

The Match

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ideas or questions!



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New World
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PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

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Behind the Playbill

by Joanna Malvas

In an effort to bring unrestricted vision to the stage, Florida Studio Theatre has been hosting the Young Playwrights Festival since 1991. The festival was established by CEO and Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins along with Associate Director At-Large Kate Alexander. They accept written play submissions from K-6 students through the WRITE A PLAY contest program. It receives 4,500 to 8,000 submissions from around the world annually.

“We respect these plays, we take these plays under as

much consideration and give them just as much props as we would a professional playwright, even like Shakespeare,” Adam Ratner, the Lead Teaching Artist and Young Playwrights Festival Coordinator said.

The WRITE A PLAY program begins as early as fall. After team members read through the submissions, the selection process starts the first week of March, with 10 to 15 plays being chosen for the final show.

During the submissions cycle, the Playmakers visit Florida schools. The group has also travelled outside of

the country. This year, due to COVID-restrictions, the troupe is staying in Florida. In fact, the Playmakers will be making a visit to Pine View’s third grade class in February this school year. During each visit, the group performs past plays and improv, then visits classrooms to host playwriting workshops.

“Because you get to see how diverse and distinct each one of these cultures, or each one of these places where you go may be, the students, for the most part, all have the same kinds of wants... That’s one of the things that I have discovered: I think we have more



Florida Studio Theatre actors perform the winning student-written play, “The Ballad of Billy.” It was written in 2019 by current ninth-grader Matrick Thorpe. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADAM RATNER

similarities than we have dissimilarities,” Ratner said.

Fourth grade teacher Debbie Delaney expressed how the program has added another approach to writing outside of the curriculum, which largely pertains to expository and informational

writing.

“I think that it’s important because I think the kids love the creative side of things. To me, I think that it’s important for the kids to be able to write a story and have something creative that they came up with,” Delaney 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

New Building, New World



Starting next semester, Building 17 will be open to students and teachers. For elementary school students, that means entering a brand new classroom for their music elective. The xylophones, drums and glockenspiels currently residing in Portable 01 will have a new, soundproofed home: Room 17-113. In fact, all portables will be removed from campus by the end of the school year, a change that accompanies the transition of classes to Building 17.

What are your thoughts on having music class in the new building?



Fifth-grader Suyi Yao: I guess we'll have more room in music. [Ms. Shepler] said that she didn't have enough room to put all of the instruments, and then I guess you have to put the instruments in, and then we have more room to move around.

What are your thoughts about not having portables on campus anymore?

Suyi Yao: It's really that portables are too small. I don't like it when it's loud in class, and it's really too loud in the portables sometimes.

Ella Yee: I actually like the portables! It's nice and cozy.



What are your opinions on Building 17 having stairs?



Fifth-grader Ella Yee: Well, there's going to be rolling backpacks ... It's hard to carry them up the stairs, so it might be like that in the new building.



January and February Events and Birthdays

Jan. 8

Caitlin Sedlak's birthday

Feb. 16

Jenny Reyka's birthday

Feb. 21

James Ross's Birthday

Feb. 24

Kathy Shepler's Birthday



Students tape Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle to one of the yellow poles outside the office. This event was a reward for raising money for Mayors Feed the Hungry. PHOTO BY LILY QUARTERMAINE



Students in Freda Williams's third grade class visit the new Star Lab for the first time. The Star Lab is located in the former Tel Lab and contains an inflatable planetarium. PHOTO BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

IN BRIEF

The First Pine View Spelling Bee

by Peyton Harris

Ready, set, spell! Pine View has officially introduced its newest sport, the annual spelling bee. It took place December 6 and 7 after school, involving students ranging from second to eighth grade. December 6 involved competitions between grades 2-4, and December 7 was 5-8.

After competing in grade-level competitions, the competitors will go head to head to crown a school champion. After that, the winner will compete in a regional competition in late January via Zoom.

"There was some parent and student interest (in the spelling bee)," Elementary Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle said. "Some of the teachers thought that here we have a school of some of the brightest minds in the country and we should let them showcase themselves through this spelling bee."

The winner of the second grade bee was Ishaan Sheshani, third grade was Samira Richard and fourth grade was Abigail Kim and Sayhan Sheikh.

Sprinkle said he was "very excited" to see how the competition played out.

Vaccine approved for ages 5-11

by Zoe Merritt

As of November 23, the FDA had approved use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 for children ages 5 to 11. As with the vaccine for adults, opinions among the general public are divided.

However, local pediatrician and Pine View parent, Sheeba Mesghali, M.D. strongly supports its use.

"It should be treated like any other vaccine given to children. It should not be influenced by social media and opinions, as everything we practice is evidence based,"

Mesghali said.

According to the CDC, there have been nearly 2 million cases of COVID in kids 5-11. The CDC recommends that children 5 and up receive the COVID vaccine.

"I would tell parents who are on the fence to specifically discuss it with their pediatrician, or go to websites like CDC for review of studies on children," Mesghali said. "Kids have been vaccinated since the very beginning in trials and studies, and it is safe, or it would never have been approved."

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)



A Family Philharmonic

by Alyson Mizanin

Born into a musical family, fifth-grader Ella Yee was practically destined to pursue music herself one day. That day came when she was around four years old; over half a decade later, Yee has been playing music ever since.

Yee's musical journey began with piano; violin soon followed once her arms were long enough to hold the instrument. As the youngest of four children, she followed the same musical path her three older siblings—seventh-grader Lucas Yee, ninth-grader Annalise Yee, and eleventh-grader

Madeline Yee—carved before her. She recalls attending her older siblings' concerts and watching piano instructors teach them before starting her own work with music.

Yee's father, John Yee, notes that though the four children are typically more independent with their music, they come together to play as a group occasionally.

"What I enjoy the most is during Christmas and birthday parties, they'll come together and play like a little symphony," he said.

Yee started playing violin for the Sarasota Youth Orches-

tra about four years ago. Presently, she plays alongside her brother. Yee's older siblings often give her tips and tricks on how to perfect the music that she plays.

"I like to play music because then, I don't have to pull it up. I can play for myself," Yee said. "I enjoy hearing and playing the songs."

John Yee said that Yee often gives the music she plays her own twist.

"She's at the stage where she enjoys just playing around with the music," John Yee said. "She'll play hip-hop songs and sing along with them instead



Fifth-grader Ella Yee poses with her violin. Yee has played with Sarasota Youth Orchestra for the past four years.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOHN YEE

of the classical music type, but that's what she enjoys... She's creative and always active. I think she's learning how to enjoy music and relax with it."

As for what the future holds, Yee plans to continue

playing piano and violin as she gets older.

"Piano and violin have taught me how to focus," Yee said. "Music helps me get through my work and helps me relax."

If you liked reading this...



HARRY POTTER
BY J.K. ROWLING

YOU
MIGHT
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SEPTIMUS HEAP
BY ANGIE SAGE



WARRIOR CATS
BY ERIN HUNTER

YOU
MIGHT
LIKE



SPIRIT ANIMALS
BY BRANDON
MULL



PERCY JACKSON
BY RICK RIORDAN

YOU
MIGHT
LIKE



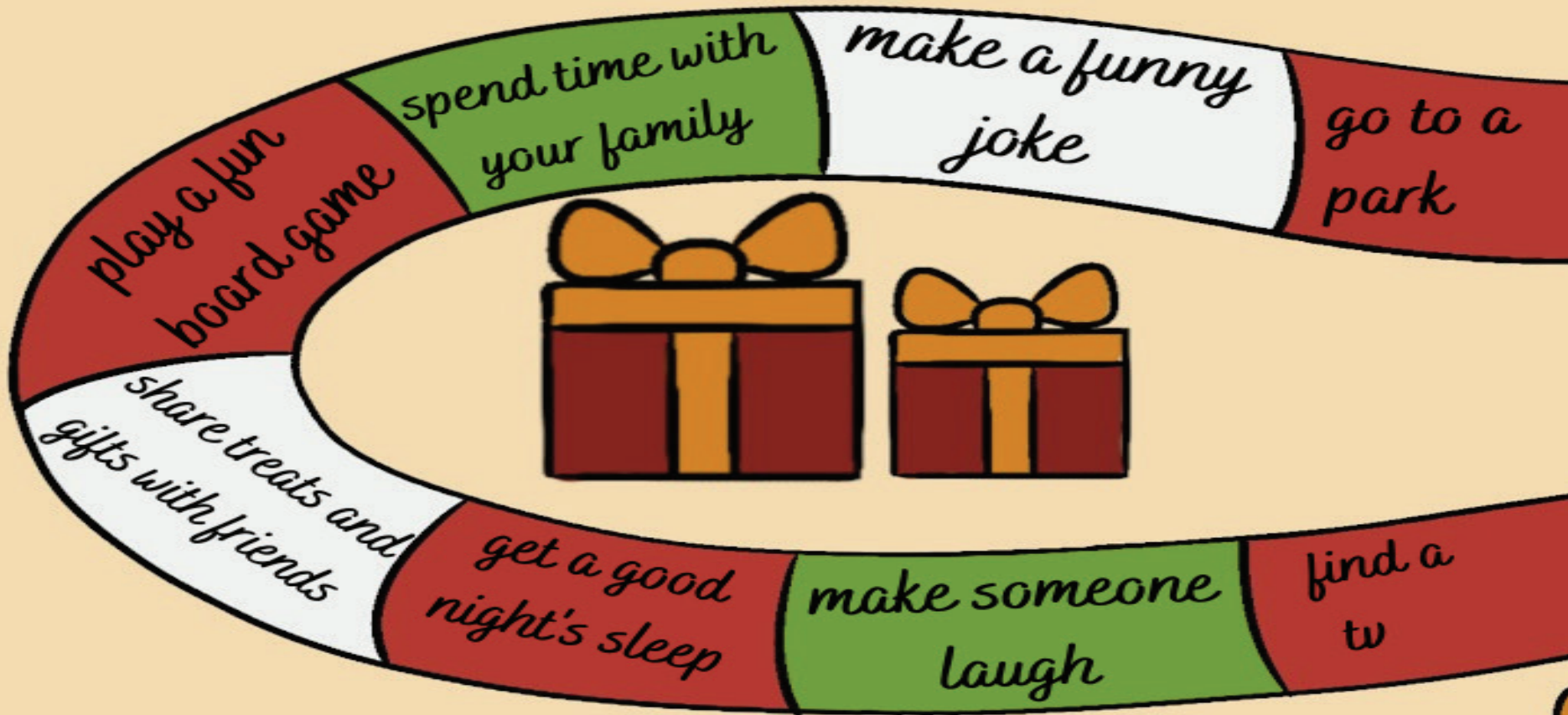
KEEPER OF THE
CITIES BY SHANNON
MESSENGER

Like "Harry Potter," "Septimus Heap" is a seven-book fantasy series named after the protagonist. As the seventh son of a seventh son, Septimus has extraordinary magical abilities, something that makes him very dangerous to the villains of the story. He becomes an apprentice to the ExtraOrdinary Wizard, and the book series follows him as he learns magyk and discovers who he truly is. With an amazing cast of characters including ghosts and dragons, it is set in a fantastical magical world.

In "Spirit Animals," four kids discover that they have spirit animals, lifelong animal partners that they share a special bond with. Each of the children has summoned a Great Beast, which are especially powerful spirit animals, quickly turning these ordinary kids into heroes. The four must learn to trust each other as a dark force rises, threatening to destroy life as they know it.

"Percy Jackson" and "Keeper of the Lost Cities" both follow the journey of a young protagonist who is a little different from everybody else. Sophie Foster has an ability that she thinks nobody else does: she can read minds. Her world turns upside down when she meets a boy with the same ability. She discovers that she isn't as alone as she thought she was, but that her power could put her family in grave danger. She must leave behind her old life as she finds her place in the world.

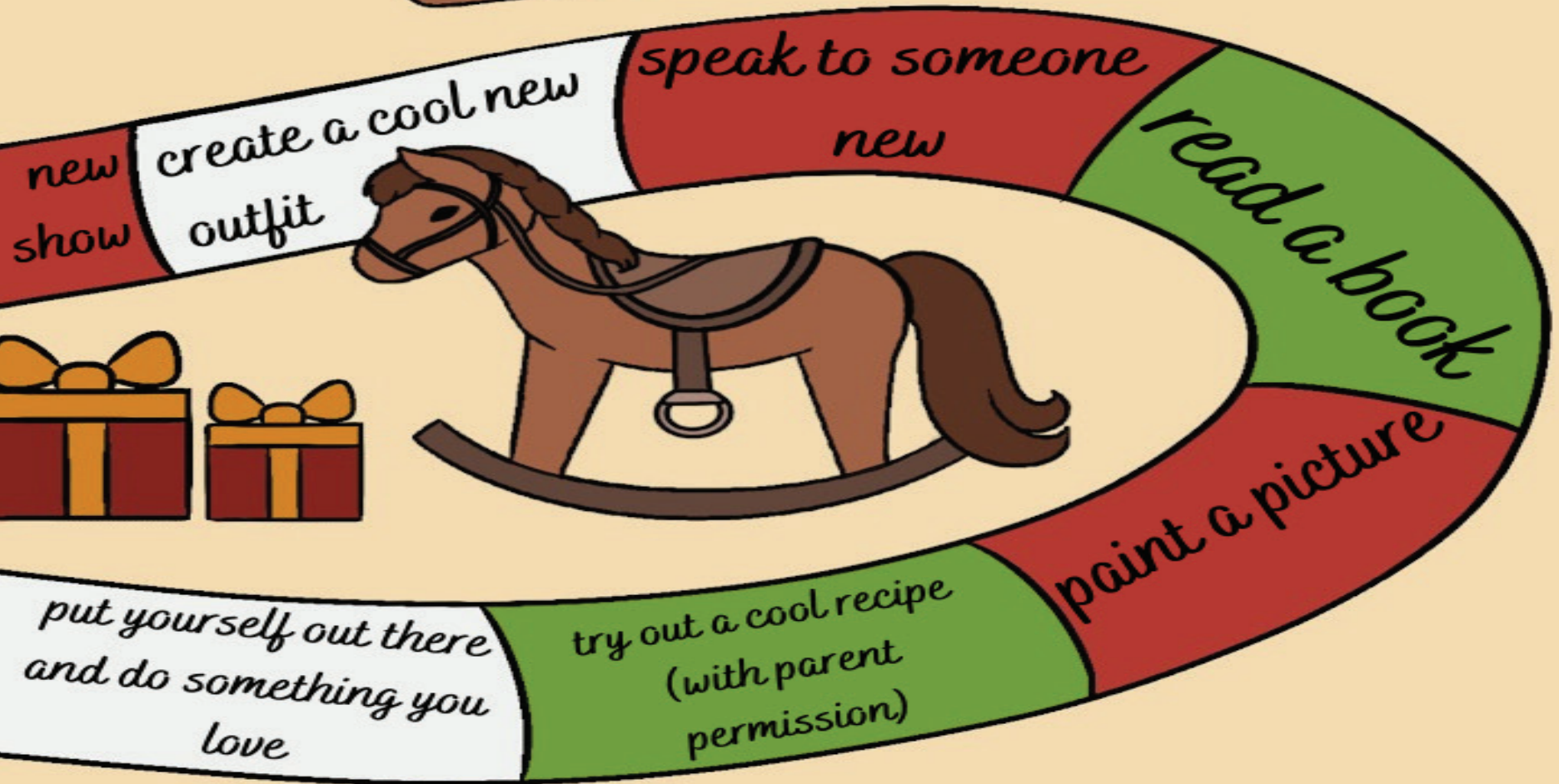
Help! The Grinch Stole



Follow the steps, completing the tasks and help us save Christmas!



Christmas!



Student swims for Sharks

by Faith Bossman

He dolphin kicks to the end of the pool, exhausted but excited, he made the flag cut, an achievement. Fifth-grader Zach Hawk has been swimming for 4 and a half years now, and swims for the Sharks swimming team for around two hours almost every day, plus he attends competitive swim meets.

“The reason I do it is because, one, it is really healthy for me, two, I have a lot of friends there, three, it’s a really great sport,” Hawk said.

He said he enjoys mov-

ing between levels of swimming with his friends. Currently, he is in the gold group, one of the best for his age. He also likes moving up in different levels with his friends, and bonding through swimming.

“I am missing Friday for a huge meet in Orlando...I am nervous because there are big flag cuts... and it’s really nervewracking,” Hawk said. In swimming, flag cuts are times you have to make in order to go to “flags”, a bigger competition. These can be difficult and stressful to pass, but also an accom-

plishment. His favorite races are the 100m backstroke and 50m backstroke because he is good at it and they were also the first flag cuts he made.

“I was really really excited, it was a huge event,” said Hawk after making his first flag cut.

For Hawk, 19-year-old Emma Weyant is the swimmer he looks up to. She is an Olympic swimmer that came from the Sharks swimming team and won silver at the 2021 Summer Olympics.

Weyant is very inspiring for the kids at the Sharks pool and inspires many to



Fifth-grader Zach Hawk swims freestyle in a race. Hawk started swimming over 4 years ago. PHOTO PROVIDED BY VERONICA FOLIAN

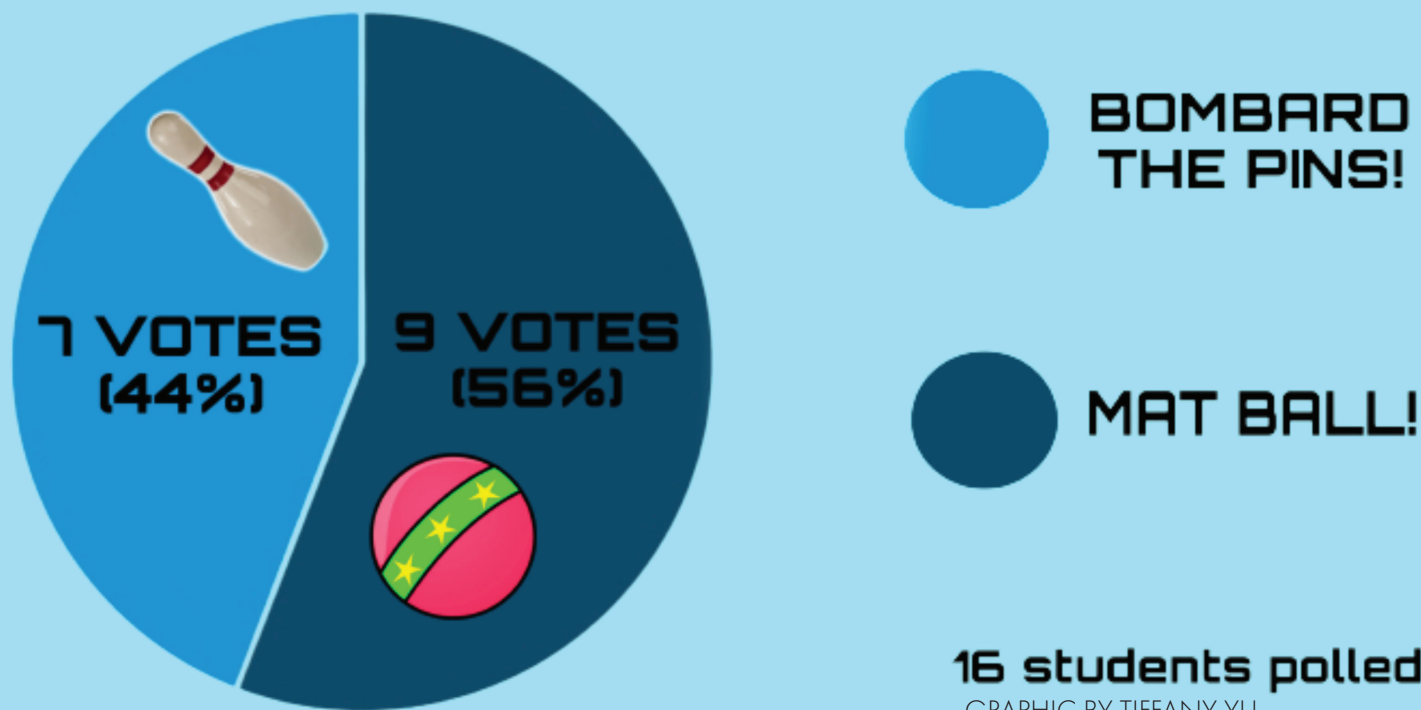
keep swimming. When she returned to Sarasota after a meet, Weyant gave a speech about perseverance.

Hawk finds it motivational to hear someone who kept swimming with the

Sharks talk about persisting and dedication in swimming.

“We sat at the airport and welcomed her home when she came back, I feel like at the pool we are all a family,” Hawk said.

BOMBARD THE PINS OR MAT BALL?



16 students polled

GRAPHIC BY TIFFANY YU

Competition, Friendship, and Fun!

by Lucy Collins

From the shining sun and green grass of the soccer field to being surrounded by teammates to the quiet and peace of her own home, fourth-grader Sanvi Patel dedicates herself to soccer with the hopes of improving her game.

Patel began the sport a year and a half ago for the West Coast Chaos. She played on a team that would compete with others in the local league, practicing twice per week while simultaneously participating in gymnastics.

When asked what inspires her to play soccer, Patel responded that her sister, who played briefly in her youth, is her inspiration. Patel watched

her sister go to practice and games in her uniform and she wanted to participate, as well. So, her parents found a soccer club nearby and enrolled her.

“From last year to now, she’s playing most every game. Her skills are improving a lot more, too,” her father, Dipak Patel, said.

Thinking back to her time in the non-competitive league, one of Patel’s favorite memories is when her coach put her in the goalie position with no prior experience during a game.

“It made me feel kind of nervous because I had no experience, but I was also happy because I had always wanted to be goalie,” Patel said.

In August of this year when Patel’s friends decided to move to a more competitive league, Patel joined them because she wanted to challenge herself more. The new team was a more competitive team within the same league. The team travels for their games and have more focused practices.

Patel participates in scrimmages with her team, as well as drills that work to improve in areas the coach sees fit, such as running. To improve, the coach had them run laps around the soccer field and wind sprints.

Patel usually does not like missing practice with her team for fear of missing an im-



Fourth-grader Sanvi Patel, focused on her sport, kicks the soccer ball in her cleats with ease. Patel started to play soccer a year and a half ago and plays for West Coast Chaos. PHOTO PROVIDED BY DIPAK PATEL

portant lesson, but when she does, she makes sure to practice at home. She sets a point on her wall, either indoors or outdoors, backs up and dribbles the ball between her feet until she’s within a reasonable distance and kicks the ball.

Typically, Patel plays

either the forward or midfielder position. She prefers midfielder, she said, because it makes her feel like she can help anyone.

“Soccer has inspired me to learn a lot of new stuff, I want to keep doing it so I can learn more,” Patel said.

Winter Sports Alternatives In Florida

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!

GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU

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.



How are pearls made?

[student question submission]
Question submitted by Lila Paul



by Eva-May Elmer

Pearls are used for many things: jewelry, clothing, cosmetics, paint and even medicine. But how does this multi-purpose shiny ocean object come to be? Well, pearls aren't made in just one way. In fact, there are three ways!

The first type of pearl is natural. When some sort of irritant enters a marine oyster or freshwater mussel oyster and a liquid, called nacre, is released inside the oyster/mussel, coating the irritant

and after many layers, creating the pearl. Pearls are made as a defense mechanism for the oyster/mussel, to keep them safe.

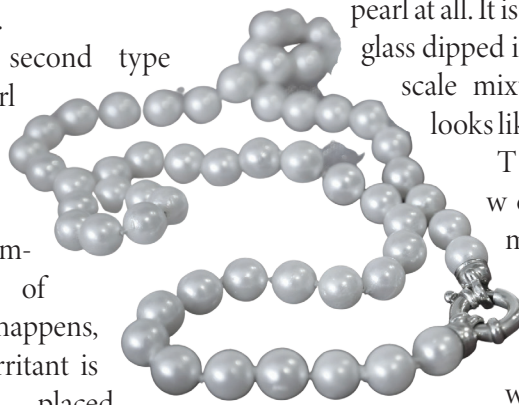
The second type of pearl is cultured. This is when a similar sort of process happens, but the irritant is surgically placed inside the oyster instead of the irritant making its

way naturally.

These two types of pearls can also come from freshwater or saltwater. Freshwater pearls usually have a more irregular shape and can be considered lower quality than saltwater pearls. Regardless, pearls can take from 5 to 10 years to be formed fully!

The last type of pearl is an imitation, which really isn't a pearl at all. It is a bead of glass dipped into a fish scale mixture that looks like a pearl. The world's most expensive pearl is a whopping \$100 million!

Real pearls are the ocean's



gems, some of the rarest in the



month of June as well. Pearls are frequently associated with tears, of gods. Polynesian Lore says that Lono, a god, came with black pearls as a gift on a rainbow to a princess. Pearls come from oysters, and they're pretty cool too. Oysters are

good as food, they provide iron, protein and calcium. They can be found in beds, reefs and shallow waters. Their shell colors are various shades of white. Oysters can change gender multiple times in their life! They are quite sensitive also but aren't listed as an endangered species as of now.

Sources:
J. Thomas Jewelers
Natural History Museum
National Geographic
International Gem Society
Add A Pearl

DID YOU KNOW?

Pearls started being worn as jewelry as early on as 420BC.

Pineapple on pizza should be illegal

by Sarah Hassan

I still remember being four years old, staring longingly at the yummy and appetizing gooey cheese circle laying on the dinner table. For those who still haven't figured it out, I'm talking about pizza.

Now, pizza is so delicious that it can go with anything, right? You can eat pizza with vegetables, pepperoni and sausage as your toppings, and that's great. However, the first sentence of this paragraph is actually false. In fact, some

foods don't compliment each other at all. It's a given that avocados taste horrible with chocolate, so why do people eat pizza with pineapple?

First off, pineapples completely change the taste of the pizza. I like pineapples, but it sweetens the pizza

way too much. Now, there are different types of pizzas, but the ones that I have eaten are generally saltier than sweet, with Papa John's being a notable ex-

ception. Also, pineapples create a weird aftertaste that resides in my mouth.

Now, if you tell me that you ordered a pineapple pizza and I can just

take it off if I

don't want it, then you are wrong. Even after picking off the pineapple, the residue of the taste is still there. That ruins the entire pizza experience. Besides

tomatoes, I would not like a fruit on my pizza as a topping.

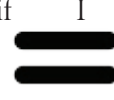
Another factor is that the entire texture of the pizza is tainted by the pineapple.

The pizza tends to become more soggy after absorbing the juice from the fruit. After

peeling off the pineapple, in addition to the remaining sweetness, there is a dent from where the pineapple was, and to make it worse, it's soggy. Even when

the pineapple is on the pizza, the soft texture of the pineapple just doesn't suit the cheese and the bread portion of the dish.

I do have to say that when I was younger, I committed the crime of eating pineapple pizza, and if you do eat it, then I respect you because it is your taste. However, for me, I began to dislike it over time and now I refuse to eat it. It's a simple math equation for me — as one plus one equals two, pizza plus pineapple equals a thumbs down.



What are your thoughts on pineapple pizza?



"I'm sorry, but pineapple pizza—I've never liked it— it should be illegal."

- Lila Paul, Grade 5



"I've never actually tried pineapple pizza. Everyone says it's disgusting, but I'm not really sure."

- Sahana Nayyar, Grade 5



"I love pineapple pizza. I actually get it all the time when I order pizza — it's really good. It tastes nice. Like sweet and sour, sort of."

- Alakh Bhatt, Grade 5

Ice Sculpture Contest on Campus Goes Awry

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!), scale replicas of Building 16, 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, it was not enough. The first-ever Pine View Ice Sculpture Contest had



GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO

melted away. What's more, the water generated from 16 tons of melted ice was rapid-

ly flooding the campus, making the lunch area a veritable 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."

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 instead, we are officially starting the first ever Pine View Synchronized Swimming Contest!"

Holiday Unscramble

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  SREPETN |  TSLHGI |  EKOIGSTN |  MNASONW |
|  HTRAEW |  HIEGSL |  EEERRDIN |  ATANS |

GRAPHIC BY TERRY SHEN

A Poe-tic Poem

by Terry Shen

Fourth-grader Poe Miller woke up early on a cloudy Monday for school. Everything was completely normal.

"Have a good day!" said her mom, after dropping Miller off.

As she got out of the car, something extraordinary happened. Her classmates, as well as many strangers, came up to her shaking her hand and screaming her name.

"Poe! Poe! Poe!" they chanted.

She was baffled. She had no idea why the kids were so excited. She wondered if it was a joke. A teacher seeing the commotion came over angry, but after seeing Miller, she shook Miller's hand and walked her to class. The teacher started talking but Miller tuned her out.

Miller wondered if she was in trouble. She realized she was being taken to the principal's office.

"I just want to say how proud of you I am," Principal Dr. Stephen Covert said.

"What are you talking about?" Miller asked.

"Your awesome poem of course!" Covert said.

Miller was confused for a second but remembered the poem she wrote for English.

"I thought I got like a B or

something on it," she said.

"Nope, we entered it into the National Poetry Competition, and you got first place. They even made a new category dedicated to you. The Pine View Community is very proud of you! The elementary newspaper wants to interview you, and the national

ers all there cheering.

"Poe!" they shouted.

The classroom, which used to be filled with student artwork, was now instead filled with party decorations. A banner with Miller's name and school picture, which she cringed at when she saw it, balloons, party streamers, and even...

"Cake!" Miller exclaimed.

After the celebrations ended, it was time for everyone to finally hear the poem read by Miller herself.

"The moment that we have all been waiting for: Poe Miller reading her amazing poem," a reporter said.

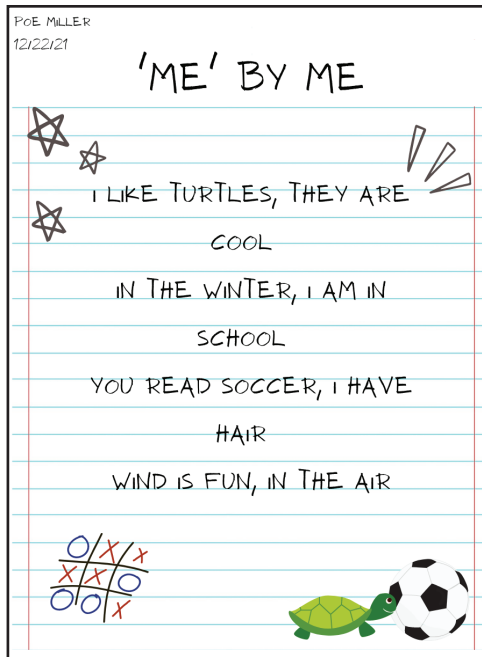
"Me', by me," Miller said.

"I like turtles, they are cool / In the winter, I am in school / You read soccer, I have hair / Wind is fun, in the air," Miller read.

As Miller finished, the loudest applause was heard throughout the entire building. Her parents teared up, Covert was jumping up and down, and the teacher was shaking hands with the reporters.

"I thought you guys were all joking and making fun of me at first, but 'Me' is truly a good poem. In fact, it's amazing!" Miller said.

GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU



news wants a piece of you too! Let's get you to class first, I'm sure you want to talk to your classmates," said Covert, with a huge grin.

They walked to class. Miller noticed everything was awfully quiet. She wondered why she didn't hear the normal hustle and bustle of kids running around and talking. As Covert opened the door, Miller saw her classmates, teachers, parents, and report-

Ultimate PV Snow Survival Guide ❄️❄️

YES, SNOW IN FLORIDA DOESN'T HAPPEN ALL THAT OFTEN. HOWEVER, IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO BE PREPARED. THIS GUIDE WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MAKING IT THROUGH A SNOWSTORM ON THE PV CAMPUS.

1 Heading to the fields would be a fatal mistake. Minutes after the first flakes fall, the fields turn from a grassy plain to a deceptively bottomless frozen ocean. You'll think it's 6 inches deep, step in, and sink a full 6 feet under!

2 If you're looking to pass some time, head to the playground to make snow angels, have snowball fights, and more. The slide is oddly fun when it's filled with snow - it's like sledding!

3 The cafeteria is the perfect place to huddle for warmth: just turn up the ovens. You can even heat up some hot cocoa or bake some cookies for a snack!

4 Be careful when walking around campus, since the snow can pile on top of the blue awnings over the sidewalks. A sudden snowdrift falling on your head when snow slides off can be a big shock.

5 Building snowmen can be another good way to pass the time. However, be warned that sometimes your friends covered in snow can look a lot like snowmen!

6 Since Floridians are more likely to make sand-men than snowmen, we're not too prepared when it comes to clothing. Head to the art room for supplies. Some spectacular ideas: clay boots, painting-apron coats, and watercolor paper hats.

7 Lastly, remember to stay warm in Building 16. A nice board game or viewing of "The Polar Express" may be just what you need. You should all now be expert snow-survivors. Remember these tips and you'll be all set if a blizzard descends upon us.

GRAPHIC BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI

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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.