

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

The Match

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



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PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

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A Final Farewell to FSA Testing

by Lucy Collins

During April and May each year, hundreds of students across campus frequently hear the phrase “go to bed early and eat a good breakfast.” They trudge onto campus the next morning, dreading the hours spent taking the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA).

In September, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the FSA will no longer plague students, replaced by a new program, the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.), along with the termination of Common Core standards and a move towards

Benchmark for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T).

“Our state’s obsession with standardized testing is harming our students and plays a significant role in the growing crisis of teacher shortages. Testing should be used to inform teaching practices, not to impede teaching,” the Florida Education Association wrote on their website.

F.A.S.T. entails three shorter tests per year focused on progress monitoring and adapting teaching methods to better fit individual students’ needs. The tests are customizable and unique to each stu-

dent. According to the Florida Department of Education, this will decrease testing time by an average of 75 percent.

“It does weigh heavily on my curriculum planning. It involves just about everything I do,” fifth-grade teacher Peggy Barber said. “I always kept in mind the reading standards but then how would the FSA access those standards. The predominant part of my writing program is strictly based off the FSA writing test.”

This is not the first change in statewide testing. The FSA replaced the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

A Race Through History

by Isabella Kulawik

Peramathon has changed over the years, but one thing that has remained throughout the passage of time is the camaraderie and school spirit it brings. A faculty member who has seen it all is second-grade teacher Misty Tucak. After teaching at Pine View for more than thirty years, she recalls the small beginnings of the Pine View Peramathon.

“I don’t know the exact year, I know if Coach Donovan were still alive she could tell us, because she was in charge of the Peramathon at the old campus, but I was at the old campus, so I remember doing it at the old campus. And I can tell you, that it

wasn’t a quarter mile track. It was a dirt track, in the grass... The track was probably as big as the gym,” Tucak said.

Even with a small dirt track, Peramathon has always been about raising money for the school. The run also allows for students to let their creativity flow with the t-shirt design contest. In addition, Peramathon is where the high school dodgeball game originates.

Not many high schoolers were running in the Peramathon, but teachers still wanted older students to be involved, so dodgeball was formed. These events were often placed on the same day to avoid missing more class time. This year, dodgeball is not on

the same day but still remains a classic Pine View tradition.

Due to COVID-19, Peramathon was cancelled last year. Many teachers are excited to finally bring back Pine View’s old routines.

One of Tucak’s favorite memories of the race were the days when she and Kelly Cookerly used to race and see who would run the most laps. World language teacher and former Pine View student Margaret Higgins also reminisced about the fun she had on the day.

“I remember less the actual event but more the hype surrounding it because it was the whole day, like, you get your little card and you would have



(FCAT) in 2015. Before that, in 2011, the FCAT became the FCAT 2.0 with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Florida End-of-Course Exams.

“I think it affects the kids in their motivation because you’re going to be more motivated when you can do more creative projects,” Barber said.

Her class recently wrote poems and created pieces of art that went along with them.

“I actually felt bad about maybe taking a whole class to let my kids do an art project. They love it and their poems come out so much better when they can have something more creative with it.”

Many teachers across the state are hoping for a complete dissolution of standardized testing. As of now, that does not seem on the horizon. Students and educators everywhere, though, are hopeful.



Students run Peramathon at their own pace. This year’s race was held March 11.

PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

to get ready to put it on your shirt... Where we do all this cool stuff and we’d sign up and we’d goof off and the teachers would just kind of let us do whatever we wanted because they weren’t going to teach us anything,” Higgins said.

As another year of Peramathon passes, students will remember the memories they shared with their classmates and the school spirit they had.

“It’s about camaraderie. I’ve been out there for every Peramathon since the old campus and it’s just a really fun spirited Pine View day... We have our own unique things and this is one way to me to continue a tradition that needs to continue... Peramathon is just a great day to go out, enjoy being outside... with friends that you don’t get to see all the time,” Tucak said.

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?

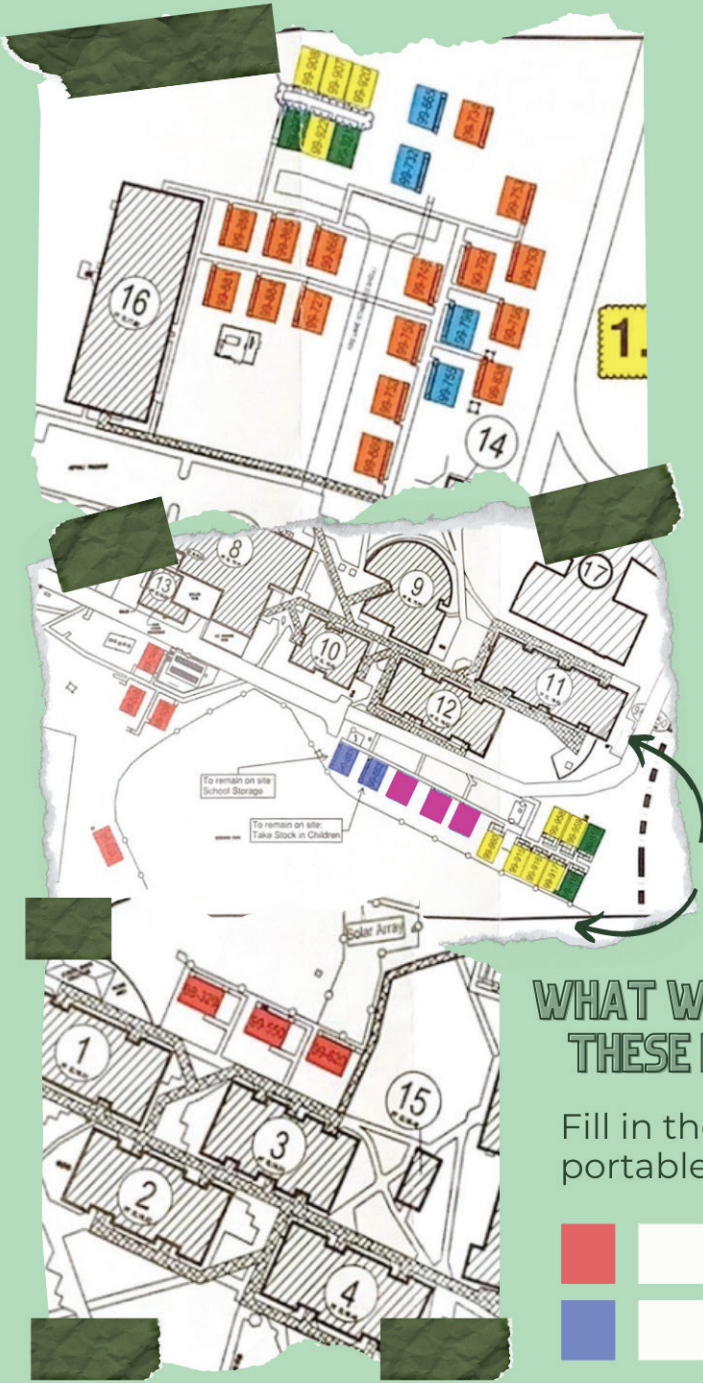
Fill in the number of portables by color!

- *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



April 2

Beth Banko's birthday

April 3

Misty Tucak's birthday

April 10

Pat Morgerson's Birthday

May 24Roy Sprinkle and
Kate McManus's
Birthday

May and June Events and Birthdays



Fourth-graders Snowden Mowry (left) and Suzana Mata open their Valentines together after the Post Office. Mowry was a stamper and Mata was the postmaster general.
PHOTO BY ALLIE CHUNG AND JULIA WANG



A group of students walk and jog together during the Peramathon. This year, the Peramathon took place March 11.
PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

IN BRIEF

Education Referendum Passed

by Lily Quartermaine

Recently, the Sarasota County District millage referendum was voted on by Sarasota citizens to be continued for four more years.

This means that the referendum, which has been implemented in the county since 2002, maintains a 1-mill tax rate for property owners in Sarasota County.

Most of the funds from the referendum go to instructor salaries for an extra 30 minutes of instruction time each day. However, the tax also goes to more particular requirements, such as after school activities and artistic programs.

As stated by the Herald-Tribune, the tax was, “approved for renewal with 85% of voters supporting the referendum at the polls and via mail-in ballots and 14.5% opposed.”

“According to the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections Office, nearly 65% of votes were submitted via absentee, while 28% of ballots were cast Tuesday at in-person voting sites. A total of 100,724 ballots were submitted in the county, totaling a 28% voter turnout for the nonpartisan special election.” Herald Tribune writer Samantha Gholar wrote.

Space Center Trip in May

by Aly Zaleski

Let’s admit it, we’ve all secretly wished we could be an astronaut, no matter how silly it may sound. Everybody wants to go to space, or at least know what it’s like, and at Kennedy Space Center in Merritt Island, Florida, this wish can come true.

On Wednesday May 25, all the fifth grade classes will be launched off for a day of fun at the space complex.

“I’m happy [we get to go],” said fifth-grader Eli Semones. There’s an assortment of exciting things to see and expe-

rience such as the Rocket Garden. As odd as it sounds, this area displays a whole collection of rockets that put people and satellites into space.

Because of COVID-19, this trip is an event that elementary students have missed.

“[I’m excited that] we can go on a long trip for once because last year we were going to go to St. Augustine... but it got cancelled,” Semones said. “I’ve heard [this trip] is cool!”

From buildings filled with shuttles to fun shops with souvenirs, the Kennedy Space Center trip is a date to mark.

Best Animated Feature Films



at the Oscars



Every year, film critics and enthusiasts alike buzz in anticipation of the Oscars, with Best Picture being the category at the forefront of everyone's mind. But what is often less mentioned is the Best Animated Feature Film winners, which was first awarded in 2002. Before then, there were too few animated films to justify a separate award, but as animation studios boomed in the early 2000s, there was an obvious need for it. Here is a rundown of the winners from the past five years.

Zootopia (2017)

"Zootopia" is about Zootopia's first bunny police officer, Judy Hopps, as she teams up with scam-artist Nick Wilde to uncover corruption in their city. This film creates an expansive all-animal world, and perfectly balances buddy cop style humor and the tension we expect from a crime movie. It also has an important central message about stereotypes and the harm they can cause in society.

Toy Story 4 (2020)

"Toy Story 4" is set one year after the previous installment. In "Toy Story 4," the gang meets a new toy named Forky, who is made of recycled materials from a school. The toys go on a road trip, as they decide their place in the world and in the life of a new kid who adopts them. For such a beloved series, it is often difficult to wonder where the series could possibly go next. But "Toy Story 4" perfectly extends the series that we've grown to love, cutting no corners when it comes to story or design.

Coco (2018)

"Coco" follows the story of 12-year-old Miguel, a young boy with dreams of becoming a famous musician, despite his family's decades-long ban on music. He ends up in the Land of the Dead, where he joins his musician great-great-grandfather on a mission to return to his family.

The plot revolves around death, but the vibrant colors and touching soundtrack imbue so much life into the movie. The movie maintains a happy tone while also touching on issues of mental illness and complicated family dynamics.

Soul (2021)

A middle-school teacher with a passion for jazz, Joe finds himself in another realm, separated from his soul just before his big break as a musician. He is transported to the You Seminar, a center where souls develop their passions before being sent to a newborn child. There, he meets a soul named 22, who is desperate to avoid going to Earth. "Soul" is an especially contemplative film, asking what makes you, you? The soundtrack is the shining star of the film, with Jon Batiste's beautifully crafted score perfectly underlining the plot.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (2019)

"Into the Spider-Verse" is one of the biggest and most successful animated movies in recent memory. It's about Miles Morales, who gets bitten by a radioactive spider and becomes Spider-Man. He quickly finds out that he is not the only Spider-Person (or -Pig) out there, as he meets a cast of characters from the multiverse.

This film broke from a tradition of "realistic" computer-animated films, leaning into its comic book roots to create a unique visual style. The movie also features an Afro-Latino protagonist and perfectly represents the diversity of New York City. With an amazing story and soundtrack on top of that, "Into the Spider-Verse" is a timeless masterpiece with a lasting influence on animation.

Tumbling and Trampolining

by **Isabella Kulawik**

Feeling the floor beneath his feet, fourth-grader Trey Wilkinson's nerves dissipate as he focuses on completing his tumbling routine. The audience watches in awe as he flips through the air and then sticks the landing. On March 5, Wilkinson competed in the USA Gymnastics 2022 Winter Classics and earned second place in all categories he competed in.

He began his gymnastics journey in an American Ninja Warriors program. Wanting to compete, Wilkinson switched to gymnastics about two years ago at New Horizons Gym. Currently he does trampoline

and tumbling, or T&T. At his gym, he made many friends and enjoys learning as much as he can from his peers and his coaches.

Wilkinson often dedicates his time outside of the gym to perfecting his skills. Wilkinson's mother, Jade Wilkinson, sees the commitment he applies to the sport when he practices at home.

"He is very dedicated to what he does even at home, flipping on the furniture and through the house and everything else... he likes for me to record him so that he can see exactly where he needs to work on things and what he can do, but it's very attention

to detail. And he has to put a lot in to get out as much as he does," Jade Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson works diligently so he can achieve his dream: becoming an Olympian. Currently he is a level 6 in trampoline and a level 7 in tumbling. He has to pass level 10 in order to enter the elite level, the equivalent of the professional level in other sports.

"It's pretty exciting. I'm just seeing him grow. It amazes me watching him because he does pick up so quickly on this," Jade Wilkinson said.

Many athletes and performers are nervous before their competitions. At Wilkin-



Fourth-grader Trey Wilkinson competes at the USA Gymnastics 2022 Winter Classics, earning second place.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JADE WILKINSON

son's first competition he remembers how he felt before the event.

"Well, at first, I was really scared to do it. Because if I mess up, I could completely fail, I guess," He said.

However this did not prevent him from doing what he loves.

"Well, I love gymnastics. I'm kind of a daredevil," Wilkinson said, "my favorite thing about gymnastics, the thing about me is I don't usually do things unless it's dangerous. I don't know why my body tells me to. Which is why I like learning dangerous skills and all those things."

Hitting the Right Notes



Fourth-grader Leo Chen plays piano at the Selby Library on March 26. Chen has been playing since he was six years old and plans to continue as he gets older. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

by **Alyson Mizanin**

With his violin bow in his hands and piano keys at his fingertips, music is second nature for fourth-grader Leo Chen.

His musical involvement

began when his father, Michael Chen, gave him a keyboard. With the guidance of a teacher, Chen caught onto piano by the time he was six years old. Violin came shortly after, thanks to a Sarasota Or-

chestra summer camp.

Now nine, Chen plays alongside adults in musical community organizations like the Venice Musicale and the String Cambrio Orchestra, led by former Pine View orchestra director Ken Bowermeister.

Chen won a musical scholarship through Venice Musicale when he was only six years old—the youngest in the group's history. When organizations like the Piano Friends would advertise their events based on the youngest and oldest members, Chen would always be the youngest.

Chen practices both pi-

ano and violin twice a week. He enjoys playing Baroque, classical, and romantic pieces.

"I don't perceive classical and baroque as old," Chen said, "they transcend beyond age."

Michael Chen notes that following a set schedule has helped his son grow into the person he is today.

"Music helps with his patience. It requires hard work—to achieve one minute of performance requires lots of minutes of practicing," Michael Chen said. "He's shy in the beginning. When he's walking to the stage, he gets nervous, but he's confident

when he's on the piano."

Chen combines music with coding through websites like Roblox. He hopes to utilize composing software to create an online symphony in the future, according to Michael Chen.

Though he isn't sure what the future holds, Leo Chen sees playing music as a possible career path.

"If I were to become a musician, I'd want to play in the Mendelssohn violin concerto in B minor and the Tchaikovsky piano concerto number 1 in B flat minor," Chen said. "I want to follow my dreams."

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.”



DRAW YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY

If you have any
suggestions or
ideas for the
Match, text
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Student steps up to bat

by Lindsay Luberecki

Poised on second base, bouncing between feet, she waits, eyes darting between her opponents on the field. Her focus narrows in, like an arrow, on one thing: getting the ball. This is just one moment of time in a softball game for fifth-grader Ava Fifer.

This year, during the softball season, Fifer played for Miss Sarasota Softball. She has been playing in her community field since she was young, has played two seasons for Miss Sarasota. She began when she and her family decided it would be fun for her to pick up a sport.

“When I was little, I had

a passion for it,” she said. “[So I thought,] ‘Okay, why don’t I try it now?’”

Softball felt different for Fifer than other sports that she tested out. Although she didn’t particularly enjoy other sports, softball “felt like something that I definitely wanted to stick to.”

On her team, Fifer mostly plays left field or second base, second base being her favorite. Left field is the defense position out past the bases on the left, and second base is the defense position on the second base her opponents must touch to score. Fifer said that her main goal on second base is to get the ball and try to tag the player out.

Fifer’s mother Elizabeth Augustine-Fifer described her daughter’s loyalty to her team.

“She wanted to make sure she didn’t let the team down... she knows every player is valuable,” she said.

Being out on the field gives Fifer a “pressure,” she said, but the kind of pressure that she enjoys. When she plays, her concentration is on one thing only.

“It’s like my getaway,” she said. “I’m alone, and my focus is on the game.”

Fifer also doesn’t back down from a challenge and has been trying to work hard to improve and hone her skills. Specifically, she has



Fifth-grader Ava Fifer stands ready at bat. Fifer has played two seasons for Miss Sarasota Softball. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ELIZABETH AUGUSTINE-FIFER

been working on timing and hitting the ball when it is in her range. Augustine-Fifer has seen her dedication to improvement firsthand.

“All I can say is that if she feels like she needs to work on something, she just makes the

time to do it.,” Augustine-Fifer said.

Softball is Fifer’s getaway: it is a place for her to make friends and to spend time with a team. She has learned about motivation, cooperation, and life skills.

GRAPHIC BY TERRY SHEN

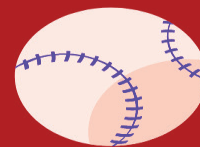
Softball Unscramble



TAB



LABLFOST ATH



STFOBLLA



ELHTEM



TIMT



Match Tries Wii Sports

by Terry Shen

Released in 2006, Wii Sports has changed the Sports industry enormously. The 5 original sports included in Wii Sports were tennis, baseball, bowling, golf, and boxing. As Wii Sports is around 16 years old, playing is a blast from the past.

The Match staff tried several different sports when they tested it out. The experience was very fun and showed how the connection between sports and technology has great potential to make changes in both aforementioned industries.

So, without further ado, the Match staff is proud to present the first ever “Match Tries”: Match Tries Wii.

For the first ever Match Tries Wii, the ultimate gaming setup was necessary. The best place for the showdown between the staff: the house

of editor-in-chief Lora Rini. Equipped with cans of Coca-Cola, a bag of Cape Cod Potato Chips, and an impressive amount of Wii controllers, The Match staff was ready.

In an epic tennis showdown with a best of 3 competition, Lora and Terry competed against Jiayi and Kai.

Lora and Terry were able to take the first game home. They were ecstatic, having just won the first round of the entire event. However, Jiayi and Kai were determined to make a comeback.

In round two, both teams did extremely well, but Jiayi and Kai’s teamwork prevailed. In the last round, both teams were nervous. Lora and Terry had just lost a round, and Jiayi and Kai were bolstered by their comeback. The Match staff was at the ‘match’ point. The game was down to the wire. Everyone was holding

their breath. With an excellent forehand hit, Lora hit the game winning shot. Lora and Terry won the game.

Next, the Match staff played bowling.

A summary of each staffer: Jiayi showed an impressive aptitude for bowling, scoring multiple strikes and spares. She warned the others that she had “trained” beforehand.

Terry tried many different innovative strategies such as rolling the ball as slow as possible. Whether or not they worked is debatable.

Kai stuck with realistic bowling strategies, giving her a very respectable score.

Lora, the only left-handed Match staff member, attempted to recreate strategies from the other Match staff members using her left hand. Some worked wonders, while others did not.

The final bowling scores: Jiayi 154, Terry 135, Kai 106, Lora 89.

Finally, all the excitement and adrenaline led to the final sport: boxing. A sport where Match staffers could throw fists and prove who would beat the others in a game with few rules. First, Jiayi against Lora. After a brief tutorial, they were ready. With their in-game boxing gloves on, they began to fight.

Punch, punch, duck. Lora goes down. 1... 2.. 3... she gets back up! Punch, punch,



The Match Staff pose from left to right: Jiayi, Terry, Kai, and Lora in front of their bowling scores. This was the first “Match Tries” hosted. PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU

punch, block. Jiayi uses a combination of blocks and ducks to reduce damage. Lora ruthlessly attacks and attempts to get around Jiayi’s defenses. Jiayi goes down. 1... 2... 3... It’s anybody’s game.

Lora and Jiayi each deal more damage to their worn out opponents. Jiayi deals the final blow and Lora goes down. 8... 9... 10... Jiayi is crowned as the ultimate boxing champion.

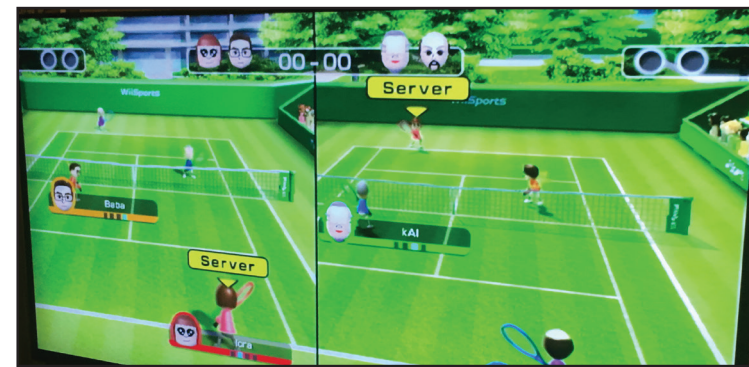
Wii Sports pushed the Match staffers to their physi-

cal and emotional limits. Wii Sports gave them the unique experience of playing 3 sports in under an hour. Each staffer had their unique strengths in the sports and each had their favorite. Perhaps the best part of the experience was creating the Miis. Each Mii was created with love and care.

Match Tries Wii was a huge success, and the Match staff members are excited to see what new “Match Tries” will be next.



Miis of Lora Rini and Jiayi Zhu throw fists in the boxing ring. The boxing match was highly anticipated. PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU



Miis of Lora and Terry face off against Jiayi and Kai. Lora and Terry won the game. PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

What makes up the air?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by Sam Li and Nikolas Eckert



by Sanya Patel

Do you know what really happens when you breathe in air? Do you even know what's in the air you are breathing? Breathing comes easy to us — most of the time we are breathing without thinking about it.

A common misconception is that air only contains oxygen, but it actually includes several other gases: nitrogen,



argon and trace gases.

Nitrogen takes up a large portion of the air we breathe, around 78 percent. This gas is used to produce proteins for your hair, blood, skin, muscles, nails, and genes, which makes it essential to human life.

Surprisingly, we get none of our nitrogen intake from the air. All of it comes from the food we eat, such as meat, legumes, nuts, and dairy prod-

ucts. However, the nitrogen in the air helps us in other ways.

If we inhaled pure oxygen, all of the energy from the food we eat would be released at once. The nitrogen helps distribute the energy from the food we eat throughout the day. High concentrations of either nitrogen or oxygen could harm our bodies, but the air we breathe has a great balance of each different type of gas.

Now on to oxygen, which makes up about 21 percent of our air. Oxygen combines with hydrogen and nitrogen to build proteins and cells in the body. Every day, seven hundred billion cells in our body wear down and oxygen is necessary to replace them. It is also vital to our immune system, fueling the white blood cells used to fight off bacteria in our bodies.

Oxygen first enters our body through our mouth and nose, leading it down our trachea, located in our throat, into the lungs. Our nose hairs act like a barrier for dust and other harmful particles. Once down the trachea, the air reaches our bronchial tubes, which spread the air to small sacs called alveoli.

The alveoli distribute the oxygen into our bloodstream;



GRAPHIC BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI

there are more than four hundred million alveoli in our lungs. The oxygen is then carried around in our bodies through the bloodstream, where it diffuses into cells.

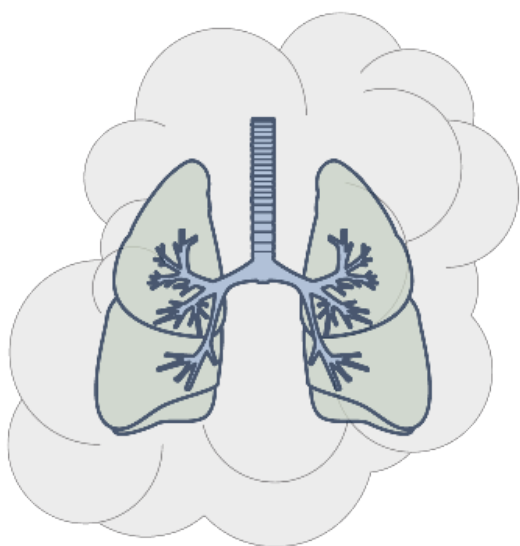
The cells then respire, or exchange, the oxygen they have received with carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide goes back through the alveoli, the bronchial tubes, our trachea, and out our nose and mouth. All of this happens every time we breathe in and out of our body.

Unexpectedly, the human eyes are also in need of oxygen, but they don't get it from the air we inhale. There are very few blood cells that travel to the eyes; the oxygen our eyes need is absorbed directly from the air.

You may have noticed that one percent of air's composition is still unaccounted for. The one percent is made

up of argon and other various trace gases. Argon is in the air because it is emitted from the Earth, and it does nothing to harm our bodies. It isn't light, like helium, so it stays in our breathable range of air. Because argon is a noble gas, it is stable and doesn't react with other elements.

When it comes down to it, your body inhales all of the gases in the air, takes in what it needs, and exhales the rest of it out. Going outside, even if it's for a little bit, is great for your body. That's what is so great about the Pine View campus! All of our trees and greenery are super beneficial for our immune systems. It is very important to recycle and do what you can to protect our environment. As the Lorax says, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

Admissions Mania — In Elementary School?

Students shouldn't worry about college a decade in advance.

by Peyton Harris

In a world of increasing academic pressure, even those beginning to find their way in elementary school are not exempt. With an emphasis on prestige in the college search, increasingly competitive application atmosphere, and steadily decreasing acceptance rates, academic pressure begins earlier and earlier. But elementary students' grades and extracurriculars aren't seen by colleges. Why is there so much stress and pressure on students?

Data from the Rhode Island Dept. of Education found that 80% of students in grades 3-5 found school at least slightly stressful, and 29% found it "quite" or "extremely" stressful. 41% of these students "almost always" worried about their grades.

One of the chapters in Frank Bruni's book "Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An antidote to the college admissions mania" delves into how college admissions is a process bleeding into elementary school. "This magnitude of hysteria certainly isn't the norm... New York is undoubtedly ground

zero of the great race, which for some begins when they are toddlers." He goes on to explain the rising role of prep schools and decreasing ages of which students begin SAT tutoring. The pressure

that children are under seems to be rapidly

increasing.

The value of a gifted education in schools like Pine View cannot be understated. But with great resources comes great responsibility, and higher expectations. Gifted students often face increased negative self-concept and higher expectations, both from themselves and their families.

As college pressure increases, elementary students in gifted environ-

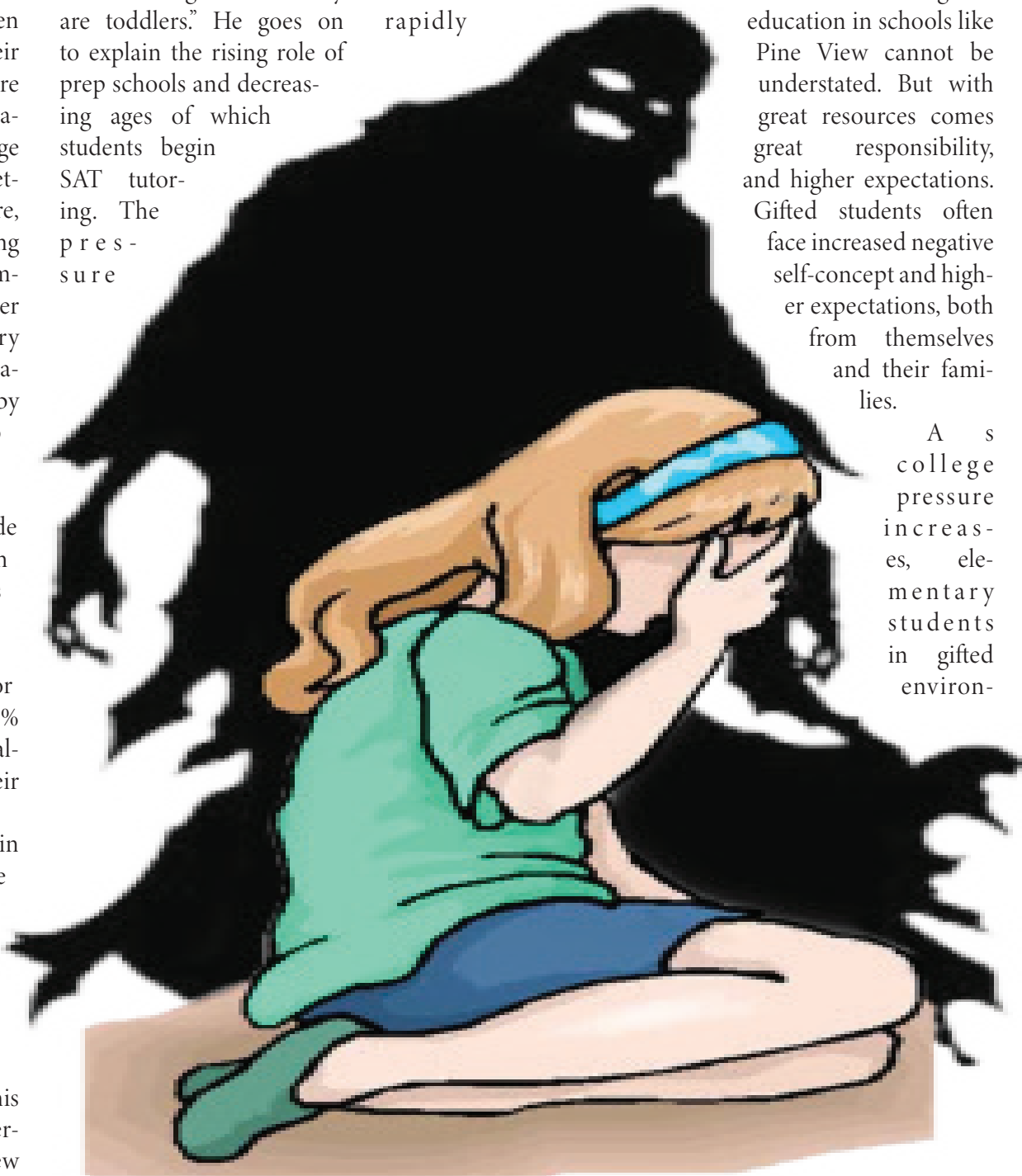
ments can feel the heat even more than their counterparts.

It's important to teach elementary students to simultaneously try their best academically while maintaining a level of self-confidence and social life. Affirming a level of confidence within young students is absolutely necessary to fostering a healthy attitude toward themselves and their futures as students.

Elementary students are in their most formative years, and what they learn then will stick with them. It's crucial to teach them that their academic performance shouldn't come at the sacrifice of their sense of self-worth or ability to make and enjoy friendships, as well as that the name of a college isn't everything.

A child growing up in the mindset that an Ivy League education is the only path to success will find themselves at a disadvantage, whereas children who grew up knowing that where you go plays only a minimal role in who they'll be will be able to enjoy what schooling has to offer. Kids should be kids — college pressure can wait.

GRAPHIC BY TIFFANY YU



The Winning Pencil

by Sarah Hassan

It was a dark and gloomy day at Pine View, and third-grader Runins Tinks was having a tough morning because her favorite pencil broke while she was sharpening it.

Even though her morning was difficult, she entered the gym with all the other classes for the Peramathon ceremony. It was Tinks' first time at the awards event, and she was sick the day of the Peramathon, so she didn't understand what

was occurring.

Finally, it was the moment that every student was waiting for, the prizes. High achieving runners received a Mintendo Swap, AirPods, and a free MePad, but the best prize that stood out to Tinks was the one and only number two pencil with the label of "Happy Valentine's Day."

"It was just so beautiful to look at the delicately printed pencil with hearts, and do not get me started with the calligraphy of the words on it!"

Tinks said.

From then on, Tinks started running wherever she could, sometimes even at Pine View. She would use her lunch time to run around the entire Pine View campus. Her parents, seeing her newly-found passion for running, hired a personal running trainer for Tinks.

"To be honest, I've never seen a kid so dedicated to get a pencil. It's not even a limited edition!" Tinks' personal trainer, Dun Wityu, said.

GRAPHIC BY
SARAH HASSAN



Wityu claims that he doesn't have to even instruct Tinks — he has heard people talk about Tinks running up and down the stairs of building 16 at least 16 times and building 17 at least 17 times.

As for Tinks' classroom, her teacher has gone as far as moving her to the corner of the room because she would refuse to sit still, which disturbed many of her classmates.

"She just kept on jogging in place and counting the number of steps, and it was

quite distracting, so I asked if I could move away from her," Tinks' classmate Geta Way said.

Despite being a distraction for others, Tinks has inspired many of her classmates to run more frequently, and even formed cheer groups for her dream of obtaining the "prized pencil." Those who previously knew Tinks, remembered that Tinks hated walking, so her transformation surprised them and encouraged them to face their own struggles.

The Fifth Grade Fireworks

Recently, three of the fifth grade teachers formed Pine View's first ever faculty girl group. Here is a photo from their first performance...

GRAPHIC BY
JOANNA MALVAS



Wheezy Woz
(Cynthia Wozniak)

Lala Len
(Rachel Lenerz)

BennaBoo
(Melissa Bennette)

Who let the speaker out?

by Jiayi Zhu

It was a normal Monday morning for fifth-grader Belle B. Gone as she hopped off the bus and entered through the gates of Pine View School. The bell rang promptly at 9:15, as usual, but this time it almost resembled the tune of “Who Let the Dogs Out?”

“Weird,” Gone thought. Nevertheless, she carried on and went to her first class of the day: math. Long division and negative signs were scrawled across the whiteboard. Her math teacher, Mr. Y, typed frantically at his desk, looking for x.

Gone plopped down, got out her notebook, and listened to the daily announcements amongst her groggy,

bored classmates.

“Please hold for the moment of silence,” the speaker said in a monotone voice.

Two minutes pass. Gone taps her pencil lightly.

Five minutes pass. Students start to look around.

Ten minutes pass. Ok guys, this is starting to get a little weird.

Thirty minutes pass?!?!?

“This isn’t a moment, this is an eternity of silence,” Gone’s classmate, Carl Plainer groaned. “What’s wrong with the speaker today?!”

“Shhh... It’s the moment of silence!!” Goldie Tooshoos whispered.

Just when the students were about to get up and leave, the speaker came back,

booming with the familiar voice from the office, before it was taken over by a tone of desperation and horror.

“Thank you, have a great day Pine Vie- if you own the 40-foot Volkswagen ice cream truck parked in the elementary parking lot, please remove your vehicle, NOW!”

Instead of Gone’s classmates having the usual impassive reaction to a “silver Honda Civic parked outside,” the announcement seemed to flip a switch of excitement.

“Ice cream?!”

“Let’s go! Breakfast is going to be icy today!”

The whole school trampled out into the parking lot, scrambling for ice cream. The sun was still shining, and kids

clamored for a better look at the 40-foot ice cream truck, so big that it was blocking the entirety of Building 16! The students demanded a sweet treat, especially after those thirty minutes of silence.

Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle came out, trying to control the situation.

“Guys, let’s talk this out! Can I tempt you with a year’s worth of exclusive Pine View merch?” he asked, desperate.

“I do look pretty fresh in a Pine View hoodie, but maybe later. I’ve got some more pressing matters at hand,” Gone replied.

“Mom, can you pick me up? I’m scared,” Gone’s math teacher, Mr. Y, said with a phone to his ear.

A bunch of dogs ran down from the stairs of Building 16, barking amongst the chaos. The bell rang, signaling that it was time to go to lunch. The familiar tune from the morning rang in the students’ ears:

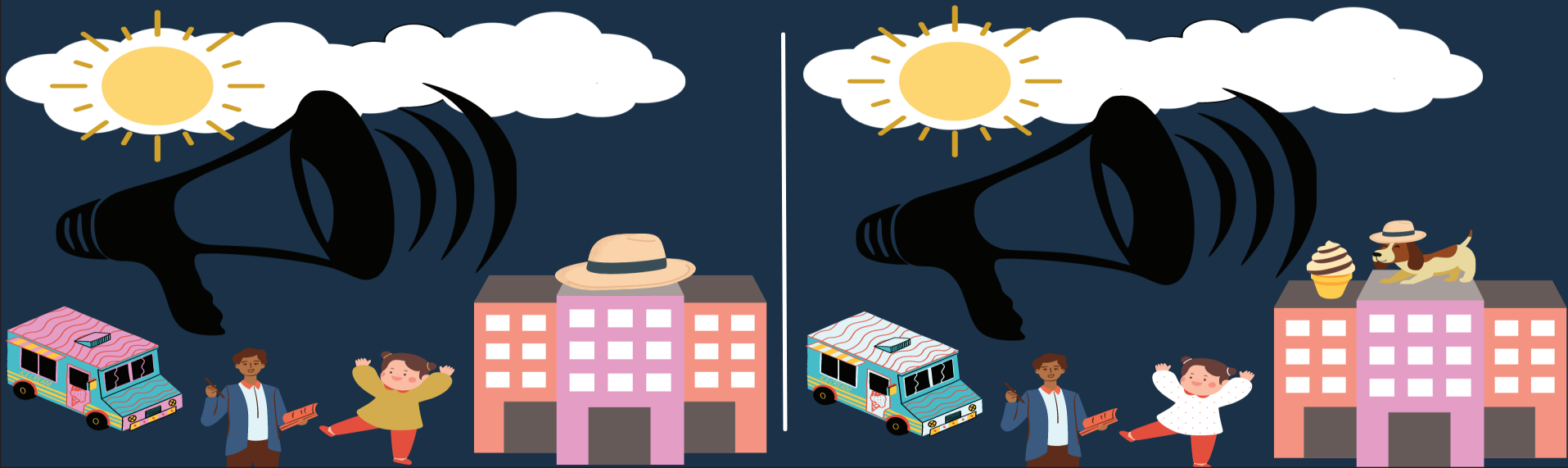
“Who let the dogs out?! Who? Who? Who?”

The reasons as to why the speaker had gone haywire, why a giant ice cream truck had appeared, and why a variety of dogs rushed out of the two story building are still unknown. If you have any information concerning the speaker, please contact a trusted adult immediately. Rewards start from the 40-foot ice cream truck to Building 16 itself. Pine View needs its loudspeaker back!

GRAPHIC BY TERRY SHEN

Spot The Difference

Spot the 4 differences before and after the catastrophe!



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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.