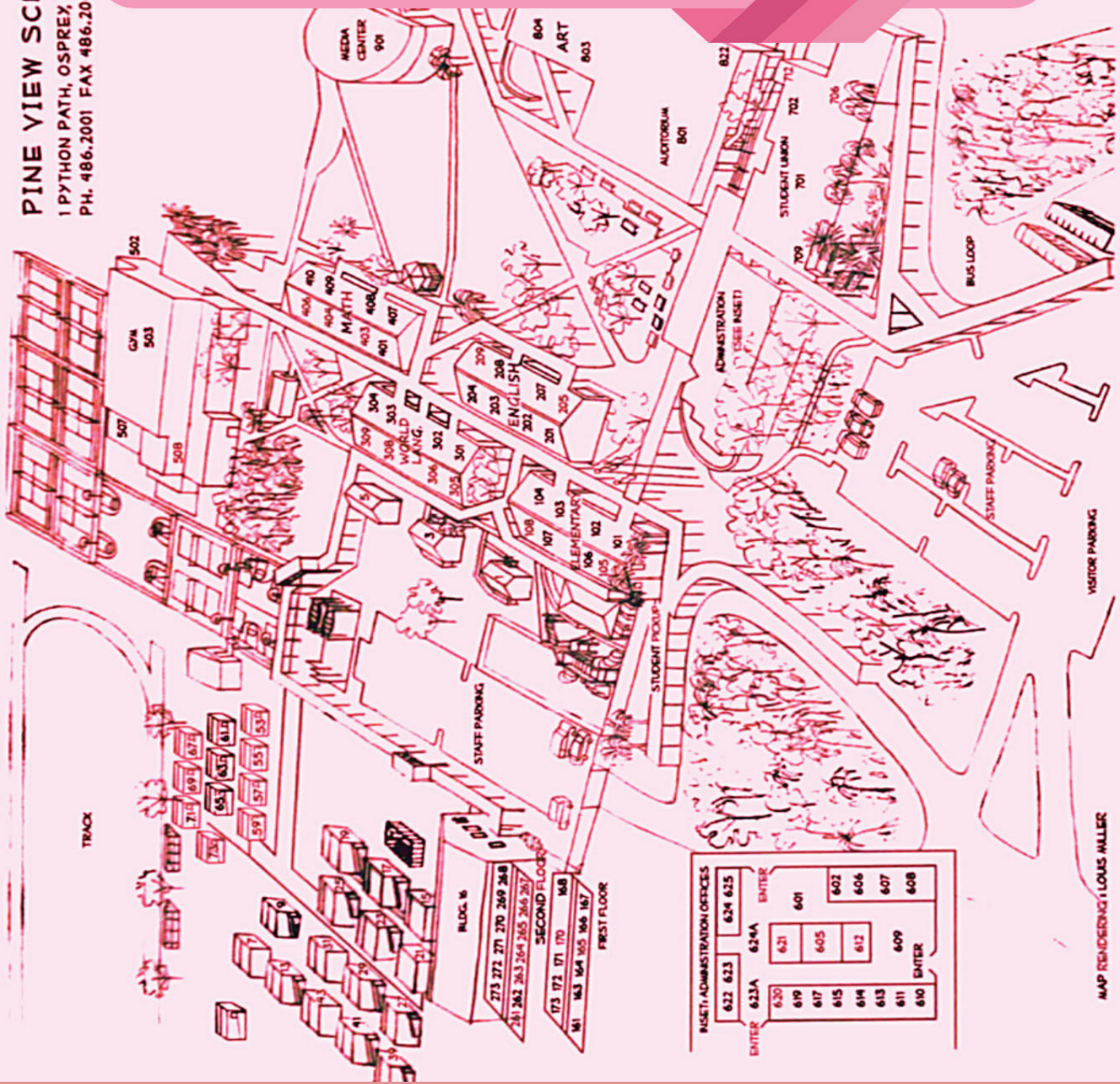


PINE VIEW SCHOOL
 1 PYTHON PATH, OSPREY, FLORIDA 34138
 PH. 486.2001 FAX 486.2042

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NEWSMAGAZINE

Campus map for August/December 2021 Room assignments may change due to projected January occupancy of Building 17



MAP RENDERING: LOUIS MILLER

The Spark

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The Spark Staff

Advisor Christopher Lenerz

Editor-in-Chief Lily Quartermaine

Creative Asst. Felicity Chang

Principal Dr. Stephen Covert

News Editor Sofia Giannattasio

News Asst. Editor Maddie Van Leuwan

Student Life Editor Anna Kim

Student Life Asst. Editors Eleonore

Cantin and Clare Custer

Health and Fitness Sivan Levy

Humor Editor Calista Ream

Opinion Editor Ava Lenerz

Assistant Opinion Editor Robyn Shoenberg

Entertainment Editor Adeline Von Wowern

Asst. Entertainment Editor Kaya Bury

Sci-Tech Editor Sam Wang

Asst. Sci-Tech Editor Tim Nesanelis

Staffers Eighth-grade Journalism Class

Seventh-grade Journalism Class

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Who's Driving This Bus?

The Sarasota County School district seeks more staff as the number of vacant positions unfortunately increases.

By Avery Johanning

Across the county and country, schools are struggling to fill positions. In Sarasota County, it's no different, especially when talking about bus drivers, custodians, and other staff or aids.

In the district, Don Hampton, the Facilities Director of seven years, talks about the difficulties of filling the bus driving and custodial positions.

"There is no doubt about it, we have been losing people. This year is much worse than 2020."

As of now, there are thirty-seven open custodial positions alone.

He mentions that the district is currently negotiating with those unions to try to increase wages. It's hard to adapt to things like this, because there are a lot of different channels to go through, including the finance department and state funding.

"We have a contract with the Sarasota County Teachers Administration that restricts us from doing anything special like [incentives], and we have a set amount of budget, and we have to stay within those guidelines."

In school, there are also effects of the staff shortages visible.

Lindsay Hassler, a grade 5 elementary school teacher, must deal with deficiency at her school Laurel Nokomis. This isn't an unusual scenario either. At Pine View, we can see the shortage of staff in the bus loop, trash cleanup, and substitute teachers.

"I know two of my students who ride the salvation army bus every day had to find other arrangements after it was closed due to Covid-19," Hassler said.

She states that when the bus drivers arrive at school, a lot of pressure is



Schoolbuses in the parking lot after a day of transporting students to and from schools.

Photo from Adobe Stock

placed on them. This may result to it being harder to control all the students on the bus, which can lead to all sorts of trouble for kids and drivers alike.

Bus drivers aren't the only issue. Aides, custodians, and janitors have been low on staff lately as well.

"I don't want to say that schools aren't clean, because they are, we are doing everything in our power," Hampton said. "We are hiring people from all over the place, but we would maybe vacuum every day, but now we are vacuuming every other day."

With everything going on in schools... it's no wonder the district is having a hard time filling positions. As Hampton says, we'll have to wait and see how the district adapts to this harsh new reality.

Flyer notifying of available positions in the Sarasota County school system because of the shortage.

Photo courtesy of Don Hampton

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To help our CUSTODIAL TEAMS

Facilities Services has OT available for Classified Staff at several locations

- Temporary
- 4 hour shifts available
- Collect trash and vacuum



Please contact a Custodial Specialist for further information

Curt Weaver (Zone 2, 4, 5 or 6) (941) 504-0082

Irama Almeida (Zone 1 or 2) (941) 586-4845

FROM THE GROUND UP



By Victoria Mochkovsky

It is easy to look at a nearly finished project and forget about the work that made it all possible. Hundreds of people were crucial to the making of the new building. Assistant Principal Melissa Abela and Principal Dr. Steven Covert, Tandem Construction, and, of course, workers, worked tirelessly to ensure that students and staff are out of the portables by the start of 2022.

Construction Services Department project manager Steve Clark — who has worked in construction for 36 years — has overseen the project.

“We are coming to the end now... A lot of things that we would consider fits and finishes are going in,” Clark said. “I’ve been very fortunate in this project to have the team that I have. There are some contractors where [working together] it is a little

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more painful, but this has been very refreshing. Really no negatives at all, just a great team.”

One key worker is Jose Ortiz, a communication installer. Working

for Tandem for only four months, Ortiz feels “proud coming to work every morning because [he] knows [he is] doing something for the students and the community.”

Jane Capoccia is a vital labor foreman in the construction. She stays strong at work regardless of any challenge encountered.

“Every once in a while, you might bang your head into something, or cut yourself, but that’s to be expected. You just have to bandage it up and keep working,” Capoccia said

“She [Jane] is essential in hoisting materials up to where they are needed. ... So, when deliveries come, Jane will pick up the boxes of materials, lift them up to the second or third floor, and drop them off,” the project manager — Nathan Renner — said.

“We don’t want to have to walk everything up the stairs, so we have left a few windows out on the back of the building that allows [her] to efficiently deliver materials where they are needed.”

Because Jane was new to Tandem Construction, she had to learn many things to properly do her job.

“I didn’t know the first thing about carpentry when I first started. There were a lot of things I didn’t know about dry wall or tile, or even operating heavy machinery, but I can do all that now,” Capoccia said.

Brick and mortar isn’t the only things in the mind of the construction workers, though, the students play a big role in encouraging the construction workers to continue.



“I always tell everybody that I am a firm believer in ‘This is my village, and these are my kids.’ and that I love waking up every morning, coming to work, and doing something that is going to be providing a good quality product for [the students].” Clark said.

“I feel very proud making a new school building for the kids because they are the future and I feel very proud doing something that will help them out.” added Ortiz.

Clark and Renner expect the project to be done by December and have teachers move in on January 1st. The portables should be cleared out by January

11th with current scheduling.

Tandem Construction workers have a lot on their plates, but they don’t forget the people they are doing this for.

“When we opened up the courtyard, somebody took a picture of students using the Legacy Garden. I got it printed out and it’s hanging in my office. I told the team, ‘That right there, that’s money—that’s better than gold to me.’” Clark said.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA MOCHKOVSKY



Welcome to Pine View

By Bryn Nadan

Being the "new kid" is always a challenging way to start off the school year. Having to leave your good friends and former school behind is not easy. Coming to Pine View can be difficult, especially when many students already know each other from previous years.

Pine View's academics differ from many other schools, so students must adjust to this new educational environment. That's why Pine View's Spark magazine encourages you to get to know his year's new middle school students. And for all you new students, we welcome you to participate in Pine View's activities. It also helps to remember that your teachers are always there for you if you ever need help with anything, whether it applies to school or your everyday life, they always welcome questions.



Dr. Covert greeting new students the week before the 2021-2022 School year began.

Introducing Ying Guo

by Kai Sprunger

Asst. Match Editor-in-Chief

On a typical day, Chinese teacher Ying Guo can be found teaching her students through interactive programs like Kahoot! and Quizlet Live. Over the course of 15 years, she has taught in two countries and has enjoyed encouraging the language-learning process.

Guo grew up in China. Her father taught engineering and her mother taught English; Guo's parents inspired her to pursue her own teaching career. Guo's mother taught her English when she was five years old.

Guo majored in English literature at Tianjin Foreign Languages University and earned a master's degree in International Business from Leeds Beckett University. In 2006, she taught English at Tianjin Polytechnic University for seven years.

Then, Guo moved to Florida and began teaching at several schools, including the Sarasota Chinese Academy — a nonprofit school that has been open for 13 years. The staff consists of volunteers teaching Mandarin Chinese to students of all ages. Guo, the acting principal, has taught there for eight years and plans to continue volunteering.

"I joined in 2014...the first day after Christ-

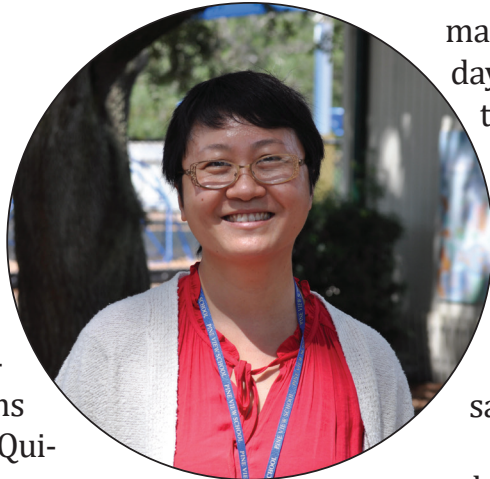


PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

mas. I am so proud of that, and I cannot forget that day," Guo said. "I am working day by day, and I love the kids over there."

Now, she also teaches Chinese at Pine View. She uses interactive games to help students learn Chinese.

"Mrs. Guo is good at technology. She is also willing to try different software to enhance the students' learning," Chinese teacher Kitty Wang said.

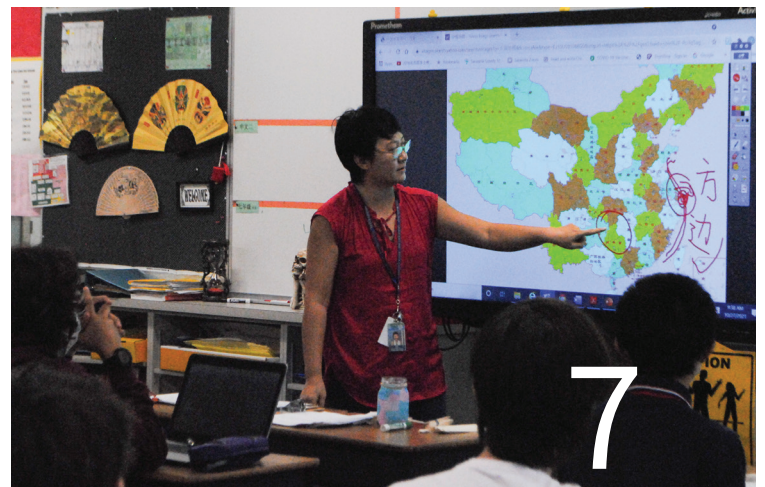
Guo has found the games fun and educationally beneficial.

"All the kids are loving interactive games. They engage them there and they learn faster from the game," Guo said.

She said that in a way, teaching is a "lifelong learning," as not only do students learn, but so do teachers. Guo feels that it is crucial to make sure she is teaching in the best way for every student.

"Somebody is learning in this way, but the other person is learning in that way. I need to consider everybody and take care of everyone in my class," Guo said.

PHOTO BY ELEONORE CANTIN



New Sixth Graders



Jack Alexander

Previous school:
Englewood

Reporting by: Yasin
Cox



Luke Calleja

Previous school:
Lakeview

Interview by:
Ingrid Cushman



Tinsley Ames

Previous school:
Southside

Reporting by: Yasin
Cox



Jia Hoa Andy
Cao

Previous school:
Lakeview

Interview by:



Dominic Barnes

Previous school:
Ashton

Reporting by: Yasin
Cox



Emilie Cardel-Bue-
so

Previous school:
Lakeview

Interview by:
Ingrid Cushman



Arielle Bertrand

Previous school:
Fruitville

Interview by:
Yasin Cox



Corbin Craig

Previous school:
Ashton

Interview by:
Ana Easter



Preston Brooks

Previous school:
Phillippi Shores

Interview by:
Ingrid Cushman



Cureena Crewe

Previous school:
Englewood Element-
ary

Interview by:
Ana Easter



Charles D'Hondt

Previous School:
Ashton

Interview by:
Ana Easter



Oliver Geisler

Previous School:
Southside Elementary

Interview by: Colette
Freeman



Chase Davidson

Previous School:
Tatum Ridge

Interview by:
Ana Easter



Kiana Gilmour

Previous School:
Bay Haven

Interview by:
Colette Freeman



Beatrice DeGuz-
man

Previous School:
Southside

Interview by:



Samantha Gold-
berg

Previous School:
Venice

Interview by:



Layla Fehr

Previous School:
Bay Haven

Interview by:
Adam Elshimy



Lenuca Gorod-
nitchev

Previous School:
Bay Haven

Interview by:



Annika Felder

Previous School:
Island Village

Interview by:
Adam Elshimy



Ayla Gwatney

Previous School:
Fruitville

Interview by:
Megan Glenn



Jayla Garcia

Previous School:
Ashton

Interview by:
Colette Freeman



Thomas Harrell

Previous School:
Fruitville

Interview by:
Megan Glenn

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Aydan Hoffman

Previous school:
Cranberry

Reporting by:
Megan Glenn



Willda Kuang

Previous school:
Robert Willis

Reporting by:
Timothy Nesanelis



Ruby Johnston

Previous school:
Lakeview

Reporting by:
Bryn Nadan



Tyler Kumar

Previous school:
Ashton

Reporting by:
Timothy Nesanelis



Rebecca Jones

Previous school:
Fruitville

Reporting by:
Bryn Nadan



Jolin Li

Previous school:
Lake Whitney

Reporting by:
Madison Van Leeuw-



Tyler Kahl

Previous school:
Phillippi Shores

Reporting by:
Bryn Nadan



Chloe Light

Previous school:
Phillippi Shores

Reporting by:
Madison Van Leeuw-



Kingston Kokoefer

Previous school:
Tatum Ridge

Reporting by:
Bryn Nadan



Alyssa Logel

Previous school:
Southside

Reporting by:
Madison Van Leeuw-



Alexander Kotchar-
ian

Previous school:
Robert Willis

Reporting by:



Johnpaul Lynch

Previous school:
Garden

Reporting by:
Madison Van Leeuw-



Isabella Matheson

Previous school:
Venice

Reporting by:
Kai Ying Deng



Mira Pammnany

Previous school:
Sarasota Suncoast

Reporting by:
Giorgi Hilgenberg



Katerina Mazzo

Previous school:
Englewood

Reporting by:
Kai Ying Deng



Zachary Ponte

Previous school:
Southside

Reporting by: Giorgi
Hilgenberg



Jordan Modjeski

Previous school:
Sarasota Suncoast

Reporting by:
Kai Ying Deng



Sophia Reid

Previous school:
Southside

Reporting by:
Giorgi Hilgenberg



Dominic Myers

Previous school:
Lakeview

Reporting by:
Daisy Doyle



Talon Rigopulos

Previous school:
Southside

Reporting by:
Yasin Cox



Eshan Nagudu

Previous school:
Colleen Bevis

Reporting by:
Daisy Doyle



Noah Rominiecki

Previous school:
Southside

Reporting by:
Ingrid Cushman



Mira Norton
Previous school:
Robert Willis

Reporting by:
Daisy Doyle



Cameron Rudolph
Previous school:
Gocio

Reporting
by: **11**
Ana Easter



Ella Shepherd
Previous school:
Lakeview

Reporting by:
Adam Elshimy



Charlotte Weisenborn
Previous school:
Phillippi Shores

Reporting by: Kai
Ying Deng



Evan Toal
Previous school:
Tatum Ridge

Reporting by:
Megan Glenn



Samuel Willner
Previous school:
Phillippi Shores

Reporting by: Daisy
Doyle



Lucas Tomsik
Previous school:
Imagine

Reporting by:
Bryn Nadan



Beau Woolverton
Previous school:
Bay Haven

Reporting by:
Giorgi Hilgenberg



John Vanderee
Previous school:
Venice

Reporting by:
Timothy Nesanelis



Claire Xia
Previous school:
Hough Street (Chica-
go, Illinois)

Reporting by: Timothy
Nesanelis



Mayson Weatherly
Previous school: Go-
cio

Reporting by:
Madison Van Leeuw-
en



Kayla Xia
Previous school:
Taylor Ranch

Reporting by:
Giorgi Hilgenberg

New Seventh Graders



Yasin Cox

Interview by: Adam Elshimy

What would you do with a million dollars?

Buy a 4-story mansion on the beach, a set of Gucci slides, Louis Vuitton, Yeezys, a gaming pc tower, and a Gucci hoodie.

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

Remove the portables.



Sophia Haakman

Former school: St. Stephen's Episcopal

Interview by: Kaya Bury

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Probably in Europe, maybe Belgium. It's a great place, I heard it has great scenery and a lot of history.

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

Maybe a photography club because I really like photography and I just really love taking pictures.



Megan Glenn

Former school:

Sanster (Virginia)

Interview by: Kai Deng

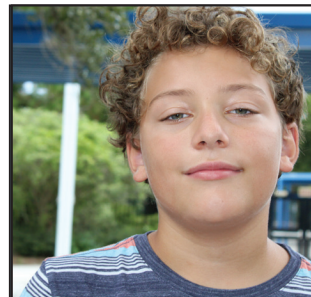
What would you do with a million dollars?

Start a fast food restaurant

to earn more money.

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

A softball club because I play softball.



Samuel Izydor

Interview by: Allie Chung

What would you do with a million dollars?

I would probably invest in some sort of business or stocks, and then I would give part of it to charity and then I might buy a house.

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

My old school didn't have clubs and teachers at Pine View are more interactive with the class.



Yash Greenberg

Former school: Walker

Interview by: Daisy Doyle

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

I would start a basketball club because I love basketball

and want other people to be able to enjoy it, too.

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

Pine View is bigger than my former school and Pine View's students are nicer.



Sophia Karanjai

Former school: Sarasota Middle

Interview by: Clare Custer

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

The homework load because Pine View is similar to other schools except for the homework.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I see myself on Mars.



Andrew Malaj

Previous school:
Sarasota Middle
Interview by: Nathan Gaertner

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

Why? I would start a school

swim team, since a lot of the high schoolers I know who swim have to go to other schools' swim teams, it's a big hassle and you can't even represent the school you learn at.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I want to become a lawyer with a good work/life balance while staying fit.



Cagan Peker

Previous school:
Sarasota Middle
Interview by: Victoria Mochkovsky

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

A lego club. I like legos and I think that people could really get engaged with [them]. I have been playing with them since I was six years old.

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

Pine View's campus is a lot bigger and the classes are a lot more advanced. There is also more homework.



Beatrice Mayne-Chang

Previous school:
Sarasota Middle
Interview by: Avery Johanning

What would you do with a million dollars?

I would move out of state, maybe back to New York and travel around the world.

What hobbies and/or sports do you participate in?

I like art and writing and participate in a track team called Girls on the Run.



Jakob Roche

Previous school:
Palmetto Charter
Interview by: Robyn Schoenberg

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

be, why?

I'd say something about engineering, maybe aerospace engineering.

What would you do with a million dollars?

I never spend any money, so I'd probably invest it in the stock market.



Bryn Nadan

Previous school:
Sarasota Middle
Interview by: Sivan Levy

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

I think this school is a lot more civilized. My other school was a lot more crazy, and most kids didn't behave as well as they do in Pine View.

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

Maybe how much homework they give us because sometimes it can be kind of overwhelming.



Isabella Thomas

Previous school:
McIntosh Middle
Interview by: Julia Wang

What would you do with a million dollars?

I'd probably donate it to hospitals and people in need

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

Probably a dance club because I like dance



Juliette Viers

Interview by: Albert Jiang

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

My old school was mostly

made of inside pathways.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I want to be a doctor.



Harry Xu

Previous school:
Venice Middle

Interview by: Lucia Justus
What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

At my old school there was only middle school, but Pine View has elementary, middle, and high school which is really strange.

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

We could start a bit earlier for middle school, because it feels really strange waking up at 8:00.



Percy Wells

Previous school:
Fulton Science Academy (Georgia)

Interview by: Albert Jiang

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

To be honest, I would not start anything because I already have enough to do in my own classes.

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

I would make the library bigger.



Aashray Yeruva

Previous school:
Laurel Nokomis

Interview by: Sofia Giannatassio

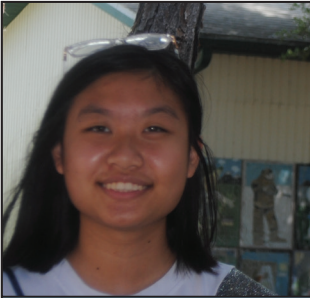
Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I can see myself having my dream job of an engineer, I've always loved to be one.

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

I haven't really settled in yet, so I don't know.

New Eighth Graders



Yaru Cao

Previous school: Sun-ridge Middle School (Orlando)

Interview by: Liam Dingman

What other places have you lived in/traveled to? Have you experienced

snow?

Yes, I have experienced snow, and I've been to a lot of different areas because when I was a kid, my parents would move a lot.

What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?

I've been looking forward to going to animation club or something art related.



Joy Jia

Previous school: Abraham Lincoln Middle (Gainesville)

Interview by: Gabrielle Mussey

What other places have you lived in/traveled to?

I mostly lived in Gainesville for a majority of my life, I lived in China for a little bit and I used to travel to China every summer before the pandemic.

What hobbies/sports do you participate in?

I currently play soccer and tennis, for hobbies I just draw and write some stuff.



Gabriella Felder

Previous school: McIntosh Middle

Interview by: Anna Kim

What professions are you interested in? Why?

I am interested in becoming an interior designer or decorator because I've always loved aesthetic rooms and want to create my own.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

If I could have a superpower, it would be to stop time.



Aeon Johnson

Previous school: Sarasota Middle

Interview by: Calista Ream

What would you do with a million dollars? I would give some of it to my family

and then I'd use some of it for essential needs, for college, and I would donate some.

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

It is a really big school. I think it's a little bit more workload.



Gabriel Feygin

Previous school: Sarasota Middle

Interview by: Zachary Johnson

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

SMS, it had no extra fields times, less homework, and a stricter schedule.

What or who inspires you?

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My sister, she works hard for good grades. She has a really good work ethic.



Alexander Karanjai

Previous school: Sarasota Middle

Interview by: Adeline Von Wowern

What hobbies and/or sports do you participate

in?

I practice a large variety of sports: volleyball, tennis, basketball, football, and sports from different countries (India) called cricket.

What or who inspires you? Why?

My father is the most inspirational figure in my life because he saves lives every day. He is a doctor.



Sivan Levy
 Previous school: Falcon Cove Middle
 Interview by: Samuel Wang
How would you describe yourself?
 I would probably describe myself as funny (or at least I would like to think so). I'd describe myself as risk-taking and willing to try anything new.
What hobbies and/or sports do you participate in?
 I swim. I also love reading, writing, journalism, and baking.



Riley Tribit
 Previous school: The Classical Academy
 Interview by: Zachary Johnson
What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?
 I'm in Model UN club and so far, I'm really enjoying it, and I really like science and history.
What professions are you interested in? Why?
 I have a big interest in becoming a surgeon. I do not really know; I've always been interested in biology and stuff like that.



Henry Mayne-Chang
 Previous school: Sarasota Middle
 Interview by: Ava Lenerz
What other places have you lived in/traveled to? Have you experienced snow?
 I used to live in New York for the first thirteen years of my life... I lived in Manhattan.
What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?
 I have enjoyed my two electives, Chinese and band. Chinese is a really cool language and I like music; I play eight instruments.



Samantha Venditti
 Previous school: Island Village Montessori
 Interview by: Anna Kim
What have been your first impressions of Pine View? What challenges have you faced at Pine View?
 I really like it. I mean it's very different. It's really different having a backpack because we never had that at my old school. And a lot bigger too.
What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?
 I like geometry and guitar and physical science.



Kysmette Otteson-Hurst
 Previous school: Brookside Middle
 Interview by: Sofia Gianatassio
Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?
 I can speak German, French, and Singhalase
What other places have you lived in/traveled to?
 I moved to the United States a few years ago from Sri Lanka. I spend many summers in France, Germany, and other



Krishav Yerra
 Previous school: Mason Classical Academy (Naples)
 Interview by: Gabrielle Mussey
What or who inspires you and why?
 I don't have any inspiration [except] my parents inspire me, they do computer programming.
What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?
 I like my Civics teacher, I have Mrs. Lavalee.



Pepijn Sinjorgo
 Previous school: Brookside Middle
 Interview by: Michael Hu
What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?
 I was at Brookside before Pine View. The main reason it is different is that the 8th grade classes are flipped to 7th grade.
How would you describe yourself?
 I am fun, enjoyable, and I have a great sense of humor.



Lydia Zhukovsky
 Interview by: Calista Ream
What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?
 I went to school in New York, and it was different... it was all in one building and was indoors and there was a different curriculum.
What professions are you interested in? Why?
 I'm interested in Computer Science. It seems interesting and something new, and I like the idea of it.

Countless Clubs!

By: Allie Chung

Most people take Spanish, Chinese or French as a world language, but math teacher Eida Padgett is looking to add American Sign Language (ASL) to that list.

After countless encounters with members of the deaf community, Padgett believes everyone should have basic knowledge of communication in ASL.

"My ultimate goal is to be able to obtain my certification, so that I can teach it here at Pine View or elsewhere as an option for students as a second language," Padgett said. This club has provided a place for students to learn sign language so they could communicate with their friends or family who have been hard of hearing.

In addition to being the sponsor of the ASL club, Padgett is also the sponsor of Ciao. Ciao is an Italian Club, whose mission is to keep Italian Culture alive.

"I'm Italian and my extended family is all in Italy... There are quite a few Italian American families here and I thought it would be nice because many that immigrated from Italy so many years ago, a lot of their descendants don't know the cul-

ture, or don't know the heritage," Padgett said. She has brought the Italian community together and is extremely passionate in passing down her heritage to the next generation.

"I used to sponsor Mu Alpha Theta, Century Club, I was the sponsor for National Junior Honor Society for probably 10 years," Padgett said. "It's always been a positive thing for student. The kids here are so fortunate because they have so many different opportunities available to you. The more opportunities you have to get an understanding of everything that's going on out in the real world, the better. So I want to be a part of that, in helping kids have that opportunity."

Padgett plays a main role in continuing the tradition of many clubs at Pine View and has big plans for the clubs she sponsors.



Join Us:

By: Daisy Doyle

American Sign Language Club - Eida Padgett

This club is for any student wishing to explore and learn about American Sign Language (ASL). Goals for the club are teaching basic history of ASL and providing opportunities for hearing people to feel comfortable communicating and socializing with deaf people. There are games or fun activities as well as educational events on campus. All middle schoolers are allowed to join. The club is every Monday during 6th and 7th period. It meets in

C2 Community Contributions - Mary Cantillo

C2 Community Contributions is a new middle school club that was started when two students reached out to middle school guidance counselor Mary Cantillo about a fundraiser to support Haiti, following the devastating earthquake and subsequent tropical storm. The intent of the club is to contribute to needs in the community as they arise. Cantillo is the sponsor of the club, and it meets on the 4th Friday of every month from 1:06 p.m. to 1:58 p.m. It meets in guidance and is open to all middle schoolers.

Ciao! The Italian Club - Eida Padgett

Ciao! The Italian club is a club that is for any student wishing to explore and learn about Italian culture and language. Ciao! seeks to celebrate and promote Italian and Italian-American cultures. Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to interact in Italian while experiencing elements of Italian influence such as sports, food, art, and music. They will also be "virtually visiting" many different cities. It was formed by math teacher Eida Padgett and meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. The club occurs 6th period and/or 7th period and meets in MLC 55. It is for all middle school students.

New Faces at Model UN

By: Eleonore Cantin

Students gather in the multi-purpose room (MPR) for their weekly Model UN meeting. Twelfth-grader Zander Moricz leads the group in a demonstration of a Crisis Meeting, one of the areas students can compete in. Moricz has been participating in Model UN since freshman year and is now the club president.

"Model UN is a place for high schoolers and middle schoolers that have an interest in diplomacy and foreign relations to meet and work on resolving real-world issues. [It's a place to] design creative solutions to problems that face societies across the globe," said Moricz.

The club has recently allowed middle schoolers to join, and while Moricz is excited about the new members, he is also concerned about overcrowding in the multi-purpose room and social distancing issues.

One of the biggest benefits the club offers are travel opportunities for competitions. Since Moricz has been in the club for a long time, over the years he has discovered many favorite activities to do while traveling, "My favorite things to do while traveling for a competition are running around with my friends and eating food. At GATORMUN we have an awesome tradition of running to Krispy Kreme. At the competition in New York, I got to run around China Town, go see movies. One of the best parts of Model UN is not only meeting new people and [going to new] places, but I have also enjoyed so much of the exploring

I've been able to do while I've been a part of Model UN."

While competitions are fun, meetings are also a big part of the club. Every Wednesday the participants meet in the MPR to practice.

Moricz explains the appeal to the chaotic meetings they have, "A normal meeting of Model UN is — there is no such thing. [A] Model UN meeting will be totally crazy, crazy topics, crazy people, there are always loud sounds, [and there are] always debates. [There are] gavels banging at people and yelling. There is always laughter though. I would say that is the most common thing you will find in meetings, and always delicious food. You'll hear it from me a lot, food is one of the best parts of Model UN."

Zander has learned many life skills from the club and believes younger students will as well.

"Some of the most important lessons I have learned from Model UN are how to collaborate with people and learn that there will be people who will not agree with you ... I think this club kind of taught me how to respond better to other people's reactions, and design solutions that work for everyone," he said.

Model UN is a great place for anyone looking to have some fun, learn important lessons, and travel to novel places.

What clubs are you in and why?

By: Megan Glenn



"I made the doodle club because I want to help kids work on their art and help myself with art."

-Elena Cerrick, 6



"Model UN mostly because my friends joined, and I am very into political affairs and international relations."

- Clark Walkup, 7



"I do Drama Club because it's a friendly environment, plus we get to play acting games and meet new people."

- Delaney Lockwood, 7

PINE VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL *adjusting to new changes*

By: Nathan Gaertner and Adam Elshimy

Sweat drips from your forehead, and your team needs one more point to win. The score approaches 25—you spike the ball. The other team struggles to get a reach on the ball, it hits the ground, and the final whistle blows. BB-BRRRRR. Your team has won. The coach is pumping his fist in the air and digging his palms against one another, patting you on the back.

“...The amazing volleyball family is something you don’t want to miss.”
-Emma Morris, 7th grade

This was just one of the many experiences the Pine View Middle School Girls Volleyball team had been through.

The year has been vastly different from last year due to remote learning ending, and there was a large flood of fresh players joining the team this year. There were eight sixth graders in total on the team.

Another way the team changed this year was that it became a lot more collaborative. According to Brooke Rogers, one of the captains of the team, the year’s first game had “a lot more of a team effort” compared to last year’s opening game.

A new member of the volleyball team and seventh-grader Emma Morris stated over a text interview that she believes that it went quite well for the first game, saying that they “figured out how to work together and communicate.”

According to Coach DiGiacomo the reason he kept multiple young players was to develop them as players and prepare them for the future team.

From the point of view of the captains, their

job was a challenging task, but for them, it was worth it. “We have to help the team learn the drills, and we have to bring the team together,” said Chelsea McKay, the other captain, said.

Both Rogers and McKay have been playing since sixth grade. They were both chosen as captains because of their experience playing.

Everyone on the team has their reasons to keep playing. For Rogers, “being with the team was so fun and playing was so thrilling.”

Similarly, for newer players, such as Morris, helping the team is the best part of playing volleyball.

“The amazing feeling of when you spike the ball, and get the point, and the crowd and teammates cheer for you,” Morris said, “It feels good to contribute.”

Originally, Morris wanted to join the team for the competition, but also said “the team and atmosphere, it really is like a family.”

She also wanted to become more social, and saw the volleyball team as a perfect opportunity to do just that.

Morris believes that anyone could sign up for the volleyball team, remarking, “Just a message to anyone, if you’re thinking about trying out for



Pine View Middle School’s girls volleyball team plays in a home game against Booker Middle school. The Lady Pythons made it to the district playoffs but lost and finished in third place. PHOTO BY AVA LENERZ

volleyball or any sport but you’re not sure because you think you’re not good enough, you are. The amazing volleyball family is something you don’t want to miss.”

At Least, That's What People Say...

Sugar vs. Fat

By: Sofia Gianatassio

News Editor

For decades, we've been told that fat is bad. Companies started making low-fat products, we started to eat fewer things with fat in them, all based on the spread of misinformation. A fat-free diet is a healthy diet, right? Wrong.

The idea of fat being the main problem can be traced back to the work of a scientist named Angel Keys, who came up with the "fat hypothesis" in the 1950s.

Keys' work was disputed by another scientist, John Yudkin, In his 1972 book "Pure, White, and Deadly." Unfortunately, 'Big Sugar' drowned out his research until more recently.

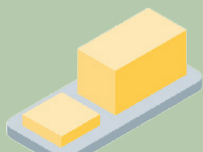
However, not all sugar is bad.

Fructose is the main concern.

Back when humans used primal instincts to survive, our bodies loved the fructose we found in berries to gain the calories we needed. But humans are no longer hunters and gatherers. Instead, we find fructose everywhere. In processed foods, in drinks, even in simple yogurt. The average American eats enough sugar to equal 23 sugar cubes, every day.

Reconsider what you've been told about fats and quit low-fat diets, try low-sugar for a change.

What to do instead? Eat nutritious fats. While there are bad fats, such as trans fats and saturated fats, it's important to remember to eat the good ones, like avocados, olive oil, nuts, and seeds to stay healthy. Cut back on foods like red meat and butter, and replace them with fish, nuts, and avocados instead of refined carbohydrates.



Daisy Doyle
Seventh Grade

The Ultimate YOU!

Metabolic Typing

By: Daisy Doyle

There are many different diet plans like keto (getting your calories from fats instead of carbohydrates), vegan (not eating animal products), pescatarian (only eat fish for meat), and paleo (only eating foods that were available during Paleolithic times). The problem is, a certain diet can give your friend energy or weight loss, but make you tired or gain weight! Some may work temporarily, but not long term, so what is the most effective diet plan for you? The answer may be Metabolic Typing.

Metabolic Typing is a scientific approach to your health that carefully looks at your unique biochemistry and recommends the specific foods and supplements that support it. No one diet plan works for everyone. Just as we all have unique personalities and fingerprints due to our DNA, different food requirements are ideal for each individual. With Metabolic Typing, you keep a log of how you react to different foods, so you learn to listen to your body to verify which foods work best.

After eating, you should feel satisfied, leading to a better mood and more energy. Providing the ideal mix of nutrients at the cellular level ensures steady energy as well as excellent health.

Just as one shoe size does not fit every foot, Metabolic Typing allows for different diet plans to fit the nutritional requirements that different people have, and it can lead to a more energetic and fulfilling lifestyle.

Plastic-Eating Bacteria

By: Anna Kim

Every year, around eight million metric tons of plastic find their way into the ocean, the very body of water crucial to life on Earth. With this much waste building up annually, scientists and researchers are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to reduce or regulate the amount of plastic being tossed out. About 91% of plastic ends up in landfills, the ocean, or other natural areas, rather than being recycled.

Ideonella sakaiensis is a bacterium that can break down polyethylene terephthalate, or PET plastics. It was first discovered in Japan of 2016 but has been improved to make it more efficient. PET plastics are commonly found in plastic water bottles. Ideonella sakaiensis bacteria uses enzymes to first break down PET into MHET, its monomer form, using hydrolysis. This enzyme is called PETase.

Then, the bacteria break down MHET into its separate monomers, ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid, using the same process. This enzyme is called MHETase. The bacteria are fueled by digesting carbon from the compounds.

Unfortunately, the process of using Ideonella sakaiensis to break down PET plastics is extremely slow. PET can have various levels of crystallization, and this determines how difficult it is to break down. Basically, the more crystallized the plastic is, the harder it is to break it down. The enzyme took six weeks to break down a low-crystalline sample, so it could take years to break down a small amount of plastic waste we produce in a day. MHETase and PETase are not efficient enough to make

a difference in recycling efforts. However, studies in Europe have created a combined enzyme system that made the breakdown process much more well-structured.

Scientists believe that the commercial use of plastic-eating microorganisms is many years away, but more breakthroughs like the one in October of 2020 can make it possible to create large facilities where enzymes are put to work breaking down plastic. Scientists

from the UK combined the MHETase and PETase enzymes and allowed the process to occur at room temperature, unlike a few years prior, where a temperature above 158 degrees Fahrenheit was required.

The Covid-19 pandemic has allowed more focus on the plastic waste crisis and people continue to find ways to solve the ever-growing problem of plastic waste.

GRAPHICS BY ANNA KIM

What is plastic-eating bacteria?

- Scientific name is 'Ideonella sakaiensis'
- The bacteria includes the MHETase and PETase enzymes
- The PET plastic is broken down using hydrolysis
- Currently, the bacteria takes too long to break down plastic, so it won't make much of a difference now. However, in the future, the bacteria could mean a lot for recycling and reducing waste efforts

IDEONELLA SAKAIENSIS TIMELINE

2016

Ideonella sakaiensis is first discovered at a waste facility in Japan.

2018

UK scientists improved the structure of the enzyme PETase.

APR. 2020

A French company was able to degrade 90% of PET bottles in 10 hours with the bacteria.

OCT. 2020

Ideonella sakaiensis is made incredibly more efficient.

Red Tide: Science and Struggles

By: Liam Dingman

Florida is home to many aquatic activities; rowing, fishing, sailing, paddleboarding, and many more. However, unseemly sights like dead fish give people second thoughts about these normally popular activities during red tide season.

As Sarasota Scullers coach Greg Wood puts it, “the only bad thing about living in sunny southwest Florida is red tide.”

The cause of red tide stems from algae known as *Karenia brevis*.

“It’s a naturally occurring dinoflagellate... the problem occurs when its population grows to exceptional numbers, or what we call bloom concentrations,” Marine Biology teacher Jason Miller said. A

dinoflagellate is a single-celled aquatic organism with two flagella (a cell part which helps a cell move).

These organisms lead to consequences for the Sarasota Scullers, a rowing team, when red tide was more active. “If it was really bad, what we ended up doing was doing tests and staying inside,” Wood said during a phone interview.

“The only bad thing about living in sunny southwest Florida is red tide.”

**Greg Wood
Sarasota Scullers Coach**

Fortunately, it had little impact on the rowers. Wood said there was “nothing lasting, every once in a while, they [rowers] might feel ill for a little while, a couple hours, but by and large

most people would just cough a bit, some wouldn’t react at all.”

Returning to the science side,

a type of toxic compound is the force behind these effects, “it [*Karenia brevis*] produces a toxic compound called brevetoxin, and brevetoxin is what kills fish and makes people cough and choke.”

Sarasota County is taking measures for lessening the effects of red tide, “they are limiting when you can fertilize things, they’re limiting the types and amounts of fertilizer that can be used... [they’re] moving away from septic systems,” Miller said.

For future red tide seasons, there isn’t a definitive answer on if it will improve or worsen. But for Miller, there is opportunity for improvement. “I have hope that it’s always going to get better, and [I try] to teach and educate people so in the future the students that have gone through my class are aware of it and hopefully share their awareness with others,” he said.

EXPECTATION

VERSUS

REALITY

OF THE 21st CENTURY

By: Lucy Justus

Blade Runner

-Replicants (superhuman creatures) -Flying cars -Inter-planetary travel -Full-body and brain manufacturing	-Real human beings -Gravity-prone cars -Planning for a trip to Mars -Genome editing in plants and animals but not humans
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Pacific Rim

-Jaegers (Large pilotable weapon) -Kaiju (monsters) -"Drifting" (Linking minds with another person or being through technology)	-Military APC (armored personnel carrying vehicles) -Animals -Strong relationships without computer influence
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Geostorm

-Individual climate controlling satellites for each country (Dutchboy) -Sci-fi escape Pod -Available self-driving cabs	-Technology used to predict weather - Soyuz-TMA spacecraft (crew return vehicle) -Testing of self-driving cabs
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X-Men: Days of Future Past

-Mutants (humans born with powers) -Energy powered weapons -Sentinels (killer robots) -X-Jet	-Normal human beings -Experimenting of sonic (sound-powered) weapons -Human assassins -Fighter jets
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DESERTED SCHOOL

By Mikayla Foss and Ana Easter

October 21st, 2021
Dear Diary,

After flipping through my journal entries from this past year, I found one that I found interesting. After rewriting the entry a bit I thought I would share. This is the story of "Pine View: A Deserted Campus".

On the first day of school, my mom dropped me off in the parent pick up loop and as she was leaving, I noticed how the front gates were closed. I checked my watch to make sure I was on time. 9:10. I was even five minutes early. Ultimately, I ended up going through the office. The entire place was empty, not a single person in sight. Thankfully, the door was left open, so I walked in and looked around.

After grabbing a map off the front desk, I walked through my entire schedule. Not a single student seen, not a single teacher heard from.

I explored a little more looking for anyone. When I came up empty handed, I returned to the office.

When I tried to call my mom using the office phone the call did not go through. So, I hung out in the office and walked around campus some more, waiting for the day to end. School is eerie when no one is there.

Every now and again I would see a

squirrel race across the sidewalk or a bird land on an awning. I even saw a racoon climbing out of a trash can. The sun got too hot as the day dragged on, so I headed into the open classrooms and portables. Luckily, the air conditioning was still on in places like the office, cafeteria, and classrooms. The portables were very hot, so I didn't stay in them long, for fear of getting cooked alive in a human oven.

Towards the end of the day my mom came by and picked me up. I told her what was happening, and she tried to contact the school to no avail. After about a week of trying to contact my friends, parents, and the office staff, a call to my friend finally got picked up.

"Where have you been for the past week?" She asked me.

I paused, confused for a moment.

"What are you talking about? You're the one I couldn't get ahold of."

She then explained to me how the service in her area has been down recently and the phone lines haven't been working well.

"Anyways, why haven't you been at school?"

"I was, I showed up on the first day and no one was there."

"What?"

"I mean the entire campus was vacant except for some animals. It was freaky," I explained.

There was silence on her end for a moment.

"Didn't your parents get the email?"

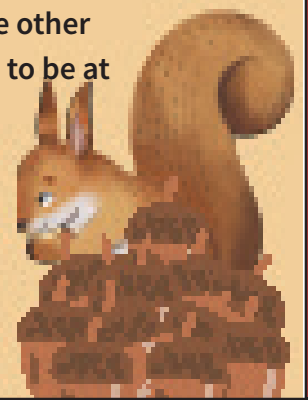
"What email?"

A sigh was heard on the other line.

"Everyone is supposed to be at home, learning online."



Photos by Mikayla Foss and Anna Kim





A Humorous Look At

MIDDLE VS HIGH



How did the rivalry begin middle schoolers and high schoolers begin? To answer this question, we have to go back all the way to 1988.

It all started when seventh grader, Billy Joe, ate ninth grader, Bobby Simon's sandwich. After that day, Simon got revenge by putting a fake rubber snake in Joe's desk.

Soon the two students' classmates wanted to participate in this competition, this led to the rivalry of all Pine View middle school students and high school students.

After these two teams graduated, the younger generation took over.

The two of them went back and forth all month long, but things started to get interesting when Joe brought some of his friends to help him with pranking Simon.

After that, Simon dragged his friends into these silly pranks as well. They formed two different teams, Team Joe and Team Simon.

Rumors spread like wildfire across the campus about the epic pranks they were pulling on each other and who was expected to

By Bryn Nadan and Julia Wang



Photo art by Julia Wang and Bryn Nadan

Because of the competition, Pine View has had many very entertaining pranks happen around campus in the past.

The most recent prank that has been trending is stealing lunch seats in the cafeteria and in the outside area. It has been crazy!

As soon as the teacher releases kids from class to go to lunch they all hustle to the lunchroom frantically to take a seat before anyone has a chance to touch it.



CANCEL CULTURE

By Gabrielle Mussey

Click. The rumors flood social media like streetlights flooding the alleyway. A silhouette lurks in the shadows. A famed celebrity hides under the covers of reality and faces what appears to be the end as their mind is overwhelmed with just one word, “cancelled.”

As increasingly more young people find themselves rising to fame in the music industry, others find themselves falling from that title indefinitely. What can break a musical artist has no restrictions as to the blurred lines of context surrounding the event, and people love to spread the news regardless of what an artist did or said. As posts regarding what the artist said or did proliferate, so does the novelty phrase #cancelled.

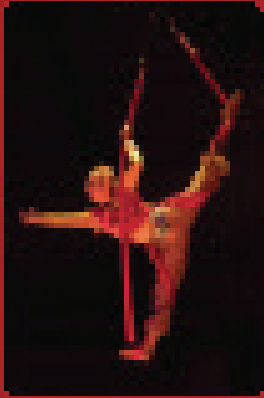
Cancel culture can strike against those who have made an insensitive comment in the past, recently, or if they support someone who has said or did something that was deemed as “bad,” and in most cases, however undeniably bad the action was that the person took, it is likely not as severe as the artist’s downfall. Billie Eilish has been affected by cancel culture because

she liked a post about fans being “annoying.” This led to fans trashing products they had bought from her, and, to further demonstrate the toxicity of “cancel culture,” later when she posted a picture on social media where she was wearing a corset, she reportedly lost around 100,000 Instagram followers because of a change in her usual apparel. Not only does this mean that “cancel culture” has led her to lose support and visibility, but she is also losing approximately around 500 dollars per post.

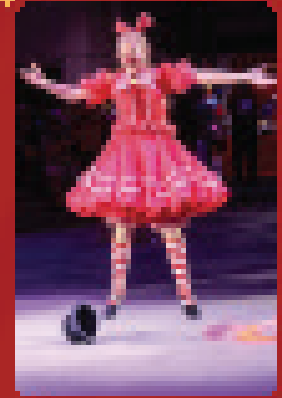
However much “cancel culture” is affecting pop stars, though, Pine View middle school students remain generally unaffected by any outside influence or public opinion on musical artists. In a survey conducted by the Spark, less than ten percent of middle school students said that they were affected by cancel culture. According to most Pine View students, they just enjoy listening to the artist’s music regardless of what the artist may have done.

Pine View middle school students as a whole listen to the music they like and disregard what the public says surrounding music; hence, however great an artist’s downfall is, they are likely not a major part of it. Nonetheless, “cancel culture” is most definitely not a healthy or positive trend.





Sailor Circus Academy



By Kaya Bury and Adeline von Wowern

A trapeze artist swings upside down on a trapeze bar 40 feet above the ground, they feel a rush of adrenaline as they prepare themselves to do a flip, their hands slip into the catcher's arms and they feel a "flush of safety" overcome their body, feeling their hands slip. Down, down, down. Their mind immediately goes to the darkest of places. Suddenly, the safety net catches them from near death. Who will be the next victim?

Welcome to the circus!

The sailor circus is a unique program, students can do a variety of things. The sailor circus has acts ranging from flying on the trapeze to clowning your way into a storm of the audience's laughter. But the question is, what is the circus really? Is it a sport, or an art? Twelfth-grader Sarah Catalano used the word "sport." A combination of the word sport and art, and that's really what the circus is.

"We're athletes but we're also performance artists. It's really rare to find an activity where you get the opportunity to have really intense training... but also use your body to express yourself creatively," said Catalano, who has been part of the sailor circus program since she was six years old.

Not only is the circus a unique program but it also has an extraordinary environment. In the circus students all work together to create something beautiful.

"The circus has always celebrated everyone's differences," Catalano said "it's the kind of environment where you can feel accepted, it's all about showing the world what makes you, you, and that's what makes it a good circus show."

Miguel Vargas, the head coach at the Sailor Circus said that the circus has many different aspects. There are many things at the Sailor Circus that lets you grow as an individual. "You get to grow as an artist...and learn from the diverse cultures that you get to work with... and you get to appreciate the special gift that everyone brings to the circus," Vargas said.

The circus is not just a regular after school activity for eleventh-grader Iris Dahoborg. "To me, circus is a place to meet wonderful people, to build confidence in yourself, and to learn how to use your body in new ways." Dahoborg said

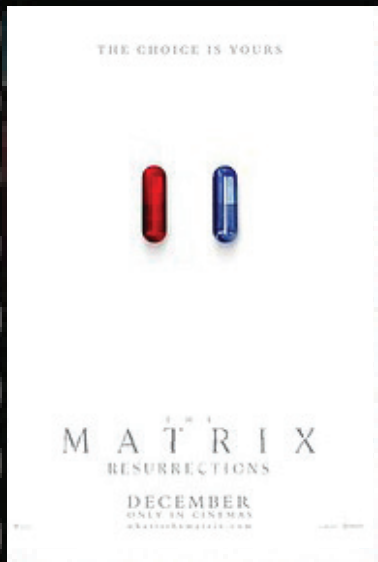
Vargas on the other hand has a different connection. "Circus is my life because I am the fifth generation... my mom, my grandparents, my great grandparents, and my great-great grandparents were part of the circus, so I was born in the circus... It was my playground, and now it is my world," he said.

The sailor circus is more than just an after-school sport, it is a commitment that involves an amazing environment, and a variety of special connections. As well as this, it is a "sport," allowing students to show their inner artist and athlete.



We're athletes but we're also performance artists. It's really rare to find an activity where you get the opportunity to have really intense training... but also use your body to express yourself creatively,"
Sarah Catalano
Twelfth-grader

MOVIES TO BE EXCITED FOR



The Matrix

The fourth installment of the matrix brings Neo a trip through his old memories, and he finds himself back in the matrix.

Eternals:

The eternals are a secret race that have been living on the earth for thousands of years and they come together for the fight of their lives.

Ghostbusters Afterlife:

When a new family moves to a new city, they soon find out about their grandfather's secret life and connection to the original ghost busters.



Paralympics Not Sublympics

By: Sivan Levy

The 2021 Olympic Games were huge. In addition to the normal thrill of the tradition established in ancient Greece, Simone Biles' struggles with mental health, Katie Ledecky's defeat, and the entire coronavirus situation only added to the normal thrill.

In fact, sometimes we pay so much attention to the Olympics featuring the people that can, that we almost forget about the Paralympics, featuring the people who can't but do.

This is no accident. The Paralympics take place after the Olympic Games, so the energy that the Olympics bring has faded by the time the Paralympics start. And, before a few years ago, the Paralympians were paid less money for medaling than the Olympians.

In modern society, we separate things into two: sweet and savory, good and evil, happy and sad. We draw a fine line between the two things that we think can't cross.

In the Paralympics and Olympics, this is done, too. A line is drawn, conditions are decided, and that is the precedent that determines how the game will work.

But what if these lines were merged and the two clearly delineated sides became blurrier, and more resources and attention were given to the Paralympics? How would this affect our society?

We all like fitting in and feeling like we belong and are valued. While we try to make sure that everybody feels this equally, the Paralympics are a fine example



Disabled veterans compete in a Paralympic archery event at Camp Williams. The Paralympics started in 1960 and featured eight different sports. PHOTO BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD.

of how, sometimes, we don't succeed. By paying less money to Paralympians than Olympians for winning a medal, doing the Paralympics after

...we almost forget about the Paralympics, featuring the people who can't but do.

Sivan Levy,
eighth-grader

the Olympics, we are giving the Paralympians the impression that they are less important as well as less talented, which is not the message that we should be sending to people less able-bodied than us.

We are lucky to be able to have arms and legs and be able

to walk. However, are the people who can't just supposed to give up on their dreams? The Paralympians who work so hard and do so much and who have the courage to swim without arms or legs or eyesight or hearing should be rewarded and recognized, too.

The Olympians are the people that can. The Paralympians are the ones who can't but do. As far as not treating the Paralympians equally to the Olympians, we are the people that can but don't. We need to change that.

A Balancing Act

STORY AND GRAPHIC BY AVA LENERZ EDUCATION VS FAITH

It's the holiday season with sugar and spice and everything nice. The smell of peppermint wafts through the air. The prospects of presents and family fill people's minds. All your family is coming to celebrate; the only problem— you have to decide between missing school and having hours of make-up work or missing your family celebration.

Many students of any religion besides Christianity face this difficult choice. It is unfair to have kids decide between religion and school, as both are important.

Why can't the district do what they do with Good Friday and schedule a professional day or mini break on major holidays of other religions? The school district must change something, a compromise must be made.

Though many affiliate with Christianity there is still a large number of people from religious minorities. In the Bill of Rights, it clearly states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Here we see the Founding Fathers did not want one religion favored over the others. However, the way the calendar is set up now, Christianity is clearly respected more.

Many kids of other religions understand it is impossible to take off for every religions' holidays (that is the ideal solution) but believe something could be done.

One way is for schools and teachers to be aware and respectful of when religious holidays are.

Eighth-grader Jackson Mitchell is Jewish, and religion is a major part of his life. Mitchell agrees it is hard on both sides to accommodate all children's religions, but explains, "at the same time because so many people are given the day off for Christian holidays... there should be a certain level of respect given to

other culture's holidays."

Students wish they could take the day off, but most are unable to. Aashima Goswami, an eighth-grader, is Hindu. "I would like to [choose] to take the day off, but realistically I can't, seeing as I go to Pine View and it's [large] workload," Goswami said.

This is the same for sixth-grader Yasmin Cox. Cox is Muslim and explains how her holidays are all day events, so she has to take the day off. This causes her to have many assignments she needs to make up.

Another problem many students experience is how teachers give tests, quizzes, and homework due the day after assuming it is all right since the holiday is done. This is not actually helpful because then that night when kids should be celebrating, they, instead, are studying for the test the next day.

One solution could be having an easy day on major holidays, so it's all right for kids to take off. For instance, on Halloween or the day before Thanksgiving break, most students watch a movie or review work.

Though all schools can improve, both teachers and students feel Pine View is better than most schools about religions.

Algebra teacher Steven Folts, "It [Pine View] is a lot better, because we have a lot more culture here at Pine View than at other schools I've taught at. Pine View is supportive, but it comes down to the individual teacher." We are lucky here at Pine View that we have such great teachers, but sadly that isn't enough. It is still difficult for students to celebrate their religions; a change must be made for the students' sakes.



Should we go back online?

By Calista Ream

Today is unlike last year. We are back in person and Zoom is gone for now, thankfully.

There were many difficulties with online learning and everyone has differing opinions on it.

Online learning caused a lot of stress on teachers; that is why we shouldn't have online school again. Studies showed online teachers needed more help in planning instruction than in person teachers.

This year, it is true when students are quarantined, they are unable to get instruction, making it hard for them to succeed. Some teachers do not put the lesson on Backboard, this causes the students to fall behind in class. Sometimes teachers don't respond to their emails right away and the students can go days



GRAPHIC BY JULIA WANG

without assignments, getting farther and farther behind in instruction.

However, teachers not putting their lesson plans online is a rare occurrence and most respond to their emails.

Grades actually improved with the option of remote learning. A study from the U.S. Department of Education found that students did modestly better online than students learning face to face.

But, although grades improved, 93% of teachers in a study by *Campus Technology* believe it is due to cheating. By being in person, students are more likely to learn the material, and

who knows, they might have fun.

There were pros and cons to online learning, nevertheless, we hope Zoom is still a possibility later this year. We could only voice our opinions and wait until then.

Should we mandate masks?

By Lucas Gallus

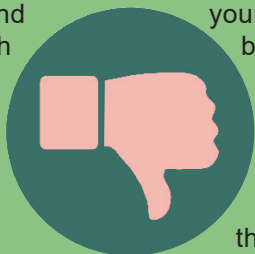
I personally believe that there should be no mask mandate. In my opinion, the mask absorbs the covid-19 particles and keeps them right next to your face instead of dissipating. It makes sense, as the mask is a fiber cloth around your face, which is bound to keep the particles in, not to mention have you breathe carbon-dioxide back into your body.

A Danish study published in November of 2020 proves that masks do not significantly lower the infection rate among people. The test had 6000 participants, half wearing masks outdoors, and half not wearing the masks outdoors. In the

end, 42 people in the mask group got Covid, while 53 got it in the unmasked group.

Also, did you ever notice how it is kind of hot while wearing the mask? That's not only because of having the mask on your face, but also because some of the carbon-dioxide you just exhaled stays there, and you breathe it back in, thus receiving less oxygen.

Of course, if I am near an elderly person or someone who is highly vulnerable to covid-19, then I will wear the mask no doubt. However, if I am given the choice to wear or not to wear a mask, I would stay without one.



By Zachary Johnson

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that "Masks prevent the spread of COVID or infectious droplets," which means that masks do help. Moreover, to quote the FDA: "If worn properly, a surgical mask is meant to help block large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatter that may contain germs (viruses and bacteria), keeping it from reaching your mouth and nose. Surgical masks may also help reduce exposure of your saliva and respiratory secretions to others."

This is definitive proof, from two unbiased world and government agencies that masks do, in fact, stop the spread of COVID-19, and are required to quickly end this pandemic.

To illustrate, the CDC

agrees masks are beneficial and should be required, "If you have a condition or taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. You should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider."

In my opinion, along with government fact to back it up, masks DO in fact slow the spread of COVID-19 and should be required, along with a mandate, to help us all.



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