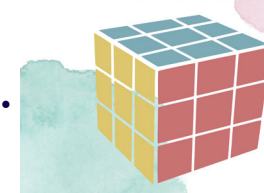


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Radical Rubik's
Cubes

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PHOTO BY CAROLINE DEACON

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Thanking our sponsors

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The Match covers topics, issues, events and opinions of relevance to students grades four and five. The Match is published five times a year by Pine View School and maintains membership in the Florida Scholastic Press Association. Press run is 500 copies. Copies are provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff. All content is subject to prior approval by administration.

Reader input. Submit story ideas, comments and questions to the editor of the publication. Address general comments and questions to the Editor-in-Chief at lora.rini@pineviewtorch.com.

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Mathematical Madness



LEFT TO RIGHT: Fifth-graders Jaxon Heid, Daniel Micheal, Adalle Heath, Justin Kim, Victoria Petrova, and Isabel Lopez pose. They have been active Math Madness members all year. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

by Alyson Mizanin

After weeks of practice and virtual competitions during lunchtime, the fifth-grade Math Madness team won first place in the virtual Math Madness National Championship tournament April 28.

The Pine View Math Madness team started last year and was originally open to both fourth and fifth grade. Now boasting 50 registered participants, the team has been limited to only fifth-graders, all coached by fifth-grade math teacher Andy Vitkus.

A handful of team members — like fifth-graders

Adalee Heath, Jaxon Heid, Justin Kim, and Daniel Michael — have been on the team since last year.

“We lost 39 to 40 in the quarterfinals last year, so I

continued because I really wanted to win,” Heid said.

Micheal also had his sights on winning this year. “I continued playing because I wanted to keep contributing my efforts to the competition and do my best and see if we

could win this year — that’s what I was thinking, and we won. That’s pretty good,” he said.

The team has also seen a handful of new faces, like fifth-graders Isabel Lopez and Victoria Petrova.

“I wasn’t here last year, so I didn’t really know what happened with the team until this year,” Petrova said. “I learned about the team, and I like math, even if I’m not too good at it, so I decided to try it.”

Two national Math Madness seasons are held during the year: fall and spring. During this year’s fall season, the Pine View team fell short of qualifying for the national tournament. That changed in the spring. Kim ranked as one of the top math competitors in the country during the spring qualifying trials, which helped bring Pine View to the national bracket.

Participating fifth-graders met in Vitkus’ room during lunch on Wednesdays to compete. Because the tournament was open to schools across the country, live matches rarely occurred. The team found out whether they advanced at the end of each week. Pine View’s advancement was determined by the combined points earned from those who scored in the top five during the week’s match; those scores were based on

both their accuracy and time.

With 32 teams originally participating, Pine View progressed onto the next level each week, eventually winning in the finals against James McDade Classical Elementary. The team was shocked when Vitkus told them the news.

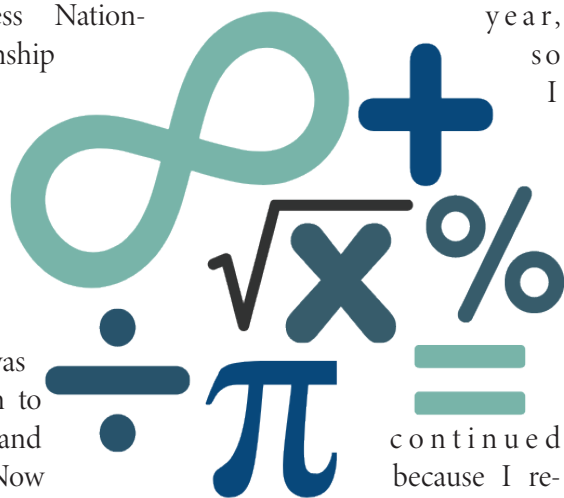
Despite the success, the team remains humble, noting how this can bring them to greater success in middle and high school. They’re thankful for what the competition has taught them.

“It made me feel more collaborative. I haven’t really been on a team where I knew

a lot of people before,” Kim said.

“Six out of eight was my highest score, but I never thought I’d do as well as I did,” Lopez said. “Even though I’m not really good at math, it helped me.”


“I always doubted myself and thought I wasn’t that good at math. My mom would always tell me that I was. This showed me that I was good at math,” Heath said. “I started off scoring one out of eight, two out of eight. This year, I got an eight out of eight, and I was really proud of myself. Math Madness showed me that I could do it.”




continued because I really wanted to win,” Heid said.

Micheal also had his sights on winning this year. “I continued playing because I wanted to keep contributing my efforts to the competition and do my best and see if we

Math Madness






WHAT IS MATH MADNESS?

A tournament where teams of students compete to solve math-related problems.. There are three levels: Elementary (3-5), Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12).

WHAT ARE THE MATH MADNESS MATCHES LIKE?

The matches are completely online and are around 30 minutes long each. They include 8 multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. The students all answer these questions individually and the team score is the score of the top 5 students.



GRAPHIC BY KAI SPRUNGER

A Fantastic Field Trip

by Grace Johnson

The excitement was tangible as fourth-graders lined up in the bus loop on the morning of February 23, according to fourth-grade teacher Shannon Wynne. They were about to embark on a trip to Riverview High School to view the planetarium show, their first field trip since March 2020.

“Some of them have never gone on a bus because of [COVID-19],” Wynne said, explaining the unusual enthusiasm surrounding the students’ transportation. “They like to learn in-person, where they can actually see what they’ve been taught.”

The students would again venture to the Riverview campus March 25, for the Stars to Starfish exhibit — not only to see the planetarium show, but to see an aquarium presentation as well.

Fourth-grader Paige Mach said she enjoyed learning the different techniques scientists use to view the stars.

“There are actually a couple methods. Like, dimming in the stars shows that a planet has moved in front of the star and then around. The second, the Doppler effect, causes gravity to tug at the star and creates light distortions,” Mach said, next explaining the Dou-

ble Effect with grand hand motions. “This is one way of detecting a black hole.”

Mach says she sees herself as a future marine biologist, so she preferred the aquarium to the planetarium. High schoolers presented the different marine exhibits to the students in a rotating station format.

“[The high schoolers] were very sweet. They had baby snook, starfish, and clownfish. I didn’t know clownfish could have so many colors,” Mach said, surprised. “They had seahorses. We got to see them get fed. I had never seen that before, and seahorses are my favorite aquatic ani-



Fourth-graders go on a field trip to Riverview High School to see the planetarium show and an aquarium presentation. PHOTO PROVIDED BY WYNNE SHANNON

mals... It was a field trip dream-come-true!”

Wynne has only worked at Pine View for two years, but had visited this exhibit with previous students in years past.

“I just liked to watch the high schoolers be leaders. I thought that was amazing to see,” she said, explaining her favorite part of the trips. “I felt that was a great opportunity for all the kids to have.”

On The ‘Write’ Track to Success



His class was able to eat donuts while he read his essay aloud to them. Recently participating in the SREA essay contest, fifth-grader Victor Ivanov won second place.

PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

by Sarah Catalano

Out of 113 entries in the Sarasota Retired Educators Association (SREA) Fifth-Grade Essay Contest,

fifth-grader Victor Ivanov’s essay rose to the top, placing second in the 2022 contest. Titled, “My Happiest Memory with Grandpa,” the short

personal essay captivated all who read it.

Ivanov drew inspiration for his essay from his memories of the scenic Rila lakes and mountains in Bulgaria, where his mother, Mariya Ivanov, was born. The family has visited Bulgaria often throughout Ivanov’s childhood, and his essay recalls a particular experience of hiking up a mountain with his grandfather.

“I haven’t seen him in a while,” Ivanov said. “I felt like it would be nice to write about it.”

“It’s always touching because there’s this personal

feeling that goes through his words, through his pen,” Mariya said, “and it can always make you cry. I think that’s what touched the readers.”

Fifth-grade teacher James Ross delivered the news of Victor winning the essay contest to him and his mother.

“I was genuinely surprised. And I was very proud,” Ivanov said.

Later, on April 14, SREA members visited Ross’s class — with donuts for all — to listen to Ivanov read his essay aloud for his classmates, Ross, and Elementary Assis-

tant Principal Roy Sprinkle. Additionally, Ivanov was awarded with a \$30 check and certificate.

“I was kind of nervous,” Ivanov said, “and I messed up a bit, but it went great.”

Ivanov also enjoys writing outside of school — realistic fiction and heartfelt, engaging narratives are his specialty. Now and into the future, writing is a creative outlet for him and a means of expression.

“I think he’ll continue writing and keep the memories for himself, for me and for the family — keep the memories alive,” Mariya said.

Summer Events and Birthdays



The ceremony to open the Ethan's Rock and Mineral Garden, honoring Ethan Isaacs, took place April 22. Isaacs's family and friends gave speeches to honor him and shared many of their memories they had with him.

PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER



A group of second-graders fill out forms to receive their citizenship in the United States during the annual Ellis Island Simulation. Before the simulation, students study a unit in school on the immigration process.

PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

May 25
Carmen Elliot's
birthday

May 31
Debbie Delaney's
birthday

June 11
Sara Kolsky's birth-
day

July 2
Rebecca Kochen-
derfer's birthday

July 5
Shannon Wynne's
birthday

August 5
Andrius Vitkus's
birthday

August 6
Cynthia Wozniak's
birthday

August 8
Rachel Lenerz's
birthday

IN BRIEF

Father-Daughter Dance

by Tiffany Yu

The Class of 2023 held the Father-Daughter Dance Friday, May 13.

Twelfth-graders Shayla Hernandez and Elizabeth McBride directed this year's dance, with eleventh-graders Simona Belilovskiy and Caroline Deacon acting as shadow directors. Together they organized the dance, selected decorations, made sales, and oversaw photography.

"It was a great opportunity to learn about leadership and organization while also balancing budgeting and entertainment for the guests. I think everyone had a great time. We

had fun bonding as a group of shadow directors and volunteers." Deacon said.

There was also a dedicated team of volunteers present, all of whom made the dance and its activities run smoothly.

"I liked when we put the book on our head," fifth-grader Sahana Nayar said. "I was happy because I got third place. I did like the songs and in the beginning there was a huge conga line, and then a little bit later everyone was doing the macarena."

The Father-Daughter Dance proved to be an astounding success, bringing the school year to a satisfying end.

The Future of Free Lunch

by Terry Shen

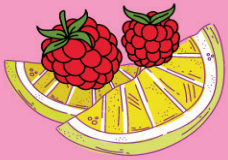
The Student Union has welcomed students to free meals in the past two school years. Unless the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) extends its Child Nutrition Program waivers, this program will go away in the 2022-2023 school year.

Due to COVID-19, school districts across the United States were given waivers by the USDA, allowing them to serve free meals to students. As of May 8, the USDA has not extended this free meal plan for the coming year. Regardless of whether meals will be free to all students next year,

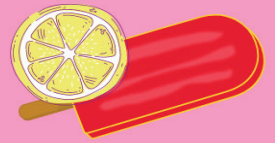
the free and reduced lunch program will continue operating. Families can apply for free or reduced lunch through school meal applications.

Pine View Food Service Manager Angela Wittstruck is hopeful that the increased hot lunch consumption will continue.

"We were excited to see so many new faces this year," she said in an email. "We are hoping the food and experience in the student union this year will bring them back next year, even if they have to pay a minimal price ... [we] will 'leave the light on' for all who want to venture in and enjoy."



DIY POPSICLES



As the summer rolls around, and our sunshine state heats up to the 90s and above, nothing sounds more refreshing than a popsicle. So, the Match presents you with a fun and easy raspberry lemonade popsicle recipe! You don't need any special tools, and the popsicles will taste amazing. Read on to make the best treat ever! PS. This recipe is for four popsicles, but the measurements are easily adjustable.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 18 raspberries
- 1/4 tsp sugar
- A fork
- Sieve or strainer
- Bowls
- 2 cups lemonade
- 4 food-safe popsicle sticks
- 4 small cups
- 4 squares of cling wrap
- Rubber bands



Wash your hands and the raspberries. Place 10 in a bowl and add the sugar.



Mash the raspberries with a fork until you have a puree with a lot of liquid.



Pour the mash through the sieve to remove seeds and get delicious juice. Keep pressing it to get out as much juice as you can.



Add your lemonade to make a yummy popsicle base! The exact amount is up to you, depending on desired taste.



Pour your mixture into your small cups. For an extra flair, cut two raspberries in half per cup and add.



Place plastic wrap over each cup. Secure with a rubber band and poke a popsicle stick through the center.



Put your popsicles in the freezer! About 5 hours and they should turn out perfect.



Finally, enjoy your delicious and refreshing summer treat!



Fifth-grader rocks out in a band

by **Isabella Gaskill**

Fifth-grader Vivienne Martinez and her band are going to be hitting the stage in Tennessee to perform for their family this summer. Although they formed their band two years ago, this is going to be their first time playing together in-person. They plan on playing a combination of covers and original music.

Vivienne first got interested in music when she was five when she



PHOTO BY LUCY COLLINS

wanted to try out singing for herself. Her friend in Tennessee, Kadance Ball,

plays guitar, and Kadance's sister, Cheyenne Ball, plays piano and is learning to play the violin. Vivienne's cousin, David Padilla, is another member of the band. He helps them out with various other instruments, including drums and saxophone.

"[Kadance and I were] calling one day ... and I'm like, 'We both love singing.' And all except for me can play an instrument," Martinez said. "So I was like, 'How about we start a band' and I

was joking, but she was like 'Oh that's a great idea!'"

Because of the distance, the band meets over Zoom. They start their practices by watching funny memes and catching up with each other, before going over music and any new ideas they have. Right now, they spend their meetings preparing for their upcoming show.

"I feel really good about it. We've actually been in the band for almost two years now... So I'm really happy

about how far we've come. We actually get to show our parents this," Martinez said.

She is inspired by artists like Olivia Rodrigo and Ariana Grande, and she works with her band on original songs in addition to playing covers. Right now, they are working on a track called "Psychopath." She hopes to continue music in the future.

"Hopefully [I'm] on a stage and not in a small office singing to myself," Martinez said.

Fourth-grader 'steps it up'

by **Joanna Malvas**

As the lights illuminate the stage, fourth-grader Snowden Mowry knows exactly how to wow the judges as she performs dance. This year, Mowry competed in two dance competitions and earned 2nd place and 1st place at Regionals in Sarasota April 23 and Shake the Ground in Tampa April 9-10, respectively.

Mowry began her ballet journey three years ago. Currently attending Star's Choice Dance Academy, Mowry recently decided to audition for her dance studio's company, a group of dancers that engage in jazz, tap, lyrical and

acrobatics.

As a company dancer, Mowry has an intensive schedule of dancing 9 to 10 hours each week. Still, Mowry said she enjoys the companionship of her friends at the studio.

"Everyone in my dance class is one of my friends," Mowry said. "It's kind of hard to finish homework on time, but it's still really fun. I like dancing with my friends."

When deciding upon the solo dance, Mowry's instructor allowed Mowry to choose the type of

dance, whether it be ballet or lyrical. Mowry chose lyrical, her favorite type of dance, as she describes it to be marked by flowy, graceful movements. This was the piece in which Mowry championed the Shake the Ground competition, performing with the song, "Out Here on My Own" from the movie, "FAME."

"When first place was called, and the name of my solo was called... I was so surprised!... I did not expect it," Mowry said, widening her eyes to emulate her reaction.

After her performance, Mowry's fellow studio mates cheered her on.

"At Shake the Ground, all my friends were really excited to see me. But, Aburianna was the craziest; she ran up to me and hugged me super tight,"

Mowry said.

Mowry also has performed in group numbers with the company, such as "Dear Future Husband" by Meghan Trainor as a tap dance with three others.

For Mowry, being a dancer involves expressing a variety of moves and facets, from her emotional solo to wearing funny costumes for the song, "Who Let the Dogs Out?" by Baha Men.

"All the different types of dances are so fun. I love doing sassy and soft [dances],"



Mowry said.

She will be advancing to Nationals in Savannah, Georgia this summer, performing her lyrical solo.

When describing her daughter dancing to her solo, Hollie Mowry expressed how Snowden's con-

fidence is shown on stage.

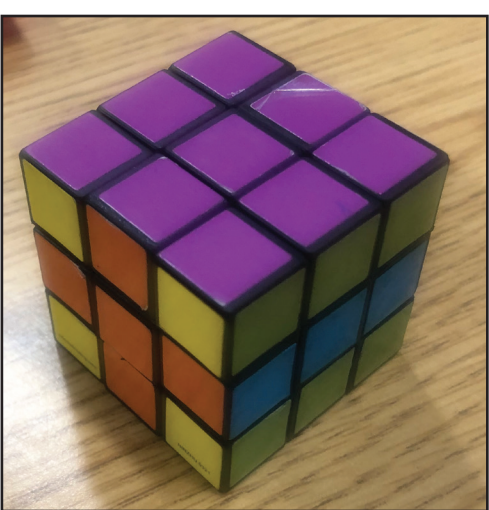
"She has fantastic stage presence; she looks like she belongs up there. You can tell she's having a ton of fun. She really loves it," Hollie Mowry said.

RADICAL RUBIK'S CUBES

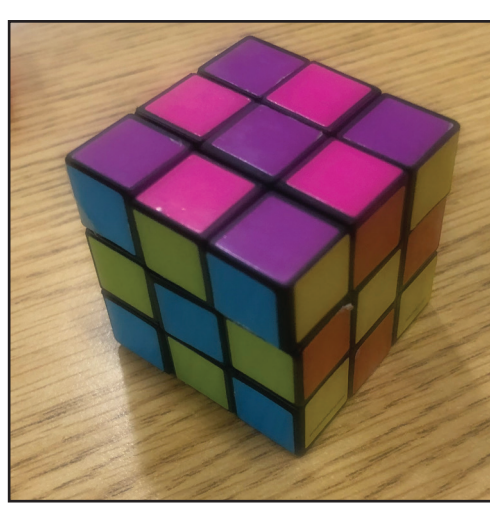
There are many types of Rubik's cubes, from the traditional 3x3 to more unconventional cubes — sometimes they can't even be called cubes. With many fans of the puzzles, world records are set, new puzzles are made, and cool patterns are made. Check out these cool cubes and facts!



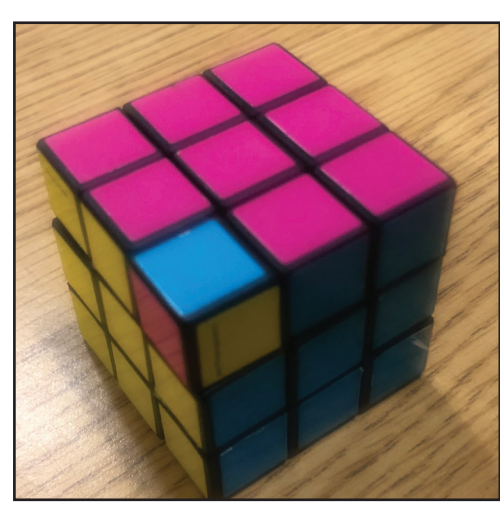
COOL PATTERNS



Plus Minus Pattern

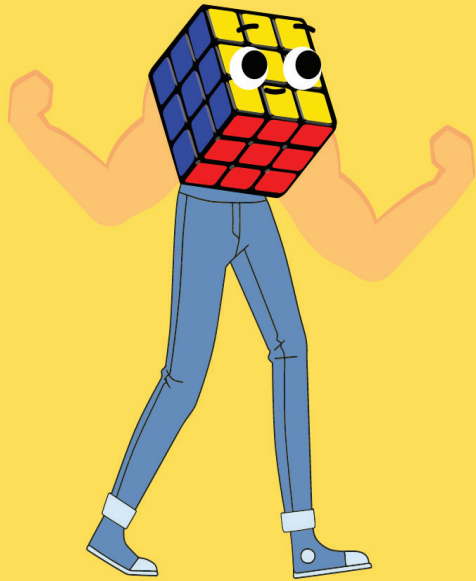


Classic Checkerboard Pattern



Flipped Tips Pattern

PICK A FIGHTER



Which cube is the best? Decide which cube would win in a battle and PICK A FIGHTER!

| Stats | 2x2 | 3x3 | 4x4 |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Speed | Very Fast | Fast | Slow |
| Durability | Weak | Medium | Strong |
| Special Power | Flying | Super Speed | Super Strength |

WORLD RECORDS

| Cubes | Record Holder | Time (in seconds) |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2x2 | Maciej Czapiewiski | 0.49 |
| 3x3 | YuSheng Du | 3.47 |
| 4x4 | Sebastian Weyer | 17.42 |
| 5x5 | Max Park | 34.92 |
| Pyraminx | Dominik Górny | 0.91 |
| Megaminx | Juan Pablo Huanqui | 27.22 |

UNUSUAL CUBES

2x2 Megaminx



Gear Cubes



GHOST CUBE



SARASOTA SUMMER CAMPS

As school is ending and summer is quickly approaching, there are many summer camps that one can join. Here is a list of sports summer camps!

Core SRQ Swim Camp

Price Varies

June 6–July 1 and July 11–29

Grades K–8

coresrq.org/camp

Sarasota Youth Sailing Camp

\$400/Session

May 31–August 5

Ages 5–18

sarasotayouthsailing.org

Bradenton Country Club Tennis Camp

\$250/week

Times/Dates Vary

Ages 6–15

www.bradentoncc.org/tennis

Acro-Fit Gymnastics Camp

Price Varies

June 6–August 5

Ages 4–12

acrofitgymnastics-sarasota.com

Hardcore Hockey Fan

by Peyton Harris

For as long as he could remember, fifth-grader Justin Anderson has been a Tampa Bay Lightning fan.

“I am originally from Canada,” Anderson’s mother said. “so hockey is in [Anderson and his brother’s] blood. My parents have been Lightning fans since the beginning of the franchise, so naturally the boys have become huge fans too. They very rarely ever miss a game!”

Anderson started playing hockey in the third grade, inspired by his family’s love for the sport. He plays at The Ice Plex in Bradenton, playing on

defense.

“What I love most about hockey is that it’s a team sport and I get to work with others. I also love getting to

learn all the com-

ponents”

Anderson said.

He currently plays for the recreational team but looks forward to trying out for the travel team in the future.

“I want to make it to the

NHL,” Anderson said.

He aspires to play like his favorite player, Victor Hednon of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Anderson’s brother, Jeffery, also plays hockey, playing as a goalie.

“They’ve tried everything — golf, soccer, T-ball, swimming, taekwondo — but the two sports they are the most passionate about are hockey and skiing. They are daredevils for sure!” Anderson’s mother said. “They have a strong commitment to hockey. We drive to Tampa nearly every day while the boys still maintain a nearly straight A average. I couldn’t be prouder!”



Justin Anderson standing with the 2021 Stanley Cup. He has been a fan of hockey since he was in third grade.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JUSTIN ANDERSON



2022 Summer To-Do list



REFRESHER RIFF OFF

What better way to get relief from the heat than a cold delicious treat! Here are some ideas:

- Watermelon Slushie
- Cucumber Mint Cooler
- Root Beer Float
- Orange Cream Pops
- Homemade Ice Cream



Sunny Swim

Whether its in the ocean, pool, or lake, when it comes to swimming, the creativity is infinite. Here are some fun water ideas!

- Marco Polo
- Chicken Fights
- Wave Competition
- Boogie Board Balance
- Handstand- Off



GALLOP IN THE GRASS

This title is pretty vague, but that’s because grass is the landscape for so many outdoor activities.

- Balloon fight
- Frisbee
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Gardening



Cleansing Care

This one is for indoors, just in case the rain comes around.

- Colored Hair Spray
- Face Masks
- Scrub DIY
- Nail Painting
- Yoga

GRAPHIC BY FAITH BOSSMAN

How are waterfalls made?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by Sahana Nayar



by Kai Sprunger

As summer rolls around, waterfalls are a popular destination making the bucket lists of many curious adventurers. With an elegant stream of water that flows freely before suddenly falling off a ledge, these geological features are quite breathtaking and lovely.

People flock from all corners of the world just to see waterfalls up close. Niagara Falls, one of the most famous and well-known waterfalls, attracts over 8 million visitors each year. Those who visit waterfalls are often filled with wonder and amazement, which leads them to wonder how such a beautiful place was born in nature.

Although waterfalls are the epitome of grace and elegance, they all have humble

beginnings. There are several ways waterfalls are formed, some being the result of a volcanic eruption, landslide, or earthquake, but the most common way is through erosion.

Most waterfalls begin as streams that flow over different layers of hard and soft rock. Sometimes these bodies of water are long winding rivers, but other times they are turbulent and wild rapids. Over time, the soft rock below the stream gets eroded or worn away as the pieces of rock get carried off or lost in the water. These pieces of soft rock are chipped away due to a process called abrasion.

Abrasion is where friction between rock and sediment, pebbles, or small pieces of rock, causes the rock to chip away slowly. As a result of abrasion, a vertical drop between the hard and soft rock begins to form. The forming of the drop is quite gradual and often takes a long time, between 10 to 10,000 years, to transform into a magnificent waterfall.

As water and sediment fall down the drop, they begin to erode the rock at the bottom of the drop. Soon, a large pit forms beneath the

drop called the plunge pool, where the water that falls is collected.

Sometimes if the rushing water that falls over the drop is powerful enough, the base of the waterfall behind the plunge pool is eroded too. This leads to a hollow opening, called a rock shelter, that hides away behind that crashing stream of water. The drop of this baby waterfall begins to get steeper and steeper as the hard rock also starts to erode. Eventually, what we know of as a waterfall is formed.

Even though most waterfalls have the same beginning, they are all unique and quite different. Scientists have determined that there are 10 different types of waterfalls ranging from block waterfalls to cascade waterfalls to punchbowl waterfalls.

However, whether it's one waterfall type or another, most every waterfall comes from the simple process of erosion. From this humble beginning to breathtaking beauty and elegance, waterfalls will always remain a spot on many a bucket list, especially during the summers.

SOURCES:
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
WORLD ATLAS



GRAPHIC AND PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

The Great Lunch Debate: Fields or Library?

by Lucy Collins

Everyday, we are faced with an impossible decision: whether to go to fields or to the library. I'm here to advocate for the underdog, the library, which is the supreme lunchtime hangout. There are definitely upsides to each. However, in my opinion, the pros of the library far outweigh the cons.

First and foremost: the air conditioning. The Florida rays burning your skin are easily avoided indoors. This eliminates the sweat component. While playing with your friends outdoors is fun, being damp the rest of the

afternoon is not. Sometimes you dry off but often you're sitting on the bus still feeling it. Especially at the beginning or end of the year when the temperature is especially brutal. The media center has air conditioning that, especially in the hotter months, feels as if you are stepping into a delightful tundra in comparison to outside.

Another point to consider is hunger. After you eat your lunch and then run around for half an hour, you probably work up an appetite whether you ate or not. Three to four hours later when you are sitting in class,

you probably get hungry. If you don't have any food left, you get grumpy. When you're grumpy, you're mean to your friends — at least in my experience. In the library, you are not sweating, not hungry, and get to hang out with your friends.

My final reason why the media center is superior to the fields are books. Before you roll your eyes, I was like some of you as a child. I felt the pressure to read from my teachers and it stole the enjoyment from reading. But now, as a senior in high school about to graduate, I realize how amazing books



Torch staff member Sarah Catalano, who has a strong dislike for fields, glares at the camera. When she was an elementary school student, she never went to fields.

PHOTO BY LUCY COLLINS
are.

You have the opportunity to explore new worlds and new lives, new places that only exist in someone else's imagination. You learn

so much about everything between the pages of a book, and in turn you learn about yourself. So before you bash reading, take this senior's advice and give it another go.

Do you prefer to stay in the library or go to fields?



"I like to go to fields because you get exercise."

- Leo Martin, 5th grade



"I like to not go to fields because I don't have anything to do at fields and it's really hot."

- Anna Droval, 5th grade



"I go to fields because I like to run around and burn off calories and it's healthy."

- Gabe Constanzo, 5th grade

Summer gone wrong

By Jada Davidson



May 28

Dear Diary,

School is finally out! This summer will NOT be like the last one —everything will be perfect. I am so excited to go on this cruise my parents planned! I also cannot wait to go swimming and eat way too much ice cream. This is going to be so great!

June 1

Dear Diary,

So far, the cruise has been so much fun! Right now, I am sitting on the ship in my room, staring outside the small porthole while writing this journal entry. Earlier today, I went down the huge waterslides and swam in the pool on the ship. Later, I went on a ZIPLINE! The cruise ship had a whole cable that people were able to zipline on, and I was curious, so I tried it out. I never want to go ziplining again, though, because it was so terrifying!

After being traumatized by that, my sister and I went to the arcade room and played every single one of the games 7 times until it was time to go to dinner. For dinner, I had delicious chicken nuggets and chocolate milk. By the end of the day, I noticed my sister had a little bit of a cough, but that is the only thing that has not been great so far. Do not worry, though, I will not let that ruin my trip and spoil my summer.

June 2

Dear Diary,

My sister's cough has gotten so bad that now I must wear a mask everywhere, even in my OWN ROOM. My sister has to quarantine — too bad for her. But then my dad said that since we have been exposed to her coughing, we also must stay inside and quarantine, as well! Now and then, my sister vomits on the floor, which is absolutely disgusting. Now, because of her, I cannot go anywhere or do anything fun!

June 3

Dear Diary,

THIS STINKS. The captain just informed everyone that there has been some sort of sickness going around on the ship. Everyone is panicking and the ship is pretty much on lockdown. Now we must turn around and go back from where we came from, and I have to be stuck in this place for two more days. It is like I am in the middle of a zombie apocalypse!

June 5

Dear Diary,

I can finally write to you again! I have been so sick that I literally couldn't move, and my sister BARFED ALL OVER ME yesterday! Like, DO YOU MIND? I have been through enough already; I do not need anything else in the way of MY. PERFECT. SUMMER.

June 7

Dear Diary,

I was going to go swimming today, but as I jumped in the pool, I landed on CONCRETE. It feels like all my bones are broken. That should not have happened, I should have landed in refreshing cool blue water! But NO. All the water was GONE! There was a heatwave and when I went to get ice cream to try to cool off, THE ICE CREAM WAS ALSO GONE. They did not even have enough water to make the ice for the ice cream! This legitimately has gone too far; I am so close to suing whoever invented this disgusting summer.

August 8

Dear Diary,

I am sorry, I have been too depressed to even write to you and everyone is just so miserable and sad, too. This summer, which started out so amazing, turned out to be the WORST ONE YET. I cannot even believe this is happening right now. Oh, shoot... I STILL HAVE A WHOLE PILE OF HOMEWORK TO DO!!! Ugh, this has been one bumummer summer.



A Not-So-Magic Vanishing Act

by Faith Bossman

Fourth-graders are running wild. Teachers are crying. The impossible has just happened right here in Osprey.

Half of the Pine View elementary students disappeared off the face of the earth during the summer before the 2022-2023 school year. Students that vanished over the summer ended up spawning right back at school after missing the obvious best time of the year: summer vacation.

“My family was going to go on a Disney cruise! But instead, I literally got deleted

until the first day of school when I randomly showed up in Mr. Who’s class,” said Nofam Lon-ely.

For those wondering how this happened, it was the simple and fatal double click.

On the last day of school, a volunteer in the office got the honor of ringing the end of school bell. Exactly 2.12 seconds after the bell rang, Mr. Sprinkle walked in with THE LAST blue and yellow popsicle of the year from Proud Python. When the volunteer, Ms. Donna Dropit, saw this spectacular treat, she dropped a Stapler on a fourth

-grader’s head.

The sacred bell had been pressed twice, cursing half of the fourth grade to universal banishment. After a month of searching, the fourth-grade class found the scared volunteer locked inside Building 14’s smallest stall.

“To all the families I have inconvenienced, I am not sorry. That popsicle was scrumptious,” said Ms. Donna Dropit.

Our news group asked the disappearing fourth-graders where they went when they left.

“At first, I didn’t notice a

thing. I got on the bus and had a normal ride home!

But when it was time to get off the bus, the bus stop had turned into a python! We were forced by the hypnotized driver to walk down the giant snake’s mouth into a pitch-black teacher’s lounge...” said Don Thehatch, one of the fourth-graders who had vanished.

Despite how horrific this might sound, not to worry fellow citizens, all students that disappeared over the summer will be provided with a copy of the popsicle that caused their banishment. How long

will the volunteer stay in building 14 for? That is left to the imagination of the students.



GRAPHIC BY LILY QUARTERMAINE

QUIZ: Summer Predictions

1 Pick your go-to summer activity:

- a. surfing
- b. staying inside
- c. biking
- d. vacationing

2 Pick your summer hangout buddy:

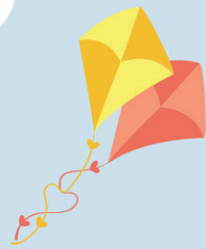
- a. the ocean
- b. videogames
- c. Dora The Explorer
- d. The Kardashians

3 What's your favorite summer snack?

- a. smoothie
- b. chips
- c. fruit
- d. cake

4 What's your favorite summer outfit?

- a. swim suit
- b. pajamas
- c. shorts, t-shirt
- d. anything fancy!



...TALLY UP YOUR ANSWER LETTERS!

RESULTS BELOW.

MOSTLY As:
The Surfer

MOSTLY Bs:
The Summer Hibernator

MOSTLY Cs:
The Adventurer

MOSTLY Ds:
The Vacationer

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[a column]

New Beginnings



Lora Rini,
Match Editor-in-Chief

It's the end of the school year, and like many of you, summer is the only thing on my mind. But right now, I'm asking you to think beyond the next few months for a minute.

Whether this year was good or bad for you, next year is a new beginning. There will be new friends and new memories, but it is up to you whether your experience is positive or negative. Opportunities to restart are rare, so whenever you come across one, it is essential that you take advantage of it.

Always make the most of your time — don't let anxiety or past incidents hold you back. I know this is easier said than done, but it is truly one of the best pieces of advice I can give you.

If you didn't enjoy yourself as much as you wish you did during the school year,

this summer, ask yourself 'why?'. Maybe you need new friends, or better study habits, or a different after school activity. No matter what, summer is a great time to reflect on your life and set goals for the next year.

I'm not telling you to stress you out this summer. Above all, having fun should be your top priority. But hold the future in the back of your mind, because soon enough, it will be your present.

And it's not only you — The Match and Match Jr. are also restarting next year. I am very happy to let you all know that my good friend Kai Sprunger will be taking over as Editor-in-Chief. Throughout the two years that I have known Kai, she has proven time and time again to be one of the most hardworking and creative people I've ever met. I am confident she will take The Match and Match Jr. to new heights.

