

Vol XX, Issue 3 • Friday, April 8, 2022

Match Jr.

Text @matchti to
81010 to submit any
ideas or questions!



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Second-grader Mia Gutierrez (left) poses with her brother, Alejandro Gutierrez (right) at a swim meet. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SARAH MONASALVE-GUTIERREZ



Second-grader Aisha Asif wins first place at the Taekwondo Grand Championship. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SADIA ASIF

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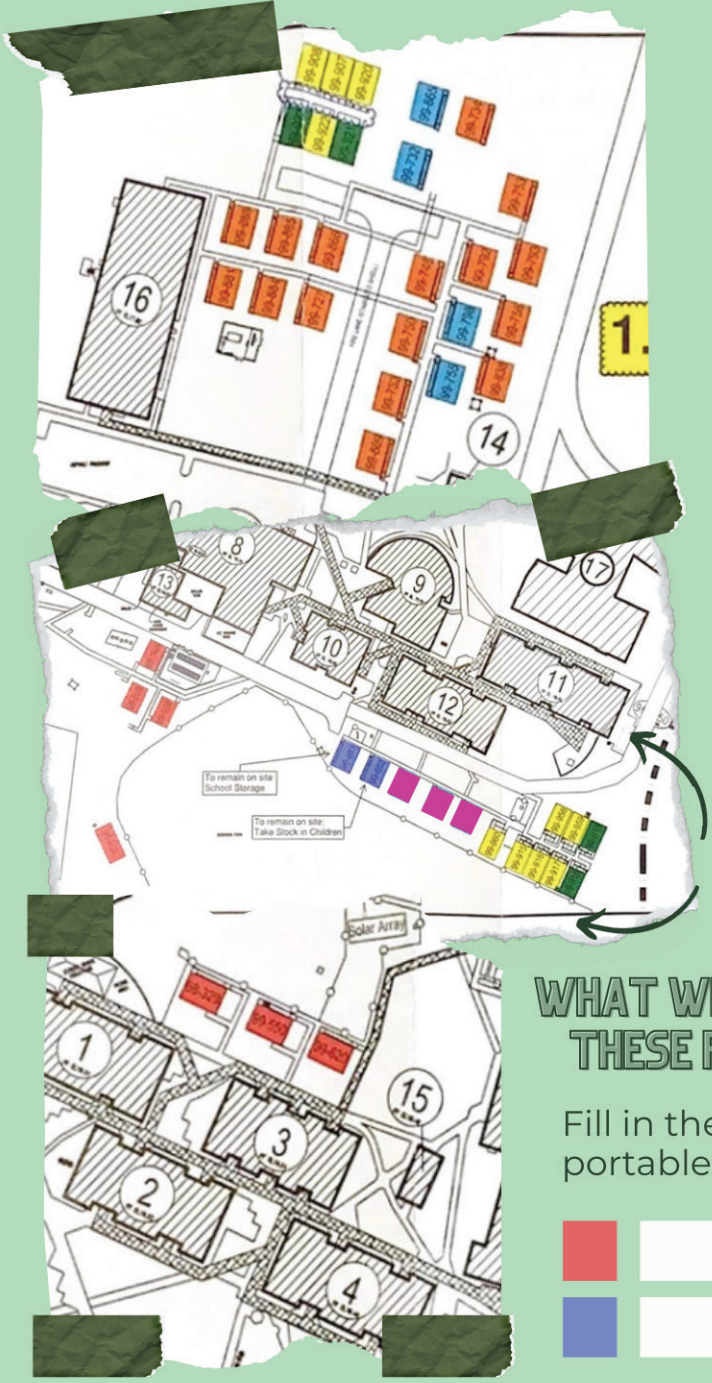
REMOVING THE PORTABLES

In March 2022, Tandem Construction, the company contracted for the completion of Building 17 and other additional renovations, completed the final phase of construction at Pine View: removing almost all portables from campus.

The **two** portables that will stay on campus will be used for storage and as an office space for Take Stock in Children Inc., a nonprofit organization that aims to provide mentorship and scholarship opportunities for low-income students.

***WHAT IS DEMOLITION?**
 Since wooden portables, by law, cannot be repurposed as classrooms, they will be demolished, or destroyed, on site.

In order to provide “swing space,” or a temporary instructional environment while renovations are being carried out, Florida schools use portables as classroom space — Pine View was one of them. These portables usually increase in number over the years to account for student body overpopulation. According to project manager Steve Clark, the removal of “swing space” portables means more room for fields and open play areas.



Use these map fragments!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THESE PORTABLES?

Fill in the number of portables by color!

- *Demolition
- Stay on site

WHERE ARE THE PORTABLES GOING?

Fill in the number of portables by color!

- Sarasota High School
- Bay Haven School
- Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
- Laurel Nokomis School
- Tatum Ridge Elementary School

Movie Review: Encanto

by Grace Johnson

Exploring the complications and blessings tied up in family dynamics is not a new concept. Movies, regardless of genre, do it all the time. However, in Walt Disney Motion Pictures' "Encanto," this concept ventured somewhere entirely different.

The Colombia-inspired musical tunes into "The Family Madrigal," each member of which has a magical gift that they use to help out the rest of their community – ex-

cept Mirabel. Growing up in an extraordinary family, Mirabel tries to remind herself that she, too, is special. However, as her family pushes her away in favor of those bestowed with gifts, she starts to feel insignificant.

On the night when her cousin Antonio is bestowed a gift, Mirabel walks away from the celebration, dejected, when she sees cracks growing in the walls of her home, the magical "Casita." She tries to warn her family that Casita's magic is fading, but no one believes her.

At this point, Mirabel realizes that saving Casita – and her family's magic – is a responsibility that is wholly her own. As she begins to investigate the origins of the cracks, Mirabel realizes that she knew much less about her family members than she thought.

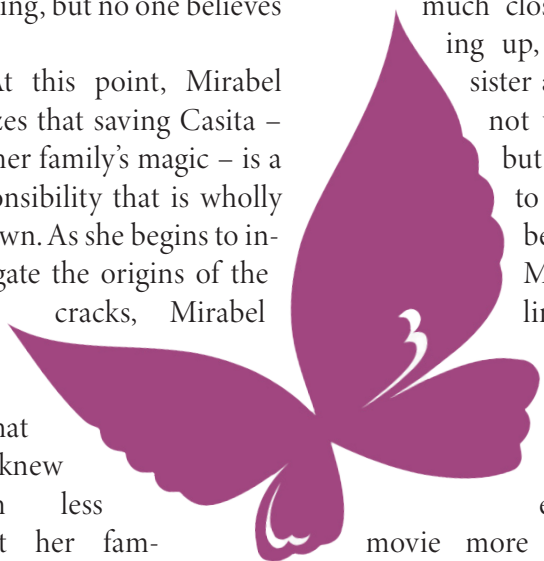
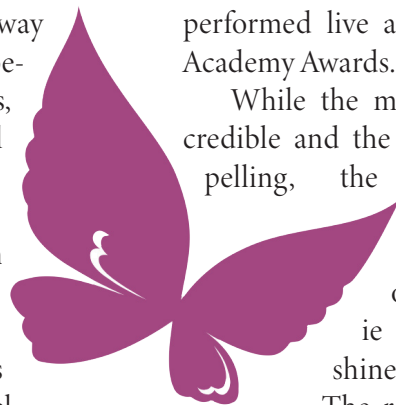
One of the most noteworthy aspects of "Encanto" is the soundtrack. Each of 8 original songs by superstar Lin-Manuel Miranda and

27 score pieces by Germaine Franco are incredibly unique and enthralling. "We don't talk about Bruno" has been a massive hit, and was even performed live at the 94th Academy Awards.

While the music is incredible and the plot compelling, the underlying message of the movie is what shines the most.

The relationship between Mirabel and her sister Isabela touched me. Prickly toward one another at first, when they listened to one another, they grew so much closer. Growing up, my older sister and I were not very close, but we grew to become best friends. Many sibling dynamics change in this way, but I've never seen a movie more accurately represent it than "Encanto."

Another unique message that I found particularly striking was within the storyline of Mirabel's other sister, Luisa. Her song, "Surface Pressure" reveals that



What is your **ENCANTO** power?

Which one would you rather be doing right now?

- A. Organizing/rearranging my room
- B. Reading books set in the past
- C. Painting/drawing/other arts
- D. Rockwall climbing outside
- E. Talking to people with interesting things to say

You become stuck in a hole. How do you deal with it?

- A. Move some rocks around to make a path out
- B. Use my knowledge to think of a clever solution
- C. Wave a bright sign so people will notice and help me
- D. Climb to the top!
- E. Start yelling for help

| | |
|---|---|
| What is your favorite subject in school? | Which job would you rather have? |
| A. Science | A. Engineer |
| B. History | B. Detective |
| C. Art | C. Actor |
| D. PE | D. Athlete |
| E. Reading/writing | E. Business owner |

Which is most important to you?

- A. Changing the world around me
- B. Learning from the past
- C. Expressing myself
- D. Being secure
- E. Understanding other people

If you circled...

MOSTLY A: TELEKINESIS
You can use your mind to lift objects! Whether helping lift heavy rocks or creating floating barrel rides for the village kids, you use your powers to influence your environment.

MOSTLY B: HINDSIGHT
With your power, you can see visions of how things used to be! Reconstruct visions of people, places, and objects years into the past.

MOSTLY C: ILLUSION
You can create sights and sounds from nothing! Prank others by making doors appear where there aren't any or make beautiful music fill the air from nowhere.

MOSTLY D: MAGNETISM
Instantly stick to any surface, scaling walls and ceilings with ease! Or keep track of important items by sticking them to the back of your hand.

MOSTLY E: TRANSLATION
You can understand any language you hear, and read any language you see! With this power, you can travel the world and communicate with those around you.

even though Luisa is strong and calm on the surface, the mounting pressure of her family's expectations makes her feel like she might burst.

Dealing with pressure from family is something almost every child grows up with, yet it is hardly ever mentioned in kids' movies. Bringing this topic to the surface through Luisa's char-

acter opens up the opportunity for children to identify this feeling, and it lets them know it's okay to talk about.

In Spanish, "encanto" means "charm" or "enchantment." However, if you adjust the grammar, "te encanto" translates to "I love you." It's an apt title for the movie, as "Encanto" perfectly radiates the magic of familial love.

Roblox Ratings

by Aly Zaleski

Roblox - a vast expanse of whatever you're trying to find. Some say it's a lawless wasteland — others believe it's some kind of fountain of youth. I, on the other hand, think it's an everchanging mess of a website that will never be profited off of enough. Welcome, friends, to a show never seen before. This is the (very not) official rating of the top five Roblox games ever created.

Starting off at number five is an absolute classic —

Meep City. This is a game where you find a house, design it to your liking, find a job and make friends. I remember playing this game every day with my friends in elementary school, and it just had to make this list.

We would always try to get as many pets as possible and name them the most obscure things. Even though they were absolutely not real animals and 100% tiny fuzz balls, I just know that I named them after real animals. I had a blue fuzz named Dog and

probably a green one named Bird. My house was absolutely gorgeous and I was so proud of it. Meep City simply cannot be beaten in its updates, gameplay, and community.

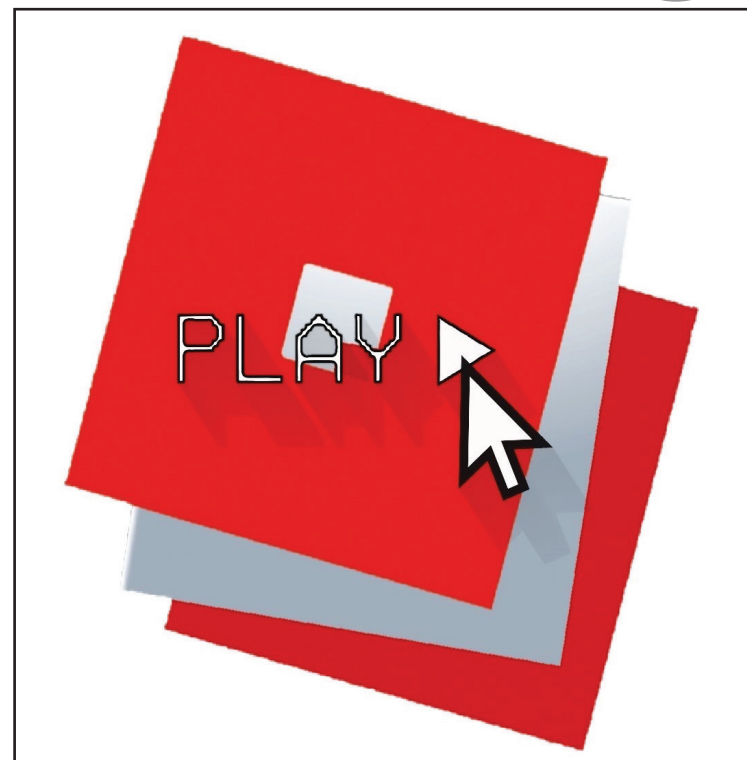
So, I lied. Meep City absolutely can be beat by our fourth place game, Speed Run 4. It's the best parkour game on Roblox that I was able to find, and has plenty of levels with increasing difficulty.

I can't even make up the number of hours I used to spend playing this game. Of course, I always got a little upset when I couldn't do the end, but as long as you have a couple Robux (Roblox's in-game currency), you can discover the glorious ending.

This is where it started getting harder to rank the options. The game coming in at number three has to be Super Golf. As boring as it sounds, I still play this game regularly. While it's usually because my friends will call me and ask me to, it's still always a fun time.

Super Golf is a first person mini golf game with a bit of a wonky aiming system. I will play for an unhealthy amount of time to get to the top of the leaderboard (something I don't necessarily recommend).

After mulling it over for a while, I've come to the conclusion that number two



GRAPHIC BY ALY ZALESKI

is Hide and Seek Extreme. While it used to be my number one, it just doesn't seem as new as before.

Despite this, it's still an extremely fun game. Haha, see what I did there? Well, poor jokes aside, I will never forget the good ol' days of running around with the anticipation of the seeker being on your trail. The room was giant and so were my fears. A simple concept, but still an entertaining experience.

I'm making the executive decision to name Royale High as the number one game on Roblox. Some play this game to make friends, others to win diamonds and make gorgeous outfits. I, however, like to think outside the box. I use the pageants in this game to make the most obscure and

vile creations ever seen by man.

Bypassing chat filters that won't let you say numbers or basic words and spending hours writing the oddest responses possible to the journal prompts have become personal hobbies of mine. I personally promise that you can do the most cryptic and uncharted things on this game that would never be as funny anywhere else. I endorse this game with my full heart.

I hope you all have enjoyed my 100% (not) official rating of the top five Roblox games. I encourage you all to try out at least one of these games in your spare time. No matter what you're looking for, there's something on Roblox for you.



GRAPHIC BY FAITH BOSSMAN

TWENTY years of the MATCH

GRAPHICS BY KAI SPRUNGER

Meet the Former Match Editor-in-Chiefs

How has being a Match Editor-in-Chief affected you?

Nicole Bencie (2013-2014)



"I think it teaches you how to talk to people, both in the context of interviewing people for stories but also in the context of working together for a common goal, which is truly a skill that is applicable no matter what field you go into. And I still smile because even though I didn't go into a journalism field now, I really learned good interviewing skills and good leadership skills that I use on a daily basis as a medical student."

Leo Gordon (2019-2020)



"It made me be a lot more introspective because I realized I had to balance being friends with everybody on the Torch and on the Match staff and be a leader. And I think I just learned a lot about myself having to balance those two factors."



OUR FAVORITE MEMORIES

DRAW YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the Match, text @matchti to 81010

Aaisha Aces Taekwondo

by Jada Davidson

During her private martial arts lesson at Red Tiger Martial Arts, second-grader Aaisha Asif takes her stance in front of her Taekwondo instructor, Master Hwang. Hwang is a 3 Dan, which means having 7 degrees in black belt (the highest belt in Taekwondo).

Before class begins, Hwang has Asif pledge the seven values of Taekwondo, with the first three values being: 1. Respect all seniors and instructors, 2. Never misuse Taekwondo, 3. Be a champion of freedom and justice.

After the pledge, Asif stretches for 15 minutes then begins to practice poomsae, the

forms of Taekwondo that the student must learn before advancing to the next belt. At the end of the lesson, the students bow to their master and instructors, then greet their parents in the same way.

Asif has been following this routine since she was 3 years old, hoping to someday practice Taekwondo professionally, and ultimately at the Olympic level.

Since her younger self aspired to become a Taekwondo master, Asif has put her heart and soul into it, practicing Taekwondo three times a week, and practicing at home every day. All this practice is paying off, as Asif has a brown high belt, which features a broad black

stripe running horizontally through the middle of the belt. This is the belt right before the first black belt, and black belt is the highest you can achieve.

Besides regular practices, Asif has trained for the Taekwondo Grand Championship. This event brings in martial arts schools from all over Florida, and was attended by schools from Tampa, Orlando, Kissimmee, Tallahassee, and Miami.

Sadia Asif, Aaisha's mother, explains her daughter's participation in the event: "She took private lessons with Master Hwang, who's a 3 Dan in board breaking, and placed third in her level; poomsae was placed first in her level, hurdle was



Second-grader Aaisha Asif poses with her awards after winning the Taekwondo Grand Championship. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SADIA ASIF

placed second in her level, ... nunchucks [she] was placed first in her level, and combat, she was placed second in her level."

They trained for six weeks, for four hours each session

one-on-one with the masters. Asif's hard work, dedication, and training with her master and instructor payed off, as Asif went on to win the Taekwondo Grand Championship.

Swimming with 'Love'

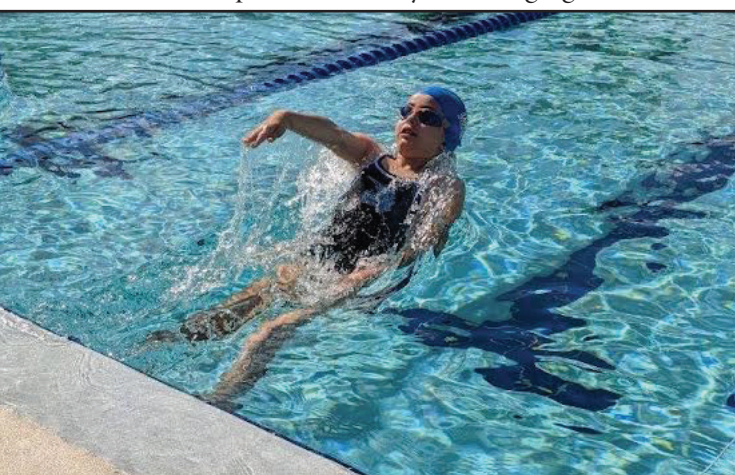
by Tiffany Yu

Splash!

A symphony of palms hitting the surface of the water arises from the cold pool.

Shwak!

The smacking sound of the fuzzy, yellow tennis ball meeting the racket is followed by encouraging cheers.



Swimming the backstroke alongside one of her teammates, second-grader Mia Gutierrez swims for the Swordfish, a team located in Laurel Oaks Country Club. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SARAH MONASALVE-GUTIERREZ.

For second-grader Mia Gutierrez, these sounds are fundamental parts of her daily routine.

In 2017, when Gutierrez was just 3 years old, she began her tennis journey with a private coach that her mother, Sarah Monsalve-Gutierrez, met through a family friend. They began training in Colonial Oaks before moving to Twin Lakes.

Gutierrez started out training two times a week — every Saturday and Sunday — bright and early at 7am, with the addition of an extra class on a Friday evening once a month. Blossoming into a focused tennis player, Gutierrez

now trains three times a week with a coach, and practices with her dad every other night.

Gutierrez took on competitive swimming last year, although she has been swimming since she was one year old. Gutierrez swims with the Swordfish, a swimming team in Laurel Oaks Country Club. In season, Gutierrez swims for an hour every Tuesday and Thursday.

"We're trying to reinforce the sport discipline and passion for art, to us, as family, it is important that they learn to enjoy different activities besides academics, although we're mainly focused on aca-

demics. Education has to be a multidisciplinary learning process," Monsalve-Gutierrez said, wanting to emphasize well-roundedness in the family.

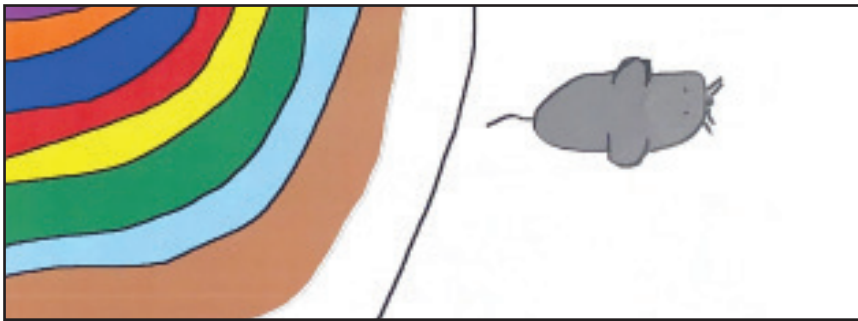
Gutierrez isn't the only one in her family working hard. Gutierrez has two younger brothers— three-year-old Salvador Gutierrez and kindergartener Alejandro Gutierrez — both of whom play the same sports.

Out of the activities Gutierrez participates in, she said tennis is her favorite.

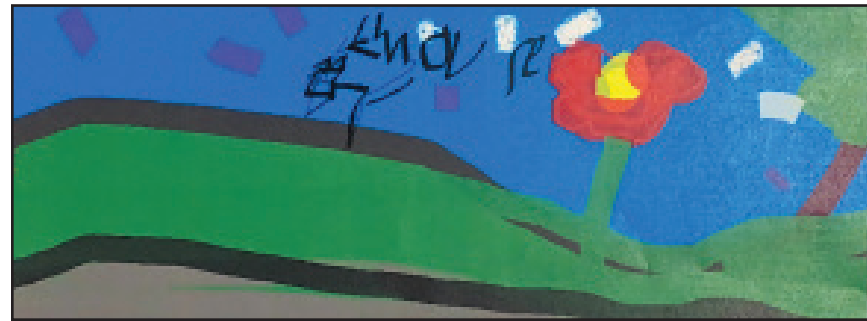
"I like to serve and rally to get me to know more about the sport," Gutierrez said with a smile.

Mouse Paintings

Recently, students in Rebecca Kochenderfer's second-grade class created paintings inspired by the book "Mouse Paint."



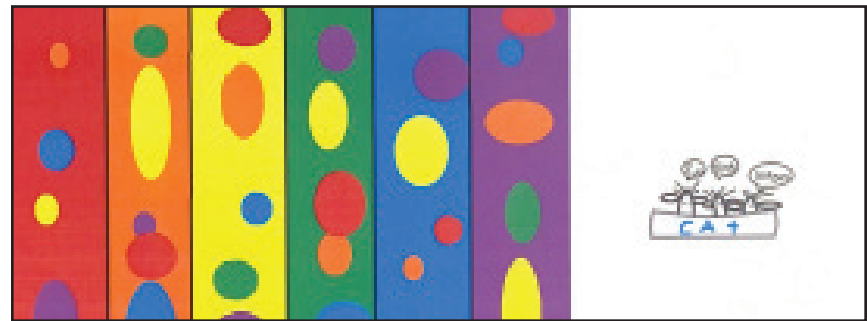
by James Anderson



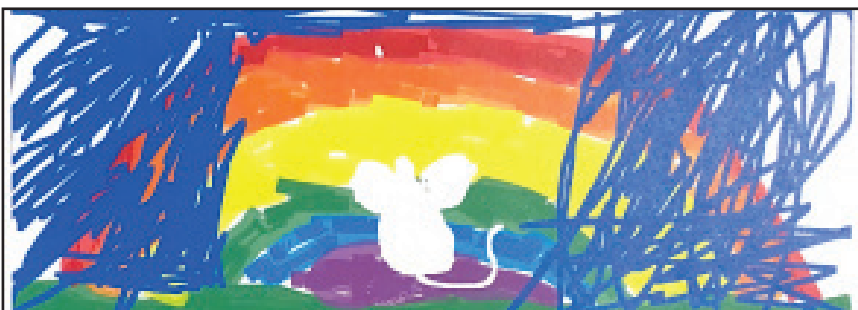
by Finley Thompson



by Aaron Johnson



by Finnegan Christ



by Jessica Rusli



by Max Nordstrom

The Legend of Zonk

GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO

by Sarah Catalano

If you noticed the large, empty field where several portable classrooms used to be, you may have thought to yourself, “Hm, that’s weird,” and then quickly forgot about it.

You probably didn’t notice the giant footprints lightly imprinted on the playground mulch, or the inexplicably large grey hairs caught in the limbs of nearby tree branches.

And even if you did notice those things, you probably couldn’t think of a viable explanation as to how these portables — here one day, gone the next — could have possibly been removed from their cozy

corner of campus.

This is the story of Zonk, a Pine View squirrel who bit off more than he could chew.

You see, Zonk wasn’t always an extraordinary, building-munching beast. In fact, he was quite average: fast, grey, about one and a half feet from head to tail-tip, and very much lacking a proper fear of elementary school students and passing golf carts. He fit right in with all of the other campus squirrels, except for one thing — his voracious appetite for bizarre materials.

Zonk started small. First he tried spilled goldfish crackers, then when those grew boring he nibbled on some eraser tips. He caused many an eventful morning during his homework-eating phase (apparently “Zonk the squirrel ate my homework” isn’t a widely accepted ex-

cuse in classrooms).

But these things were too simple and easy for Zonk, so he went bigger. Shoelaces, Pop Its, calculators, and pens; bouncy balls, coffee cups, wristwatches, and keychains; desk chairs, phone chargers, and pieces of carpet — all into Zonk’s indomitable stomach.

Yet none of these things ever seemed to satisfy him. Eventually, Zonk grew discouraged, and took to moping dramatically in the pine trees near the playground. He was desolate, certain that he would never meet his perfect meal — until Pine View administrator Connie Struction came to him with a

job.

“Zonk,” she said, “you’re the only one who can help us. All of these classes have moved into the new building. The portables are empty. But we have nowhere to put them!”

Zonk studied her skeptically through his shiny squirrel eyes. Eat the portables? All of them? Was he up to the task?

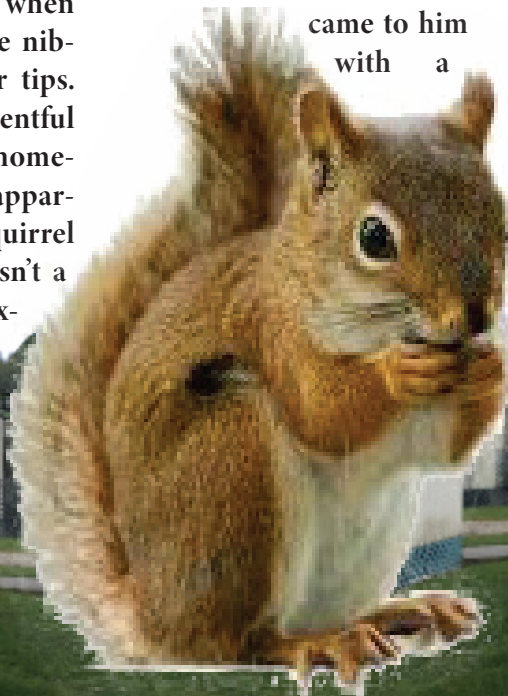
After a moment’s consideration, he nodded his head. He was Zonk. He could eat anything!

So that night, under the waxing gibbous moon, Zonk skittered out towards the portables. His tail was bushy, his teeth were sharpened, and he was ravenous! Quickly he began gnawing away at the delectably crunchy wood of the first mobile classroom. As the night wore on, he ate more and more, becoming bigger and bigger, until eventually he

was the size of Building 17!

When the first golden rays of the morning sun touched the campus, a wind began to rise, shaking the trees and making leaves swirl over the sidewalks. Zonk, bulbous and round from his midnight feasting, was pushed into a bouncing roll across the north field, flattening everything in his path.

As students flooded the campus that morning, not a sign remained of the portables — or the squirrel that ate them. But legend has it Zonk still wanders campus, snacking on stray pencils and making late passes by the light of the moon.



Spring Cleaning Sadness

by Faith Bossman

Hi Journal! This is Donna T. Hem speaking. Today is the first day of spring cleaning... my least favorite time of the year. A torture plan for kids all around the world. A way for parents to get revenge on their sticky, gross, and annoying children.

March 1-

While I was at school today, my mommy went through my stuff. After the moldy skincare fridge incident, she has been really on me about cleaning up after myself, but it's not even that big of a deal! She isn't home from work yet, so we will see what she's up to when she gets home...

March 2-

OMG!! Don't get me started right now. This woman is driving me nuts. She decided to start a "spring cleaning" tradition. Huh? Why is spring the time for cleaning? Anyways, she is having me and Debruh, my mean, gross, disgusting



sister, throw away all of the important things in my life, like my pop-its and sticky hand collection. So now I am being forced to make some sacrifices.

March 3-

Today is the day war started. As I'm writing this my sister is crying over spilled two-day-old iced tea. This... might be my fault. Since it's getting pretty crowded in here, we have been sharing a twin bed.

My sister is a little karate master in her

sleep and KICKED ME!! So the only logical decision was to push her... and she fell onto the world record cup balancing act, breaking six cups and staining all her clothes. This might sound bad, but don't worry —



there's no proof I

shoved her. I'm

working on playing innocent

and crying to my parents at the moment. Also, this made my decision of which motivational girl power shirt to keep easier since I ruined ten of them.

March 4-

Currently, I am working on sorting my 30 fidgets into different categories. Actually, never mind. If you're reading this, I'm not sorry. I am hiding my fidgets all in a hidden book safe (thanks to Five-Minute Crafts, a YouTube channel) under my sister's bed. I may be risking it all, but I will do anything to keep my fidget trading business alive. Goodbye journal... see you next year.

GRAPHICS BY FAITH BOSSMAN

Word Unscramble!

Unscramble the spring themed words to clean up the room

grsipn

ridb

ianr

mlosbso

prAli

piutl

Word Bank:

- spring

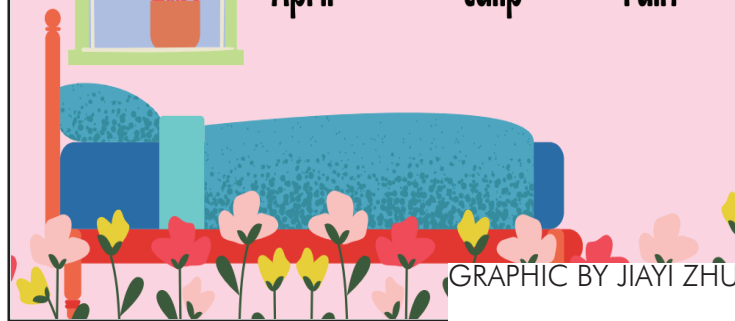
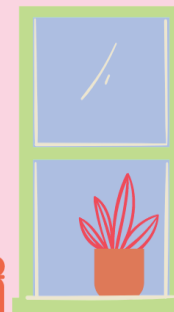
- bird

- blossom

- April

- tulip

- rain



GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU

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[a column]

The Friend Issue



Lora Rini,
Match Editor-in-Chief

Hi again, Pine View elementary! I know it's been a while. At this point in the year, I hope you are settled into your classes, and you aren't too stressed about school and your grades. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to talk to you about another potential source of stress: friendships.

Like it or not, friends will always be one of the most important aspects of your life. Connecting with others is an essential part of the human experience, and having friends that you like will make you happier.

It's important not to deny the necessity of friendship. Having an "I don't need friends" type of mindset will only further deter you from finding the right group of people. But if you don't feel like you have real friends right now, it will be okay. I promise you will find true friendship

eventually.

No matter who you are, what you like, or what you believe in, there are a lot of people out there who feel the same way. In the meantime, my best advice is to spend time doing things that you like. There are other roads to happiness.

If you're lacking in friends because you're shy, I have some advice for you. A strategy I developed when I was younger is to set goals for myself. If I was in a class where I didn't know anybody, I would try to have at least one conversation with a classmate every day. Through doing this, I was able to slowly build the foundations of friendships.

If you have friends, but you don't feel completely comfortable with them, the first step is to recognize whether the friendship is toxic. Some markings of a toxic friendship are if the other person is disloyal, dishonest, or using you. If you think you're in a toxic friendship, you should try to distance yourself from the other person as soon as possible.

Overall, don't feel like you're trapped with your current friends — I promise you will find the right people soon. In the meantime, try to find common interests and expand your circle one person at a time until you're happy.