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PINE VIEW THROUGH THE SNOW

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Spot the difference!



Third-grader Elizaveta Prokhorenko poses with her cheerleading awards. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANASTASIA PROKHORENKO



Second-grader Madeleine Vondrachek enjoys making friendship bracelets in her spare time. PHOTO BY SHELBY BRANN

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Adding joy to student's life

by Isabella Kulawik

Every student has their own passion — some love to read, play video games, or watch TV. However, not everyone sticks to the typical hobbies of elementary students. Third-grader Ryan Tang's hobby is math, which becomes evident as soon as a person gets to know him.

Driven to succeed, Tang has been participating in math competitions and events this past year. Since the COVID-19 pandemic caused many things to be remote, he has had allows him easy access to events outside of the state.

After moving from New

Jersey, Tang first went to Ashton Elementary School before starting his first year at Pine View. His experience at Ashton fueled his passion for math.

"I was more interested in other stuff, but when I moved to Florida, in Ashton, the math was very easy, and I got very tired of it," Tang said.

In response to this boredom, Tang's mother, Joyce Liew, began purchasing math books like "Beast Academy" and the "Life of Fred." Tang read these book independently and they greatly improved his skills.

Math and science are also

in Tang's blood. His mother works with quantitative analysis in finance and majored in computer science, while his father, a software engineer, majored in electrical engineering. This inspired Tang to learn more about and explore both subjects.

"I didn't teach him any [chemistry]... he started by watching YouTube and when he wanted to know more about it. He can google it and do a lot of reading online," Liew said.

In the future, Tang plans to continue with math competitions and work on his other extracurriculars like swim-



Bent over a workbook, third-grader Ryan Tang practices. He plans to continue with chemistry and math competitions.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOYCE LIEW

ming and ice skating.

Currently, Tang has participated in three math competitions and has even attended a math event hosted by a Carnegie Mellon math profes-

sor.

"When I win competitions or get better, I'm happy... I want to do things ahead of time and I know I'll be successful," Tang said.

Gratitude in Grams

by Terry Shen

What started as a brainstorming session to raise money for Cobalt, Pine View's version of prom, turned into the school's newest fundraiser, marketed to all grades alike: Gratitude Grams.

The Cobalt Committee sold the grams for five dollars a piece on the auditorium steps from November 8 to November 18, then distributed the handwritten notes and goodie bags on November 19, the day before Thanksgiving break.

"In the gratitude grams, we included candy and various little trinkets. Attached to the bag was a turkey cut

out with the hand-written message to the recipient," twelfth-grader and Cobalt Director Kani Schram said.

Normally, the eleventh-grade class hosts the event for the twelfth-grade class. However, in 2020, Cobalt was canceled, and in 2021, the event was downscaled and had to be held in the Student Union. In order to get this year's Cobalt back on track, the planning committee, which includes three other directors—twelfth-grader Grace Johnson and eleventh-graders Ocean Bruinius and Olivia Liu, knew they would have to come up with some new fundraisers.

"When we fundraised junior year, it was just fundraising for our class, but now we are directing specific fundraisers to gain more attention towards the cause of having the best Cobalt possible," twelfth-grader and Cobalt Director, Kani Schram said.

Beyond the money raised, the directors were proud to see how many people wanted to thank one another for being in their lives.

Elementary School Guidance Counselor Kate McManus said, "Showing gratitude for each other really lifts the climate of the whole school, so really supporting each other is a great thing."



Gratitude Grams spread positive messages. They were distributed along with goodie bags November 19.

PHOTO BY GRACE JOHNSON

Holiday Movies

With over two weeks of Winter Break this year, there's plenty of time to binge your favorite holiday movies! Without further ado, here's The Match's favorites.



Rise of the Guardians (2012)

A totally crazy take on the holiday season. Unique characters, a goofy storyline and a cute bunny, what could go wrong?

A true Christmas classic! Full of familiar characters and a cute holiday story. Plus, Snoopy Shenanigans!



A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)

A lesser known holiday film, but totally underrated! A nontraditional spin on the origin story of everyone's favorite Santa Claus.

Klaus (2019)



GRAPHIC BY LILY QUARTERMAINE

Getting Bold With Braids

by **Shelby Brann**

When walking through the playground outside Building 16, shouting and energetic laughter fill the air as young elementary students gleefully play and talk. However, not everyone is partaking in the games; second-grader Madeleine Vondrachek can often be found at the back picnic tables with her friends. From her wrists and neck hang tiny, colorful designs made out of string.

Braiding has long been a hobby of Vondrachek's, and she's never one to pass up the opportunity to be creative. Vondrachek is known for her beautiful designs far and wide.

She often wears them to school, occasionally making a bracelet or necklace just to match her outfit. She loves to gift them to others, as well.

Vondrachek takes much pride in the bracelets. She was taught how to make these string braids from her friend in Chicago, where she used to live. She fell in love with the craft right away. She smiled when asked how many bracelets she knows.

"A lot! I don't know them all."

Vondrachek thinks that many people would enjoy making the bracelets. When asked how to teach a person to make one, she replied that the

design was what mattered.

"It just depends on the way you knot the bracelet, the string, and how many pieces of string you use to make the pattern," she said.

Vondrachek loves to braid, and enjoys reading and being creative, too. She braids all the time and loves losing herself in a pattern.

"It's just really fun to knot, knot, knot, and soon, once you get used to it, you can go really fast," she said.

Her friends aren't the only ones who have noticed her hobby. Jennifer Kochenderfer, her homeroom teacher, speaks of her fondly.

"She puts in that extra ef-



Second-grader Madeleine Vondrachek can often be found at lunch, braiding unique designs. She often gifts these designs to her friends. PHOTO BY SHELBY BRANN

fort. She always is going 212 in her work, and any projects I give her, she likes to make sure that it's, you know, done and to the best of her ability," Kochenderfer said.

Vondrachek knows exactly what she's looking for in the future — she hopes to eventually accomplish a bordered chevron. Soon enough, she'll be wearing one!

Student writes book: 'The Cat Club'



Maya Greenberg has been writing her book, "The Cat Club", since second grade. PHOTO BY JADA DAVIDSON

by **Jada Davidson**

On the night of October 31, third-grader Maya Greenberg moved her pencil across a sheet of paper. Within minutes, she lifted her pencil to admire her work. Meanwhile, her father created letters, pe-

riods, commas and sentences. One page down, 199 left to go.

Third-grade teacher MacKenzie Fox, who has been teaching Greenberg for four months, smiled when asked about her student's writing.

"Maya does a really great

job with writing. She's very imaginative, and her characters are very interesting. Every single character has a very in-depth backstory," Fox said about Greenberg's story.

Greenberg's book, titled "The Cat Club," is about five girls— 13-year-old Clo, 8-year-old Sabrina, 9-year-old Miniee, 14-year-old Lucy, 10-year-old Izzy, and 12-year-old Emily, who are living in a village, cursed by a mysterious woman. This curse created by the mysterious woman caused all the men in the village to act strangely.

The members of the secret Cat Club, spy on the

strange men to figure out how to get them back to normal. Each member wears cat ear headbands and cat tails, along with a blindfold that only they can see through; this blindfold keeps them from being recognized by the villagers.

They go on missions at night, but, one night, something goes wrong! (You'll have to read the book when it is published to find out what happens)

Each of Greenberg's five books-to-be involve plots like this one described, each starring main supervillains Edgar and Elga.

"Edgar and Elga both par-

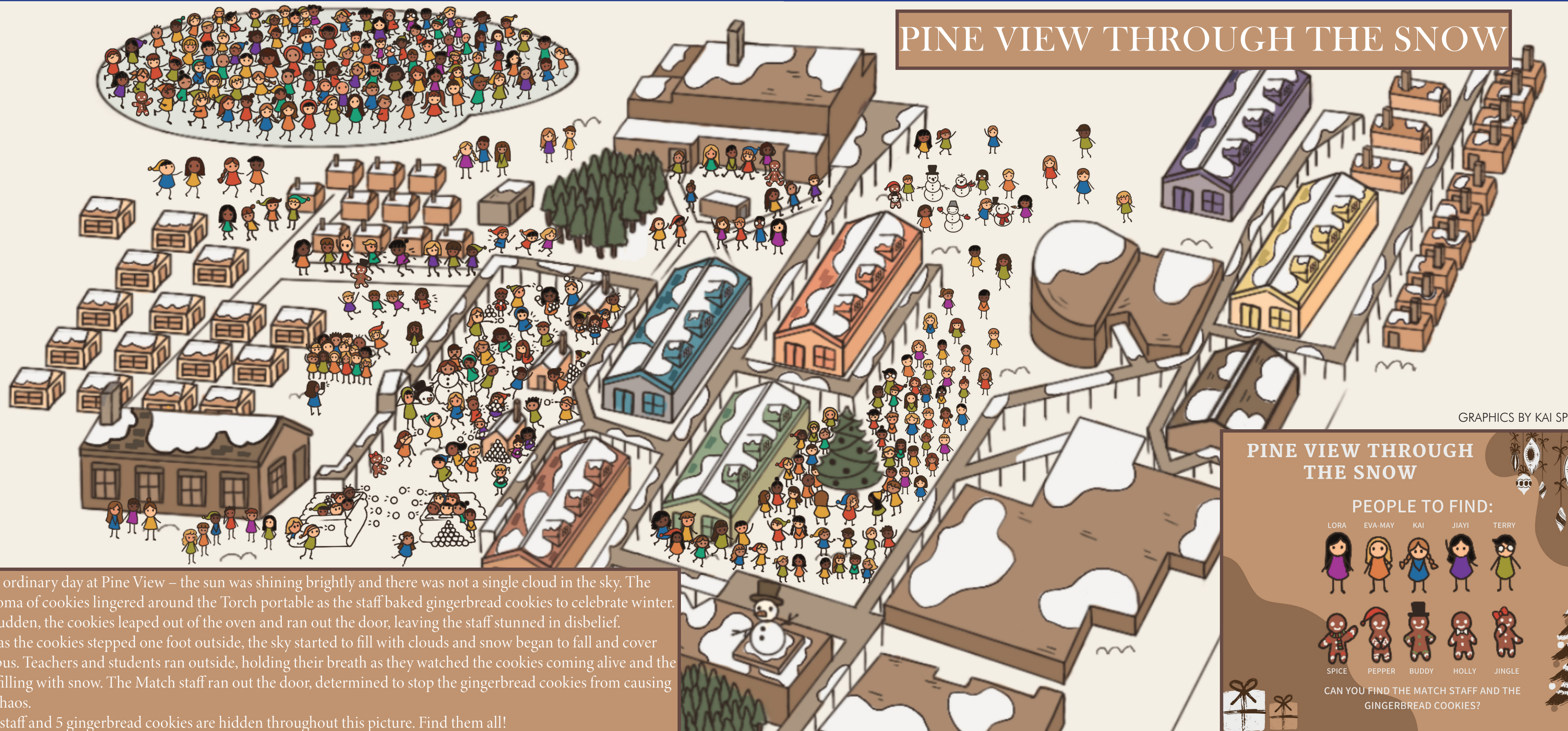
alyze people, but Edgar goes after teenagers, so watch out Clo and Lucy!" Greenberg laughs as she recalls that detail.

Greenberg started writing when she was in second grade and began to write "The Cat Club" after she read Beth Vrabel's "The Newspaper Club." Her father has aided her in writing this book.

"I chose my dad to help me because he's a really good writer, and he wrote a book in seventh grade," Greenberg said.

With her father helping her, Greenberg expects the book to be done and published by April of 2022.

PINE VIEW THROUGH THE SNOW



GRAPHICS BY KAI SPRUNGER

PINE VIEW THROUGH THE SNOW

PEOPLE TO FIND:

LORA EVA-MAY KAI JIAYI TERRY



CAN YOU FIND THE MATCH STAFF AND THE GINGERBREAD COOKIES?

It was an ordinary day at Pine View – the sun was shining brightly and there was not a single cloud in the sky. The sweet aroma of cookies lingered around the Torch portable as the staff baked gingerbread cookies to celebrate winter. All of a sudden, the cookies leaped out of the oven and ran out the door, leaving the staff stunned in disbelief. As soon as the cookies stepped one foot outside, the sky started to fill with clouds and snow began to fall and cover the campus. Teachers and students ran outside, holding their breath as they watched the cookies coming alive and the campus filling with snow. The Match staff ran out the door, determined to stop the gingerbread cookies from causing further chaos.

5 Match staff and 5 gingerbread cookies are hidden throughout this picture. Find them all!



Cheering with her peers

by Aly Zaleski

Going up, up, up and up... look out at that crowd! They're here for third-grader Elizaveta Prokhorenko, who has been a flyer at Champions in Motion Cheerleading for one year.

Prokhorenko made her way to the fourth level of cheer through practice and hard work. With every level, she gains more responsibilities and grows as a cheerleader.

As a flyer, Prokhorenko stands on top — literally. Her peers pick her up, help her with spins, and spot her while

she works the routine.

"It's really scary...[but] it's fun!" Prokhorenko said, describing the stunt.

However, there is a lot more to cheer than just flips. With her group, Prokhorenko builds teamwork skills and friendships. The group she was put with when she first joined was in the third level. From there, she made her way up to the next level. The growth she has made is noticeable to her mother, Anastasia Prokhorenko.

"I'm just happy that she is happy," she said.

As she's been helping and

supporting her daughter with cheer, she realized that having a team by her daughter's side has had a positive effect on her.

Prokhorenko found the perfect sport — not only does she find it fun, but the sport is also a good creative outlet. Similar to dance, there is a lot of movement and thought that goes into cheer. The work it takes for practices all lead up to her competitions.

In her most recent group competition, Prokhorenko got third place. For her next competition in January, she's working hard to get first place.



Left: Third-grader Elizaveta Prokhorenko is currently in the fourth level of cheerleading.

Right: Prokhorenko is held up by her peers as they practice a routine.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANASTASIA PROKHORENKO

She has a drive to keep going and she aims to do as best as she can.

From helping her under-

stand responsibility and work to having some good fun, cheer has helped Prokhorenko truly become herself.

Winter Sports Alternatives In Florida 1

FLORIDA'S LACK OF SNOW AND FROST MAKES IT HARD TO DO WINTER SPORTS LIKE SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING. HERE ARE THREE WINTER SPORTS ALTERNATIVES TO TRY!

1 In Florida, winter is the perfect time to dart around compared to the sweltering summers. Whether it's playing tag or sprinting down hills, you better make a run for it!

2 While surfing is known as a summer sport, the perk of sunny Florida is that you can surf and boogie board all season long on the Florida beaches with friends and family.

3 Bring snow to the shores with indoor ice skating! Places like Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex let you be festive without being on thin ice.



GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU

Self Portraits

Recently, students in Rebecca Kochenderfer's second-grade class created portraits of themselves.



by Max Nordstrom



by Madeline Vondrachek



by Jessica Rusli



by Finnegan Christ



by Lily Miller



by Elise Camodeca

Papercut gives student powers

by Sarah Hassan

It was a quiet, normal day at Pine View — except for one thing. Under Building 16, in a lab full of dirty beakers filled with chemical residue, second-grader Axel Dent Alpron was diligently working on a chemical to finish his reading homework that he had put off for months.

When he was searching for the final reactant, a part of his homework, he was cut by the rude piece of paper! However, he didn't have any first aid tools or band aids to help with this painful paper cut, so he let it sit and forgot about it.

The next morning, Al-

pron tried running through the closing fence door in the car loop. However, he thought that he had miscalculated and the door would shut on him, but all of sudden, he had made it!

After the shock, Alpron realized that he was as flat as a piece of paper. He looked at his papercut and saw that it was radiating a strange light. Alpron quickly connected the dots and concluded that he had gained paper superpowers.

Since his new power made him extremely thin, Alpron also had the ability to become invisible whenever

he turned sideways. He felt mischievous, so he decided to play a prank on his classmates and teachers.



GRAPHIC BY SARAH HASSAN

With his newly discovered capabilities, Alpron was able to get through the long army of second-graders to his class. He walked into his classroom packed with motivational posters and desks

arranged in rows.

For each desk, he placed glue on everyone's chairs, but then he heard movements from outside the room — maybe it was his teacher! He panicked, and then, since he had paper-like qualities, his fingers got stuck to the chair. The worst part was that he got stuck while he was “invisible,” so no one could help him. He then had the reassuring thought, “Someone will at least remember that I'm gone.”

Unfortunately, he could not have been more wrong.

“We have an Axel in our class?” asked his second-grade teacher Remem-

Brance.

Alpron then realized that the others never got to know him because he was so absorbed with his lab work.

Eventually, with his infrared goggles used to enhance nighttime vision, the custodian Pickup Urtrash found the “invisible” Alpron because of his body heat.

After the incident, Alpron realized that he should introduce himself and also enjoy the time he has with his classmates instead of working in his laboratory every morning.

All in all, the moral of this story is to always wash your hands.

Ice sculpting competition fail

by Sarah Catalano

This year, along with the arrival of winter came Pine View's first ever ice sculpting competition.

Early in the morning students eagerly filed into the lunch area to begin sculpting. Among the glittering frozen carvings were true masterpieces — miniature golf carts (with wheels that worked!), to scale replicas of building 16, and even a six-foot-tall Among Us crewmate sculpted by second-grade student Maeda Snow.

“It was incredible,” third-grader Arthur Teest recalled. “I have never seen so much ice in my life, or such an

accurate sculpture of a spilled can of baked beans.”

As the hot Florida sun rose above the horizon, contestants faced a new challenge. Their snowy creations were melting before their eyes!

Several students tried to cram their frozen sculptures into coolers. Teest was seen sprinting to Building 16, carrying his anatomically correct recreation of a blobfish to place in the safety of a teacher's mini fridge.

Alas, the students' efforts were not enough. The first ever Pine View Ice Sculpture Contest had melted away. What's more, the water gen-

erated from 16 tons of melted ice was rapidly flooding the campus, making the lunch area a small lake. Students and teachers scrambled to find higher ground, gathering atop the playground and hanging from the branches of trees to avoid the rising water from the melted ice creations.

Then, out of the pandemonium — a voice from the heavens! The speaker crackled to life, and through it came a history-defining announcement.

“Students and teachers, may I have your attention,” Dr. Covert said. “The first ever Pine View Ice Sculpture Contest is cancelled.”



Ice sculptures melt and flood the school. Pine View's first ice sculpting competition ended in disarray. GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO

Sighs of resignation and groans of disappointment filled the air. Students treading water in the now seven-foot-deep flood looked at each other glumly. But the announcement was not over yet.

“The first ever Pine View Ice Sculpture Contest is cancelled,” Dr. Covert repeated, “and, in its place, we are officially beginning the first ever Pine View Synchronized Swimming Contest!”

Elves construct Building 17

by Isabella Gaskill

With the new building nearly complete, The Match would like to highlight a particular group of workers who helped make Pine View's dream a reality. Unknown to many students, a group of elves have been working tirelessly to assist in the construction of Building 17.

The industrialization of the shoe-making business left thousands of elves jobless in recent years. This has had a devastating effect on the elf population, and many elves are seeking different career paths. Fortunately, some of them found their perfect job right here at Pine View.

"Turns out, construction

work pays a lot better than making shoes," elf Sugarplum Mary said.

The elves first approached the school two years ago. As expert craftsmen, they had all the skills needed to help construct the new building. Many of the elves even had experience with woodworking and logging, making them the perfect candidates for clearing trees and bushes to make room for the structure. Pine View was more than happy to have them working on the project.

In addition to their crafting capabilities, the elves also helped in other ways. Shorter than the average human, the

elves assisted construction workers in ensuring that the building would work for students of all heights.

"We didn't even need to measure anything," worker Connor S. Truction, said. "If it works for the elves, it'll work just fine for the students."

The addition of elves to the team also greatly cut construction time. Although their small size means they cannot operate cranes or move large objects, their nimble fingers make them very quick at any tasks done by hand. In the time it would take a human worker to attach one door, an elf can attach three.

"It comes from years of working with shoes," elf



Near building 17, the elves are proud of their own creation. The elves came to Pine View two years ago to work on the building. GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA GASKILL

Gimbel Snow said. "I spent most of my life hand stitching boots, so it's pretty easy to drill a couple holes or hammer in some nails."

The completion of the building was bittersweet for a lot of the elves, and we will be very sad to see them leave the

campus.

"I learned a lot working on this project, I'm happy it's complete, but I'll miss working with everybody. Hopefully, if Pine View ever needs another building, they'll invite us back to work on it," elf Tinsel Toffeecakes said.



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[a column]

You have time



Lora Rini,
Match Editor-in-Chief

Happy winter break, Pine View elementary! It's hard to believe that this school year is already halfway over. While this thought is probably exciting and relieving for many of you, for others, it may inspire a feeling of dread.

Maybe your grades aren't as good as you wish they were, or you haven't won a game all season, or your new friends don't really seem to get you.

No matter what's going on, feeling like you're running out of time can be really scary. But I'm not here to freak you out! Quite the opposite, actually.

Believe me when I say that most of the things you're doing right now won't have a lasting impact on your future, at least as far as school is concerned. Obviously you

need to retain basic math concepts, but you have a lot of time before your grades impact what college you'll get into. While it's great to develop good study habits, a couple B's and C's never hurt anybody.

In terms of athletics and extracurriculars, don't be afraid to try new things. Even if you aren't great at first, remember you always have the potential to get better with practice. If you enjoy doing something, that's all that matters.

Most importantly, you're still growing as a person! As you get older, you're probably going to change a lot. If at some point, you find that you've outgrown the people and things you're surrounded with, that's completely fine.

You're still learning, so don't worry, and make sure you have fun while you're still a kid! You really do grow up faster than you think.

Take this break to have fun and decompress, and when you come back to school, try to have a more positive outlook. Instead of focusing on what you don't have, appreciate what you do. Keep your vision focused toward the future, not the past.