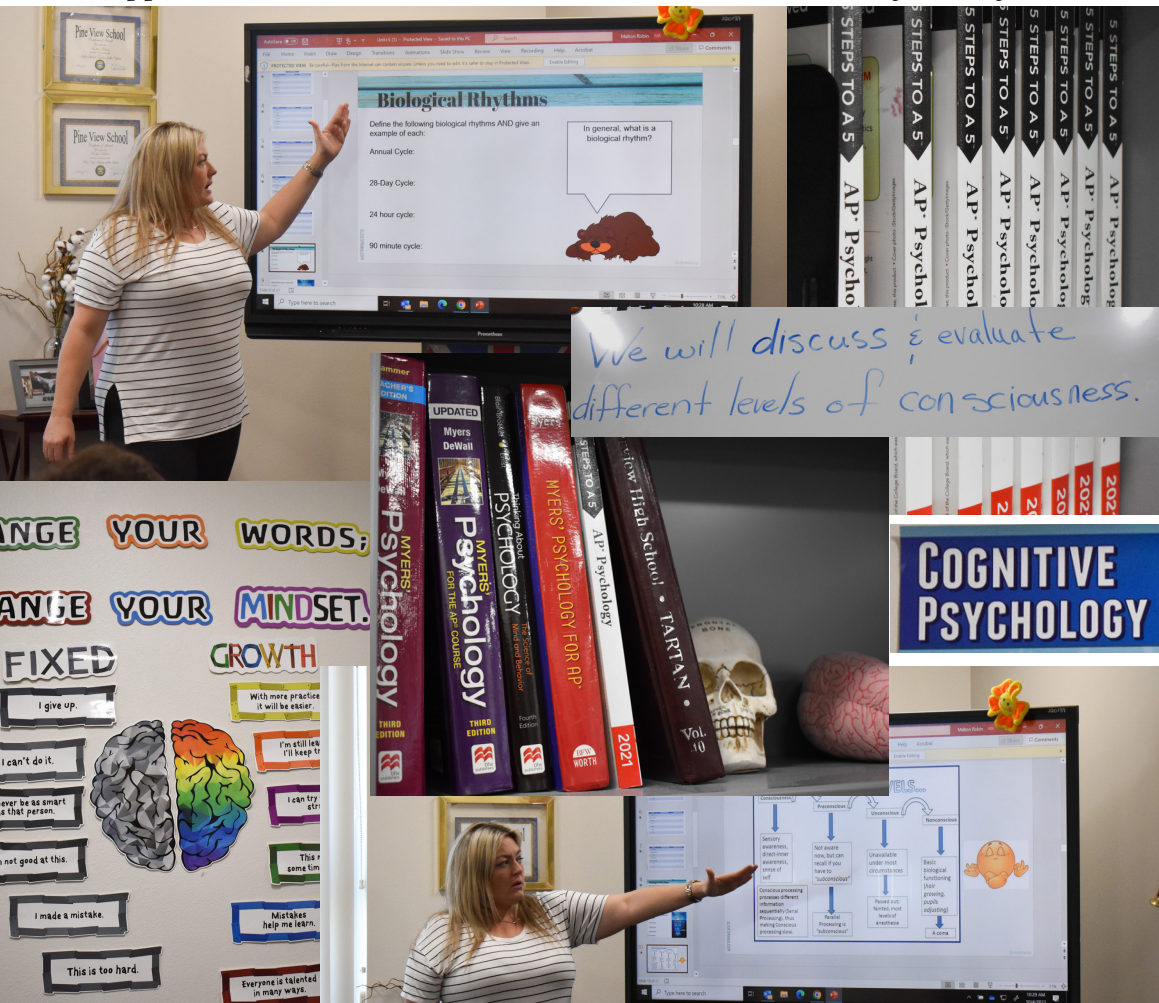


AP Psychology Dispute

What happened, how did SCS react, and what could this mean for the future?



A collection of images from AP Psychology teacher Robin Melton's classroom, including textbooks and posters, as well as two images of Melton lecturing to her class. She said that she loves the AP Psychology course and sees immense value in it for students. PHOTOS BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI

by Lindsay Luberecki
News Editor

The news broke on Aug. 3. The College Board released a statement about the Advanced Placement Psychology (AP Psych) course and its teaching in Florida. This statement explained that the Florida Department of Education (DOE) "effectively banned AP Psychology in the state by instructing Florida superintendents that teaching foundational content on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal under state law." (Newsroom, "Our Statement on AP Psychology and Florida," College Board Communications.)

The course's content that fell into question is Topic 6.7. Under Unit 6 (Developmental Psychology), Topic 6.7's learning target is to "describe how sex and gender influence socialization and other aspects of development," according to the Course and Exam Description.

The organization went on to advise school districts in the state to not offer the course, ex-

plaining that any modification to the curriculum would negate the opportunity for credit and that College Board would not be changing the course in any way.

Teachers, students, and administrators entered a flurry of emotions after the news of the effective ban; Pine View AP Psych teacher Robin Melton was one of them.

"I'll be very honest with you, I had a meltdown. I cried the entire night," she said.

Pine View is currently offering AP Psych this year, but the question still remains for many: what exactly happened?

The saga began over the summer, on May 19, when the DOE requested that College Board "immediately conduct a thorough review of all College Board courses" and to see if modification was necessary, in a letter from the Office of Articulation addressed to the Florida Partnership of the College Board. In the same letter, they stated that "some courses may contain content or topics prohibited by State Board of Education rule and Florida law."

Melton was unsure of the specifics of why such a concern with this content occurred.

"The content that was causing the controversy is not on the exam...it's not even something that we spend a significant amount of time on," she said.

On June 15, College Board released a statement about this request from the DOE explicitly stating that they would not be modifying any courses, specifically mentioning AP Psych. They followed this up with their statement on Aug. 3, mentioned previously, describing the effective ban of the course.

The DOE then responded on Aug. 4 in a letter from Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. In his letter, Diaz stated that AP Psych can be "taught in its entirety in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate," according to ABC News. He explained that AP Psych will remain available to Florida students.

He clarified this point again that the course can be "taught consistent with Florida law" and requested superinten-

dents make their final decisions about the course in another letter sent to superintendents on Aug. 9. Diaz' office declined an interview request, but provided a copy of this Aug. 9 letter.

Newly hired Sarasota County Superintendent of Schools Terrence Connor made the decision for Sarasota to continue offering AP Psych.

"I was very comfortable knowing that if it's coming from the DOE, that there is a viable way to teach the course and remain lawful...it was an easy decision for me at that point. If we're not going to break the law, we're going to offer the course," Connor said. "The College Board said you have to teach the entire course, we knew that we could figure out a way to do that within the new laws."

Melton said that this decision was "like this massive weight was lifted off of me." She also described her passion for AP Psych, and additionally, the value that she sees in taking the class. She referenced that while all options of high school psychology (including IB and AICE) are great courses, AP Psych offers a well-rounded perspective.

"[Advanced Placement Psychology] is the [most closely] related to an Intro to Psych class at the college level. It's relevant to every aspect of life... you can always apply psychology in some aspect," she said. "I think it's also a great class just because it's interesting."

While Sarasota kept AP Psych on the roster, some districts in the state still chose to not offer the course this year. AICE and IB Psychology were popular replacements, as well as an honors-level class. Even though the DOE stated that the course could be taught in compliance with state law, some districts still chose not to offer it to err on the side of caution or due to scheduling time constraints.

Another teacher who has taught AP Psych in the past wished to remain anonymous on the grounds that she is speaking as an individual, not for her employer, who is not offering the course this year.

"I'm sad not to be teaching the course...I think we're doing the teenagers of Florida a disservice by thinking that we have to protect them from anything they might disagree with," she said. "I think we have to give...

juniors and seniors, some credit for being able to hear something they might not agree with and not lose their minds."

Eleventh-grader Shalini Nair, who took AP Psych with Melton last year, expressed a similar idea of AP Psych's value.

"Knowing that other people in our state...aren't able to get the same AP Psychology education, I think it's really detrimental because it's a valuable course that teaches you a lot about yourself and understanding other people," Nair said.

With this experience largely in the rear-view, there's still a question that lingers for many. What does the future hold? Could this happen again?

"I can't think of any reason why anything else would be in danger, but who knows," the anonymous teacher said. "From a history point of view, every time things swing one way they swing back the other."

Melton is cautiously optimistic that AP Psych would not fall under attack again, but also expressed the idea that there is a chance other classes could experience similar treatment.

"I think that knowing the [Psych] content is not on the exam, that we're going to go with a high hope that this was a one-time thing and we're now going to move on," she said.

When it came to other classes that could experience controversy in the future, she said "probably APUSH...simply because of the connections...to curriculum changes in Florida related to slavery and such."

Of course, nothing is set in stone, and no one can know for sure what the future holds. However, Connor, from a superintendent's perspective, stressed that teachers should not unnecessarily worry about our current state of education.

"I would want to encourage, especially our teachers who are the ones on the front lines... having to implement and put into place these laws...I would say that we have to do a really good job as a district in helping support our teachers and understanding what's allowed," he said. "...making sure it's incumbent upon each school district to really support their teachers so that they feel comfortable even in this time where things have changed so much in terms of the educational landscape."

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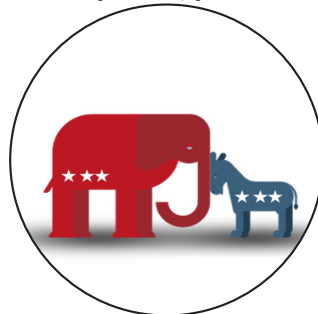
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Friday, October 20, 2023

Eileen Cabrera: Familiar Face, New Role

by Nathan DeSouza
Web Editor-in-Chief

Taking on important responsibilities of a high school assistant principal connects one to virtually all areas of school life. Responsibilities like completing administrative tasks and working alongside student directors to put on astounding shows like Mr. Pine View will be executed this year by Eileen Cabrera.

Previously, Cabrera had been the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Liaison and the ESE Department Chairperson at Pine View. For her seven years in that position, Cabrera was responsible for the support processes for students who have any exceptional needs. In addition to these support processes, she was the coordinator of the gifted services our students receive and of the admission process for all new students coming into Pine View.

This year, Cabrera has taken on the role of Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA). In

this position, Cabrera is helping with various high school administrative tasks and is taking on many of the roles and tasks traditionally done by a high school assistant principal. Working alongside the former Assistant Principal for High School and current Assistant Principal for Curriculum, Lana Marcotte, Cabrera will be addressing the needs of high school students and families throughout the school year.

Taking on the tasks of an assistant principal is no easy job. This position requires working hard to help a school run efficiently and ensuring student safety and well-being.

"To me, a really valuable part of [being a TOSA] is being here to be able to support our high school students, connect with our high school students, and be someone who can build a relationship with them to help them as they get through their high school career path and move on towards graduation," Cabrera said.

Cabrera has been an educator for 20 years and has worked in many different environments. For ten of those years, Cabrera has worked here at Pine View. In addition to her experience, she also brings several skills to her new role.

Cabrera also said that communication is an important part of the job.

"I'm communicating constantly with students, teachers, parents, and my co-workers and colleagues. I think, also, you need to be someone who is calm and objective. So, you need to be able to listen well and hear everyone's side of an event or a story that may have happened so that you can come to the best solution," she said.

Being a good team member is another skill that is important for the role, and Marcotte spoke about how Cabrera fits that role.

"It was really important that whoever stepped up to take on this responsibility was student-centered, and I would

say that is a quality she definitely has. She's a student-centered decision-maker. She's so supportive of our teachers and staff," Marcotte said.

Cabrera's skillset and experiences allow her to fill her position successfully, which is reflected on our campus. Marcotte expressed the benefit of Cabrera's qualities.

"She doesn't let roadblocks or challenges get in her way. She's incredibly resilient. It can be difficult taking on a new role. But she's certainly been a team player. And she demonstrates that resilience, I feel, every day," Marcotte said.

Outside of work, Cabrera can also be described as well-read and humorous. Kristin McCombie, this year's ESE Liaison, has been working with Cabrera in the ESE department for several years. Over the years, the



pair h a s won several of Pine View's Faculty Ugly Sweater Contests. One of McCombie's favorite memories with Cabrera is getting to design an ugly sweater with Coach Mark Thorpe's picture on it.

"What I love about working with Mrs. Cabrera is [that] she's always up for something fun," McCombie said. "...we will work together to design and develop our sweater every single year and we make it by hand together... she's just a lot of fun to work with."

PHOTO BY NATHAN DESOUZA

Allen Regar: New Guidance Counselor

by Sivan Levy
Web Copy Editor

With eighteen years of experience in the education system under his belt, new middle and high school guidance counselor Allen Regar's work in clinics and schools has spanned across the country. Though his location and position has changed over time,

one thing has re-

mained the same: his dedication to helping and guiding the next generation of students. Between sorting out disagreements between kids or sending kids who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it to Disney World, Regar now joins Pine View as an asset in helping students reach their full potential.

Regar spent the past four years serving as a guidance counselor for Emma E. Booker Elementary School. Prior to that, he worked as a school counselor for two high schools in New Jersey for a total of ten years before coming to Sarasota County.

Regar's affinity for helping others began long before that, at a small private school in New York.

Regar worked there as an advisor and English teacher, helping students who he described as "bright underachievers; students who were capable of doing a certain amount of work, but really struggled with various things that were preventing them from getting to their highest levels."

Additionally, during his time working in education, Regar worked with a fellow staff member to raise money in order to take several homeless students to Disney World. He created a GoFundMe page and was able to raise enough money to make the trip.

"We just had a desire to help some students who would normally not be able to afford something like that, to get to Disney World, and to be able to achieve that goal," Regar said. "It was a small goal, but we were able to get there, and so it was really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for those kiddos."

We were proud of it, the kids had a great time, and so I think there was a happy ending to that."

Outside of the typical education environment, Regar also worked at an assessment clinic to help parents and students understand how their minds work, covering topics like memory and language to give teachers the information about a given student that would enable them to help that student thrive.

Pine View's unique environment drew him this year.

"I was looking for a change, I think. Having been in elementary school for four years, I thought it would be a nice alternative to get back to high school. Pine View has a reputation that precedes itself, you know, a lot of people know about Pine View. I have always worked with, in some way, and had an affinity for bright, quirky, do-it-yourself, sort of

go-getter kids, and so, I feel like I'm getting back to that opportunity...to work with those types of kids," Regar said.

Although the year has just begun, students have already had positive experiences working with Regar.

"I was trying to switch my classes, and, based on the emails...and then when I met with him...he seemed like a nice person, and he was easy to talk to," tenth-grader Kaya Bury said.

Bury, however, is not the only student that he's worked with through his time here at Pine View. On the contrary, Regar will interact with students over three different grade levels, using his eighteen years of experience in the education system to try to ensure that, even with high school's many challenges, students get the best possible experience they can as they go through Pine View. PHOTO BY SIVAN LEVY

David Mannino: New Addition to the English Department

by Alex Lieberman
Assistant News Editor

Standing in front of the ActivPanel in his room on the third floor of Building 17, David Mannino instructs ninth graders about archetypes in Greek mythology. Mannino is a new staff member at Pine View this year and teaches English I, English III, and DE English. Before coming here, he taught for eight years at North Port High School and at King High School in Tampa.

Students' attitudes were a big part of what brought him to teaching.

"I can see the positivity for the future in young people," Mannino said.

centive for teaching to his previous job at a car dealership.

"When I was in business before, money was the motivating factor...but this is a different kind of motivation, it's...more fulfilling," he said.

As a teen, Manino had several friends who went to Pine View and he often came to the campus to pick them up.

"When I saw that there was a position open [at Pine View] I wanted to apply for it, because I know the standards of the school are...high. And I wanted to be a part of that," Mannino said.

After teaching at King High and North Port High,

Mannino said that he can see differences in student behavior at Pine View.

"Students are definitely more motivated [here]," Mannino said. "You know, you see all this stuff on the news about how young people are so disengaged. And I find that the complete opposite of this school."

He also added that at Pine View, you rarely have to wake anyone up in class, and his students agree. Amanda Martin Nunes is a ninth-grader who has Mannino for English. She described his class as one that "never feels boring."

"I really like Mr. Mannino...and his style of teaching.

It really helps me out," Martin Nunes said.

This year, Mannino is also sponsoring multiple clubs, including PeaceJam, a club dedicated to community service. He looks forward to engaging with students inside and outside of class.

"I'm just excited about being at Pine View. I'm looking forward to just building a relation-

ship with my students and helping everybody succeed," he said.

PHOTO BY ALEX LIEBERMAN



Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Well

by Terry Shen
Managing & Scitech Editor

Students around school may have noticed a new addition to campus: the 3 B's. These 3 B's, which stand for "Be Kind," "Be Strong," and "Be Well," were created to set expectations for students while at school, advising students on the expected behavior in hallways, bathrooms, classrooms, and generally around campus.

Headed by the Positive Behavior Incentive Support (PBIS) team, the 3 B's were implemented at the beginning of this school year. Pine View Behavioral Specialist Grace Madden is on the PBIS team and helped start the initiative.

"I am the behavior specialist here ... It's really a support role. It's not necessarily disciplinary. I really am here to just support students as much as I can," Madden said.

The PBIS team consists of teachers, guidance counselors, assistant principals, and more. They meet once a month to discuss school expectations and behavioral data.

"[PBIS is] a team here that I helped facilitate where basically we look at different ways that we can make our expectations clear to students and then acknowledge students ... I hope that it will make it very clear to students how we expect them to act when they're here. And I also hope that it makes students feel recognized for when they are doing the right thing..." Madden said.

Madden reminds students to take care of themselves and "Be Well."

"I was a former Pine View student myself, so I know that the expectations at Pine View are high, you know. There's a lot of work and a lot of stress and I really like being able to emphasize to the students that we want you to take care of yourself," she said.

Many faculty members have embraced this new ini-

tiative. Around campus, one might see a few teachers wearing the new bee-themed shirts, which depict smiling bees buzzing around. Walking into the front office, one might notice a colorful array of designs that allude to the 3 B's as well as

other bright and vibrant de-

signs, the front office has become bright with yellow.

"When [people] come in I hope... seeing a beautiful display out there represents Pine View in a nice way. That coming into the office and seeing beautiful decorations makes our students feel more welcome, makes our parents feel more welcome, and makes it feel happy and like a home and a family," Verdino said.



the animal.

Gina Verdino, Attendance Secretary, has put up these decorations in the office related to the Bee theme. From yellow sunflowers to hexagon ornaments to



LEFT: A shirt featuring the bee logo and the 3 Bs is displayed in the office. The 3 Bs were created by the PBIS team to set school expectations.

TOP: Hexagons, resembling honeycomb, and a brightly colored gnome decorate the front office. Bee-themed decor can be found throughout the room.

BOTTOM: Gina Verdino's desk is also adorned with yellow. She put out the decorations to make the office feel "like a home."

PHOTOS BY TERRY SHEN

Pine View Museum

Twelfth-grader's project to turn museum digital

by Emmy Li
Webmaster

It was a typical Sunday afternoon, and a message popped up in the Archive Club group chat. The text of the message was a simple link: pineviewmuseum.com. It marked the fruition of twelfth-grader Cyrus Kuhn's project, Pine View's very own Digital Museum.

This is Kuhn's third year in the Archive Club. In his time there, he had come to appreciate Pine View's historical artifacts — and simultaneously noticed the lack of awareness about these relics.

"I saw that there was an archive of all these artifacts that are important to alumni that aren't accessible to them," Kuhn said.

So when it came time to think about his Eagle Scout project, it was a natural choice. The idea of a Digital Museum for the Pine View artifacts, a digital way of preserving and showcasing the items, was born.

The project was a huge undertaking, and starting was

not easy.

"The major issue was getting things organized. We just moved into Building 17," said Kuhn. "It was a mess."

However, Kuhn never let any of the difficulties discourage him; instead, he found himself enjoying the process of working through challenges.

"It might just be that I've been having a lot of fun with it," said Kuhn. "It's been a blast."

The Digital Museum doesn't just stop there — Kuhn hopes that the website will also be a way for alumni to connect with each other and share stories.

"I wanted to make it something that the community can engage with," he said. "Adding that extra bit of engagement where you can see not only art with stories, but you can give your own input and your own stories."

Morgan Gustafson, an eleventh-grader in the Archive Club, attests to Kuhn's dedication to this project.

"Cyrus has been the director, coder, and researcher for all aspects of this project. I

STORIES

Do you have any interesting stories from your time at Pine View? Feel free to email us those stories at pvarchives1969@gmail.com so that we can post it here and share it with fellow students and alumni!

think I speak for all of Archive Club when I say that we were blown out of the water with the scope and depth of the website."

The website, with its blue banner and gold text, catalogs Pine View's artifacts in a myriad of ways, including by decade and by activity, and reminisces about the school's history, including breaking the sandwich-making world record in 2013, as well as the newly remodeled Batman bench.

In the future, Kuhn hopes that the website will become a thriving site where people come together to reminisce about their time at Pine View.

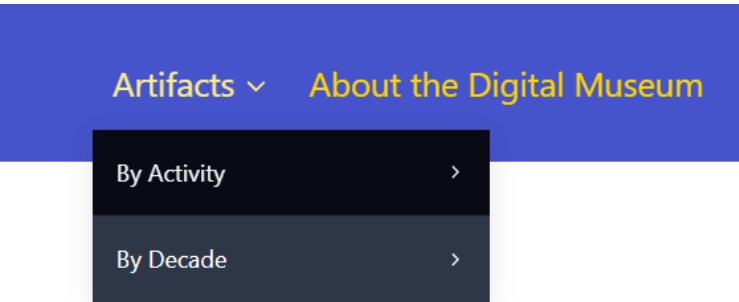
"My dream is to have someone [from far away] to send in a story," Kuhn said. "To see people remember the history of our school."

Top: The banner that appears across the top of the website.

Above: Under the "Stories" tab, the website invites anyone with a Pine View Story to send it in.

Left: Artifacts on the website are organized by both activity and decade, facilitating navigation of the Digital Museum. Cyrus Kuhn said he hopes the website will connect students and alumni to the school's history.

SCREENSHOTS FROM pineviewmuseum.com.



NEW FLORIDA LAWS IMPACTING EDUCATION

BY SORA FANCHER

HB 1521

- requires the use of restrooms and changing facilities based on biological sex
- requires for domestic violence centers and correctional facilities to meet standards based on biological sex
- makes exceptions for people born with genetic disorders relating to their biological sex

HB 1

- eliminates financial restrictions for enrolling in K-12 and eliminates the cap on the number of students participating in the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options
- This scholarship gives options for students with unique abilities and will help aid families looking at other options of schooling, such as private

SB 254

- allows for temporary emergency jurisdiction over a minor if subjected to hormone supplements and sex reassignment surgery
- prohibits state funding expansion for hormone supplements and sex reassignment surgery
- defines that a health care practitioner's license be suspended if they commit, attempt, or aspire to violations of the sex reassignment rules for minors

Individual Freedom Act

- prohibits educational instruction based on race and diversity that implies oppression or privilege is due to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, and sex

HB 543

- allows for unlicensed concealed weapon carriers to carry weapons if upon demand from law enforcement they display identification
- allows for carriers who are non-residents of Florida to carry their weapons or firearms as long as they meet the same requirements as Florida residents

Sources

flsenate.gov,
myfloridahouse.gov,
flgov.com, and
fldoe.org

Checking in: Tricia Allen

by Isabella Kulawik
Torch Editor-in-Chief

Standing amongst students and faculty at the band gate in Booker High School's football stadium, Assistant Principal of Curriculum Tricia Allen is greeted by a touching sight. On this night, the new stadium was dedicated to the former football coach Fred Gilmore and the school welcomed back alumni for the ceremony. Among the alumni were Allen's former students from her years as a teacher.

"...When they came to the gate to go out onto the field for the ceremony, and saw me, they recognized me still, even though it's been 20 years, and they gave me hugs and knew my name, and told me funny stories about when I used to be their teacher. And it was a really enjoyable moment for me to see my kids all grown up," Allen said.

This year, since Booker High School's current Assistant Principal of Curriculum is on maternity leave, Allen is

filling in. Currently, she plans to return to Pine View next year and in her absence, Eileen Cabrera and Lana Marcotte are filling her position.

"...They're both really brilliant and capable ladies. And I'm sure that they are bringing a lot to the table that I never even thought of," Allen said.

During her time at Pine View, Allen was able to implement district initiatives and other projects to improve student



Tricia Allen (top center) poses with Booker High School staff including principal Dr. Rachel Shelley (bottom center). Allen is serving as Booker's Assistant Principal of Curriculum this year. PHOTO PROVIDED BY TRICIA ALLEN

learning. From visible learning, a district initiative based on the importance of stu-

dents seeing their learning target, to peer observations among teachers, and a Socratic seminar lesson, Allen has made a large impact on Pine View's campus.

Prior to working at Pine View, Allen began her teaching career at Booker and worked there for 14 years. So, when the position needed filling, Dr. Rachel Shelley, the principal of Booker, requested Allen.

"...Because I had the pleasure of working with Tricia and seeing her growth professionally in her world and also admitting that I've also grown in my world of curriculum development understanding...When I found out my current assistant principal was [going on maternity leave] I reached out to my executive director and shared that we need to have someone at Booker High School...that understands our culture, understands our program, and understands our climate," Dr. Shelley said.

Allen is adjusting to new responsibilities she has at Booker since it is a traditional public high school and things have changed over the years from the time she worked there.

"...Even though I worked here... if you've been gone six years, working

somewhere else, then a lot of things change. There's a lot of staff turnover; there's district initiatives that change, the things that you might have been responsible for before when

you were here, now you're responsible for other areas of the school. A comprehensive high school is a major, major thing to keep running as I'm sure Dr. Covert, would attest ... I'm sure that running any

school, there are so many areas that you have to keep going and moving forward with, it can be challenging," Allen said.

With that being said, Allen has enjoyed her time there so far, having the opportunity to see former colleagues and students. Her photo is still displayed from when she won Teacher of the Year in the early 2000s as a history, global studies, and psychology teacher.

"I just became really excited to have her back as a gift to Booker just for one year to help move our school forward academically ... with her experience, her wisdom and her expertise. I am convinced that our school grade will probably go up. We will be able to increase learning at a higher level and she has the expertise to do it," Dr. Shelley said.

Art forms come together

by Aly Zaleski
Humor Editor

Art can exist in countless different forms. Two that come to mind are words and images. Students of National Art Honor Society (NAHS) and Poets' Society know these mediums well.

The clubs held their first collaboration meeting Sept. 14. Club members split into teams and worked to create a piece combining written word and visual art. The clubs reconvened Oct. 5 to present their works.

One group took a humorous approach, representing their hopes and dreams of passing English teacher Blake Wiley's class. Meanwhile, others worked with metaphorical topics. One example was a physical painting and a free-form poem. The poem, created by tenth-grader Hana Mullen and eleventh-graders Lindsay Luberecki and Skylar Kreithen, was based on a painting previously done by Mullen. The students aimed to capture the glowing beauty of nature, acceptance, and self-discovery through both mediums.

The groups' projects included poetry written, typed, and showcased from the Notes app. For art, there were digital drawings, sketches, and watercolor, oil, and acrylic paintings.



The idea of the collaboration stemmed from both sides' love of all kinds of art. As both clubs fall on a Thursday, lovers of poetry and traditional art get excluded one way or another. Working together has brought new appreciation and the opportunity to indulge in both forms.

"We can have poets create poems based off of art. We can have artists create art based off of poems. It works perfectly ... I'm so glad to see people so excited for their projects," said eleventh-grader Ellarose Sherman.

As NAHS president, Sherman grappled with not being able to attend Poets' Society. In the end, her dedication came through with her plan.

One memorable sound at presentations was the snaps. Each group's explanation was followed by thunderous snaps typical of a poetry slam. Poets found their vision in physical art as much as artists found a fresh perspective in poetry.

"[Poets' Society] had been brainstorming collab ideas for a while, and I think that [NAHS] was the best club for our first joint event," said Poets' Society president, twelfth-grader Gabriele Navickis.

"[Physical art and poetry] are the same concept, just executed differently," Sherman said.

Both forms tell a story. Sherman and her partner described feeling held back in the overwhelming storm of life. The poem was read calmly, juxtaposing the striking watercolors.

Between the brainstorming, creating, and collaboration, it felt as though another kind of storm blew through the two clubs. A newfound love and appreciation of the arts has sparked in two not-so-different corners of Pine View.

Left: NAHS president Ellarose Sherman and Poets' Society president Gabriele Navickis shake hands. Both worked on the collaboration. Below, Left: Hana Mullen showcases her painting. Groups worked to pair and tie together physical work and words. PHOTOS BY ALY ZALESKI

Check PVTorch.com



Scan this QR code to read the full story by Allie Chung about the SAT and PSAT going digital. See the graphic below for a synopsis of the tests' differences.

GRAPHIC BY ALLIE CHUNG



DIGITAL

- 1 Two modules: reading and writing, math
- 2 All tests are different
- 3 About two hours
- 4 The set of questions in the second module depends on the test taker's performance on the first module
- 5 Results delivered to students in days
- 6 A built-in graphing calculator or a student calculator is allowed for all math questions

ALL INFORMATION FROM COLLEGE BOARD



PAPER

- 1 Four sections: reading, writing, math (calculator), math (no calculator)
- 2 If one student's test is compromised, an entire group of tests are canceled
- 3 3 hours (excluding optional 50 minute essay)
- 4 Questions given to students do not depend on their performance in a separate section
- 5 Results delivered to students in weeks
- 6 A student's calculator is only allowed for the calculator math section



BLUE LIGHT GLASSES

HELPFUL OR HYPE-FULL?

Blue light likely has little to no effect on eye-strain from screens



A sunny afternoon is nearly 100,000 times brighter than your computer screen.



The blue light glasses market is worth over \$20 million.

Blue-light lenses only remove 10-25% of blue-light emissions, and our eyes already block blue-light naturally.



SOURCES: NEWS.OSU.ORG, COCHRANE.ORG, BENZINGA.COM

GRAPHIC BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS

Will Pine View Actually go 212?

by Kai Sprunger
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

For centuries, humankind has contributed to the growing blanket of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, resulting in an accumulation of trapped heat energy, which has caused the phenomenon known today as climate change. The impact of this phenomenon can be seen within Pine View and Sarasota County, where students and faculty alike are forced to adapt to the new changes in their lives.

From a report released in 2022 by the National Weather Service in Tampa Bay, the global average temperature has risen by 1.8°F due to climate change between 1901 and 2020, resulting in record-high temperatures across Florida. The increased temperatures have caused a significant rise in the number of days where the heat index – a calculated temperature that considers the relative humidity in the air – exceeds 100°F in Sarasota County. According to First Street Foundation, Sarasota County is predicted to reach 79 days with heat index temperatures above 100°F in 2023; however, thirty years later in 2053, it is expected that there will be around 112 days exceeding 100°F.

Due to the rising heat index temperatures, the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning components on campuses have posed an economic and environmental challenge for Sarasota County Schools. Air conditioning units must be run constantly on campus in order to provide relief to students and faculty from the intense Florida heat. As a result, the costs – financial and environmental – of air conditioning upkeep led to Sarasota County Schools recently passing an energy reduction

policy to combat this.

“I know Sarasota County schools has an energy reduction policy where on the weekends, a lot of times they will run the air conditioning as minimally as possible to maintain the integrity of the buildings and to reduce the amount of electricity that is used,” AP Environmental Science and Marine Science teacher Jason Miller said.

Beyond the challenges associated with HVAC, high temperatures have significantly affected landscaping on campus as well, adding to the economic challenges posed for both the district and the school.

“It’s hard to keep the grass



It is among the worst places to park a car...”

Arianna Skevington-Olivera, twelfth-grader

alive when it’s hot and dry and it’s expensive,” Miller said.

Faculty and the district are not the only ones suffering from the challenges induced by climate change – every day, students brave the intense heat as they move across campus.

“[I’m] very grateful for [Building 17] so I don’t have to walk so far. Not that walking across campus was ever fun, but I can’t even imagine in this kind of heat carrying a heavy backpack,” twelfth-grader Arianna Skevington-Olivera said.

For students like Skevington-Olivera who own their own vehicles, the rising heat index temperatures have had a significant impact in the Shell Lot as

well.

“It is among the worst places to park a car in my opinion, whenever I get into my car, I often get chills from how hot it is,” Skevington-Olivera said.

The rising temperatures brought on by climate change pose a risk beyond just the present – it manifests in the slowly intensifying hurricane seasons. According to NASA, there is an increase in water evaporation due to the heightened temperatures, leading to an accumulation of moisture in the air. Combined with the rising temperatures in the oceans, particularly around Florida, the wind intensity of hurricanes is boosted and leads to an increase in the number of hurricanes that develop into Category 4 or Category 5. For Pine View and Sarasota County Schools, this impact is detrimental and poses a significant challenge to the education of students and the integrity of schools.

“We had hurricane Idalia, which while not a direct hit for us, was still impactful to our area. We, and rightly so, took a couple days off to make sure that the students were safe. But, that put teachers behind schedule, and that made accomplishing the tasks we have, particularly in the AP classes where we don’t have a whole lot of time to mess around, more difficult and adds stress to the schedules of teachers,” Miller said.

Climate change has forged a stark reality for students and faculty alike at Pine View, forcing them to take action in their lives to mitigate these growing developments. Despite the challenges climate change brings to Pine View and Sarasota County Schools, with united efforts, the future regarding climate change may not remain so uncertain.

Don’t Consume Climate Doom

by Robyn Shoenberg
Entertainment Editor

Thick wildfire smoke belching from woodlands and blanketing cities for miles, the equivalent of a truck load of trash being dumped into the ocean every minute, and record high temperatures. Many people are fed this constant diet of climate doom and it’s easy to feel defeated, overwhelmed, and hopeless.

Stopping this cycle requires the intentional decision to consume more information about optimistic climate progress.

“One of the things that I find the most calming – and that a lot of people are surprised to know is that actions we’ve already taken have already averted some of the worst-case scenarios

we thought were possible even just a few years ago,” Marcy Frank said in an interview on CNN.

She is the senior communications strategist at the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard Chan School and editor of The Climate Optimist newsletter.

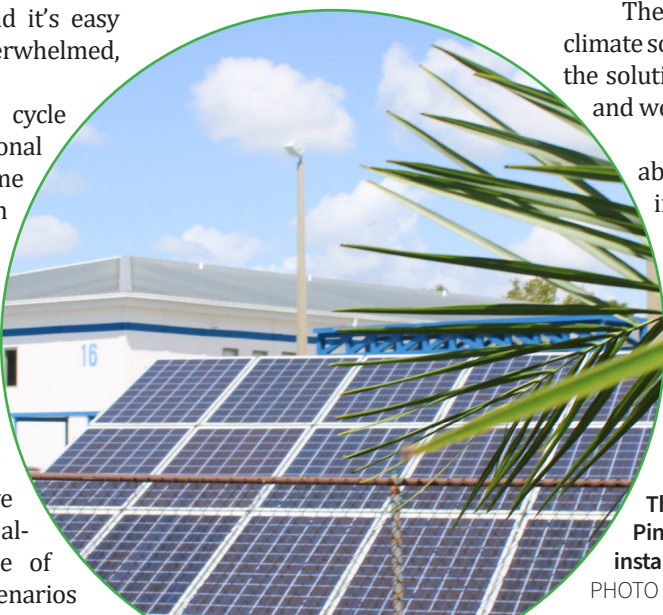
“Within the last couple of years alone, we’ve seen massive progress rolling out climate solutions around the world. We are transitioning entire economies off of fossil fuels and changing the way we produce energy, transport people and things, grow food, and build buildings,” she said.

The intriguing thing about climate solutions is that many of the solutions are already there, and we are making progress.

The cost of renewable energy is decreasing and it’s now cheaper to build new wind and solar energy plants than keep maintaining current coal mines. There are also advancements being made in bio remediation, a

These solar panels are in the Pine View Garden. They were installed in 2011.

PHOTO BY TERRY SHEN



technique that uses microorganisms to remove toxins and pollutants from soil, water, and other environments, along with many other exciting technological advancements and findings.

The problem arises in the fact that although there are many reasons to be optimistic, the general public isn’t receiving this information in the same way they are hearing about the negative effects of climate change.

“It’s so important for the public to have access to the information and feel like it’s digestible for them,” Hayley Peace, the president of Pine View’s Nature Club, said. “Even the general public, when you’re reading a newspaper, and you see all this academic jargon about climate change, you may just feel isolated like ‘this is not my job, I can’t do anything.’”

When scientific research and advancements are released in a way that is more accessible,

more people understand, and therefore have more optimism about the future. That hope is what fuels further change.

“Scientists, I think, are optimistic about the potential for climate change solutions. Where that negative energy comes in is when we realize that a lot of policymakers are simply not adopting the solutions that the science clearly shows us we need to adopt,” Peace said. “...I think the result of better communication, better scientific publishing, better journalism, more journalism on the topic, will lead to voters voting for people who take care of our environment, and ultimately, that’s what helps us fix a lot of the problems that are going on.”

Throughout history some of the most impactful scientific and technological advancements were thought to be impossible until they made their impact. In order to make change we need to believe we can.

Advancing Through Dance

Tenth and eleventh-grader share their experiences dancing

by Jakob Roche

Sci & Tech Co-Editor

Watching her mother's graceful movements through a computer screen, Sophia Doyle was enthralled. From that moment onward, she knew she wanted to dance. Over a decade later, the eleventh grader is still dancing.

"My mom was a dancer and she danced at Disney. So she just put me in dance when I was a little kid and I just stuck with it," Doyle said. She said that watching recordings of her mom dancing made dancing seem less in-

timidating and more interesting and fun.

Another of Doyle's peers who does dance is Tenth-Grader Riley Tribit. Like Doyle, she also started doing dance when she was young. Tribit was inspired by watching the Sarasota Ballet with her mother, as well as watching TV shows.

Dancing has changed Tribit.

"It's definitely helped me get out of some bad head spaces and become more confident in myself," she said.

Tribit's naturally more of an anxious and reserved per-

son, so dancing has helped her to be more outgoing both in and out of school.

As she has progressed through the different divisions and rankings of dance, much has changed for Doyle as well. She said that dancing has taught her some lessons about being relaxed and natural. One year, she constantly compared herself to other dancers, making her feel that she was terrible at dance.

She said she stopped winning prizes that she usually did, such as scholarships to keep dancing. The constant pressure to do better than

others had the opposite of its intended effect – she stopped performing well.

Because of this, Doyle made it her goal the next year to stop focusing on others and instead be herself. She said her scores almost instantly started going back up. She also made new friends at dance, such as Tribit.

One year, Tribit participated in a summer camp at a dance studio that happened to be the same one that Doyle practiced at. They got to know each other well, and Doyle eventually transferred over to the studio Tribit was at, and they started to dance together.

Doyle agrees with Tribit that dance has fundamentally changed her as a person. However, some things have stayed the same. Both girls still feel anxious right before they start their performances. Whether they're performing together or alone, they always frantically try to practice their routine in the minutes leading up to their pre-

sentation. "And then you go on the stage. I just take a deep breath, and then I'm having fun," Doyle said.

While the two girls don't intend to dance professionally, that doesn't mean that they'll totally leave dance behind. Both want to go into medicine and become doctors. Dancers have to go see doctors quite often. "I for one get lots of injuries from dance, I slipped a disc in my back when I was 11. Since that, my back is ruined," Doyle said.

What exacerbates these injuries is that many dancers don't take breaks, even if they do fracture a bone or slip a spinal disc, Doyle said.

Tribit said that her father, a physical therapist, heavily disagrees with this practice. His first piece of advice to injured dancers? Stop dancing. However, if Tribit ever treats a dancer, her advice will be this: take a break, but never stop doing what you love.

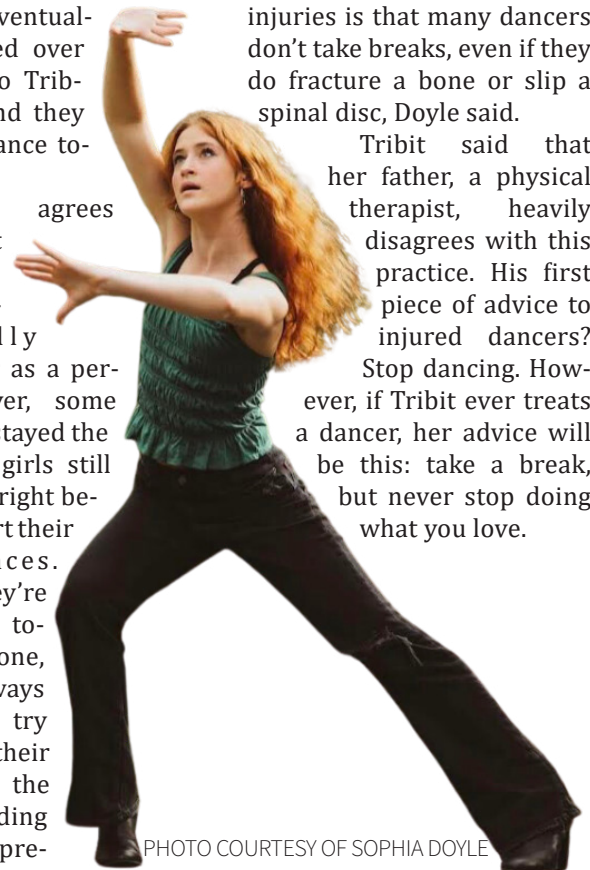


PHOTO COURTESY OF SOPHIA DOYLE

The Disney Dilemma

by Timothy Nesanelis

Match Layout Artist

Disney's live-action adaptations of animated films are becoming the new normal when it comes to their releases, and it seems perfect. It's a way for the beloved childhood stories we grew up watching to be tweaked and re-released for modern audiences. But

amongst Disney fans, it's raised some questions about how much a story should be faithful to the original or, even more trivially, how much a film should change for modern audiences.

It's extremely difficult for the directors of these movies to make everybody happy. The 2020 release of "Mulan" was met with criticism for its complete change in story from the original.

On the other hand so was 2017's "The Lion King" for its lack of any change at all.

Recently, the discourse about changing stories was put under the spotlight after reports that the Seven Dwarfs in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" would not be returning for the live action film and would instead be replaced by the Enchanted Creatures. This came about after famous dwarf actor Peter Dinklage slammed Disney for the caricatures these characters portrayed.

"It makes no sense to me. You're progressive in one way, but you're still making that [story]," Dinklage said.

However, some fans such as tenth-grader Aashima Goswami feel as though too many changes to these remakes don't do justice to the original films.

"They're changing the plotline so much, to the point that they resemble the original in very, very little

ways," Goswami said, "and at that point they're just using the names for the original and how famous the originals are to gain popularity for the new movie."

Goswami also had some thoughts on the recent push to transform all the women leads in these live-action films into "girl-bosses"—women in movies who make it to the end while facing little to no adversity without needing a man to help or be their love interest.

"I'm all for girl-boss characters, women can do whatever they put their minds to," Goswami said, "but there are some women who just want that, and when we take that representation away, it's like what are you sending out? You're saying it's not okay to just also want to find love?"

Pine View Drama Club sponsor Megan O'Mahony has seen first-hand how much of a script is changed for it to be cleared, and she empathized with Disney's struggle.

"When it's movies, I understand that everything's changed," O'Mahony said,

"Disney changes all stories from top to bottom, left to right in order to fit what they want for their audiences, and I guess that's their prerogative."

Many fans often seem to forget, however, that often these original animated films were themselves reworks of books created long ago. Films like "The Little Mermaid" and "Cinderella" had stories that greatly differed from their source material, changing very graphic endings that involved deaths into kid-friendly animated movies focused on love.

Some fans feel insulted with changes to the films, but others feel insulted when the films barely change, and Disney cannot realistically please both groups. The whole balancing act that the creators of the live-action movies go through has led to these films having either an extreme change or being left with nothing new at all. With new live-action films lined up for release within the coming years, O'Mahoney has some great advice: "If the audience doesn't like it, they don't have to go see it," she said



GRAPHIC BY ROBYN SCHOENBERG

WRITERS STRIKE

146 Days; Not an Easy Fix

by Jiayi Zhu
Match Editor-in-Chief

Five weeks into writing the Netflix show, Mo, Pine View alumna and screenwriter Anna Salinas received an email. It effectively put the show on pause, quickly halting work for Salinas and the 11,500 screenwriters representing Writers Guild of America (WGA).

On May 2, 2023, the WGA officially went on strike over labor disputes with Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) following six weeks of unsuccessful negotiations. Subsequently, picket lines surged as writers demanded increased pay, better re-

siduals, greater staffing requirements, longer exclusivity deals, and assurance on AI.

After 146 days on strike, studios and writers reached a tentative agreement September 24.

The strike had enormous effects. While the WGA provided emergency loans throughout the strike, it didn't fully account for those who had mortgages or families to support, let alone nonunion costume designers, makeup artists, and camera operators.

During the strike, Salinas lived off of savings, but she was "cruising through those fast." Other people were essentially forced to give up their homes and move away, like Salinas' friend, who worked in costume design.

"This increased uncertainty and the lack of income just feels like everyone I know is on pause," Salinas said.

The strike flipped a switch in writers' work lives — they were no longer incentivized to create commercial work, leading to a temporary shift towards personal projects and a more "artistic landscape."

"There's sort of no downside to just making your weird passion project or your little self funded thing. In the end, I think it does serve writers and filmmakers... So, I think the most optimistic view of all this time is hopefully I'm spending time building up my creative portfolio in a way that is true to me, without the noise," Salinas said.

However, this does not negate the many sacrifices writers made to argue their demands. Despite the financial inconveniences the longstanding strike had imposed, writers' persistence grew as negotiations stalled.

"I think it's more about a power dynamic. And it's about a feudalistic power dynamic of megacorps versus worker versus the common person," Pine View alum, freelance docuseries and commercial producer, Vincent Dale said.

An unnamed studio executive sparked uproar after remarking on behalf of the AMPTP, "The endgame is to allow things to drag on until union members start losing their apartments and losing their houses."

"This is like intimidation tactics... they are waiting for writers to be so desperate because they can't afford the cost of living, that they come to

the table and are willing to take a bad deal," Salinas said.

Ironically, it was plausible that WGA settling for negotiations would only end in the same conclusion, which calls for the question: What does the WGA have to lose?

"[The writers] show no sign of really giving up...[they] have given up

so much at this point, that they would not be satisfied with

anything less than a good deal," Salinas said. "People are leaving LA, giving up their homes... This is a real inflection point. If the guild doesn't dig in their heels [on demands], the moment will be gone, and it'll be too late the next time the contract is out."

Writing mostly for streaming shows, Salinas receives minimal residuals — around \$200 every five months. Residuals are financial compensations for reruns and other airings after the release of a film or television show.

"It's kind of how you survived between shows," Salinas said.

Low residuals prevent financial stability beyond a writer's career. The issue is especially amplified considering cuts in staffing requirements and the observation that "even people who work really consistently tend to have a sort of expiration date [at age 45]." With shorter season orders, it's not long before viewers are forced to part with their favorite shows; meanwhile, exclusivity deals become outdated and prevent writers from finding work quicker.

"A lot of shows find their footing after season two, not to mention all the job security that comes from a multi-season show, but if you're a streamer like Netflix, there's no real value to go past season two... in their eyes," Salinas said.

In a rising era of artificial intelligence, writers are also demanding assurance that their jobs will not be replaced by AI. Writers are not the only occupations that risk being compromised — in fact, the WGA strike serves as a possible precedent to labor concerns in the future.

"I think the most significant thing that jumps out to me is regarding automation. And I think this labor battle that... America is witnessing, right now, is definitely a red flag of further battles to come," Dale said.

While writers have gained most of their demands, such as a new residual formula for streamers and assurance on AI, actors in SAG-AFTRA are still on strike against AMPTP, who fight for similar demands as the writers. It's likely many television shows and movies will temporarily remain on pause. Until then, writers empathize with actors fighting for labor rights. The sacrifices and tenacity shown by writers over the course of 146 days set an important precedent for future labor battles.

"I think it's the duty of anyone who is a member of the working class to stand in solidarity with any striking workers from any industry. And I think that the more solidarity and the more strength that unions and workers have, make for a better America," Dale said.

Tracing The Trinkets

Step through the gates of Pine View where teachers' classrooms transform into lands of creativity. The rooms come alive with keepsakes, posters, stuffed animals, and photos, capturing the personalities of each teacher and inspiring students to learn.



Robin Melton

by Colette Freeman
Entertainment Assistant Editor

After numerous long and draining classes, walking into Room 215 in Building 17 feels like a deep exhale. An inviting environment filled with colorful decorations greets students as they enter. Robin Melton's eccentrically decorated classroom displays posters, books, and lots of different memorabilia collected over the years. Both past and current students of her AP Psychology and AP World History Modern classes come in from time to time, just to relax in a cozy classroom and take a break from the business of being a Pine View School student.

"I want students to come in and enjoy not just the class, but [also] the environment," Melton said.

Her welcoming decorations and personality make her classroom a safe haven for students. Featured near her door is a photo collage of her daughter. This provides updates on Melton's family for students to keep up with, adding an aspect of personality to the room and making it individualized to her.

"A lot of my students will come back, and they will remember when my daughter was born, and they'll come up here and say, 'Why don't you have new photos' up?," Melton said.

When asked to describe her classroom, she said her inspiration comes from making an enjoyable place for her students to be, and making the room "more her."

"I think [the decorations] give the students a more personal sense of me, and it allows them to get to know me better."

Towards the end of the school year, her students always look forward to seeing how her classroom will look the following year.

"I like to tweak my room every year, but honestly, it's about [the classroom] feeling comfortable for my students," Melton said.



Jacquelyn Cetola

by Megan Ma
Sports Assistant Editor

Sunshine beams through the windows onto pictures of friends and family. Across the room are pictures drawn by her students over the years. AP Calculus BC teacher Jacquelyn Cetola's classroom sits on the third floor of Building 17. This is Cetola's second full year of teaching and she has added her unique style to the room.

"It was a completely blank slate, and it was just kind of sad. I feel like a classroom should be welcoming, it should be colorful. That was kind of my goal to make it approachable, especially a class like AP Calculus where it can be kind of intimidating," Cetola said.

The room is filled with cozy stuffed animals, little gnomes, pictures with students, her own artwork, gifts, little animal figures, and anything that holds memories.

Cetola likes to cover her walls with math-related art projects created by her students to make them feel at home, letting them pin up little pictures that they like, as well as on her bulletin board. She was also a Pine View School graduate before returning to teach here. Cetola shares that she took Angela Wilson's class as inspiration for how she decorates her classroom now.

"As a student, me and my friends would have a pack of little dinosaurs and hide little dinosaurs around [Wilson's] room. She has a photo in there still that's a photo of our group that would hang out there after school. Things like that, that incorporate the teacher's personality incorporates students because I feel like it's important to have the space feel like the students' space as well."

Cetola connects with her students on a different level through her decorations, encouraging them to embrace their love for math.



Blake Wiley

by Sanya Patel
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Known for its plethora of gizmos, gadgets, and every toy imaginable, teacher Blake Wiley's classroom is one of the most famous on Pine View School's campus. No matter if his students are taking English Honors, Dual Enrollment English, or AP English Literature and Composition, they always notice a new item every day.

Along his walls are various American flags, which one could see as a proud display of his patriotism and love for his country. However, within minutes of sitting in his class, he is sure to tell a story from his childhood in Canada, where he was born and raised until he moved to Sarasota, Florida his senior year of high school.

"Why is it that the Canadian has more American flags in his room than most of the classrooms put together? It's because I did the Veteran's Day thing and I collect these things and they mean something to me," Wiley said.

Whether it was purchased at a yard sale several years ago or an item stolen from a younger sibling by a student, everything in Wiley's room has a story behind it. However, make no mistake, these toys and trinkets do not sit and collect dust in his classroom. Every item is well-loved whether it be from a middle schooler trying to get through advisory or a senior having a bad day.

"When I was teaching seventh grade, they would race to get to my class and fight over which toy they got to put on their desk that day. As stupid as that is, they came to my class," Wiley said.

His room, previously located in the Green Building, only contains a fraction of what it used to, but the message still stands strong.

Wiley is quite dedicated to the success of his students and though his methods aren't classic, his legacy continues to be passed down.



Dr. Jay Skipper

by Ana Easter
Match Layout Artist

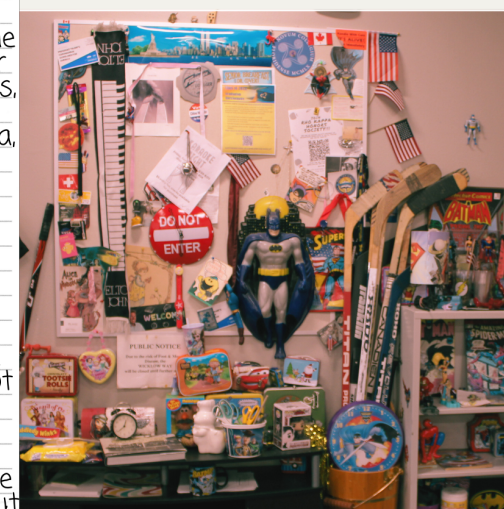
Hidden in the back of the purple building lies Room 117, the classroom of Organic Chemistry Honors and AP Chemistry teacher Dr. Jay Skipper. Not a wall in Skipper's large classroom is free from chemistry-themed decor.

"When students walk into my classroom, I want them to feel immersed in the subject of chemistry," he said.

In order to promote chemistry in his classroom, Skipper allows students to write a joke of the day on the board related to the subject. Next to the joke of the day is a running countdown to Mole Day, which is celebrated on October 23. A mole is a unit of measurement used by chemists that represents 6.02×10^{23} of a chemical unit. Whether it is the huge mole-themed poster or even the tiny stuffed moles that rest on his desk, the celebration of Mole Day is quite prominent in Skipper's classroom.

The unique decorations found in Room 117 are there to excite chemistry students and further engage them in the subject.

"All my decorations like the joke of the day and all the Mole Day stuff are there to promote chemistry and to elevate learning," said Skipper, whose classroom proves to be a learning environment full of stimulating chemistry-related decorations.





ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: ETHAN KIM

Above: Ignacio Cortez and Elvis Dehaene in the middle of a basket. This point was tie-breaker.

Class of 2025 Basketball Tournament



Above: Nick Bown, Ignacio Hurtado, and Andres Cortez posing while they take a break from a basketball game. The Class of 2025 worked very hard to make it success.



Above: Brenden Kuskin and Terry Shen at the Class of 2025 basketball tournament fundraiser. Shen and Kuskin are both class officers who planned the event.

Below: Kolton Balzan hangs off the rim of the basketball hoop after dunking. His team's name was Olivia and Boys.



Below: Olivia Gonnelli and Travis Novak flexing their muscles as they take a break from the game. Both played head to head on opposing teams.



Playing Through the Pain

By Melissa White
Social Media Manager

Finishing a game is hard enough. Winning takes dedication, hours of practice, perseverance, and pushing one's body through the heat and pain. Yet the applause and the rush make it all worthwhile. However, with Zane Day, a new factor comes into play. The rivalry and the heat are not his only opponents on the field — he also faces an ongoing condition in his knees.

Day, a freshman at Pine View struggles with Os-good-Schlatters, a common cause of knee pain in adolescent athletes.

According to his teammates, he is an excellent player, smart on the ball, and a great communicator. Despite that, his condition often causes him to sit out through some games.

"When playing, it starts to hurt after a little while. So, it makes it hard for me. It's been rough," Day said.

He has been suffering from this pain for two years and doesn't know when he'll finally recover. However, Carter Kinne, a freshman at Venice High who plays on the same team as Day, admires his perseverance.

"Sometimes he loses some of his confidence, but he never allows himself to become discouraged," Kinne said.

He and Day have been close friends for three years and currently play together for the DME Academy on their U-15 boys soccer team. Even with his struggles, Day always looks forward to

practice after school.

"All I can do is try hard through the pain and know that there will be a day when it will stop hurting and I can play with no worries again," Day continued, "I try to have fun and just enjoy it."

With the help of his friends and the relationships he's made playing, Day has become the best person he can be.

"I'd definitely be a little bit more lonely [if I hadn't started]. I get to be more social at soccer," Day said. "Soccer is for sure a big part of my life. I always enjoy the weekends mainly because that's when I have my games."

When asked if he would be a different person if he didn't play the sport, he said that he most definitely would.

His family also plays a big role in his soccer life. Day's father has always influenced him to play and with their help, Day has since picked it up on his own. He has been at it for nine years and does not plan to quit anytime soon. At 5, he picked up the ball and has not stopped since. He joined his first travel team at 10 and moved from Next Gen to IMG in his U-13 year.

In November 2022, he broke a growth plate in his hip. Day had a three-month recovery but got back on his feet in February of the year. He picked up where he left off as if nothing ever happened. Soccer has always been a huge part of his life, and it seems as if his condition is just a tiny setback in his career and his future to come.



Dancing Throughout the Day



Tenth-grader Liana Schlabach (middle) and fellow dancers performing as tortoises in the Carnival of the Animals May 23, 2023. Schlabach has been dancing since third grade. PHOTO PROVIDED BY: LIANA SCHLABACH

By Andrew Ashby
Web Graphic Designer

Tenth-grader Liana Schlabach began her day at 6:00 a.m., groggy as usual. After finally dragging herself out of bed, she got ready for the day ahead and enjoyed her hot oatmeal and berries breakfast. She scarfed it down and hitched a ride from her dad to school, listening to music on the way there.

After school, which mostly consisted of going from one class to the next and occasionally chatting with friends, she went home and prepared for her dance class at 5:30 p.m. For Schlabach, who has been dancing since she was in third grade, dance is the highlight of her day.

"It's the rush, and how everybody's coming together to help you, and they're just cheering you on, it's a fun experience," Schlabach said.

Natalia Schlabach, her mother, has always been her biggest supporter. "She loves drawing where she expresses herself on a canvas. Dance is another form of art where she gets to express herself through movement and it's just absolutely beautiful to see

her float so seamlessly on stage," she said.

At her practice, after using an absurd number of bobby pins to keep her hair up in a bun, she got into her leotard and tights and began to stretch out her legs.

"All these combinations, they help you prepare for the fundamentals and bigger things," Schlabach said, and it seems that it has paid off as she has recently been cast in "The Nutcracker."

When she arrived home, Schlabach listened to music and finished her school homework.

"Liana's dance and academic life balance each other out quite harmoniously," says Natalia. "Dance gives her a nice break from studying and a breath of fresh air into her daily routine. It also provides her with a great workout perfect for her body as well as her mind."

After a long, exhausting day of school and dance, Schlabach says she can't help but smile. Despite the soreness in her muscles, she knows this is what she wants to do. Every plié, every piqué turn, and every moment helps her grow closer to her dreams.

Sticking with Lacrosse

by Madelyn Bailey
Opinion Assistant Editor

Noticing the confusion of her teammates, eleventh-grader Caroline Steinwachs leads her lacrosse teammates in the best playing strategies. Steinwachs found her love for lacrosse when she was in third grade. She especially appreciates the fast pace and rigor of the sport.

Since she started, she has dedicated countless hours of her life to playing lacrosse.

Steinwachs plays midfield for Riverview High School and defense for Lax Maniax.

To keep up with the demand of playing on two lacrosse teams, Steinwachs sets aside time every day outside of official practices to hone her skills. She typically has five official team practices a week during the Riverview lacrosse season, and two practices a week during the season she plays for Lax Maniax.

Despite the considerable amount of labor she must put into being a successful lacrosse player, Steinwachs has grown fond of the sport and said that she wants to continue playing during college.

Playing lacrosse has been a rewarding experience for Steinwachs in more ways than one. She has been able to compete in tournaments, travel, make new friends, and learn valuable life skills. This past summer, she was involved in tournaments such as Live Love Lax, Summer Genesis, and The MidAtlantic Summer Club Championships.

"It's really fun to hang out with everyone and also get better," Steinwachs said.

Ashley McLeod, Pine View history teacher and the Head Varsity Lacrosse Coach for Riverview's girls lacrosse team, has been coaching

Steinwachs ever since she was in elementary school and relatively new to the sport.

"Caroline is a very cerebral player, she has a very high lacrosse IQ," McLeod said.

Throughout the many years that Steinwachs has been playing lacrosse, she has been able to make growth as a player and as a person. According to McLeod, Steinwachs has exponentially improved in her speed and accuracy.

"She picks up on things pretty quickly and she can bring that knowledge to the field," McLeod said.



PHOTO BY MEGAN MA

Even with the immense experience Steinwachs has with playing lacrosse, she has

not been able to shake off all the challenges that being a student-athlete comes with. Many of these arise from the struggle to balance school and sports at the same time. In order to manage both, Steinwachs learned how to keep track of her busy schedule.

"Learning to balance everything with lacrosse is extremely time consuming," Steinwachs said.

Steinwachs uses her vast knowledge of lacrosse to help the other players on her teams. On her Riverview team, Steinwachs has assumed a leadership role and she helps coach the other players.

"She knows what is going to work most of the time, so she's really good at telling the girls which play to run, or what variation to do of that play," McLeod said.

For people who are new to playing lacrosse, Steinwachs's biggest pieces of advice are to learn the fundamentals of lacrosse and learn to love the game.

"If you love it, you'll be able to succeed," Steinwachs said.



Eleventh-grader Caroline Steinwachs competes for the LaxManiax lacrosse team. LaxManiax is one of the two teams the Steinwachs competes for. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAROLINE STEINWACH

BEST KIND OF HEADPHONES

In the world of fitness, there are a lot of options when it comes to choosing headphones. Depending on if you're at the gym, running on the track, or playing basketball, there are a lot of factors to consider. Let's take a look at what works best for you!

WIRED HEADPHONES

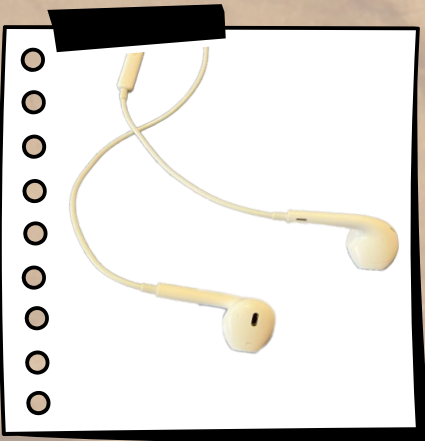
Simply plug them into your device to hear audio.

Pros: Does not require batteries or charging, making them ready to use.

Cons: They get tangled easily.

Not compatible with all types of devices.

Price Range: \$\$\$



WIRELESS EARBUDS

Wireless earbuds use Bluetooth to wirelessly connect with your device.

Pros: No wires = no worries! They are small and easy to carry.

Cons: Battery life is often a limiting factor.

Price Range: \$\$\$

BONE CONDUCTING HEADPHONES

Bone Conduction Headphones vibrate the bones in your skull, rather than play audio through your ear canal.

Pros: Listen to your surroundings as well as your audio since your ear canal is unblocked.

Cons: The sound quality is worse compared to its competitors.

Price Range: \$\$\$



OVER-EAR HEADPHONES

Over-ear headphones seal your ears in a contained environment.

Pros: Surround Sound and helps block out unwanted noise.

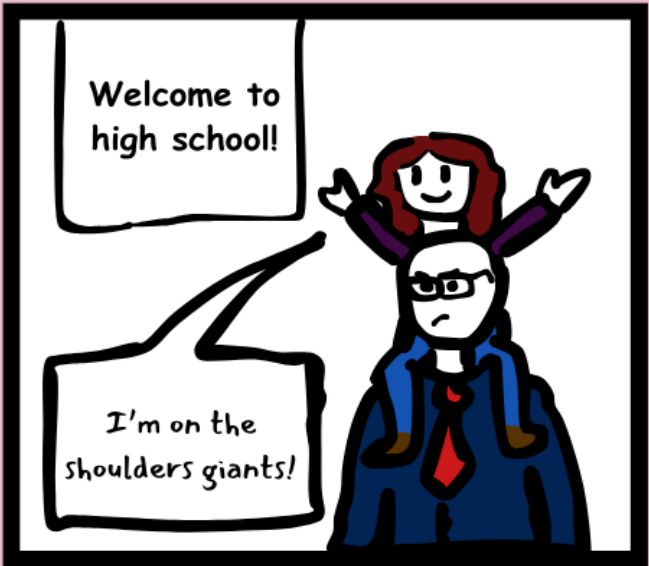
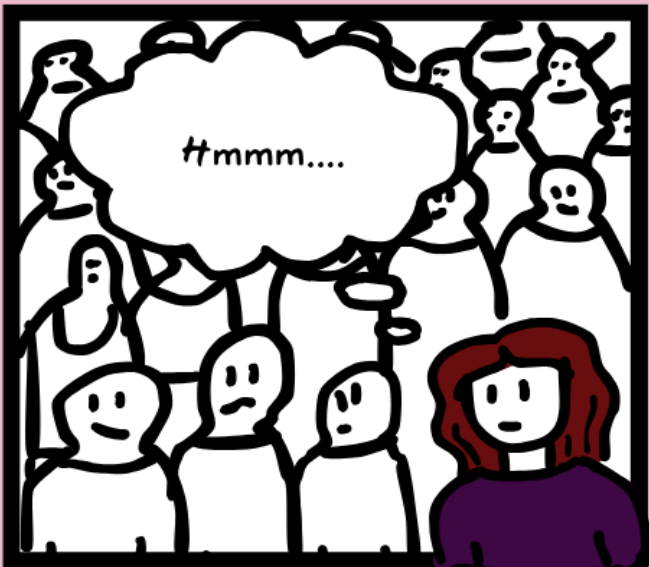
Cons: Bulky and less portable

Price Range: \$\$\$



HOW TO END UP IN JAIL

A satirical comic about the life of a Florida student.



The Battle of the Chrises

by Sanya Patel
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

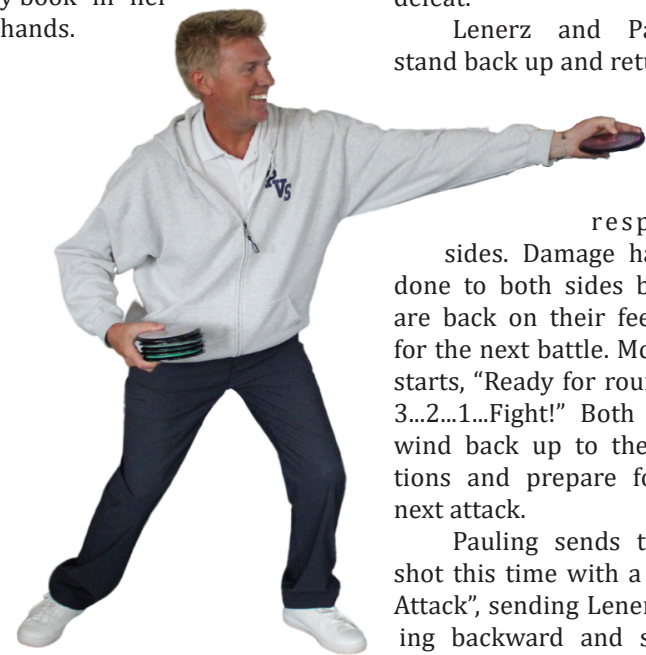
It was a typical school day like any other. Sophomore Sony Paddle is getting through her class when suddenly an idea pops into her head. The journalism advisor's name is Chris, and her English teacher's name is also Chris.

"Ha, that's funny, two Chrises. But which one is the best Chris?"

Suddenly, dark clouds start to form over her head and thunder booms echo the halls.

"Wait, what's going on?" she says. The poor student has no idea what she has just unleashed. From seemingly nowhere appears the two Chrises, Lenerz and Pauling, staring each other down at opposite ends of the hall.

As they glare at each other for an uncomfortably long time, Sony asks, "Okay, seriously, what is happening right now." Suddenly Kristen McCombie, an ESE Liason here at Pine View School, enters wearing a long, black cloak with a heavy book in her hands.



"You're the one who asked the question; who is the best Chris? Every few years when a student — much like yourself — ponders that very question, a battle commences: more formerly known as The Battle of the Chrises."

"Okay... is it like a fight to the death or something?"

Sony looks around, more confused than ever, seeing Lenerz and Pauling still locked in a menacing gaze.

"Precisely. Both Chrises will fight using their powers gained from teaching gifted students until one of their health bars runs out", McCombie points above each player where two bright green bars labeled "Health" hover above their head. "They don't really die, but it's easier than keeping a point system."

"Oh, I think I get it. So, when does this 'battle' begin?" she says with air quotes.

"On your mark, Master Sony," says McCombie as she, Lenerz, and Pauling all bow towards her in unison.

"Oh, uh... start fighting?"

"LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!" shouts McCombie as lighting and thunder somehow strike inside of Building 17. Lenerz and Pauling charge at each other going full speed, emanating blue and yellow energy respectively. Their fists wind back slowly, each second building up more power until finally, their fists make contact. Both falling after impact.

"Ooooh — an interesting outcome; both fighters used an attack called 'The Giants.' They both thought they were taller than the other, classic male. The damage was twice as bad because they used it at the same time.

"Rookie mistake," says McCombie, looking to Sony for some sort of expression of agreement. Sony stands there with her jaw dropped trying to understand how she got here. "I was just trying to find a place to study," she says in defeat.

Lenerz and Pauling stand back up and return to

their respective sides. Damage has been done to both sides but they are back on their feet ready for the next battle. McCombie starts, "Ready for round two? 3...2...1...Fight!" Both fighters wind back up to their positions and prepare for their next attack.

Pauling sends the first shot this time with a "Syntax Attack", sending Lenerz flying backward and slamming his body into the wall Lenerz's health bar is now close to its end.

Lenerz now getting red with rage quickly bounces back and hits Pauling with an "Pack Attack," launching his foam-rubber cheesehead at his opponent. Pauling's health is now equal to Lenerz's, it all depends on who fires the first move to win this battle.

But as they are preparing, Sony suddenly has a realization.

"Wait, aren't you technically a 'Kris'?" She asks McCombie, "Have you ever been in battle?"

"No, unfortunately, it's been seen as a very ancient battle amongst men; there has never been a battle including a woman."

"Huh, that seems really messed up. The patriarchy continues to live on," Sony says with a hint of annoyance in her voice.

McCombie suddenly has a realization, "Yeah... That is really messed up, Stop the battle!" she yells. Pauling and Lenerz immediately stop and look at her confused. She then hits them both with a blast of Feminine Rage, instantly taking them out.

McCombie slowly realizes what she has just done. "I didn't even mean to do that, I didn't even know I had powers!" she said frantically, worrying about the decision of this battle.

"Well, it looks to me that you beat them both fair and square. As master of this duel, I declare you the champion of this Battle of the Chrises," Sony smiles and hands her a trophy that floats down from the sky. She doesn't even question the unusual nature of it anymore, any way that this nightmare can end, the better.

Lenerz and Pauling slowly start to get up, congratulating each other on the effort put into the battle. They say their final goodbyes and head in separate directions.

As Pauling walks back to his classroom, Lenerz motions to Sony that it is time to go to class.

"So that's it? You guys just leave? What about when you see each other at school tomorrow? Do you all just pretend like none of it ever happened?" Sony says flabbergasted by this conclusion.

"That's just how it goes. We leave it up to the creativity of the students. The fate of the title rests in their hands. Besides, it keeps us from battling every other day."

After her vague and cryptic explanation, McCombie floated back to her room, leaving Sony standing in Building 17 alone with her thoughts. She takes a moment to process what she just witnessed. After contemplation, she walks out of Building 17 and goes home to sleep off this really weird dream.

"It was just another day at Pine View School."

PHOTO BY SANYA PATEL

Butter Knife: A Day at Pine View

by Elena Herman

Asst. Match Editor-in-Chief

Three Pine View students woke up in a room moldier than the old abandoned portables. Maybe it was a portable. The squeaking rats sounded familiar.

The Active board flickered like the dying fluorescent lights. On its screen, a red-eyed puppet in a crusty speech-and-debate-club tuxedo stood corpse still.

"I want to play a game," he rasped. "For years, you have tormented your peers. I wrote a test for each of you as punishment."

The students trembled. Several ceiling tiles, failing under the back-breaking weight of dusty rodents, fell and crashed in the middle of the room. The puppet continued his televised instruction.

"These are the rules: you have an hour to take these tests, and when the hour is up, your scores will enter parent portal. They will be weighed in accordance with the havoc you wreaked. So, let's say, about 50% of your G.P.A. Do you understand?"

The students stared catatonic at

their papers, and slowly, they dissolved into tears. They didn't dare beg for an extra day to study.

"Valorie Victorianer," the puppet man rotated left and glared down at a pimply little ninth-grader.

"You are guilty of publicly declaring your A minus scores as failing grades with full knowledge that your grade is above average. For these crimes, you must

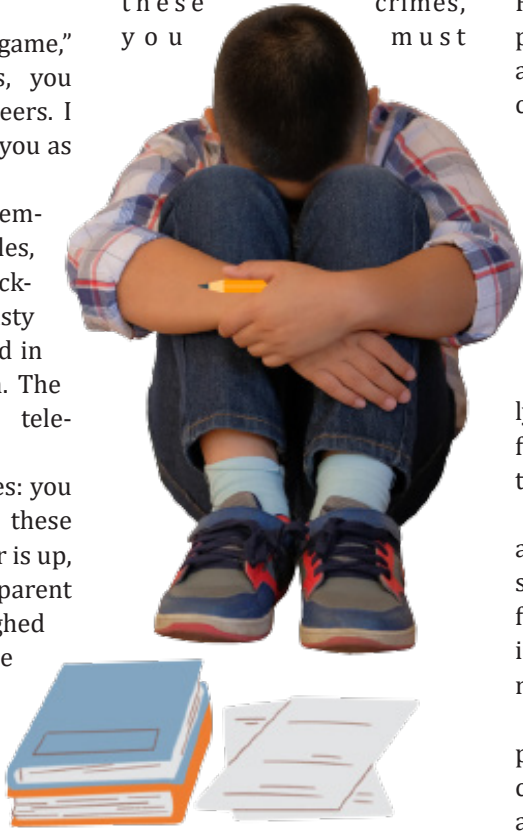
take a test that will teach you real failure. The packet laid before you holds a mere 100 AP Chemistry questions, each free response. Spelling does count," the puppet sneered, leaving Victorianer a mess of hot tears and body odor.

"Teetchas Petson" he fervently continued, "You are guilty of asking your teachers about last night's home-work when they forget to check it. For this crime, you must complete the 23 DBQs that you assigned your AP U.S. History class last week."

"Finally, Oliver Explainerz. You are guilty of over-explaining. You teach your Algebra 2 table whole units of AP Physics C, although nobody asks. For your crimes, I have devised a true test of knowledge. Surely you re-member Dr. Covert's famous maxim of standing on the shoulders of giants?"

Explainerz peered down at his test and found just a few sheets of loose leaf paper before him. He wondered what intellectual horror they might represent.

"Name all the giants," the puppet man grinned, and he cackled as the students wailed and watched their ivy league dreams crumble.



GRAPHIC BY ELENA HERMAN

Aly's Average Advice

by Aly Zaleski

Humor Editor

To reintroduce the spot to get advice for all your most pressing issues, I was called upon to help 9th grader Jack Lu in his time of need.

"How can I make \$1000 in 24 hours?"

I'd like to start this off with a huge thank you to all of the Pine View student body that has welcomed me back with open arms. After my year out in the fields with the rams, I've learned many things. Today, I will teach these things to you.

\$1000 is useless today. \$1000 is worth a cardboard box floating off the coast of Siesta Key. \$1000 is the number my bank account has been stuck at for months. It's useless!

This is good. This means people will be more willing to give it up!

This leads us to Plan A: just ask. Ask everyone you know! Ask your mom. Ask your dad. Ask your siblings. Ask your teacher. Crack a smile or two — they love that! Just a smile is all it takes to make up for their next months worth of groceries.

This

doesn't work. Of course. Your smile is disgusting. Brush your teeth. Get this man a piece of gum. Somebody. Please.

Plan B: respond to those sketchy emails. You know you want to. Plus, the effects will show right away! First, you spend about two months trying to get back in contact with the people who sent the original email. Once they get back to you, you'll be all signed up to work for the company. You won't even have to do anything! They just take the money right out of your account and give it back whenever they want! 24 hours, 24 years in jail; you see the vision.

Okay, we don't want to spend 24 years in jail. I totally understand that. How about we move on to our last idea?

Plan C: work at [redacted]. I've been trying to put in my two weeks for six weeks. Please. Take over my shifts. You get \$17 an hour. Work all 24 hours and round up. The math works out, I promise.

Enjoy your new found wealth you lovely people. Mwah!



PHOTO BY SIVAN LEVY

Keeping my 'Ion' Dr. Skipper's Secret

by Kai Sprunger

Asst. Editor-in-Chief

As a seasoned investigative journalist, I have tackled my fair share of cases. Whether it was working beside other Torchies to uncover where all those awning-bound frisbees end up or investigating the perplexing disappearance of John Schweig (spoiler alert: he is hiding in the walls), I thought we had seen it all. But, Pine View harbors a dangerous secret and it lurks amongst us to this day — Dr. Skipper's Secret Society.

Despite my chemistry ability being equivalent to a fifth-grader's, I was intrigued by an anonymous tip from an informant (AKA a mole) taking Dr. Jay Skipper's Organic Chemistry Honors class. Something was clearly up, and it wasn't Rocketry Club's rockets in the sky this time. My journalist instincts tingled and I knew I had to investigate this.

I confronted one of our resident Orgo Kids™ (trade-marked obviously — the bottom line of every evil society is to make a profit) in Torch, elev-

enth-grader Lindsay Luberecki. However, no matter what question I posed, she would respond with "What secret society?" and refuse to elaborate further. I changed my tactics and regrettably resorted to chemistry puns, but there was no reaction. Luberecki clearly had extensive training in the arts of deception, probably by the society overlord Skipper himself.

It was time to take matters into my own hands. If I wanted to reveal the secrets of this society to the public, I would have to infiltrate his classroom itself. Donning a notebook completely filled with penguin stickers that would make any Skipper Minion jealous, I

disguised myself and followed them into the classroom the next day.

Despite the classroom being unsettlingly covered ceiling to floor in mole-themed objects that stared into your soul, it seemed like an impractical space to carry out any nefarious practices. But, I digress, I am not the expert on that subject — that is down the alley of Key Club. We all know what heinous activities they have been up to since that investigative story was published two Torch cycles ago on March 9, 2023.

Under the belief that there was a biology kid in his midst, Skipper pulled the blinds shut and turned off the

lights. A hidden switch clicked and in the center of the room, the floor cracked open, revealing a slowly rising glass platform. And there it was on that platform — the infamous Mole Dollar.

Worth exactly 6.022 x 10²³ American dollars, this simple piece of paper was the source of Dr. Skipper's Secret Society's money laundering plot. From Skipper's affiliation with Khan Academy and Sal Khan, he received this rare Mole Dollar and became one of the richest men in the world. Skipper was not just an overlord of a secret society, he was also the director of a smoldering pyramid scheme.

All at once, 30 voices spoke in unison as the Skipper Minions recited all 6.022 x 10²³ laws of Dr. Skipper's Secret Society Charter. Yes, you heard that right — 6.022 x 10²³ laws — their mole obsession runs deep. As soon as they got to the first two laws, "There is no such thing as Dr. Skipper's Secret Society" and "When

dealing with moles, always barium", my inability to recite alongside them was more apparent than a failed titration. And believe me, I have failed many titrations.

I had seen and learned too much. Throwing aside my disguise, I bolted for the door and just barely evaded being apprehended by Skipper and his minions. Since the society had their ion me, I was forced into hiding — either on Pine View's deluxe fresh-cut grass where the aides will not let them venture, or within the copy room of the Media Center where middle schoolers trying to utilize the copy machines will scare them away.

But when you read this, it might be too late. Dr. Skipper's Secret Society is after me and Torch Editor-in-Chief Isabel-la Kulawik, one of the Skipper Minions, wants to kick me from The Torch in exchange for a penguin sticker. If I suddenly go missing, you all will know why.

Note from the Humor Editor:

Upon being asked for his opinion on these allegations, Skipper refused to comment.

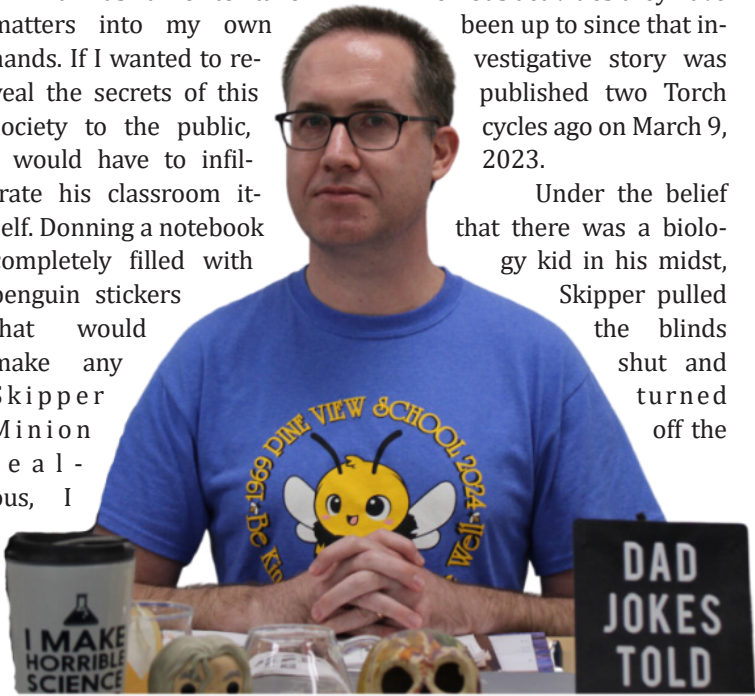


PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

A thank you to Pine View

by Isabella Kulawik
Editor-in-Chief

I stand amidst a sea of children wielding violins and kazoos. Kindergarteners clamber toward me for a hug as older students long to play a thrilling game of Taco vs. Burrito. In other words, it was complete and utter chaos. I then recalled my past experiences with younger students as a vocal director and said the crucial command.

“Alright everyone, please put a bubble in your mouth!”

This summer, I volunteered as a teaching intern at the Suzuki School of Music in Sarasota and I learned a ton. Being surrounded by younger children was something I was not used to and there were moments where I was certainly lost, but what I found more impactful was how much I already knew. As a twelfth-grader who has spent the past ten years at Pine View, I firmly believe that the teachers and staff here succeed in preparing us for the world.

One thing that many Pine View students love to agree on is that they “hate Pine View.” We all voice our complaints on the copious homework and difficult tests. I certainly felt

this way, however, as I grew as a student and as a person I began to realize just how much the rigor prepares students for real life.

Over my time here I have had many opportunities to pursue leadership positions, from a tenth-grader directing the Variety Show to eventually becoming Ed-

itor-in-Chief of The Torch. There were certainly struggles, putting together a show amidst the pandemic has its challenges. But, the best way to learn problem-solving is hands-on and with some

Last year during Drama Clubs production of “The Adam’s Family”, Kulawik had a leadership position as a vocal director. Kulawik will also be working as a vocal director this year.

PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

In last years, production of Miss Pine View, Kulawik worked as a director, managing behind the curtain. This year, Kulawik will have a role on stage, as she will be running for Miss Pine View.

PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

Posing with The Torch staff last year, Kulawik (row 2, column 2) had the position of News Editor. Currently, Kulawik is Editor in Cheif of The Torch.

PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

Although some may not think much about the python in the Student Union, Kulawik said she has a soft spot for the python, as it always reminds her of Pine View.

PHOTO BY MADELYN BAILEY

adult guidance. Without teachers like Haley Brown or Christopher Lenerz, I would not have been able to tackle any of these activities.

With these positions, one can truly see the wonderful atmosphere Pine View’s unique structure creates. Students are teaching each other and are learning how to face re-

al-life c o n - sequences. What does one do when the sound system malfunctions thirty minutes before the start of a show? How do you teach two-part

harmonies to a group of middle schoolers? These scenarios are ones that I have dealt with first hand and despite not having the experience of an adult, I have learned what works and what does not.

At other schools, it is unheard of for students to have so much freedom and creative liberty when involved in their activities. I have enjoyed the conversations amongst peers on which musical to pick as we take into consideration our budget and capabilities as a group. This alone demonstrates how our past experiences as directors have molded us into mature young adults.

With that being said, as changes occur throughout the Florida education system, I hope that Pine View maintains its somewhat unorthodox traditions. We may not have the “traditional” high school experience but it is in those moments, behind a textbook studying or teaching a dance for Miss Pine View, where we make unforgettable memories. So thank you to all the teachers, administrators, and staff who work tirelessly to help prepare a group of kids for the world that stands before them.

Don’t stay quiet

by Ava Lenerz
Match Assistant Editor

Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice, Be...quiet. The 1988 film “Beetlejuice” is a classic starring Michael Keaton that almost everyone knows. It is so popular a musical was made and a second movie is in production. When Beetlejuice came out the PG-13 rating was still relatively new, so it was rated PG. This movie is enjoyed by people of all ages, so I decided to show it to my six-year-old sister.

Why am I talking about it here popular family film “Beetlejuice”?

While watching the movie I realized “Beetlejuice” used some inappropriate language that would not be allowed in PG movies today. My sister

knows not to repeat it, so it was fine, but it got me thinking. Nowadays it’s a stretch for PG-13 movies to be allowed one word that shall not be named; meanwhile a PG movie from not too long ago says it.

The standards for what is appropriate for children to watch or read have changed in many aspects (not just language) over the past 40 years and some have reached an unreasonable point.

Before 1984, the ratings for movies were G, PG, R, and X (now NC-17). After movies such as “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” and “Gremlins” were released, people realized a rating between PG and R was needed.

PG-13 has now become a popular rating used by Marvel, and other film series.

It is important that what children watch should be monitored by their parents, clearly some topics and violence should not be viewed by younger audiences as they can be very impactful on their growth, but at a certain age, it is important for kids to decide for themselves instead of having their parents shelter them.

Adults can’t hide the reality from teens, it is crucial they see the past and the present, so they can improve the future, and movies are one way to do this. According to the Times of India “By portraying societal challenges and triumphs, cinema prompts youth to critically analyze their own environment and inspires them to actively participate in shaping a better future.”

Obviously, not all mov-

ies are like that, some are just for enjoyment and people shouldn’t be making movies political, when they don’t need to be.

According to CNN, in 2022, a fifth-grade teacher in Florida was investigated for showing her students a PG movie. The movie is not only a Disney movie, but all parents had signed a

permission slip allowing the teacher to show PG movies in class. The movie, “Strange World,” has an openly gay character and a student told their mom (whom was on the school board) about the character, who then complained.

The mom claimed at a school board meeting that “You showed a movie that wasn’t sanctioned school material, thus stripping the innocence of my 10-year-old.” But LGBTQ+

Americans are part of society now and let’s not forget, “Strange World” was never even meant to be a point of controversy.

This further demonstrates the shift in movie standards for kids, as a movie made for kids is being scrutinized and banned when it’s only purpose was to entertain children, and in the case of the teacher it was meant as an educational tool for their unit about ecosystems.

Though in more modern times “Beetlejuice” should not have said that word, kid’s movies like “Beetlejuice” and “Strange World” weren’t meant to become political, so though standards are changing, politics should not be a expectation PG movies are held to. As long as the message of a movie is kind and just, children should still have a say in what they read and watch.

CENSORED

STUDENT VOICES

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE WITH DIFFERING POLITICAL VIEWS?

In the polarized world that we all live in, many adults find it impossible to be friends with members of an opposing political party. In fact, a survey from NPR.org shows that the majority of Biden and Trump voters in the 2020 presidential election had ‘just a few’ or ‘no friends’ in their opposing party. Is this black and white mindset found in Pine View students, too?



Eleventh-grader
Stewart McClain

“I think it's possible to be friends with people with opposing political views because politics is not a one or two thing where it's either one opposed or perfectly aligned..”



Tenth-grader
Kysmette Otteson-Hurst

“I feel like it actually can augment a friendship, because it actually helps you realize who's actually going to be your friend.”



Eleventh-grader
Ava Michalopolous

“I have a couple of friends that have differing political views from mine, but I think as long as it's not too extreme then it should be fine.”

Can we be friends with the other political party?

by **Robyn Schoenberg**
Entertainment Editor

Divisive politics are running hot, and when they're brought up any calm environment or good friendship can quickly turn into an emotionally charged argument, resulting in a falling-out. Many people want a less divided society, but for these reasons, they avoid political conversations.

“The reason I hide my own [views] is because I see in the media, oftentimes, that people shame others for their views, especially those of people who align with mine,” said tenth grader Kysmette Otteson-Hurst. “I would not want myself to be targeted by those who are of the opposite political beliefs.”

Many want to avoid the discomfort that comes with these discussions and feel anxious about getting into an argument that they can't get out of. The risk of losing friends over politics can be extremely daunting.

Some might find an escape by not discussing politics while others mainly talk about politics with people with kindred opinions.

“There are some things where I'm like, “oh, if you have one view, it's just, we really just don't see eye to eye at all. So it might be hard to be friends,” said eleventh grader Ava Michalopolous. “...I mean, for the most part, most of my friends feel the same way as I do. Just because I feel like it's easier to

connect with them and discuss things with them.”

Being friends with someone with differing political views can be exhausting when there are tensions about basic morals, and that shouldn't be forced. It really is just easier and more enjoyable to be friends with someone you agree with, or just don't talk about politics with.

With that, there is something to be said about the value of opening up to a conversation.

When we cut ourselves off from different opinions we are limiting ourselves. It often creates a more close-minded view, in which our opinions of the other side are based on sound bites, the news, and quick comments.

In a TED Talk, musician Daryl Davis said, “Thus ignorance breeds fear. We fear those things we do not understand. If we do not keep that fear in check, that fear, in turn, will breed hatred because we hate

things that frighten us. If we do not keep that hatred in check, that hatred, in turn, will breed destruction.”

While political conversations can be high-stress and result in frustration on either side, they can be much more productive than we'd think when done in a respectful manner.

“When you have a genuine friend of opposite political views you can oftentimes have intellectually stimulating and informational conversations with them, and both parties can learn more,” said Otteson-Hurst. “It really helps to learn more about another world that you're not a part of.”

When approaching these conversation it's important to do it intentionally and remember a few things.

First, bring light to the conversation, not heat. Be curious, try to gain new perspectives,

“I win, you lose” situation that ends with a quick burn. The value of the discussion is not the outcome, it is the conversation itself.

Second, view each person, including yourself, as complex and multi-faceted. Try to avoid an “us and them” mentality, where you think one way and are a very, very good person, and they think the opposite way

By simply having these conversations we are becoming less divided.”

Robyn Schoenberg,
Entertainment Editor

to a better conversation.

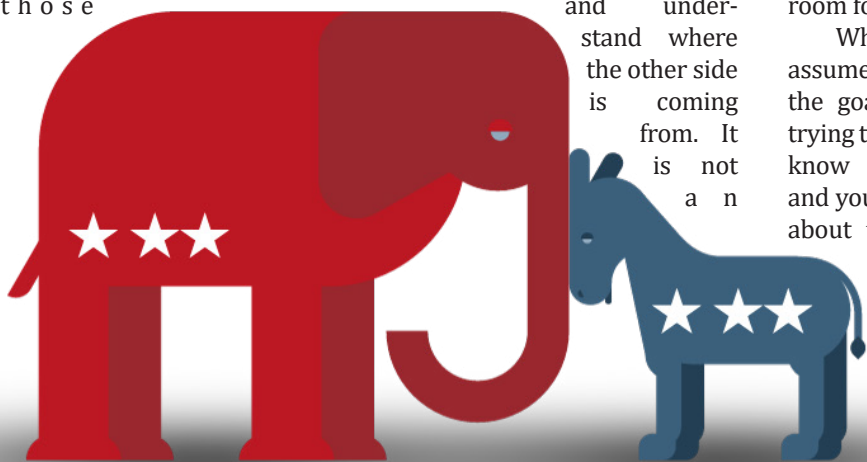
Last, be kind and respectful to the other person. While this may seem obvious, when we get very passionate things can start to spiral. People tend to hold a lot of value in their views and opinions, and when they feel attacked, they will defend themselves as if they were being attacked physically.

Writer Haruki Murakami said, “Always remember that to argue, and win, is to break down the reality of the person you are arguing against. It is painful to lose your reality, so be kind, even if you are right.”

This isn't to say that you should forget your own views, just listen carefully before sharing them.

No matter the outcome of the conversation, whether opinions are changed or not, both parties come out more educated. Disagreement shouldn't prevent discussion, understanding, and growth. By simply having these conversations we are becoming less divided.

Davis ended his TED Talk by saying, “Take the time to sit down and talk with your adversaries. You'll learn something; they'll learn something. When two enemies are talking, they're not fighting – they're talking. It's when the talking ceases that the ground becomes fertile for violence. So keep the conversation going.”



the Torch

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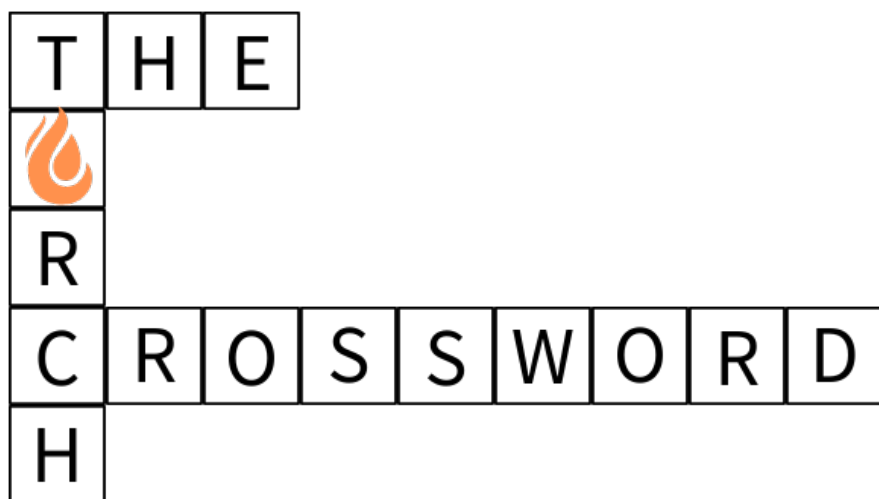
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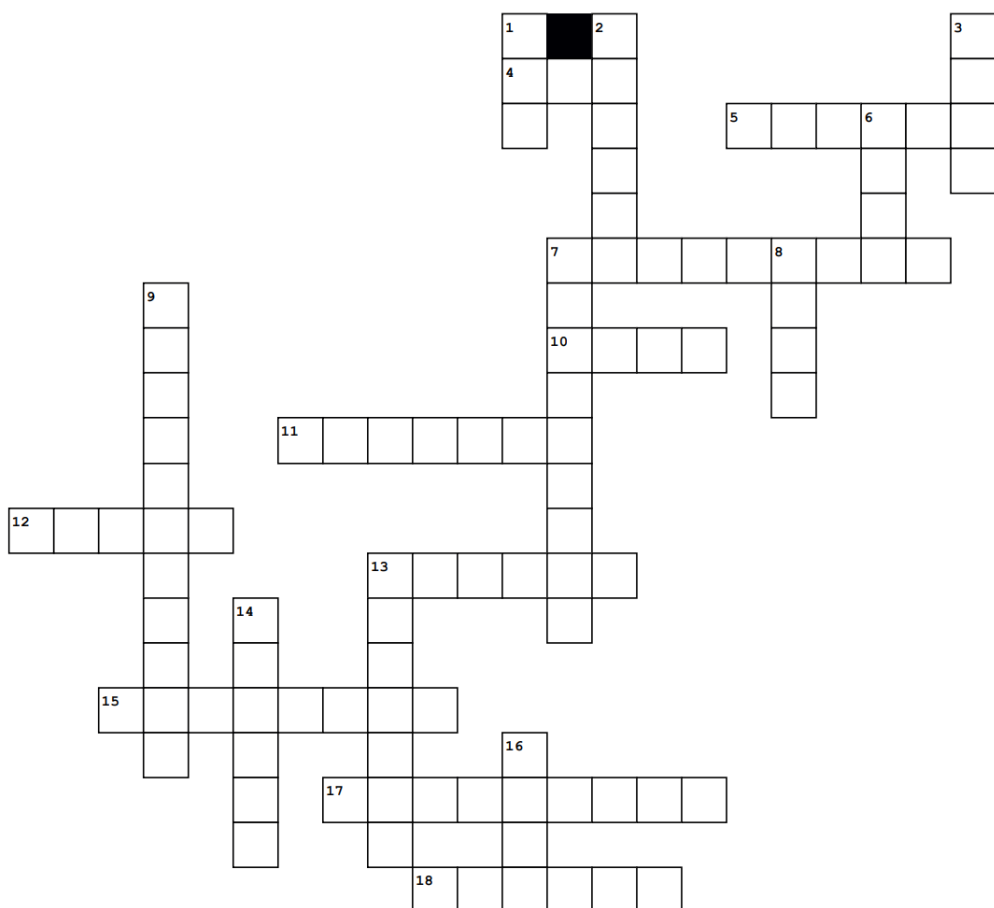
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als written on topics relevant to readers. Contact the Opinion Editor at lindsay.luberecki@pineviewtorch.com to discuss an idea. Submit story ideas and comments to the editors at the email addresses given at the be-

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Hints correspond to information shared in the stories throughout this issue, including through QR codes. The first person to bring their completed version to Room 117 in Building 17 will win a \$10 gift card. Good luck!



- across
- down
4. What guild went on strike on May 2, 2023?

5. Who teaches AP Psychology?

7. What club does Steinwachs play lacrosse for?

10. What color is the banner on the Archives website?

11. Whose room is filled with mole memorabilia?

12. What is the cheapest headphone?

13. What summer camp did Isabella volunteer at? (hint: check opinion)

15. Who won the battle of the Chrises?

17. What is \$1000 worth according to Aly?

18. Where did the trip Mr. Regar helped to fund go to?
1. About how many hours is the digital SAT?

2. Where was Mr. Wiley born?

3. What school did Mr. Mannino previously work at in Tampa?

6. What is the abbreviation for Mrs. Cabrera's official new role?

7. Who is the News Editor of The Torch this year?

8. What club is Ellarose Sherman president of (hint: use the abbreviation)

9. What 1988 film did Michael Keaton star in?

13. What Pine View Alum is part of the WGA strike?

14. What school is Mrs. Allen at this year?

16. What team came up with the three B's?

Isabella's Insights

A moment of reflection

Ever since I began my time at Pine View in second grade my goal was always to race to the finish line. Graduation felt like an unreachable milestone that I could never truly conceptualize, and now that I am a senior with it rapidly approaching, I only wish that time would stop.

All these moments that I used to think would never come soon enough are approaching so rapidly that I wonder if I have missed them. Every year in the auditorium, we students are reminded of how quickly our time at Pine View will end, and yet, until now, I never realized how true it was.

As each Senior Friday passes, I am reminded that it is one Friday closer to our last, and I wish that time would slow down so I could enjoy them more (and have more time for college applications). I remember fondly the moments I spent in the tech booth eating lunch with fellow Variety Show directors. I went to my first party my sophomore year to bond with Miss Pine View contestant over pizza and cheesy movies. I reminisce about late night press nights with a guitar in hand scream singing "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey. With that being said, the cliché that "time flies when you're having fun" has



never been more true, so I am grateful for all the joyful memories I am sharing with my classmates and teachers.

This is what I think is so special about Pine View—throughout our time here, we have had the ability to form bonds with students from second grade while also being able to have teachers recognize us from our earliest days of entering the school and see how we have grown. At the same time, we have the opportunity to meet new people and create connections that will last a lifetime.

So to my fellow peers from the Class of 2024, I urge you to continue to make these new friendships and strengthen the old ones. We should also increase our school spirit, that way at this year's high school dodgeball game administration will not have to change our score by an unbelievable amount of points.

A special thank you to our sponsors...

Our publication would not have been possible without the gracious support of our sponsors.

We sincerely thank you for your contributions.

Many thanks goes to PVA for all the support they've extended to us over this year.

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