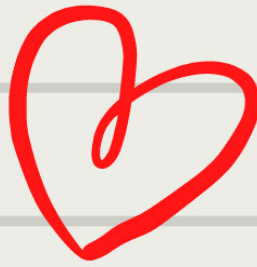




'67 Cinderellas'



Ethan's Garden

MAY 26TH, 2022



# SPARK



VOL. 5, ISSUE 4

Tennis



FILM NEGATIVE

13 A



FILM NEGATIVE

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Volleyball



Islands of Adventure Field Trip!

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# Waving Goodbye

## A Farewell to Two of Pine View's Retiring Teachers

Story and photos by Maddie van Leeuwen

At the end of this year, some of our favorite middle school teachers are leaving Pine View School and retiring.

One of these teachers is Lois Myers, an eighth-grade US history teacher. Myers has been teaching at Pine View for 20 years. She has also taught fourth-grade science and history, and a fifth-grade history.

"[I love] getting kids excited about US history, opening their eyes to some of the events and time periods they really had no clue about," Myers said.

Myers remarked that she had known for around four or five years that she was going to retire soon, and she felt like now was a good time. However, Myers will miss several things about Pine View.

"Besides seeing the excitement in kids' eyes when we learn about things, [I will miss] my colleagues," Myers said.

After retirement, Myers is going to take some time to herself and visit her eight-month-old grandson and become an "at home granny."

Eida Padgett, another eighth-grade teacher, is retiring. She has taught sixth-grade math, pre-algebra, geometry, algebra, algebra two, and personal financial literacy.

Padgett has also sponsored many clubs here,

including National Junior Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Club, Century Club, Millennium Club, Math Magic Club, Young Investor's Society, ASL Learning Club, Middle School Student Council, and Rubiks Cube Club.

"It never ceases to amaze me what an incredible, wonderful, strong family Pine View is," Padgett said via email.

"It has truly been a blessing to have worked among such dedicated, innovative, and caring teachers and administrators, whom, year after year, continue to support, encourage and challenge our diverse population of students," Padgett said.

Padgett is excited to travel all over America and explore nature in her retirement.

"It's time for me to get back to this side [exploring nature and the outdoors] of myself. There are so many amazing things to see in this world and it is my time," Padgett said.

Although we are happy to see Pine View teachers enjoy the rest of their lives, we will always miss them.



Following the end of this school year, Algebra teacher Eida Padgett plans to retire after almost twenty years at Pine View. She plans on traveling all throughout the United States with her 30-foot motorhome.



American History teacher Lois Myers is retiring after this year. She plans on spending more time with her grandson.



# An Act of Kindness

Eleonore and her brother, Victor Cantin, travel with Clairette in Greece several years before the war.

By: Mikayla Foss

Children younger than yourself have been uprooted from their homes. Families have been divided- fathers have been left behind, sobbing at train stations.

Where have these refugees gone?

Poland has received the most Ukrainian refugees along with Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova, neighboring countries to Ukraine. Along with these countries, people all over Europe have been reaching out to help the refugees of Ukraine.

In eastern France, two families have sought refuge under the roof of Clairette Cantin, the grandmother of eighth-grader Eleonore Cantin. Clairette has lived in France her whole life and around a month ago was informed of two families trying to seek refuge outside of Ukraine.

“My dad had an employee working for him who knew the two families,” Eleonore said. “He suggested they stay with his mom, who had an extra

room.”

For those who are unaware of the refugee situation, it is as follows: over 5 million Ukrainians have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries. Many of these refugees are women and children who have been forced to separate from husbands and fathers. This is because men between the ages of eighteen and sixty have been banned from leaving the country in case they are called to fight. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, fathers with three or more children can leave, as well as men with medical issues.

“My grandma has been hosting the families for almost three weeks now,” Eleonore Cantin said.

According to Cantin, families consist of “One mom and her two boys, and another mom with her one boy.”

This war is not just seas away, it’s affecting people in your school and classes. We need to start acting and helping in any way we can.

## The Refugee Crisis

In the first few weeks of the invasion, 4 million Ukrainians fled their home. Here are the statistics as of May 8, 2022.

# 5,801,159

citizens escaped in total.

# 3,280

civilian deaths.

# 14%

of Ukrainians displaced.

### Countries with the Most Refugees



# What can we do to help?

As Russia continues to attack Ukraine, millions are leaving their friends, family, and home behind in search of refuge. According to the United Nations, almost six million people have already fled. Many who are spectating from afar may wonder what they can do to help, even as a middle schooler.

A critical way to help from across the world is to donate. There are so many organizations providing aid to refugees. These charities provide food, hygiene kits, access to safe drinking water, shelter, medicine, clothes, and so much more. Here are a few of the most reputable organizations.

## 1. UNICEF

Over the last decade, UNICEF has donated over \$130 million of aid to protect the vulnerable children and families of Ukraine. As of March 10, they have sent over 70 tons of medical supplies to conflict-affected areas.

## 2. Humanity & Inclusion

This nongovernmental organization that works to support people with disabilities in areas of conflict and poverty during times of crisis.

## 3. Voices of Children

The Voices of Children Foundation has been helping through psychological support for children who have been a victim of the Russian-Ukraine war.

## 4. The Ukrainian Red Cross

Created over a century ago, the Ukrainian Red Cross has aided Ukraine in various matters, from humanitarian crises to natural disasters to civil conflicts. During this time of conflict, they are providing lifesaving aid to those in need.

Whether through donating, protesting, or housing, the world has been standing by Ukraine. By helping these causes, you can aid in fighting against the brutality of war.

# 5



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ADOBE STOCK

# United with Ukraine

By: Ava Lernerz and Sofia Giannattasio

# (F)arewell

By: Victoria Mochkovsky

# (S)tandardized (A)ssessments

On March 15, 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1048 into law, which, as of the 2022-2023 school year, ends the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) testing and implements the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.).

According to [flsenate.gov](http://flsenate.gov), the F.A.S.T., which will take place three times a year, will be solely computer based and have the results offered to teachers within one week of testing and to parents within two.

"Today, we come, not to praise the FSA, but to bury it," DeSantis said during his bill-signing press conference in St. Petersburg.

Critics have fought for an end to the FSA, a multi-day test registered at the end of the school year to students in third grade until graduation. Parents also complained about the timing of the results.

"We as parents don't get [the testing] results until well into summer, which is too late to support any deficits and help our children wher-

ever they may need it," foster parent and

social worker Laney Gibney said at the St. Petersburg event, "... the current testing schedule and environment negatively impacts children's self-esteem, mental health, and access to academic support."

Under the testing system of F.A.S.T., students will be tested and monitored three times a school year, which allows parents and teachers to help a child with their problem areas.

"Instead of having one major test at the end of the school year, which provided no feedback to students before the summer came, we would do progress monitoring that would monitor progress throughout the school

year," DeSantis said, "It will be shorter, it will be more individualized, and it will provide good feedback for students, teachers and parents."

But just like there are critics of the FSA, critics of the plan to end it have a problem: They argue that it will not end up helping students. The Florida Education Association (FEA), the state's largest teacher union, said the bill "fails to meet ... expectations" of teachers and parents who hoped the bill would put an end to the state's "system of high-stakes" testing.

"When the governor said he was reducing testing, teachers and parents saw a real opportunity to fix what's wrong with how Florida assesses students.

We imagined better outcomes

for kids," FEA President Andrew Spar said. "This

bill does not reduce testing but increases it. The bill does not focus on student learning or on providing teachers time to monitor and assess children's progress. In fact, it probably will add more work for already overwhelmed teachers.

Most basically, the bill fails students."

The bill will take effect on July 1, 2022.

# 6



# Bridging the gap

By: Sofia Giannattasio

I'll never forget the story-my dad told me about my first week of pre-school. Every day to say goodbye to my dad, I would wave and say "Ciao, Papà!" (meaning "Bye, Dad!") I was sent there to learn English, but by the end of the week I had all my classmates shouting "Ciao, Papà!" with me.

One in four- or 19.7 million- children are in immigrant families in the United States. I, Sofia Giannattasio, am one of them. As evident from my last name, I'm the daughter of two Italians, coming from Rome, Italy. While I am happy to be born and raised here in Sarasota, sometimes I wonder if life could have been easier if I were in Italy.

Of course, this is a preposterous thing to think. My parents uprooted their lives,

sacrificed being near their family, their friends, and their home full of memories, to give me the opportunity of the American Dream. They learned a new language, a new culture, and started celebrating new holidays. They went through many extensive processes to get citizenship, yet I still have a yearning for their birth country.

Why?

I want to be more connected. To my parents, to my culture, and to myself.

In some ways, I feel a million kilometer gap between us. I'll never be able to fully understand their childhoods, their jokes, proverbs, or poems. While

they were raised by Italy's standards, I was raised by the American school system. Ten months a year, five days a week, eight hours a day, I'm being influenced by other people. Yet even with this cultural distance from my parents of not feeling Italian enough, I still feel I'm too Italian to relate fully with my peers.

Despite these setbacks, my fellow second-generation immigrants spark something brand new. We are the bridge that unifies two extraordinary worlds. The differences between them can spark conversation and interest. Being an immigrant's child means learning both the history and heritage of our parents' mother country, as well as the one of our home countries. We have wonderful traditions and culture to celebrate at our backs, but a whole new world of possibilities ahead of us. We might be the end of an era, but we are the beginning of a new future.



## THE VERDICT



### protecting yourself from the sun

The sun is a especially dangerous aspect during the summer. Students should be aware of the harmful effects of the sun's rays. Be sure to wear sunscreen when playing outside to keep safe.



### FSA test changes

As many know Governor Ron DeSantis supported a removal of the yearly FSAs. It was signed in early 2021. Although students were excited for this new change, some are realizing that it has only really changed by making it three tests spread throughout the year instead of all the tests at the end of the year. Many wish for it to go back to the way it was originally.



### nature parks

Nature parks are a great way to get outside and explore. It helps you clear your mind and is a healthy way to be active. You can gain vitamin D and get exercise in a fun and relaxing way!



# Amusement Parks in Review

As the school year is coming to an end, many are excited to have a fun-packed time during the dog days of summer. Whether you're into outdoor activities or prefer watching a nice

movie (perhaps one on wizardry!) These



theme parks have something for everyone to enjoy. Whether it's a whole new type of roller coaster, a world of building blocks, or an immersive zoo, each amusement park has something completely unique to offer.

## LEGOLAND

**Open from: 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.**

**Cost: Single day ticket: \$85 per person or \$100 at the gate**

**Location: One LEGOLAND Way, Winter Haven FL, 33884**



By: Zachary Johnson

Home to attractions and displays made from and based on Lego, Legoland allows visitors to experience the magic and versatility of Lego as well as experience things from the different Lego franchises such as Lego Ninjago, the

Lego Movie and much more. The theme park has many rides based on these franchises such as the Lego Ninjago ride, a Ford driving school, The Great Lego Race, and others. The entirety of Legoland is an amazing place to spend the day with your family or friends.

For those who do not like rides, Legoland also offers shows, char-

acter meets, and themed games. Another draw of Legoland is its massive Lego models.

Legoland also includes a robust waterpark having many attractions and water rides, such as a lazy river with rafts that you can build Lego creations on. They also have an area called "Creative Cove" where you can build your very own Lego boat along with having complimentary ice cream.



# UNIVERSAL

By: Kai Deng

Home to some of the world's most advanced and thrilling rides, Universal Studios and Universal's Islands of Adventure let guests immerse themselves in numerous excursions based on favorite films and television shows. For example, join Optimus Prime and



Bumblebee in Transformers The Ride-3D, become an adorable minion in Despicable Me Minion Mayhem, see the tyrannosaurus rex up close on the Jurassic Park River Adventure, and much more. Universal Studios is a combination of fiction and reality. For those who do not enjoy rides, the parks offer plenty of activities such as the world-famous Studio Tour in Universal Studios. Both locations offer the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, where guests can experience

**Open from: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Cost: Single day ticket: \$164**

**Address: 6000 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819**

Hogsmeade or Diagon Alley depending on the park you are at and choose your own wand inside a small and dusty shop, called Ollivanders, where countless wands are stacked so high, they are tall enough to touch the ceiling. Or enjoy several incredible shows such as the Special effects show. Universal Studios is the perfect place for families to spend time together. Universal makes a multi generation family trip easy with family suites, dining, and attractions the everyone can enjoy.

# BUSCH GARDENS

By Adeline Von Wowerm and Kaya Bury

Do you love theme parks? Do you love zoos? Well, Busch Gardens has both. A combination of fantastic

thrilling rides and entertaining views of the beautiful scenery and animals makes the park a beautiful place.

Another benefit of Busch Gardens is that it cares for its animals. The park is Association of Zoos and Animals (AZA)-accredited, which is the highest accreditation a zoo, or similar organization, can achieve. This means that Busch Gardens provides stellar care for its animals in terms of medicine, husbandry, and welfare. Another aspect of the park is its rides.

The roller coasters are recommended for thrill-seekers since the coasters are more daring than the ones you might find at Disney World.

**Location: Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, 10165 McKinley dr, Tampa, FL 33612 Open from 10:00a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Cost: Single day ticket \$124.90**

The most fun thrill rides at Busch Gardens are the Cheetah Hunt, Sheikra, Falcons Fury, Kumba, Montu, Tigris, Cobras Curse, Scorpion and many more. Busch Gardens has something for everyone, be it daring roller coasters or peaceful animal viewing.



# PROS AND CONS OF *Summer Homework*

By: Ava Lenerz

At long last, it's the end of the school year. Summer is arriving and you are finally free to spend your time however you would like. And then you remember.... summer homework.

When you thought you would have a relaxing summer you noticed you would be forced to read at least two books and annotate and whatever else you are burdened with. You wonder what the point of summer homework is. Are teachers trying to ruin children's lives?

Summer homework isn't meant to ruin your life, but it can feel like that.

Summer homework does have its disadvantages for a myriad of reasons. One being that it stresses students out and it usually doesn't play out the way the teacher expects.

Math Department Head Kelly Vest believes "the teacher's goal with summer homework is for the student

to continue to practice math skills over the summer," but due to some students spending too much time on homework, worrying and stressing over it, and other students putting in no

effort and not even completing the work, "it kind of defeats the purpose of practice... so I don't know if it achieves

the goal of what the teacher intended it to be."

Vest said that the kids that spend their entire summer on it miss their

break and precious family time, and there is no follow up at the

beginning of the year then it "almost rewards the people who didn't spend a lot of time on it..."

Megan O'Mahony, the English department head, agrees "If you have students read books and then don't talk about them or use them, then that can definitely be a

negative..." she said.

However, what many may not notice is that summer homework does have its benefits.

This past year ninth grade had issues with their summer reading book and ended up without one. This

caused problems at the beginning of the school year.

"Because so many kids come here in ninth grade from different schools," O'Mahony said, "there was no unifying book to talk about... so without the summer homework we lacked [a book to discuss that everyone knew] ...so it took longer for a class to be on the same page."

She said that with all the new students

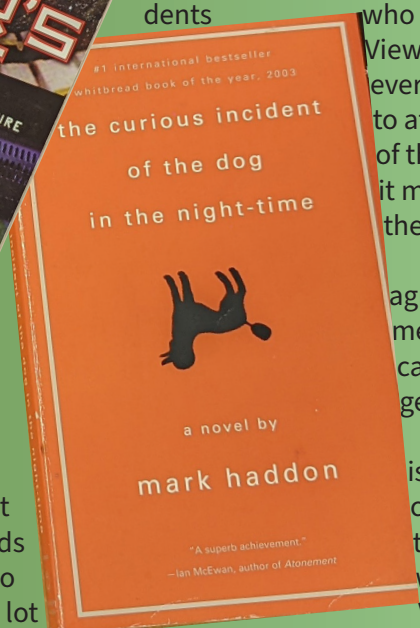
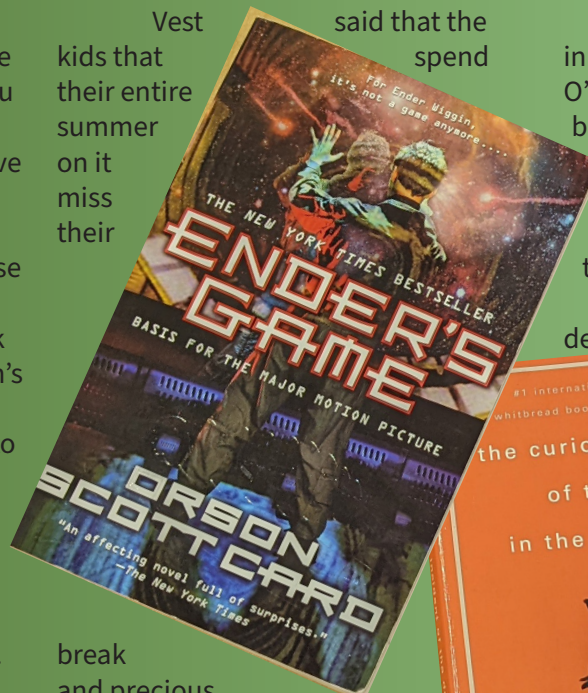
who come to Pine View having a book everyone can relate to at the beginning of the year, makes it much easier for the class to flow.

Vest also agrees that summer homework can be advantageous.

"I think it is important to continue to practice, especially with math," said Vest, explaining

that students should review the basic skills going into a new grade level.

Summer homework can be tedious. It may even feel like it ruins or wastes your summer, and in some cases it does. However, summer homework does have its benefits, especially if you enjoy the book



“it kind of defeats the purpose of practice... so I don't know if it achieves the goal the teacher intended it to be”  
**Kelly Vest,**  
**Math Department Head**

Summer Movies

# COMING SOON

Brought to you by Giorgi Hilenberg

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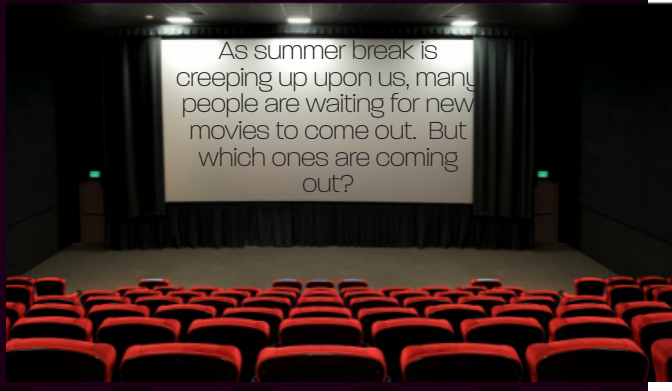
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## Thor: Love and Thunder

Thor: Love and Thunder, is must-watch for the summer. The movie is coming out on July 8th. The budget for the movies is about \$185 million. The movies is about Thor on a quest for inner peace but gets interrupted buy Gorr the God Butcher who wants the extinction of the gods. To stop this from happening, Thor seeks help from some familiar faces such as King Valkryie and Korg to uncover the mystery of Gorr's vengeance.



As summer break is creeping up upon us, many people are waiting for new movies to come out. But which ones are coming out?

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## Jurassic World: Dominion

There are many movies coming out this summer that are must watches. One of these movies is Jurassic World: Dominion. It is going to be a good movie to kick off your summer as it will be released on June 10th. The movie is going the be an "epic conclusion to the Jurassic era" as we will see humans living alongside dinosaurs one last time.

## Lightyear

The next movie to be released is Lightyear, which is going to be released on June 17th, and is going to be the first Pixar global release since the movie "Onward" was released. The budget for Lightyear is undetermined but will come up sometime soon. Lightyear is the origin story of the space hero Buzz Lightyear as they battle the Zurg, which is first shown in Toy Story 2.

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## Minions: The Rise of Gru

Minions: The Rise of Gru. With this movie coming out, you should know some information about it. It was supposed to be released 2 years ago but due to covid, it is now going to be released on July 1st. The price for this movie to be made is \$165 million for the creation of the movie. It is a sequel to the Despicable Me 3 movie. The movie is a backstory to Gru's kid life as a villain. While Gru is trying to be the world's greatest villain, the minions help him along the way

## DC League of Super-Pets

This is an animated film that will be released July 29 as a movie that you can watch right before the end of summer break. The movie is about the Justice League getting kidnapped and for pets to save the day with their powers.

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“ The producer is the glue that holds together the project, and they are literally there to help all their fellow creatives make the best film possible by handling the behind-the-scenes responsibilities. ”

—Vincent Dale



# BEHIND THE ACTION



## Production

Now, what was once an idea has become a reality. When everyone is onset, Dale says it looks like a little army has moved into a part of town.

“You show up and there’s a whole block of vehicles. Each department has their own vehicle,” he said. “The vehicles look like a semi-truck that you see on the Interstate that transports food to a store, but it’s filled with that department’s equipment. There’s an art department vehicle, lighting vehicle, props vehicle, all that stuff... and they set up tents and they set up equipment carts, and they set up somebody cooking food.”

Now that everything is ready, the director calls “Action!” and the camera starts rolling.

In these moments, not only do the actors express emotion through dialogue and actions, but emotion is expressed through the angle of the camera, lighting, etc.

“You’re really trying to have an idea and a specific goal for each shot, for each scene, to say I want this to make somebody feel this way.” Baron said, “you practice, and you see it, and if it works, you know you’re doing something right, and if it doesn’t work, you try to do something different the next time.”

He describes filming as “a long process of practicing and getting and watching stuff too.”

The director works closely with the actors and cinematographers to ensure they are properly telling the story. Directors are the actors’ first audience, and they provide guidance for them. They are also the ones directing the camera as they try to tell the story visually in the best way they can.

## Post-Production

Depending on the size of the film there may be a couple of minutes of film to work with or hours. No matter what, editors and more specialists come in and bring life to the recordings.

“It’s not just one editor. I think post-production teams are sometimes 15-25 people.” Dale said, “a lot of different specialists: sounds, color, sound mixing, editors, assistant editors.”

In some cases, the entire process of editing can take many months, but he said it’s all worth it.

“I remember just the first time you ever look at an editing timeline, to see the scenes that you had shot, to see how the film was really crafted in cut,” Dale said, “It was an amazing feeling, it was awesome.”

## Distribution

Last, but most definitely not least, it’s time to distribute the film. The filmmakers can either stream their films independently or with a major streaming platform.

Baron said, “Ultimately, I think the best part is always the finished products.” Baron said, “When you put something together and you get to show it to people and [see] their reactions and being a part of that experience has always been the best part.” He continued, “It really is very rewarding more than anything... it’s always great to see how people feel and [to know] that you were responsible for that, you were able to give them that kind of experience.”

## Introducing Vincent Dale

The Spark sat down and interviewed Pine View alumni, Vincent Dale, about the process behind producing a film. He graduated in 2009 and today he is a documentary producer and film maker.

### The First Steps

When Vincent Dale was a Pine View eighth grader in 2004-2005, he broke his leg. He was stuck at home without a phone or laptop, with nothing but his TV and A5 DVD changer. So, for the next five weeks, Dale watched movies non-stop.

During this time his passion for films was sparked. Just a year later he wrote his first short script in 24 hours.

"To have it all come out in one go was the first time I'd ever done anything like that," Dale said, "It was so exciting. It really felt like electricity."

He turned to his best friend, Juan Sebastian Baron. Using his dad's old cameras, a computer (so old it crashed every 15 minutes), and a team of four in production, they made their first film.

Now Dale is a documentary producer and filmmaker working with a major streaming network to create a docu-series in Sarasota County. His best friend, Baron, also ended up in film as a cinematographer. Some of the students that were actors in the film later started their careers as actors.

The start to his filmmaking career is the perfect example of what Dale considers the three things you need before you even start making a film. Passion, friends who believe in you and are willing to work with you, and just a lot of heart.

### Writing

Once the spark for filmmaking is there, it comes time to get started. The first step is creating or finding the script. This includes finding a good story or even writing one.

For Dale, he said writes obsessively. He has about 3,000 notes in his notes app, half of which are related to film. These notes range from fully fleshed out scenes to just a piece of dialogue, or a character.

He will keyword search and compile a huge brain dump of a document and start cutting out index cards and form the film on a giant wall in his apartment.

In this development stage writers also think about what their story will look like as a film.

### Pre-Production

Now that the story is laid out, it is time to start having conversations with all the specialists needed to create the film. Just like when someone is building a house, they aren't going to have the project manager do the plumbing or pour the cement. They are going to call in workers that are experts at these jobs.

It's the same in filmmaking. In the pre-production stage, it is time to call in the department specialist, the cinematographer, who under them is going to have a camera assistant and more.

It is the producer's job to hire all these people, and manage their payroll, and the budget.

The producer also must manage the schedule for production. They are the ones that figure out how long filming should take, when the lunch breaks are, and more of the little details.

"The producer is the glue that holds together the project," Dale said, "they are literally there to help all their fellow creatives make the best film possible by handling the behind-the-scenes responsibilities."

A LOOK BEHIND  
BY ROBYN SCHOENBERG



# The Rise of Short Content

By Nathan Gaertner

Do you use short content, if so why?



“I use Youtube shorts, It’s on an app where I can watch long videos and short videos... it’s just more choices.”

— Justin Hixon



“I use Tiktok because I have a short attention span and it’s funnier.”

— Jocelyn Rans

In the last several years, people’s attention spans have plummeted. One of the biggest new forms of entertainment on the planet happens to be the shortest watch- little 15-second to 3-minute videos.

The most notable platform is TikTok, which garners over a billion active users every month. More and more companies have followed suit, releasing their own short-content features, such as YouTube Shorts, Instagram Reels, and Snapchat Spotlight.

How did these become the new hit craze?

A large contributor to its rise in popularity is convenience.

Sometimes, you just want to take a break from whatever it is you’re doing, even if it is for just a short period of time, so being able to watch bite-sized comedy sketches or dancing video in a 5-minute break is the more appealing choice.

The rise in popularity could also be attributed to a decline in people’s attention span. If you had the choice to receive the same information within a 1-minute period or a 12-minute period, which one would you choose?

The more content that exists, and the more content people have consumed, the more they want to consume, and the less time they are willing to spend consuming it. When it’s condensed so much, you can easily get a gist of what a video is about in less than 15-seconds and decide if it’s something you want to watch. If it’s not, you scroll and repeat, only spending your precious seconds on things you want to see.

Short video content is also appealing to advertisers. Marketing campaigns through TikToks have proven effective. Companies can amass millions of followers through different types of videos, such as showcasing their product, or making a good impression. For example, the language learning app Duolingo has been able to accumulate over 4.1 million followers on TikTok through short comedy sketches, which draws a significant audience into being interested in the app itself.

This is still a matter of convenience, but the little videos allow you to rapidly scroll through and decide exactly what it is you want to watch. The rapid-fire consumption of short videos keeps people drawn in. If they are dissatisfied by whatever they are watching in the moment, it won’t cost them much to simply keep scrolling.



# Advice for the New Year

BY GABRIELLE MUSSEY

Everyone understands that feeling. You're heading into the next grade: seventh, eighth, or ninth. You feel eager to move up, but hesitant about what awaits in the next year. Will the classes be too challenging? Will there be a sudden influx of homework? How will you handle the workload and balance your extracurriculars?

However, there is no need to fret, because compiling the expertise of different middle and high school students, here are a list of tips/ideas for each grade to start off the year with a BANG. Most importantly, you must have confidence in yourself, relax, and use your time wisely.

According to current ninth-grader, Lillian Martin, "Ninth grade [has] been different than I expected. It was a much quieter year than

eighth grade for me... It was a calm year. [My advice is to] do your work, study, and take a break when you need to."

Martin was not expecting too much from high

school, which some eighth-grade students can relate to, but she found that her freshman year was better than she expected. Lila Pamnany, an eighth-grade student here at Pine View, also

found eighth grade much less stressful than many students may expect.

She said, "I wasn't expecting much from eighth grade, [all I can say is] study hard and hope for the best."

Overall, there is no need to worry about the next grade. As long as you do your work, you'll be fine. If you manage your way through the next year the same way you got through your current

year, then you will most likely succeed.

The best tip there is: hone in on your self-confidence, do not be afraid to fail, and make sure to spend at least the same amount of time with your friends as you spend on your homework.

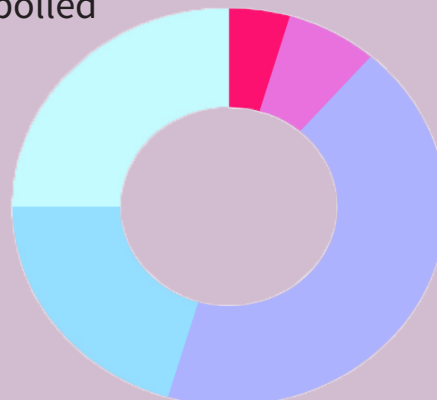


## WHAT IS PINE VIEW'S FAVORITE ADDITION TO CAMPUS?

Forty-Four seventh and eight-graders were polled

GRAPHIC BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS

- Building 17 (43.2%)
- Ethan's Rock Garden (25%)
- New Quad (20.5%)
- Portable Removal (6.8%)
- Legacy Benches (4.5%)



# HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE SUN

By Sam Wang

With summer break coming up, the beach is going to be a popular tourist location. There will be people doing all sorts of activities: playing volleyball, building sandcastles, surfing, swimming. Despite all the fun, there is a looming danger not only on the beach, but even in your backyard: the Sun. The Sun emits a wavelength called ultraviolet light (UV light). There are three forms of UV light, UVA, UVB, and UVC. Only UVA and UVB reach the ground and are the ones that are the main causes of skin cancer.

There are two types of sunscreens: physical sun-

screens, and chemical sunscreens. Physical sunscreens contain zinc oxide and titanium dioxide. The purpose of physical sun-



screens is to reflect

both UVA rays and UVB rays so that you absorb none of it. Chemical sunscreen

usually contains a mix of oxybenzone, avobenzone, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate, or octinoxate. The point of chemical sunscreens is to absorb UV rays so that they don't touch your skin. There is another type of chemical sunscreen that only absorbs UVB rays and some UVA rays through. UVA rays are the rays that are responsible for tanning, so applying UVB absorbent sunscreens decreases your chances of skin cancer and allows you get a tan.

## Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

by Liam Dingman

A lot was happening in 2014. Vine was exploding, Taylor Swift released 1989, and possibly most importantly, the Ice Bucket Challenge raised over \$200 million dollars for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research.

ALS is a neurodegenerative disease also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, after the baseball Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig, who died from it at only 37 years old. The average life expectancy after being diagnosed is only about five years for most, but others like physicist Stephen Hawking lived over 50 years with the disease.

ALS affects motor neurons, which goes on to affect even simple functions

like eating, breathing, and moving. Even though there is no complete cure, there are ways to slow down the progress (usually only by months) of the disease, including multiple FDA approved drugs.

ALS was discovered by



Jean-Martin Charcot in 1869, and 150 years later in 2022, a complete cure has still not

been found. However, May is ALS Awareness month, which presents an opportunity for ALS organizations to fundraise to find a cure. According to the nonprofit charity ALS Association (a 4/4 star charity according to [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org)), ways you can advocate for ALS patients include donating, signing petitions, and writing to local Congresspeople.

On a good note, lots of progress has been made after 2014, when the Ice Bucket Challenge happened. Three times the funding led to three more drugs, and much more research being conducted. However, there's still a long road ahead in looking for a cure.



# Summer Snacks

## By Ingrid Cushman

### Popsicles

#### Ingredients:

- 1.5 cups of any fruit
- 1.5 cups vanilla Greek yogurt
- 3 tbsp honey

#### Directions:

1. Combine the blueberries, Greek yogurt and honey in a blender.
2. Puree until the mixture is smooth and no large pieces of blueberries remain.
3. Add the fruit mixture to popsicle molds.
4. Insert the sticks and freeze for five hours minimum.
5. When ready to eat, run the popsicle molds under warm water until the popsicle loosens to get them out of the mold.

#### Notes:

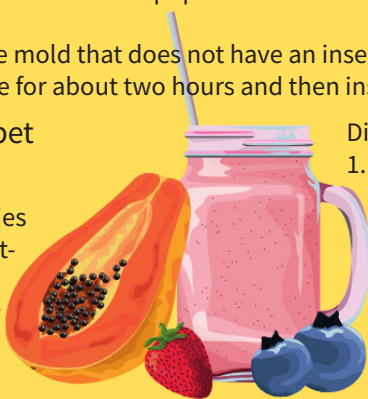
-If you do not have popsicle molds, then you can make the molds out of mini cups or cupcake molds and use popsicle sticks.

-If using a popsicle mold that does not have an insert for the popsicle stick, freeze the popsicle for about two hours and then insert the stick.

### Raspberry Sorbet

#### Ingredients:

- 2 lb. raspberries
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt



#### Directions:

1. Line a large baking sheet with parchment and spread fruit out in an even layer. Freeze until completely solid, which is about two hours.

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, add sugar and water. Stir until sugar is completely dissolved. Let it cool to room temperature.
2. In a blender, add frozen fruit and simple syrup (the sugar and water mixture) and blend until smooth. Add lemon juice and salt and blend until incorporated. Taste and adjust lemon juice as needed. Pour into a freezer safe container and freeze until solid, at least four hours.

#### Notes:

-You can also buy frozen raspberries instead of freezing your own.

### Fruit Smoothie

#### Ingredients:

- 1 banana
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 1/2 tsp. white sugar
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice
- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 tsp. orange juice
- 1 tsp. milk

#### Directions:

1. Blend the banana, yogurt, sugar, pineapple juice, strawberries, orange juice, and milk in a blender until smooth.
2. Pour into cups and enjoy!

With summer coming around the corner, it is important to make sure you remain healthy for the break. Here are some recipes that will help you stay healthy and eat all the delicious food you want at the same time.



### Parks

#### By Daisy Doyle



Over the summer, many people like to bike, paddle board, kayak, or hike. The problem is, you want to go somewhere new. But where?

#### The Legacy Trail

This 18.5 mile (29.7 kilometers) path leads from Sarasota to Venice, and there are many breaks throughout the path if you need to stop or turn around. It was recently updated to pass through downtown Sarasota, extending the trail by 6 miles. It is fully paved, and many people use it to bike, jog, or skate. It is perfect if you want to bike at your own pace on a smooth, flat trail. It is located at Central Sarasota Pkwy, Sarasota, FL 34238.

#### T. Mabry Carlton Reserve

There are over 100 miles of trails for biking or hiking. It is all dirt paths but is not necessarily difficult and is very enjoyable. The trails are surrounded by trees and nature, and you may spot wildlife such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobcats, swallow-tailed kites, eastern diamondback rattlesnakes and wading birds. It is also close to home since it is located near the Myakka River, at 1800 Mabry Carlton Pkwy, Venice, FL 34292. You can contact them at (941) 861-5000.

#### Little Gasparilla Island

If you want to go kayaking, canoeing, or even paddle boarding, then Little Gasparilla Island is perfect for you. Most people visit the Lido Key mangrove tunnels, but not as many know about Little Gasparilla. It is located halfway between Fort Myers and Sarasota. This complex system of man-made tunnels holds many different species of wildlife. It's a true hidden gem. It is located at 6301 Boca Grande Causeway, Cape Haze, FL 33946, and you can contact them at (941) 697-1431.

So where will you go this summer? If you ask me, I'm visiting all three!

# 8D AUDIO

BY: ALLIE CHUNG

Is it possible for music to have eight dimensions? 8D audio does exist, but it is different than what you may think. The D in 8D actually stands for eight directions, and not dimensions.

8D audio has become a YouTube music phenomenon, but why is it so popular? Listening to 8D music tricks your ear into thinking the sound is coming from someone in the room as if the music were being performed live. The effect is so powerful that when listening to 8D music, many people take off their headphones just to make sure the music is coming from their headsets. This sensation may cause the same soothing feeling as meditation, although not all agree.

Another ruse 8D music is capable of is its ability to toss

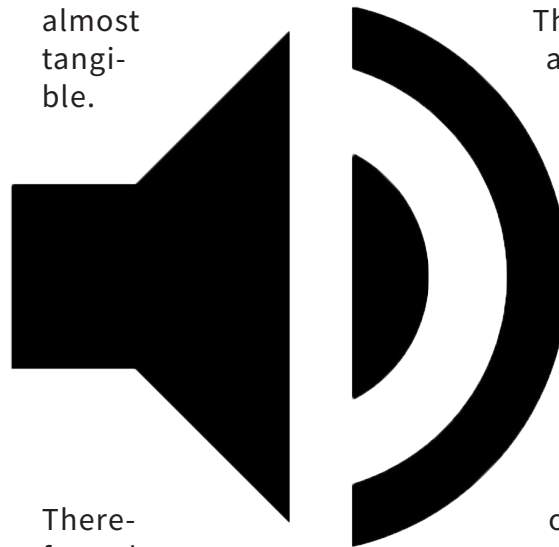
music back and forth between each ear. The music sounds like it is traveling around your brain, and makes the audio feel almost tangible.

Therefore, the name eight directions stems from the feeling of a 360-degree music experience.

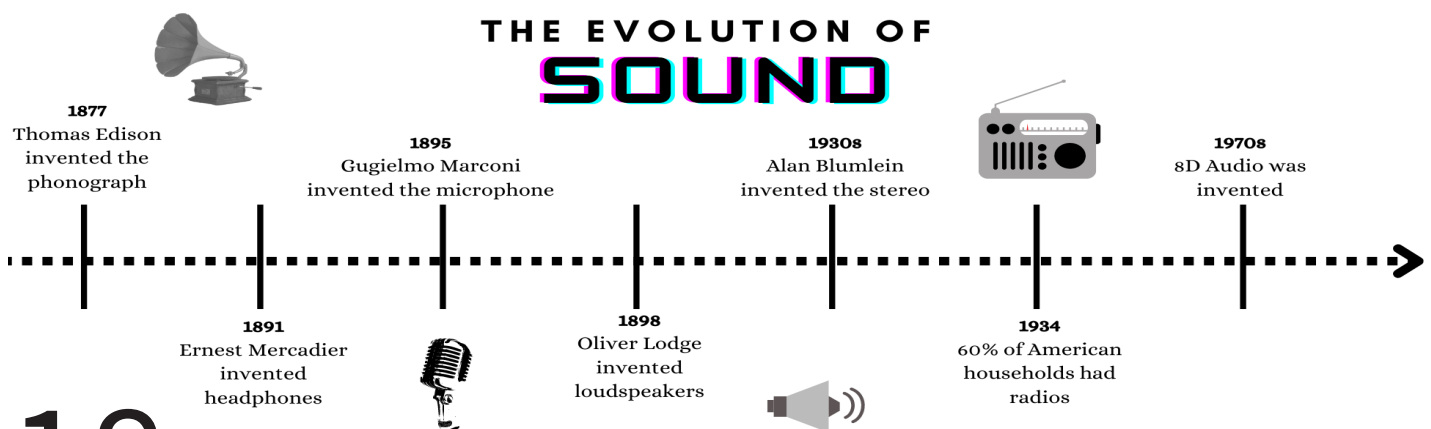
This experience may sound like something from the future, but 8D music has been

around since 1970. For decades now, music producers have been adding 360 degree effects to their music, and the science behind this anomaly is simple. The “tossing of sound” is created by a discrepancy in how long a sound takes to reach each ear.

The sound will hit the left ear slightly before it hits the right ear, and this creates the illusion of a sound toss. This only works using headphones because without them, the listeners would not be able to figure out which ear is hearing the sound. Like binaural audio, 8D audio deceives the brain into thinking it is hearing a sound that originates from a specific point in space. As a result, the listener is tricked into thinking the music is being performed live in front of them.



## THE EVOLUTION OF SOUND



# HURRICANE TRACKING

Graphic by Allie Chung,  
Information by Lucy Justus

## by BALLOONS

1. The balloon, or driftsonde, is released at the peak time the hurricane is formulating



2. The drifts-sonde will release two dropsondes everyday which then descend by parachutes into the hurricane



3. The dropsonde will then recognize the weather conditions and send that information to researchers by satellite



4. Should a weather system develop, one of the scientists controlling the process will release the dropsondes every hour, or less in order to monitor it, should the storm become a hurricane.

In September of 2017, Researcher Sean Waugh made history and launched the first ever weather balloon into the eye of Hurricane Harvey. His launching provided information that helped scientists better understand environment changes and how they interact with the land surrounding it

## Tesla Valves or Shark Intestines?

By Victoria Mochkovsky and Yasin Cox

All throughout his life, Nikola Tesla has produced a variety of life-changing innovations in technology. Back in 1920, Tesla invented something far ahead of his time: the one-way valve.

Tesla's invention allows fluid to flow in one direction, without backflow or assistance from any moving parts. In his patent application, Tesla described the series of 11 flow-control segments as being made of "enlargements, recessions, projections, baffles, or buckets which, while offering virtually no resistant to the passage of fluid in one direction, other than surface friction, constitute an almost impassable barrier to its flow in the opposite direction."

This valve resembles how shark intestines function. For over a century, researchers could only rely on flat sketches of a shark's digestive system to find out how they function. Now, 3D scans of their intestines have helped reveal new information.

"It's high time that some modern technology was used to look at these really amazing spiral intestines of sharks," said Samantha Leigh, assistant professor at California State University, Dominguez Hills (written in the University of Washington News). "We developed a new method to digitally scan these tissues and now we can look at the soft tissues in such detail without having to slice into [the sharks]."

The researchers at California State University, Dominguez Hills, the University of Washington, and the University of California, Irvine, used a computerized tomography (CT) scanner to create the 3D scans.

"CT scanning is one of the only ways to understand the shape of shark intestines in three dimensions," said Adam Summers, a professor based at UW Friday Harbor Labs (written in the University of Washington News). "Intestines are so complex, with so many overlapping layers, that dissection destroys the context and connectivity of the tissue. It would be like trying to understand what was reported in a newspaper by taking scissors to a rolled-up copy. The story

just won't hang together."

From the scans, many new aspects about how shark intestines function were discovered. These spiral shaped organs appear to slow food movement and direct it downward through the gut, relying on gravity as well as peristalsis, the rhythmic contraction of smooth muscle in the gut.

In further studies, scientists are planning to use 3D printers to create models based on the shark intestines. This will allow them to get detailed insights into how materials move through the organs in real-time.

## Ferris Bueller's Day Off

# ~~CHICAGO~~ Sarasota

By: Sivan Levy

The infamous story of Ferris Bueller takes place in Chicago, where a high school senior named Ferris fakes being sick to take a day off of school with his two friends. All in one day, he goes to a fancy lunch, catches a foul ball at a Cubs game, and takes over a German pride parade. But what would his day off look like in Sarasota?

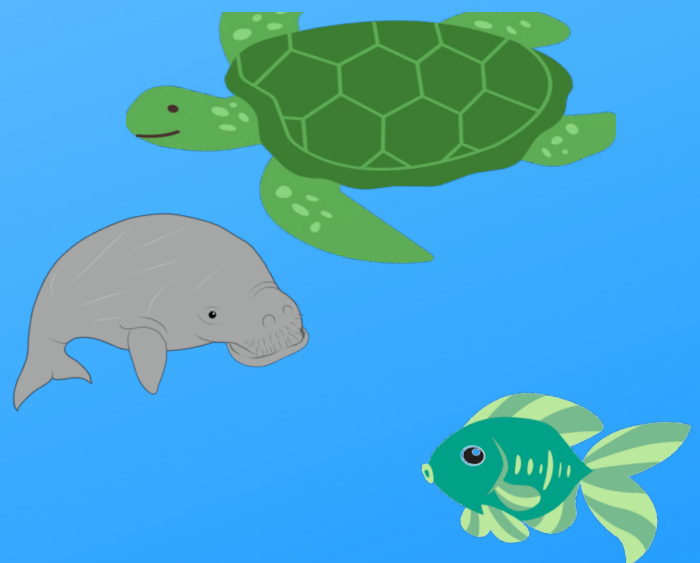
Ferris Bueller: Zachary Johnson



Johnson and his two friends cruise through Sarasota. This is a popular scene from the movie, where the friends drive through the town of Chicago. PHOTO ART BY: ANA EASTER AND INGRID CUSHMAN

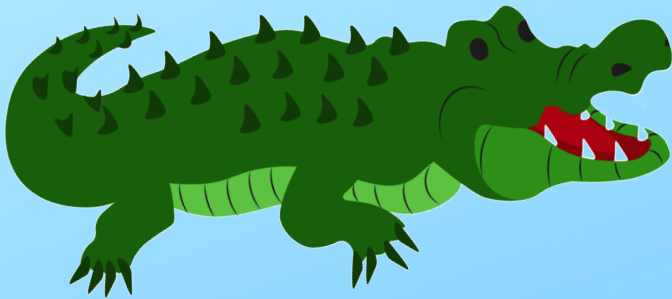


You could make a stop at the MOTE marine aquarium to see all the different types of ocean animals, such as manatees and sea turtles.



Johnson dances at his first stop, the MOTE marine Aquarium. At this aquarium, he enjoys looking at different sea creatures. PHOTO ART BY: ANA EASTER AND INGRID CUSHMAN

You could go take a hike in a local attraction, Deep Hole, which is a lake home to hundreds of alligators.



Johnson hugs the gator he met while visiting the second attraction, the deep hole. Here, Russo enjoys hiking, and observing the gators. PHOTO ART BY: ANA EASTER AND INGRID CUSHMAN



Johnson enjoys a glass of orange juice while relaxing. This is another popular scene in the movie. PHOTO ART BY: ANA EASTER AND INGRID CUSHMAN



And you can finish off the day by watching the sunset and spending time at Siesta Key Beach.

Cushman enjoys a surf at Siesta` Key Beach, this beach is the third place that Emmet visits. PHOTO ART BY: ANA EASTER



# PINE VIEW

## Won The

# POWERBALL

By: Ana Easter

“And the winning numbers are... 13, 28, 54, 31, 64 and 35!”

Middle school assistant principal Melissa Abela moved over a stack of papers to reveal her ticket displaying the winning numbers.

As Abela starts to decide what she wants to do with her \$30 million prize, a story flashed over her computer screen, Pine View’s competing school, Palm Look School’s principal, Jill Smith, had just signed a building contract for \$1 million of upgrades to the campus, including moving sidewalks through the hallways, and slides going down the stairs.

“After seeing that story, I knew what I had to do to keep Pine View on top”. Abela says.

Soon enough construction equipment filled the hallways, Pine View was going to beat Palm Look once and for all. Over the summer, anyone who drove by Pine View campus would only be able to hear construction. Thankfully, the construction finished just before the first day of school, and when that day arrived, students were ecstatic to see the new upgrades.

“I was really jealous when I heard that Palm Look was doing all of those

upgrades, but then I heard that Pine View’s upgrades would be so much better, and I am really excited!!” Sixth grader Sam Slides states.

To ease the amount of time it takes to get to class, a roller coaster zooms through the halls of Building 17, stopping in every section of the

riding it all day.”

Because the hallways in building 16 are not big enough for roller coasters, moving sidewalks were put in instead.

Thanks to the new upgrades, each classroom is equipped with a larger active panel stretching across

the entire wall, massage chairs replacing all the seats, and all the laptops have been replaced with better ones. All the picnic benches around campus have been improved to tables with comfortable chairs. The school’s cafeteria has been relocated to the roof of Building 17, and the quad has been replaced with a pool.

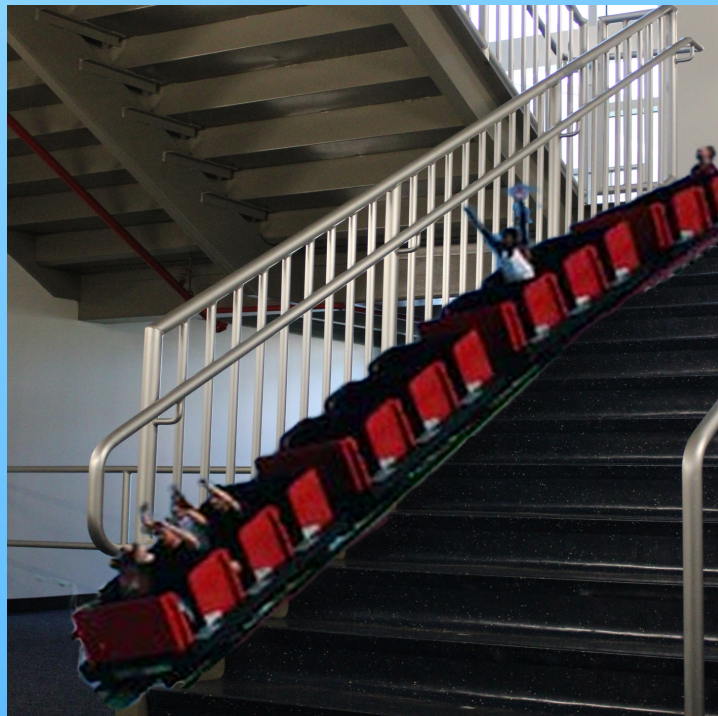
But perhaps, one of the most innovative additions to the campus were the ziplines.

“We are named Pine View after all”, said Abela, who can frequently be seen taking one of the lines from Building 17 back to the office.

“I just love the feel of the wind blowing through my hair.”

Last week, as Abela was enjoying her lunch break, a new article was posted comparing Pine View’s upgrades to Palm Look’s,

“We crushed them”, she said. “It was definitely worth spending all my prize money.”



**Students are shown riding a roller coaster down the stairwell of Building 17. This roller coaster was part of the \$30 million-of upgrades added to the campus. ART BY: Ana Easter and Ingrid Cushman**

building, and racing up and down stairs. This upgrade is great; however, the line reaches as far as the next upgrade, the high-tech escalators going up and down the stairs.

Eighth grader Thril C. Kerr states “I love the roller coaster, but its hard to get to class instead of just

# PINE VIEW GOES MINIMALIST

By: Adam Elshimy

Teachers and parents at Pine View have decided to vote to make a more minimalist environment for the students. Pine View has decided to eliminate teachers, most of the furniture, and the lunches have become significantly barer.

Many students enjoy the change, thinking that everything has improved without teachers. Students now must write their own textbooks and the air conditioning has been removed.

"I love having no teachers because now no one will yell at me for having my homework eaten by my dog," says student Joe Maman.

Teachers are being paid to sit at home now, and they seem to be enjoying it. However, the students

having to make their own materials has been giving them a headache, and the clinic is overloaded with students.

Parents have been calling and



PHOTO CREDIT Adam Elshimy

complimenting the new changes, saying that the changes have helped their child grow smarter.

This work is done without pay

and students feel overworked, with the population of the school diminishing because of this. The cafeteria has also removed the heating for the food, the ovens, and the lunch ladies, causing students to resort to serving themselves cold, raw food. The cafeteria has also removed most of the utensils, only leaving one set of a plastic fork and spoon.

With only the couches on the second floor remaining, most students are forced to sit on the floor, writing on the carpet. It does not seem like Pine View will return to normal and that it will stay in this minimalist state for many years to come.



**Alpha Nation**



**Blog**



**5/2/22-** I was at the gym today getting on the grind. I brought my Arnold Schwarzenegger book with me to look at another alpha male's exercises and jumped on the 200-bench press. I'll admit, it was a little hard and I threw out my back, as well as a few muscles in my arms. But like my motivational poster said, no pain no gain. But then, some beta gym employee told me I was "going to break my back" and "I wasn't welcome back here after I told a woman that she should come back to my house, and she pepper sprayed me." Betas and gammas just don't understand. Luckily, I have you guys, Alpha Nation.

**5/10/22-** A lot of you guys have been asking how my biceps are so incredibly huge. It starts with a healthy diet. I really try to focus on organic food and food that will go with my protein focused diet, as you can see. Without further ado here's my daily schedule.

**Breakfast:** two eggs raw, never cooked, kale smoothie with white rhino horn (The horn has healing properties)

**Brunch (after the first gym workout):** raw squirrel caught in the gym parking lot (To restore energy before work)

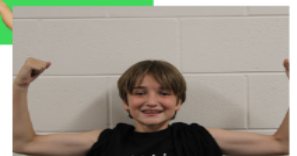
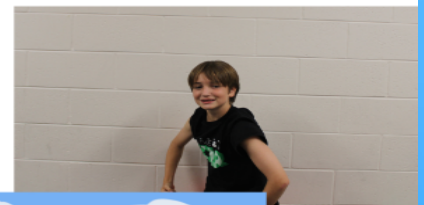
**Lunch:** can of Monster Energy with protein powder mixed in, and I've gotten really into catching fish in the retention pond outside and heating them up in the company microwave

**Early dinner:** I pack a Tupperware bin full of grapes dusted with protein powder and goat's milk I stole from Whole Foods. (Helps improve muscle mass)

**Dinner:** Grizzly bear carcass I mauled and then carried home and avocado (avocado contains many healthy fats)

**Dessert:** Handful of berries I forged on the way home.

**5/16/22-** Hello Alpha Nation, I just wanted to talk to you guys about my merch drop. The shirts are very high quality and are only thirty nine dollars. The merch is limited supply, so get one while you can!



## Comment section

- That is the ugliest shirt ever
- That's just a body builder?
- Grindddd
- yikes

23

# PV ScRAPBOOK

## 8th Grade Spotlight

### Goodbye 8th Grade

A lot of us have been here since second grade, others sixth, and some are completely new. But, whenever you came, or whoever you are, you, an eighth grader, are itching for high school. You're excited, but also nervous. You'll look back one day and remember this feeling. However, you must keep in mind that this time is precious. 2026 is closer than you may think, so make as many memories as you can before the end is here.

-Editor's Note



Photo by Giorgi Hilgenberg



Photo by Calista Ream



Photo by Felicity Chang



### Summer 2022

"I'm very excited for this summer, in June... I have to go to the summer workout for the RiverView basketball team so I can prepare myself to make the team next year and get introduced with all the coaches, so they know me. In July...I'm going to Vermont and Los Angeles, and I also have a basketball camp at IMG. And I'm just very excited for this summer, hanging out with all of my friends and going on my trips with my family is going to be very fun..."

-Gabe Yamada



Logo provided by maxpreps.com



Photo by  
Victoria Mochkovsky



## Fall

"I went to the Pine View Fair with my friends. I have a lot of good memories of having fun..."

-Natalie Hoffman



## Spring

"I went to New York City with my parents... it was a business trip... it was fun. We went to some very nice restaurants... we visited a couple museums... and we also went to the New York Public Library."

-Elizabeth Khodzhaieva



Headshots by  
Calista Ream



## Winter

"I learned a lot at a water polo camp... I was trained by a couple of olympians who have been in this sport before... it was really fun."

-Anna Jin



## New!

"I think my favorite memory so far... was building 17..."

and just in general the unfamiliarity of it."  
-Areeb Lalani



# What was your favorite memory this year?



"My favorite memory at Pine View this year was when they... taped [Mr. Sprinkle] to a wall...I thought it was really funny." -Lilia Checcone



"I had a lot of fun at the opening of building 17. There was a lot of people there, and I could just go around talking to people..." -Jan Hyde



"Peramathan was pretty chill, and I got to run with my friends so it was nice."  
-Devdaan Lobo



## ADVICE TO UPCOMING 8TH GRADERS

"This is a good time to find what you really like doing because there aren't too many responsibilities, so make sure you're joining clubs, doing things outside of school to find what you really like doing... Make sure you get your teachers to like you, talk out loud. It's very important that your teachers and peers will like you. You get a lot of free stuff - like food. Just be yourself, do what you want to do."

- Sean Bruinius

## BELLA'S HIGH SCHOOL ADVICE

### 1. FIND A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR TEACHERS

Everyone will have a favorite teacher, and there's probably going to be a teacher who you might not like as much, but it's really important to get to know your teachers and understand where they're coming from and how they work because finding a good work relationship with your teachers is really going to help you tremendously. It'll help you prioritize what work you need to do and how you need to do it and understanding how that teacher wants things done or which teacher's going to be understanding when something comes up is really important, and it'll help you to build these relationships now as much as it will help you build these relationships in the future. They can really be someone you can turn to and finding that relationship with your teacher is just going to make your year so much easier.

### 2. FIND YOUR 'THING' AND GO WITH IT

Honestly, high school is nothing like the movies where people are constantly judging you - that's just not true. Everyone is finding themselves and doing their own thing and sticking to it, so this is the time for you to explore, be different, find yourself, and just stick to it. Don't be ashamed of what you like, don't be ashamed of anything you want to do - just do it because, honestly, everyone's probably not paying as much attention to you as you may think they are, and, who knows? They might really love what you do. And if they don't? That's alright too because this is the time to express yourself, find yourself, so don't worry about what anybody else is thinking - just do you. Everyone's probably paying attention to themselves anyway.

### 3. FIND A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN SCHOOLWORK AND EVERYTHING ELSE

It's really important that you prioritize your grades as it will affect your future, but it's also really overwhelming to try to think about everything that comes with the future right now. It's important that you let yourself enjoy your high school years and make those memories so prioritizing time for yourself - whether that's leaving lunch right away to study for a big test or staying the extra hour to make those extra memories with your friends. It's really important that you find a good balance between those two things, and that's how you're going to make high school, specifically your freshman year, be the best that it can be.

♡ Isabella Nealon

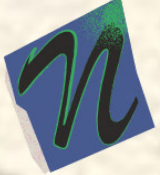


G e



# GOODBYE 8TH GRADE SPARK STAFF!

favorite memories???



"Definitely the FSPA field trip in the fall."

- Kaya Bury

"It was funny when [Mr. Lenerz] knocked on the door and we all ran into the bathroom because we looked at each other like 'What the heck is happening?'"

- Lucy Justus

"My favorite memory was probably last year when we did the [end-of-year video project] and interviewed Mrs. Flahavan and we asked her to give us a fake interview... and I thought that was hysterical."

- Gaby Mussey



"My favorite part was probably the spring FSPA. That was so much fun, with Universal and the contests, which were very stressful, but fun, the workshops - we learned so much and some of them were student run... Everything about it - meeting new people, being able to learn new skills, mentor the seventh-graders."

- Ava Lenerz

SEE YOU NEXT  
YEAR IN:

- TORCH
- YEARBOOK
- BROADCAST
- WEB

# SPARK SPONSORS



## Platinum

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