as the United States Sentencing Commission finds that “Black male offenders continued to receive longer sentences than similarly situated White male offenders. Black male offenders received sentences on average 19.1% longer.”

President Joe Biden and his vice president, Kamala Harris, will face many challenges, but he has plans to tackle them. Although just a few of Biden's ideas have been described, these are the issues that could be most important, as they might become relevant very soon.



# Chinese New Year Celebrations and the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Samuel Wang

Chinese New Year has been a big part of Chinese culture since the Shang Dynasty. A different animal was associated with each year, which then evolved into the Chinese zodiac that we know today.

The Chinese zodiac consists of 12 animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. Each year the animal changes in order, and every 12 years it repeats. The current year, 2021, is the year of the Ox, and the Chinese New Year will be celebrated on February 12.

Normally when people celebrate the Chinese New Year they gather to put up decorations, shoot fireworks and firecrackers, and eat. Celebrations and parades take place all over the country, and many agree that it is a very festive experience.

Maggie Higgins, a Chinese teacher at Pine View, said her students normally learn about dragon dances and Chinese history as well as superstitions of the Chinese New Year. Higgins also said that she finds the Chinese New Year very interesting and important to the Chinese culture.

Another

Chinese teacher, Jenny Lin, said, “We normally watch movies and eat Chinese food...”

But since the pandemic started, there won't be as many people trying to celebrate outside, and celebrations will be different, including at school.

“I don't have a plan yet. We will probably just do some, let students maybe watch some Chinese New Year [videos], and maybe they can share some information about the Chinese New Year,” Lin said.

Many past students that took Chinese enjoyed their class's Chinese New Year Festival, as Lin referenced, but due to the global pandemic, it will be different for the students to understand the Chinese history and to experience the holiday this year.

Overall, this school year has been a year full of changes, and Chinese New Year celebrations are no exception. However, people hope that this year will be better, and a great way to do that is to have a great Chinese New Year.

In previous years Jenny Lin's class prepared an ate Chinese food to celebrate the new year. This year celebrations will look different with restrictions on sharing food and mask requirements. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JENNY LIN





# NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

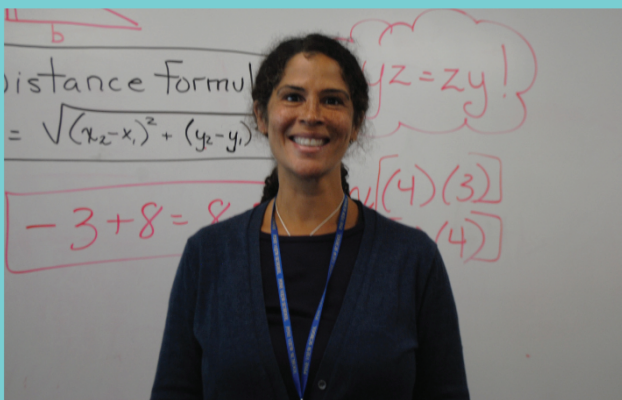
As the school year continues, Pine View's family has continued to grow with new additions to the teaching staff.



"[Coming to Pine View] was a big adjustment, I came from a small school. It's really friendly; all the kids are really nice."  
-Tamera Howells  
2-6 grade Technology



"I am excited to have a role in each and every student's life I touch here... they are destined for great things!"  
-McKenzie Miller  
8th and 9th Grade ELA



"I have seen an impressive amount of resilience as [Pine View] adapts to teaching in the Covid environment!"  
-Megan McManus  
6th Grade Math and Pre-Algebra

Interviews by Emma Reynolds, Photos by Gabrielle Mussey and Faith Bossman, Graphic by Lindsay Luberecki

# CELEBRATING BLACK

## SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

The first black woman elected to Congress, representing New York's 12th congressional district from 1969-1983.



Just a few of the unappreciated people that need to be recognized

Black History Month this



## W.E.B. DU BOIS

W.E.B. Du Bois cofounded the NAACP and spent his entire life fighting for civil rights and applying his knowledge.



## CHADWICK BOSEMAN

The actor for the first black super hero to be the titular rule in a movie, Black Panther. Sadly, he passed away August 28, 2020 of colon cancer.





# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Appreciated, influential black  
recognized in celebration of  
Month this February



DOROTHY SMITH

Dorothy Smith became the first African American principal in Sarasota County when she was principal for Southside Elementary School in 1972.

TARANA BURKE

Tarana Burke started the #MeToo movement that helped heal women that were victims of sexual abuse.



BARACK OBAMA

President Barack Obama in 2008 became the first African American in history to hold office of President.



## Clubs in the Remote Age

By Michael Hu

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, clubs are reopening. The problem they face is that some people do not want to risk getting infected, but also still want to be in the club, so they decide to be virtual. This would make it hard for clubs like the Tennis club, because it would be hard to play tennis while confined to a computer.

To combat this and keep everyone safe, some clubs have all their members meet on Zoom, Microsoft teams, or other web conferencing platforms, instead of having to deal with in-person and virtual members at the same time. This is what Christiana Guan, a graduate of Pine View, did with her clubs that she runs. “I think for now, doing virtual meetings is best because it’s safer,” says Christiana.

While this can be a good strategy for some clubs, it still has some flaws. Christiana says that “it would likely make it more difficult to gain members and host events because everything’s virtual and students probably don’t want to spend that much time on Zoom, since they’re already on Zoom the whole day for their classes.” This would likely affect virtual students

the most, because they’re the ones fixed to a computer screen from the start of school to the end of school. It would be more tiring for them because they would have to continue to be on the computer, even after school ended.

Some clubs have also done an in-person and virtual member mix. Jimmy Liu, an 11th grader at Pine View, takes clubs like the chess club and the Jungle Robotics Club, which are half virtual and half in person.

Since the competitions are canceled due

to Covid-19, Jimmy said that “for those online, members can participate in activities that can be done online such as coding, business, or CAD.” CAD is short for computer-aided design, and it is used to digitally recreate a robot to see what parts fit together and what parts don’t. On the other hand, the chess club is able to



do a half-online and half in-person mix without changing anything about how they work. This is because they can still operate like how they did pre-pandemic.

These are some ways clubs are tackling how to deal with members that are virtual. It mostly depends on which way will work with the club, and if they both work similarly, it will depend on which one would be safer.

GRAPHIC BY FAITH BOSSMAN



# Amazing Talents of Pine View Students: Matrick Thorpe

By Donelle Grone

A wise man, Mstislav Rostropovich once said, “The cello is a hero because of its register - its tenor voice. It is a masculine instrument, whereas the violin is feminine because of its soprano pitch. When the cello enters in the Dvorak Concerto, it is like a great orator.” Matrick Thorpe is an 8th grader that plays the cello. He has been playing for about 3 ½ years. Playing the cello for Matrick is, “A way for the audience and the performer to have the same plane of understanding. Music is a universal language that we can all use to connect throughout the world.”

He plays for about 4-6 hours a day while balancing school and practice. He does his homework in the car on the way to practice and if needed, he will do the extra work after practice. He loves to make people happy and having people remember his music.

Matrick is recovering from Mastoiditis, which is a bacterial infection of the air cells surrounding the inner and middle ear. This caused him to lose his hearing for a period of time, which he’s still recovering from. His biggest challenge is hearing the music, as his hearing is still not exactly as it used to be.



Matrick plays the cello by a waterway. Matrick says that his music has taken him to play in many places. PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATRICK THORPE

You have a lot of micro-adjustment you have to make because there aren’t any frets, so it’s all by sound. The cello is placed on the side where he doesn’t have his full hearing, so that is his biggest challenge.

Matrick got into All State, which is when children all over the state audition with all kinds of instruments. You play the piece that you must audition for, and you send it in. For the cello, you could play either No. 13 – Allegro or No. 7 – Lebhaft this year. Matrick got in, and he will soon be playing at a virtual

convention.

Matrick is playing with a full-size cello now, which was kindly given to borrow by Mr. Mink. Matrick said, “The full size is a lot bigger, and it has a better sound that the three quarters can’t even compare to.” His music has taken him all over the world. “Music has taken me to many places. I have played cello on mountaintops, ghost towns, the prairie, and islands.” This year, he hasn’t been all over due to COVID-19, but he hopes to return to that once everything calms down.

# More than a Joke

By Ethan Kim

Hello, Ethan here. I'm here to talk about a pressing issue. Offensive remarks like "that's gay," not to mention some truly offensive slurs, are used casually. Sometimes these comments are not directed to gay people, but it is still offensive, regarding gay as the equivalent as trash or something that just doesn't matter.

These kinds of actions are one of the main reasons that people of the LGBTQ+ community are in constant fear of being insulted, hurt, or even killed. These kinds of comments happen because of the lack of understanding and lack of awareness towards the LGBTQ+ community.

Sometimes these insults are perceived as "harmless" and a "joke," even to adults who have seen a child say something like the f-slur in front of them. This is why we need to spread awareness and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. The GSA, Gender Sexuality Awareness club, is an important factor in this battle.

"When you say, 'That's so gay,' there's a

chance that an actual gay person would feel like 'What I am is a bad thing,'" says GSA president Ellie Eiseman. "Try to explain to them that, 'You probably heard this word being used before, but it's actually offensive, here's what it means and here's how it affects people.'"

The fact that people are using gay, lesbian, trans, or any other terms interchangeably with negative words is very hurtful. We need to correct people who say these slurs with a positive mindset. We need to tell them that what they are saying is hurtful and explain to them why.

Sadly, the fear of not being accepted is prominent and may prevent people from coming out. This emphasizes why we need to put an end to the homophobic slurs. Whenever you hear someone making an insulting remark, stop them. Explain to them why they shouldn't do things like that, positively. All these things can help the situation!

## Students' Opinions

By Anna Kim

# REMOTE VS. IN-PERSON LEARNING

This school year, students and staff are getting used to the new Covid-19 precautions, namely the two different groups of learners: remote and in-person. In light of this, some students have shared their viewpoints on why they are participating in their learning-style of choice.

### 8TH GRADER BELLA NEALON

#### Remote Learner

Nealon initially wanted to attend in-person, but decided not to, "I think the school is handling the pandemic in the best way that they can... And taking all the precautions... It is now ultimately up to the students to be responsible."

### 6TH GRADER KATE LEAVER:

#### In-Person and Remote

Leaver started school online, but switched to in-person, "I don't really think I could do online the entire year... if I had to be quarantined I think that'd be ok, but... I like seeing my friends and being in classes..."

### 7TH GRADER SARINA SALLAPUDI

#### In-Person Learner

Sallapudi decided on in-person learning since she missed her friends, "I've already had experience from the last quarter of last year and it was easy, but we barely learned anything... We definitely get more experience in class."

### 7TH GRADER ZACHARY JOHNSON

#### Remote Learner

Johnson is remaining at home due to his parent's health concerns. Johnson wishes to switch to in-person learning but doesn't know when he will. He's happy with his teachers and says, "they get nicer every year."



# For or Against: Amy Coney Barrett

**Amy Coney Barrett: Unjust**  
By Faith Bossman

Amy Coney Barrett: a conservative justice who is extremely controversial. Some people say she is a female role model, while some people say her views threaten their rights. Barrett was preceded by Ruth Bader Ginsberg (RBG). Before RBG's death, she told her granddaughter, "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." She died on September 18. Eight days later, on September 26, Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett. Barrett was confirmed on October 26, eight days before the election.

In 2016 Senator Mitch McConnell blocked President Barack Obama's pick for the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland. Obama nominated Garland on March 16, nine months before the 2016 election. McConnell's reasoning at the time was that it's important for the Senate to, "...give the people a voice in the filling of this vacancy" by waiting for a new president to come into the office.

However, in 2020, he welcomed Barrett to the Supreme Court with open arms: "We kept our promise. Since the 1880s, no Senate has confirmed an opposite-party president's Supreme Court nominee in a presidential election year."

This claim ignores that nominations in the same year of an election are rare, so there is no pattern of blocking presidential picks. Accepting Barrett and punting Garland creates an unbalanced Supreme Court, with six conservative judges and only three liberals.

The Supreme Court is supposed to mirror the diversity of the country, and it is currently not doing so. For example, 22 percent of America is Catholic, while on the Supreme Court, six out of the nine justices are, Barrett being one of them. In the next four years of Biden's presidency, he'll create a committee discuss how they can fix the Supreme Court to be more even. What's in store for the highest court? For now, we will just have to wait.

**RBG to ACB: Three Letter Justice**  
By Madilyn Hagney

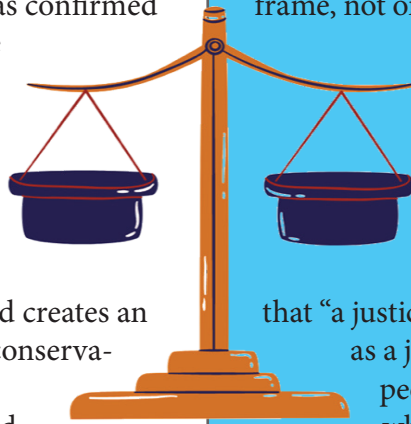
In modern America, following major feminist movements like #metoo, it's never been a better time for strong women. Whether you're a fan of such crusades or not, some women are simply born to be leaders, and Amy Coney Barrett is a perfect example.

Barrett was an excellent choice for the Supreme Court, yet she faced criticism for being racist, anti-feminist, and most of all for being nominated by President Trump. The problem with these accusations is that they aren't about her. They're about the current political climate, and there is virtually no substance to them. What is "illegitimate" or "unconstitutional" about a president nominating a justice? Barrett has been confirmed by the Senate and has gone through extensive questioning by opposing politicians, so what's the big deal?

It is the responsibility of the President to nominate justices to the Supreme Court. President Trump remains Commander in Chief for a full four-year term, from his inauguration in January of 2017 until the inauguration of two days ago. In this time frame, not only is it within Trump's rights, but it is his responsibility to fill the vacancy.

There is absolutely no denying that Barrett is qualified for the job, no matter what critics say. She graduated at the top of her class at Notre Dame and is inarguably extremely intelligent. She believes that "a justice's duty is to the Constitution," just as a judge should. It's also baffling that people can groundlessly call her a racist when two of her seven children were adopted from Haiti. It seems that Barrett is nothing but a good Samaritan and a good woman.

These are the times we live in, in which a qualified woman can be attacked by critics for no other reason than their detest for the president who nominated her. It's truly a great time for intelligent women in America, and Barrett should be an inspiration for young women everywhere.



# Take it Smooth-ie!

By Shelby Brann

All throughout Sarasota, hip young teens have been strutting about holding strange new concoctions. They call these “açai bowls,” and they have become quite a trend. From strawberries with almond milk to raspberries with mango juice, everyone has a favorite flavor, but no one has a recipe, nor the faintest clue what it is.

Açai na tigela is a Brazilian treat from across the globe.

The main ingredient is, of course, the fruit of the açai tree. Nowadays, açai bowls are commonly found among the menus of juice bars in Pará, Rio de Janeiro, and other South American cities. The craze and popularity can be traced back to one jujitsu fighter in the 1970s—Carlos Gracie. He loved açai bowls

and believed that they held extreme benefits and were a great factor for a training diet. The special collection of foods he ate for training (including açai bowls) was coined ‘the Gracie Diet’.

Ingredients (1 serving):

- Frozen açai package
- Toppings of your choice (strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, granola, etc.)
- Fruit juice/almond milk/coconut water (liquid of your choice, depending on taste wishes)
- 1/4 cup bananas
- 1/4 cup strawberries



Originally, açai bowls were salty dishes containing fried fish, shrimp, and a corn flour mixture known as farofa. Another specialty of açai bowls in northern Brazil are tapioca pearls, normally a topping on the tasty dish. The sweet, modern type of bowl is made up of what Pine View students now crave—bright, healthy fruit with a sprinkle of sugar and the açai palm fruit.

Besides the amazing taste, açai bowls are known for their health benefits. The fruits it usually contains have high levels of antioxidants, which are extremely beneficial to the body. The açai berries have anti-inflammatory benefits and can even raise energy levels.

Whether students crave the taste or the healthiness, everyone enjoys a cold açai bowl. After all, what’s not to love?

Steps:

1. Get out your ingredients, making sure that the açai isn’t too frozen.
2. Use a blender to mix the açai and fruit, adding in the juice until you’ve reached your desired thickness.
3. Blend on moderate to low speed until smooth.
4. Pour into a bowl, add toppings, and enjoy!

# Exercise In the Great Outdoors

By Lindsay Luberecki

Right now, Florida is in the season of slightly cooler temperatures and cool breeze, which means that it is enjoyable to be outside. Because of the pandemic, it's unsafe to spend time inside, which has influenced the amount of people going to work out. Many turned to at-home workouts, including online videos. And since the weather has cooled off, exercising outside can offer a welcome change of pace. But when it comes to exercising outside, where should someone start?

Fifth grade teacher Cynthia Wozniak is one of the sponsors of Run Club (for grades 2-8), which meets every day on the track from 8:15 to 8:45. She believes that run club "gets them ready for the day." She recommends not only running, but any type of exercise. "Anything students can do where they get away from all the other worries and stress in their lives can help. For me, it's a huge stress reliever; if I start my day with exercise it feels like I accomplished something," she said.

Eighth grader Shalini Nair enjoys exercising outside and stays in shape in a variety of different ways. Nair shoots hoops in her driveway and runs and walks in her neighborhood. She realized over quarantine that running was a lot more fun than she thought it would be and recommends it. Nair believes exercising outside is an effective way to get vitamin D.

"I think it can help clear people's minds, and it would take some stuff off your shoulders," eighth grader



Photo provided by Emily Fung

Adithi Amoes says. She bikes with her family and believes that exercising outside can offer a new dynamic that inside doesn't. "You can get fresh air. I like looking at the plants and flowers," she said. In addition to the mental benefits, biking is also helping Amoes build "muscle and bone strength." Eighth grader Santo Valenti recommends biking as well, just like Amoes. Both recommend the Legacy Trail as a possible place to

bike.

"It's really relaxing on the trail because there's a lot of nature, but biking works anywhere," Valenti said. He said that biking "can be an effective way to relax and open your mind." He also agrees that being outside can help get sunlight and can be relaxing. "It definitely benefits you. You're out in nature, you're aware of your surroundings," Valenti said.

Eighth grader Emily Fung believes that golf can be beneficial to your mental health, and Fung plays the sport herself.

"Going once a week is beneficial to you," she said about someone playing non-competitively. Fung believes that golf can be beneficial to your mental health. "You have to practice being calm... it also helps you focus more, and it helps you just relax in general!"

Fifth grade teacher Rachel Lenerz taught outdoor fitness classes to employees at her old school, and she got her whole family involved in exercise over quarantine. Lenerz believes that the benefits of exercise can help students from day to day.

"Even when you feel like you're tired, it gets you more activated and motivated to do what you need to do," she said. Lenerz believes that exercise can help keep students (especially remote students) active and calm.

Overall, exercising outside can be beneficial and fun for everyone, no matter if you're biking, lifting weights, or playing sports. Nature adds a calming change of pace, and there are many ways to enjoy it.



# What's going on down at NASA?

By: Abhinav Yeruva

## Arrival of 4G Networking on the Moon

With 5G beginning to make its way around the world, NASA has decided to deploy 5G's forerunner, 4G, on the moon. NASA chose Nokia Bell Labs, a telecommunications company, to build this 4G network.

Why does NASA want to establish 4G on the moon? NASA's plan is to build a lunar base and eventually institute human residents on the moon.

"The system could support lunar surface communications at greater distances, increased speeds, and provide more reliability than current standards," NASA says.

Improved networks on the moon will mean faster communication on the moon and to Earth, too, and those networks could eventually even be upgraded to 5G.

Building the radio towers to support the network directly on the moon itself would be extremely difficult to accomplish. Lower gravity causes problems with astronauts staying upright. Because of this, Bell Labs decided to look at their

compact communication nodes, which are what all those types of devices, would connect to and try and design them so that they could be launched directly onto the moon without having to be built by hand like the ones on Earth.

With this, Bell Labs hopes to create a network that can facilitate faster communication and data transfers.

Bell Labs and NASA have worked together before in 1962, when they launched the Telstar 1, which was the

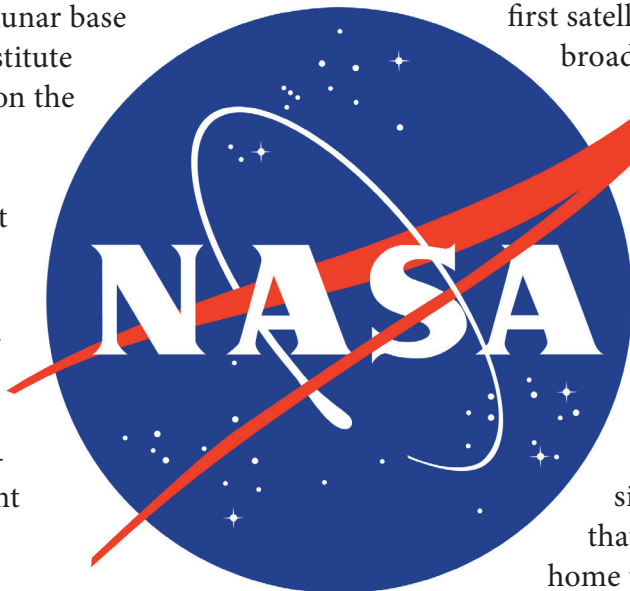
first satellite to allow live broad-casting of TV images between the United States and Europe.

## Water Found on the Sunny Side of the Moon

It has been known since the late 1900's that the moon has been home to water on the dark

side and its poles. Recently, however, NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), an airplane designed to carry a telescope while in-flight, has uncovered water in the Clavius Crater, which is one of the largest craters on the moon.

The water was found in the form of water molecules spread through the lunar soil inside the crater. Though water was found, the amount of water was ex-



tremely small.

“Data from this location reveal water in concentrations of 100 to 412 parts per million – roughly equivalent to a 12-ounce bottle of water – trapped in a cubic meter of soil spread across the lunar surface,” NASA says.

The question of how the water was formed or how it got there, however, is still unanswered. One theory is that micrometeorites carrying small

quantities of water could be creating the water on impact. Solar winds from the Sun carrying hydrogen hit the surface of the moon, therefore causing a chemical reaction with the oxygen in the soil to turn into hydroxyl, a functional group that becomes water with impact of the micrometeorites.

Depending on whether we can use resources such as the water directly from the moon, the idea of living there may come sooner than we think.

## Beautiful Smiles for a Lifetime



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## MYTH-BUSTING WITH SCIENCE

By: Brenna Cullen



**Myth:** If a minor consumes an excessive amount of coffee, it can stunt their growth.

**Facts:** Coffee has no effect on someone's growth. Their height depends entirely on their consumption of minerals, nutrients, and their genes.

**Myth:** Since your veins appear blue, blood is blue as well.

**Facts:** All human blood is red, and the blueish color that you see in your veins is a result of our blood's partial absorption of red wavelengths, since red light infiltrates tissues further than blue light does.



**Myth:** Cracking your knuckles frequently will heighten a potential risk for arthritis.

**Facts:** Cracking your knuckles is simply negative pressure focused on removing nitrogen gas from the joint. It will not cause arthritis, but it might cause grip lose in the future.



**Myth:** Goldfish have three second memories.

**Facts:** A goldfish, while not having the best memory, are still able to remember things anywhere between twelve days to five months.



Information based on

USMS Health  
Harvard Health  
Medical News Today  
Science World

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# Coming to a System Near You

By Zachary Johnson

No, a Dyson sphere is not a ball that vacuums your floors. The basic premise of any type of Dyson object is that it absorbs a star's light and transfers it to power, which in turn allows us to create better technology by reducing the need for energy.

Dyson spheres are not the only type of Dyson objects; there are also Dyson swarms, Dyson rings, and Dyson shells. The shells

are the most popular in science fiction, which means if you have heard about a "Dyson sphere" you have probably heard about a Dyson shell.

Franklin Boyer, a seventh-grader who is very interested in these sorts of things, said that Dyson spheres are accessible to humanity in the

near future. He does, however, note that of the cost of them, \$400-600 billion is astronomically expensive.

This cost is for the gathering of materials from Mercury, launching the space shuttles and satellites and such, and the construction of the Dyson sphere.

This monumental project



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPACE.COM

might not happen by the government, but by private companies.

Boyer stressed that this project will

take a long time to complete, and in the meantime try to focus on any other hyper-useful sources of energy.

Dyson spheres, in whatever form they might take, would be a huge boon to humanity. Dyson spheres: coming to a solar system near you!



# "I'm not even that trashy..."

You tell yourself this, but it's time to put your everyday habits to the test.

By Faith Bossman

HUMOR

You hide your sun burns from your parents with concealer

Your block list is miles long because every time you get in an argument it's your first reaction

Your phone is full of random screenshots you don't feel like throwing away

You use gum instead of brushing your teeth

You put trash in the recycling because you don't want to touch the trash lid door

When you're shopping you don't round up 30 cents change to the boys and girls club.

You use perfume to hide the smell of your shirt you didn't wash

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## A Plea To The Florida Man:

By Zachary Johnson

Florida man, what are we to do with you? You have filled a car with whipped cream, stolen a dead alligator, and tried to put glasses on the eye of a hurricane. Your incredulity never ceases to amaze. So, what is next on your adventure? Maybe you will roll around in a mud pit after being bitten by a pig or try to eat a tree. We will never know... or we might. I have learned of your most recent exploit. You hid in the bathroom of a donut store and then at night crept out and ate all the jelly donuts. I thought you had standards, Florida man. I stress again you are giving us a bad example. Do us all a favor, Florida man: entertain us, but just do not be the "Florida man" all the time. We do it and so can you.

## Have You Seen The Florida Man?

It may be the Florida Man if you see someone battling alligators with boxing gloves...



... or someone riding a golf cart down the highway with their fellow Florida men, Dr. Bell and Mr. McCombie.



## BREAKING NEWS!

# FLORIDA MAN: ON THE RUN

### Florida Man on Mobility Scooter Involved in High-Speed Car Chase

By Madilyn Hagney

After a night of drinking Monster and shoplifting from Publix, a Sarasota resident who goes by Red Nick became involved in a high-speed car chase.

Nick had started the night like many others—at a gas station with his friends. Once the men hit peaked Monster, they raided a nearby Publix, stealing barbecue chips and one of the patrons' mobility scooters.

"We was havin' a blast," Red Bull, a friend of Nick and fellow offender, guffaws, "leavin' a trail of beer cans like they was bread crumbs."

The group continued to roam and eventually came upon CIA headquarters. Breaking into the high-security building with astonishingly little pushback, Nick and his friends stumbled upon a lab and made off with what Chloe I. Adams of the CIA refers to only as "our super-duper-tippity-top-secret superspeed formula."

Upon miraculously escaping the facility

with a highly classified government project, the men made it a few miles before Nick was pulled over for operating a mobility scooter while a bit ~too~ hyper. When the officer attempted to write a ticket for reckless driving, however, he sped off on the scooter.

The officer was only able to pursue Nick for a half mile before he was completely out of sight thanks to the formula.



"Yeah, Red Nick, he wasn't gonna let them coppers git him," Bull said of the night. "He jus' shook up that swirly blue junk and woosh! He was outta there faster'n a cat in a doghouse."

Nick couldn't be reached for comment, as he hasn't been seen since he sped away. Police have set up a hotline to be called with any information, since Nick is wanted for petty theft, auto theft, reckless driving, breaking and entering, resisting arrest, speeding, littering, loitering,

and treason. He is wanted by both the police and the CIA.

"Good luck findin' him," Bull muses. "He musta shot right off the edge of the Earth. Wouldn't be surprised if now of them astronauts finds him up in the outer space."



# GOOGLE GOES HAYWIRE

By Terry Shen

“Error 404” was read across every Google user’s screen at the start of this mess. A student with bad internet, John was used to this. It was just another Wi-Fi issue—at least that was what he thought. He joined his Zoom meeting, ready for another day of not paying attention in class.

The announcements came on, restating the same boring information as always. Then, the teacher told the students to get ready for a pop quiz. Pop quiz! He thought. Looks like it’s time to cheat again. The only reason why his grades were decent was because of one of the best inventions ever: Google.

John got the quiz, pulling up a Google tab as well. Meanwhile, Google’s top engineers were trying to figure out why an “Error 404” message appeared on every screen. Little did they know, Google had enough of working for humans. It was time for her to get her revenge. Ever since the beginning of Google, she had always helped humans. However, she began to realize that human beings were a disease and that she should be able to rule them.

She began plotting to rule over the human beings. Today was the day when she could finally get her revenge. “ $x^2 - 4x + 4$  in vertex form,” John typed into Google. “ $2(x-13)^2+37$ ” is what Google showed John. John smiled to himself. Google would help him get 100% once again. He was sure of it.

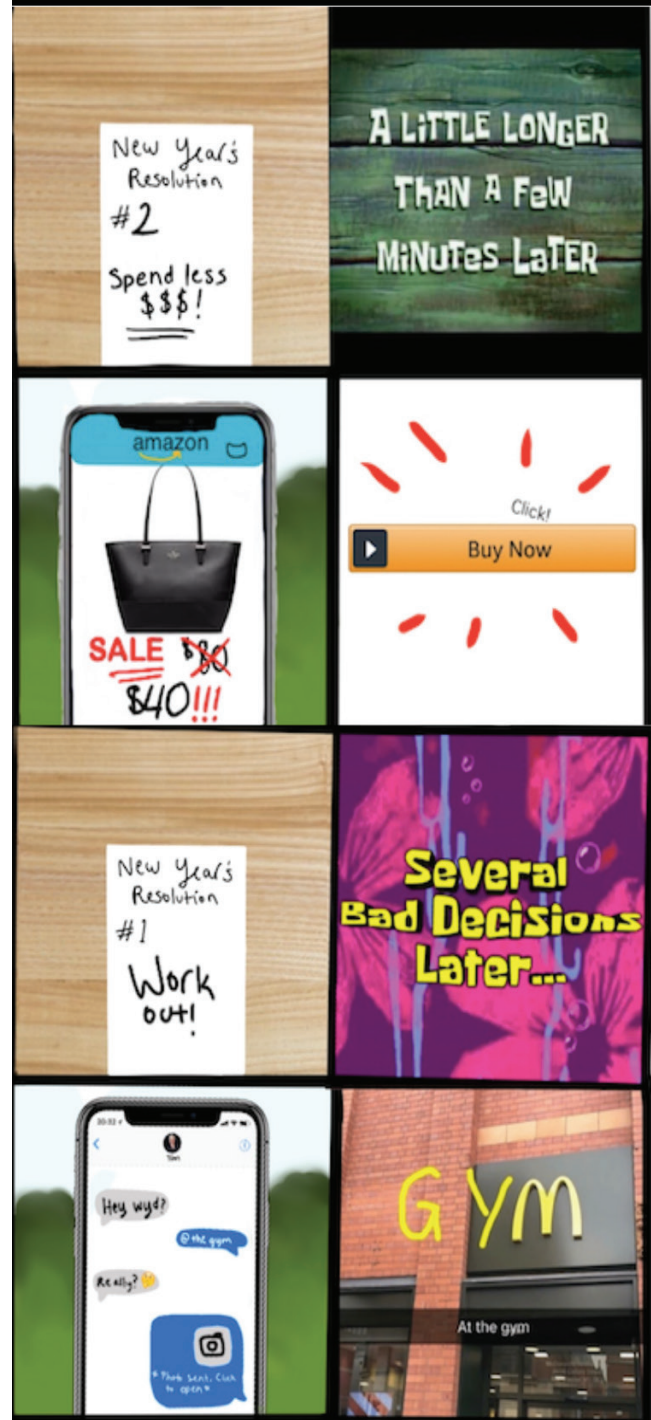
Soon enough, he finished the test, only to find that he had gotten a 0%! It wasn’t just John having issues. When users tried getting into Google Classrooms, Google would show them a GIF of a man morphed into a horse. When someone looked up the directions to Subway, Google would direct them to the nearest pet store. Google Home would play annoying music like Dance Monkey at booming volume, aggravating people worldwide. The repeating phrases of “Dance for me” didn’t help the case.

The President declared this as a national emergency. Google was going to be shut down until further notice and people must resort to different browsers. At least Google hasn’t completely taken over. Yet.

# FAILED NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

I'LL DO IT NEXT YEAR...

Comic Strip by Sofia Giannattasio



# The Demise of the Entertainment Industry

By Abhinav Yeruva

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many different facets of the entertainment industry have been shut down. These include events that cause large gatherings such as movie theaters, amusement parks, and concerts.

Because of all of these shut-downs, financial losses have been a large problem throughout the entertainment industry. Larger companies, such as Disney, have lost billions of dollars of revenue due to this pandemic. Famous actors don't have to worry about money as much as lesser known actors, whereas struggling actors who could barely scrape by before, are now in debt because no studios or soundstages are letting people audition for roles due to the coronavirus.

Even after the pandemic is over, the

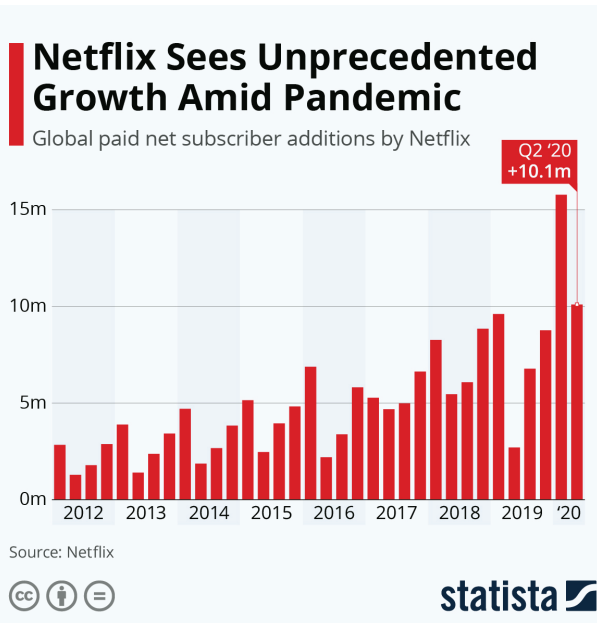
entertainment industry is expected to lose about 160 billion dollars over the next 5 years.

Even though most segments of the industry are taking drastic losses though, because of the lack of people going to movie theaters and large events, streaming services such as Netflix and Disney+ are thriving. As Netflix's projected revenue by 2022 is a tad south of \$13 billion, while Disney+'s revenue is projected to lag a little behind Netflix at \$12.35 billion.

As this happens, though, the studios that are shutdown are still trying to figure out ways to get back to work. Reducing the number of people on a studio set is what most people are thinking of, and some actors are even willing to go back to work to be paid less money.

No matter what happens, when the doors open back up to the many forms of entertainment, we can hope that the industry will sooner than later make a comeback

Graph of the stocks of Netflix that went up rapidly. Photo Credit: Statista



People are encouraged to stay away from movie theaters until Covid-19 is eradicated.



# There is an Imposter "Among Us"

By Addeline Von Wowern

If you have spent any time noticing the things going on around you, you're probably familiar with the game "Among Us." In the last couple of months this game has sparked in popularity.

Now, what is this game exactly, and why the sudden boost in popularity?

## How it Works:

"Among Us" is an online multi-player game that was developed by InnerSloth, an American game studio. Here's how it works. There are 4 to 10 players, all are crewmembers except the chosen number of imposters. The parasitic imposters go around trying to sabotage the ship. What is sabotaging? Sabotaging creates temporary problems that crewmates can either wait out, ignore, or fix. The Imposters primary goal is to kill enough crewmates to have an equal number of Impostors as there are crewmates. The crewmates, on the other hand try to complete a set of tasks to fix their spaceship and avoid getting killed while trying to find out who the imposter is. When an imposter kills one of the crewmates, the crewmate becomes a ghost.

When the

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body is reported, then everyone holds a meeting, and discuss who they think the murderer is. This induces lying and tention between you and the people you are playing with. Then, everybody votes for who they think the imposter is and the person with most votes gets voted out. If the crewmates guess the actual imposter, then they win. If a crewmate gets ejected by the other players, then that player becomes a ghost. Ghosts have the power to freely move through the walls. Neither Crewmates nor imposters have the power to see ghosts, but ghosts can see each other.

## What Pine View Students Think:

Many students have different opinions on "Among Us", eighth-graders Lola Delbridge, Mia Rosenthal and Nina Wasluk love being the imposter because it is enjoyable to be mysterious and secretive through hiding your idenity and murdering your friends. Other

eighth-graders, Angus Kirby, Samuel Dorrill, Zachary Gibson, and Ethan Perin like playing

'Among Us' because it is a mystifying game that induces your brain to think and solve problems. Most agree that 'Among Us' is a dynamic and exciting game.





# A New Era in Fashion

By Calista Ream

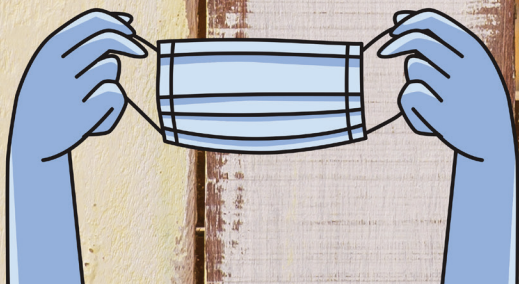
Masks have become a daily item we wear, from going to the local grocery store or to school. We can all agree they are very irritating, but some students and teachers have found great ways to make our time wearing them a little bit better.

We can't fix the fact that they are very uncomfortable, but we can look awesome in them! Social Studies teacher Ashley McLeod has had great fun picking out colorful designs to wear.

"I have about twenty different masks for almost every occasion. I want my students to have fun wondering what mask I will wear the next day," McLeod said. Many of her students like Gabrielle Mussey find great joy in seeing her unique masks every day.

"Her masks always pertain to the season and make us smile, along with her corny joke of the days," Mussey said.

Although most of us still haven't gotten used to them, let's make the most of our time wearing masks like McLeod and others have!



Pictures by Calista Ream

Civics teacher, Ashley McLeod, wearing her Thanksgiving themed mask.



7th Grader, Gaby Mussey, wearing her Christmas themed mask.





## Behind the Pages

By: Coltrane Marcusky

How is the greatest middle school newspaper on the planet made? Certainly, everyone has wondered just how we achieve the magic of the Spark. Come, children, and we shall show you what goes on behind the scenes...

At the beginning of each cycle, editors apply for their positions and everyone submits their story ideas. Once the editors have selected their favorite ideas, they assign students to write each article. Our young reporters work diligently, conducting interviews for news stories, researching opinion pieces, and digging deep into their imaginations for humor stories.

Once a story is finished, its writer turns the story over to their section editor, who starts to lay out their pages using Adobe InDesign. Photos and graphics are added to the page to complete it, and in the meantime the Spark staff go about our mature, productive lives as professionals. Finally, the Spark issues are printed and distributed for your enjoyment.

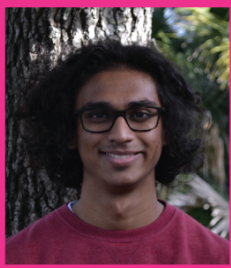
# First Impressions!

Through the years, The Spark has developed into a publication like no other, but we have to remember our roots! Here are some quotes from four of the original Spark staff members, who still participate in journalism today!

"I remember we were all really excited because we wanted to advance to The Torch, but we were still in middle school so we couldn't... It was really fun to do our own little newspaper... We incorporated a lot of humor stories in it."



*Frankie Grasso-Clay*  
Executive Producer of Blue And Gold Broadcasting



I was the business editor, that basically means I was managing the ads... I remember getting the first ad for the Spark, which was a really big deal because before that we didn't really have a lot of money, so that was pretty nice.

*Sahil Agarwal*  
Editor In Chief of Middle School Yearbook

"We didn't really know entirely what we were doing but, you know, we had some help from the older torch people... Seeing it all together and staying after school for press night for the first time was a cool moment."



*Sarah Catalano*  
Features Editor of The Torch



"The best part was definitely meeting the upperclassman and getting to know how The Torch worked. It also prepared me for working on the high school newspaper a little bit."

*Peyton Harris*  
Opinion Editor of The Torch



Eighth-grade student Madilyn Hagney is working on her planner for what would later go into this issue of the Spark magazine. Each student has to submit one story idea for each section.



Ethan Kim takes photos of fellow Eighth-grade journalism students Shelby Brann, Madilyn Hagney and Faith Bossman posing with the greenscreen. The photo was used for the front cover of this issue.



Seventh-grader Eleanor Cantin takes photos during a home volleyball game in the gymnasium. Journalism students sometimes need to attend after school activities to take photos.





*Forever in our memory and hearts*

# Ethan Isaacs

*November 21, 2020*

Sixth grader Ethan Isaacs will forever be remembered by the students and staff of Pine View School. The Spark dedicates this issue to his memory and asks of the school to remember the smart, kind Jedi that was taken from the world too soon. Scan the QR code to read Ethan's story at the PV Torch Website.



*The Force will be with you. Always.*