

SPARK

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See Teacher Duos
pgs.20-23

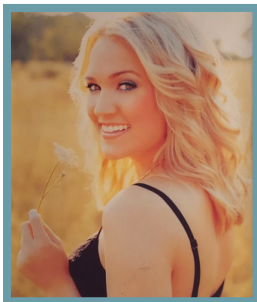
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Features Editor Yash Kakkad
Asst. Features Editor Alakh Bhatt
Cover Editor Diya Panthulu
Staffers Eighth-grade Journalism Class
Seventh-grade Journalism Class

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PINE VIEW'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY

The History of PV

By Adrian de Chevron

Pine View School, located in Osprey, Florida, is renowned as one of the most prestigious public schools in the United States. It has a rich history dating back to the 1960s when it was established as an experimental program for providing a challenging educational environment for gifted students.

The school's origins can be traced back to 1968 when a group of parents, educators, and community members recognized the need for specialized education for gifted students in Sarasota County. In 1969, the Sarasota County School Board officially established Pine View as an experimental program within the public school system.

The school's early years were marked by innovation and a commitment to meeting the unique needs of gifted students. Its curriculum was designed to challenge and engage these students at an advanced level, helping them reach their full potential. Pine View's commitment to academic excellence led to its expansion. It later officially became a public magnet school for gifted students, and its campus received a major renovation with the construction of new buildings.

Most recently, they constructed

the new Building 17 which includes world-class physics labs, a state-of-the-art chorus room, and a college/career center. This expansion allowed the school to serve a broader range of gifted students and provide more variety including advanced courses in various subjects.

Pine View School in Florida has consistently showed impressive test scores and proficiency levels. Renowned for its commitment to



A model of the old Pine View School campus is located on Building 17's second floor lobby. Pine View moved to this location in 1994. PHOTO BY FELIX RATNER

academic excellence, Pine View consistently ranks among the top schools in the state. As a beacon of educational achievement, Pine View School continues to set the bar high for academic success in Florida.

One student, eighth grader Alex Chambers, has been here since grade.

"Pine View was a lot harder

than my old school." and "It took some time to adjust to the changes in work and homework," Chamber said.

Pine View's courses are often more challenging and rigorous than other schools, but they provide a valuable experience for high-achieving students like many of Pine View's students.

Another eighth grader, Hadi El Hakim, joined Pine View more recently, in seventh grade.

"Pine View was a lot bigger than my old school and it was nice to share a campus with high schoolers and elementary schoolers," he said.

Pine View is one of the most unique schools in Sarasota and the whole state of Florida. These are just some of the individual stories of students who have come to learn at this school.

Pine View's students have gone on to prestigious universities and have made significant contributions in various fields, including medicine, technology, and the arts. As we celebrate Pine View School's 55th anniversary, it remains a mark of educational achievement in the state of Florida and beyond.

The Student Becomes the Master

By Nairiyat Takenova



Jenna Molinaro in 2024, teaching a class of students at Pine View School. PHOTO BY FELIX RATNER



Jenna Molinaro in 11th grade, attending Pine View School in 1991.

Social Studies teacher Jenna Molinaro is in her 20th year of teaching at Pine View School. Before beginning her teaching career, Molinaro went to Pine View. She started fourth grade in 1984 and graduated high school in 1992. Molinaro's friend, Susy Grandusky is an ELA teacher and has been at Pine View for over a decade.

Most teachers who stayed to teach at Pine View have experienced many changes at the school. The school campus grew and became bigger, especially with the installation of two large buildings, Buildings 16 and 17.

Many of those teachers also had to see their friends retire from their teaching careers.

"It's just interesting when you come back and see that different people maybe have retired or are in different positions now," Grandusky said.

Though many of their friends retired from teaching at Pine View, or have moved on to teach different positions, some teachers persist through the changes.

Throughout the years, these long-term teachers' teaching methods have changed a lot. Molinaro has started to give her students more interactive and hands-on lessons and projects, and she also tries to give them less

homework. Instead of independent projects done at home, she assigns them to be done in class where help is always available. Many teachers also had to adapt to changes going on with technology and shifting from pen and paper to an electronic environment.

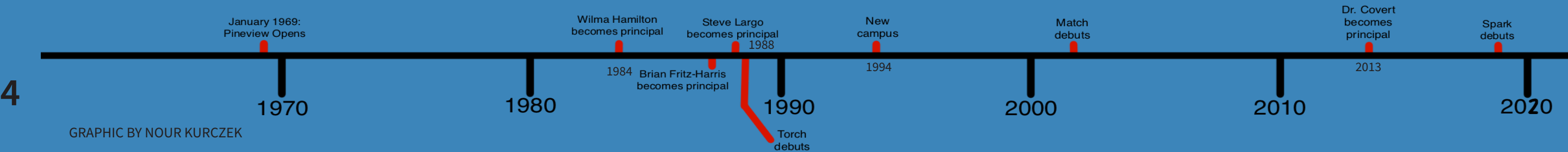
"You have to be 'in' with the new technology, and you want to keep the kids and yourself honest," Grandusky said.

New ways of teaching help keep students engaged, and long-term teachers have delighted in shifting their methods over the years.

Molinaro really loves teaching at Pine View. Molinaro spent her elementary, middle, and high school years here at Pine View, and continues to spend more years here. Her daughters also attend Pine View, and she enjoys being around them and having them learn here.

Grandusky said the magic about Pine View is the students. That the students here are always determined to get the answers right and the students really care about their education.

Grandusky continues to teach here, and said that continuing to teach at Pine View, "...is like going to teaching heaven!"



The Wonders of Student Council

By: Diya Panthulu

Pine View recently started a new student council, run by Spanish teacher Pilar Cervilla Lopez every Monday during lunch in room 3-306. With lots of new questions raised from the new club, Pine View can look to other schools for inspiration.

While Pine View's is not as formal, yet they've gotten a lot done in a short time, Cervilla Lopez manages the student council. She lets the students do what they want, and they have done well, with many events that have been scheduled in a short time.

FUN FACT:

An example is Sarasota Middle School, whose Student Council is thriving. Anne Bertelsen, Former SMS Student Council sponsor, said that SMS Student Council has an agenda printed for all members to see, with a set procedure for meetings. Then there is an attendance of members, call to order, review old minutes from last meeting, reports from committee members, report from staff advisor about issues / items around campus students need to be aware of, new business (usually includes discussion about item coming up - fundraisers for charities/community organizations), open discussion, and then the meeting ends.

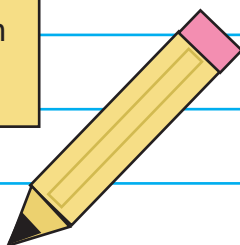
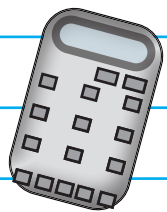
SMS Council also coordinates fundraisers for Mayor 35 Feed the Hungry, Aid to Ukraine, and other community-based need. They also oversee Spirit Weeks to help promote school pride. They also have promoted awareness of safety while walking and riding bikes to and from campus. Lastly, during Covid, the Student Council members created a "study buddy" group to help those who needed some tutoring or mentoring during a tough academic time.

In an average meeting, she said, "The students meet together, and they discuss how they're going to lead the project that they are in."

For instance, student members planned a booth at the Pine View Fair fundraising event. They gathered what they needed to be ready, and planned all the details. The Student Council is entirely student-run, Now, they are working on a new project.

"[Student Council members] come up with ideas, they vote for an idea, and they just come up with the execution [of the plan]," Cervilla Lopez said. With this plan, they have done a fundraiser for Pediatric Cancer Research, which is quite remarkable considering the Council has "been in business" for around 4 months.

The student council currently has around 25 members, with a majority of them being 6th graders. Although it has not been very long, Cervilla Lopez described the members as "her children." She said that she is very proud of them since she sees what the Council has accomplished in such little time.



FUN WAYS PEOPLE DECORATE THEIR LANYARDS

BY ALAKH BHATT

Lanyards go beyond just being useful. They highlight interests and passions. When people are together, they become conversation starters and help to connect people who share similar hobbies. They prove that even simple accessories can be a canvas for expression in a world full of unique and colorful individuals.

What's more is that our lanyards evolve as students grow. Students and exchange ideas on how to make them even cooler. Sometimes they add stickers, pins, or even small trinkets that mean something to them. The best part is that there are no rules. You can make your lanyard as unique as you want, and that's what makes it so much fun.

Seventh grade student, Marina Wissa said "I like to decorate my lanyard because it makes it look very cute and unique from the others"

Overall, lanyard decorating is a great way to encourage students to wear their lanyards. Instead of viewing them as a nuisance, lanyards can now be used to accessorize.



Wissa's lanyard with anime decorations

HIGGINS BINGO

BY DINA ALTSUL

World language teacher Maggie Higgins is one of our most beloved teachers and mentors. This is partly because she has such special connections with her students and always goes out of her way to make learning fun and exciting. Her students make class with Higgins a little more memorable.

A couple of weeks ago, a kid in Higgins' seventh grade, sixth-period class, Noah Boock came up with the idea of making a bingo board for Higgins, inspired by a story she had told the class. Higgins had said that when she was in middle school, her class made a bingo board about their teacher, which they played during class, and every square stated something funny or strange that the teacher would do.

Some of the squares say things like "Higgins drinks out of her Fanly", "Higgins eats slop", or "Higgins says slay!". Throughout sixth-period, the class played the bingo game until someone finally got four in a row. BINGO!

The bingo board has since then been an ongoing inside joke and an unforgettable fun memory for Higgins' sixth-period class. It keeps the students engaged and joyful, and Higgins loved seeing her students having a good time, all thanks to their creativity.

When it all came to an end, every student in the class signed the back of one of the bingo boards and gave it to Higgins so that she would never forgot these fun times. If you ever want to check out this bingo board, it is behind the right side of the active panel in Higgins' room. Come by and take a peek!

Ms. Higgins Bingo			
Making faces at Max	Eating/talking about her slop	Teaching spanish	randomly talking in a British accent
getting a text from her brother	drinking from her fake Stanley (Fanley)	picking victims or volunteers	playing cheesy videos
making someone else get the door	FREE SPACE	Saying "Slay"	Dancing in class
Siri talking to her in class	Yelling at Timur	hosting Blookets	getting off-topic

An example of the sixth-period Higgins bingo board.

CAT DEPOT

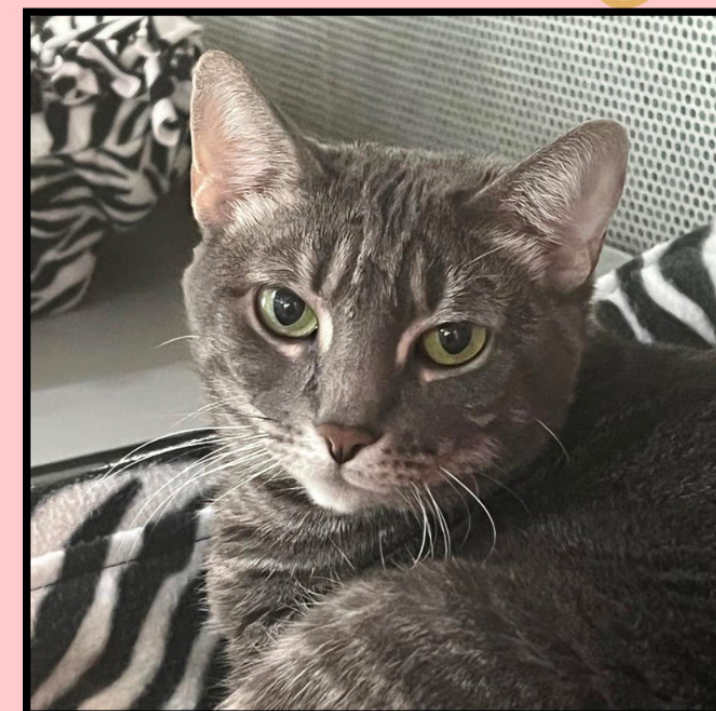
BY ANDREW FERA TAGA

A group of cheerful cats meowing and a group of enthusiastic children including Corbin Craig can be heard at the cat depot every weekend. He commits four weekends a month volunteering at the shelter not only to get his volunteer hours for NJHS but also to make a better home for these cats.

When asked about what he would do there he said "I would play with the cats, feed them and I would work in the gardens."

Some pros Craig said are that he found it fun, and it was an easy way to get his 15 volunteer hours for NJHS.

He enjoyed volunteering at the cat depot, but he did not like that from his house to the depot it was around an hour-long drive.



A domestic shorthaired cat named Baby Girl available for adoption at Cat Depot



A domestic shorthaired cat named Anna available for adoption at Cat Depot

He thought that it got a little boring after some time, but he thinks it was still worth it for 1 hour drive.

He volunteered with a group of other kids dedicating their weekends to make a better environment for those cats to someday be adopted.

Craig's story has shown that he was dedicated not only to get his volunteer hours but also to making these cats a better home before they hopefully get adopted.

LIFE THROUGH A COLORBLIND PERSPECTIVE

BY KARSON PHAM



Colorblindness is a condition that affects 7-8% of the population. Most of the affected are born colorblind. There are types of colorblindness such as red and green disorder which is what eighth grader Finn Donaldson has.

The red and green type of colorblindness affects 5-8% of colorblind males but only 0.5-1% of females. Colorblindness is much more common in men than women. Donaldson, who was born with colorblindness, medically known as Deuteranopia. This condition

means that certain shades of red, green, and purple are similar.

Donaldson shared that this can sometimes cause troubles in school because he does “have some trouble with projects that say to make it colorful, I can just avoid the problem by simply asking trusted people or the teacher what the color of something is.

Picking colors isn’t the only challenge. One of the challenges that people that are colorblind face is the cost of colorblind-correcting glasses.

Donaldson mentioned that he is partially colorblind and not full colorblind. This means that while he can’t see colors normal people would see, he can still see color unlike someone who is fully colorblind and can only perceive things in white and black. This common issue can lead to him not being open about his condition.

“It can get annoying when people constantly ask what the color of something is when I tell them I am colorblind,” Donaldson said.

People that are colorblind still can live a normal life such as playing video games and watching movies. Donaldson said the games that he plays are FIFA and NBA 2k. Donaldson also plays soccer, so he is very sports associated.

There are many myths around colorblindness that people don’t know the true answer to.

Society doesn’t know much about being colorblind. Most people just think that there is only one type of colorblindness, but that is wrong. Another myth about colorblindness is that people with this condition can’t live a normal life like everyone else, but that myth is false as Donaldson clearly shows.

Normal vision



Deuteranopia



Protanopia



Tritanopia



“We did have colorblind glasses, but the prescription was too strong, and the glasses can get a bit expensive,” Donaldson said.

Most people inherit colorblindness from someone in their family, or in other words, colorblindness usually hereditary. Donaldson’s two uncles and a brother all share the same condition, and his cousin is also colorblind but has a different type.

GRAPHIC PROVIDED BY ALLABOUTVISION.COM

How Do Human Sleep Cycles Work?

By Felix Ratner

The average person spends a third of their lives asleep. With all that time, you may think that sleeping is just a natural part of living, and that there's not much you can do to make it more impactful. However, sleep is a major part of being a productive human being. Depending on quality, time, and regularity of sleep, your productivity, work ethic, and energy levels can be greatly affected. This all connects to the sleep cycle, intervals of rest that occur while you are unconscious.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRETT DURFEE VIA UNSPLASH

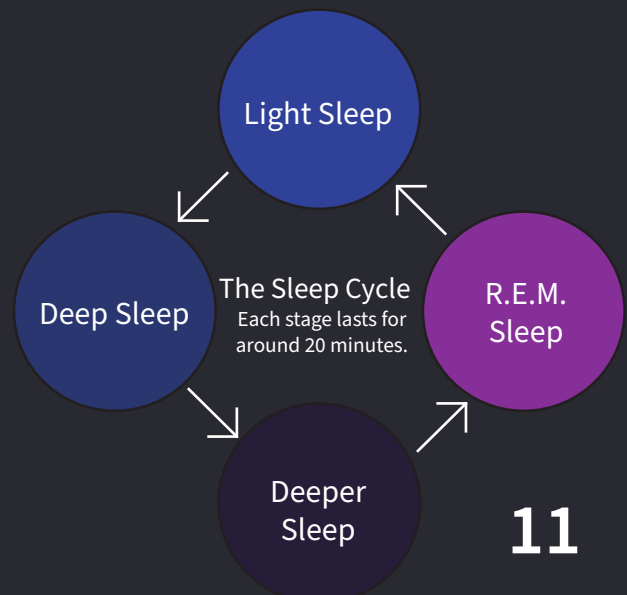


PHOTO PROVIDED BY ISABELLA FISCHER VIA UNSPLASH

Most people can be classified into 'morning' people or 'night' people. These labels have a scientific basis, however. Your chronotype is the time when you feel most energetic and focused. This can be determined through sleeping, and when your body feels as if it needs to. If you mostly go to sleep later at night, you generally have a night-centric chronotype. If you usually wake up and go to sleep early, you may have a morning-centric chronotype.

Depending on chronotype, you may be recommended to do most of your productive work during your most energetic period. If you are night centric, you should not do most of your work in the morning. Defying this chronotype can lead to excessive fatigue and trouble falling asleep.

To improve your sleep, you need to make sure to watch your sleep cycles and chronotype. Many helpful applications exist to track these, and they can be greatly useful in making your sleep better. Your sleep cycles should be regular and linked to waking up at the same time each day during your light sleep period. Naps can be taken throughout the day to help lessen the amount of time you need to regenerate your energy. Deep sleep should be prioritized, with large amounts of time to rest and recuperate. If your sleep is improved, you can become a much more active and productive person and put that third of your life to great use.



Feeling Butterflies?

BY ISABEL GEORGIEVA

Be it before a much-anticipated test next period or prior to a big sports game, we've all felt "butterflies." What are butterflies, really? They're a product of stress, or an uneasy feeling in your stomach. You may think those "butterflies" aren't anything to pay attention to, or maybe they don't have any harmful side effects, but they're issues that could even lead to heartburn or indigestion.

Becky Kehler, who has taught AP Biology, Anatomy, and Honors Biology for 33 years explains what factors lead to stress.

"When we have events that make us nervous, exams coming up, having a fight with mom, just stressing you out, what happens is the body... recognizes it as something that it needs to protect you from. It needs to put all energy into

maintaining homeostasis," Kehler said.

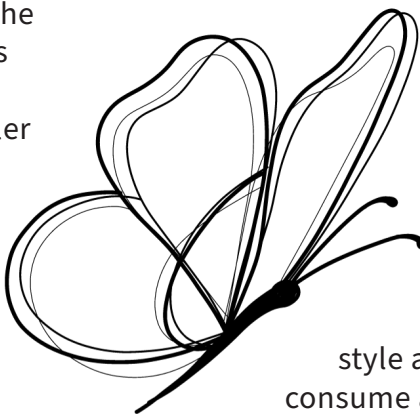
Kehler mentions that since the body is in fight-or-flight mode, different systems can either freeze up or concentrate all their energy into activity. Which is what leads us to stop functioning as we do normally.

Since digestion doesn't play as huge of a role, it is shut down by the body.

"Now what happens, if you're overly stressed, the digestive system continues to shut down," Kehler said, "So, depending on the individual...an individual who experiences a lot of stress can have an upset stomach, can have nausea...because of the digestive system being slowed down or stopped due to the of stress life." episodes in their

Kehler the im- of a diet

to

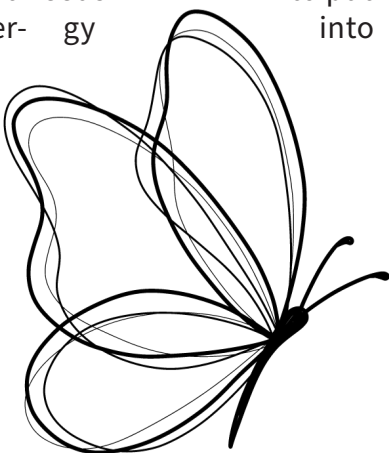
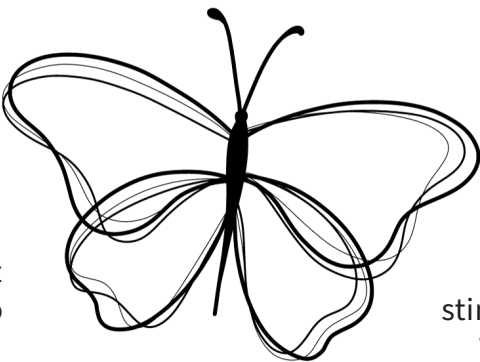


stresses portance main- taining healthy and life-

style above trying consume all types of fruits and vegetables, "...

the cause of stress is probably not the food you're eating. It's probably your behavior of how much you are eating, when you eat, what you eat, might be related to the stress. And the stress is probably some external stimulus..." she said.

While scientists have still not found one golden fruit or veggie that cures us from that fluttery feeling, we can still take the initiative to learn about how our bodies respond to certain events in order to build a wall that those butterflies can't cross. So next time you start to sense the flutter coming, wonder what lured them in; you may start to feel more mindful about your stomach.



Should PE be Optional?

By Iris Paothong

Physical Education (P.E.) is an elective made so people can get their daily exercise. Many students argue whether it should be optional or mandatory. On the one hand, P.E. gives you a great workout each day, the games are fun to play, and it is an easy class compared to other electives. On the

It also strengthens bones and muscles and helps you manage your weight, reducing obesity. This keeps kids healthy.

However, some students say that P.E. is bad because some students are not as athletic as others, making them self-conscious about their appearance or physical abilities. This includes kids with disabilities. In addition, it increases the risk of students being bullied, because of limited adult supervision.

Kidz.u.co says, "By the time kids start moving into puberty, P.E. can create a difficult atmosphere for kids who are slower to develop."

On the other hand, others think it is too tiring and you get too sweaty before class, and they already have an extra-curricular activity that gives them exercise, so they do not need P.E.

P.E. is good because it helps you get physically active, which improves your brain health and reduces the risk of disease. According to the CDC, 2.17 million kids have died of all different kinds of diseases annually.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said, "Physical education provides cognitive content and instruction designed to develop motor skills, knowledge, and behaviors for physical activity and physical fitness."

**P.E. is a half credit requirement for middle school students; however, students can easily get out of this by having their parents sign a form.*

But what do you think? Spark spoke to some middle schoolers to get their opinions:

DO YOU THINK P.E. SHOULD BE OPTIONAL?

"I believe that P.E. should not be an optional class because physical activity comes with many health benefits and plays a big role in a healthy lifestyle"

MINH LE (7)

"Yes, some kids already take after-school activities and some kids might just not want to participate"

SOPHIA REID (8)

"Yes, some people really dislike doing it and shouldn't be forced to do it against their will"

SOFIA BALA (7)

Humor

A Peak Behind the Headlines

By Yatharth Kakkad

Clocking in at 25 hours a day and running off countless cups of pure caffeine, the elite team of journalists assembled at Pine View School work tirelessly to create the pinnacle of every student's middle school experience: The magazine. Being of the highest quality, journalism's middle school publication, titled 'Spark' is printed on a quarterly basis, and provides students with a groundbreaking perspective with each publication.

With such an incredible magazine published four times a year, one might come to wonder just how these god-like journalists are able to pull off this extraordinary feat. The answer lies in the tried and true process that Pine View's Journalism class executes to perfection every time. Divided into three steps, this precise formula allows for Spark to both model absolute brilliance and reap the life force of everybody involved in its creation.

Step 1: Research Beginning with the initial stage of journalism's three part process is an interview with Kepler Hanzivasilis, who is the head of the Spark's preliminary research procedure, states, "Working in journalism's research department has been a traumatize- I mean wonderful experience! Whether it be interviewing our peers or brainstorming new topics, being the leader of our research department is a nightmare dream come true for me. On average, one could expect to see around half of our department hard at work, with the occasional scream of agony from this group. The other half of the department, while they might seem to be 'researching' like responsible journalists, I have begun to suspect that they are doing something else..."

Step 2: Design The next stage of journalism's pro-

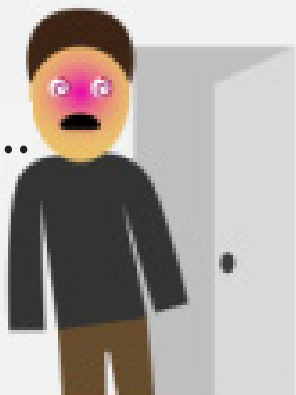


cess can perhaps best be described as a cult-like following: The designers. Frantic little critters they are, scurrying from one spot to the other and struggling to keep all their rough drafts in order. If you were to take a peek at their desktop, do not be surprised to see stacks of folders littered in every possible location, along with mountains of files, the simple name of 'Untitled'. Fortunately, we were able to catch one of these designers for a quick interview, in which they elaborated upon their importance in the production of Spark. "Once the story research and outlines are done, it's up to us to format all the information and make sure our magazine holds the one-second attention span of current students."

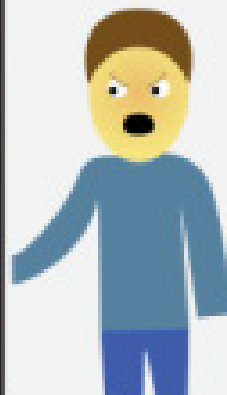
Step 3: putting it together The final stage of this three-step process is operated as a one-man army of sorts. Working under the cover of shadows, no journalist knows much about him besides his name: Lenerz. This boss of bosses works his magic in the background, and through some miracle (or shady practices), is able to turn all the pages made by his student journalists into a full-fledged magazine. Because of his mysterious persona, there exists no contact through which Lenerz was able to be interviewed for this story, though perhaps that is for the best...



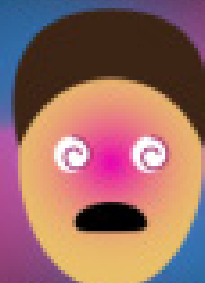
Duuude...



How did you get
in my house-



The teacher of the first teacher



is the first teacher!

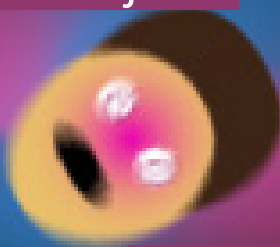
911? Yes, some-
one broke into
my house



SHOWER THOUGHTS

BY ETHAN O'DONNELL

Fire trucks are just...



water trucks

Are we living in a
simulation...

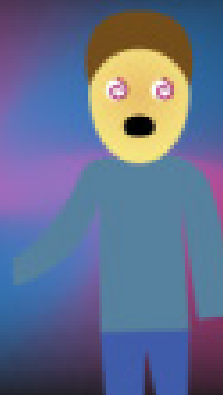


You have the
right to remain
silent and blah,
blah, blah...

Well, I mean...



If you think
about it...



Entertainment

ORCHESTRA

BY VARSHINI GANESH

Chris Mink's passion for orchestra is passed on to his students every day. Upon entering the room, you are overcome by an indescribable feeling. The music flows through the air. You will never want to leave!

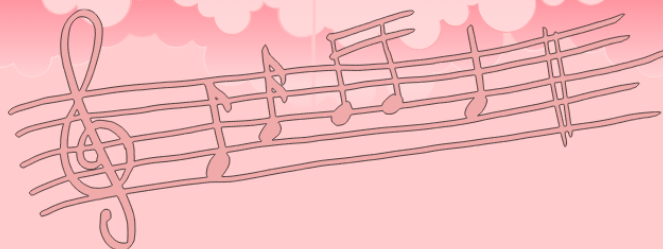
Pine View's orchestra class is taught by Chris Mink and has been for 24 years. Before moving to Florida, he was in college studying music, in Rhode Island. He was a "gigging" musician as he played with the Boston Festival Orchestra, the New Bedford Symphony, the Thayer Symphony, the Bell Canto Opera, the Rhode Island Chorale, and many other music groups within the tri-state area. He excelled in multiple instruments, but his best were the contrabass, cello, and guitar.

Many students who are in Pine View Orchestra are also in Sarasota Youth Orchestra. Sarasota Youth Orchestra is a community directed towards helping young individuals (ages eight through 19) develop their musical talents.

Another club orchestra students can go to is TriM. TriM is a high school club, and you must be in an orchestra, band, or choir to join. It is a music honor society that dedicates its time to performing charity in the community. They have performed in retirement homes, Memorial Day events, parks, and assisted living centers. TriM might be the right way to go if you are interested in performing for live audiences and giving back to the community. The current club president is twelfth grader Abigail Pereira, and the club is sponsored by band teacher Victor Mongillo.



Eighth grader Alexander Cahn playing violin.



Pereira joined TriM when she was in tenth grade and has been an officer ever since. She has played the piano for 14 years and the French horn for 6 years. As president, she organizes guest speakers to speak at meetings and she plans fundraisers, like the Pine View fair booth.

Mongillo has taught Pine View's band for 16 years. Before coming to Pine View, he taught at Bay Haven and Sarasota School of Arts, and he taught in Chicago for seven years. He is a professional trumpet player but occasionally plays the flute and piano.

Come by the Orchestra room and check it out!



Seventh grader Justin Kim playing viola.

People's Favorite Celebrities

By Anna Zhang

From being a singer to being well-known, celebrities dazzle fans with their incredible talent, charm, and influence. They cover magazines, and social media, and are the only people talked about at times. Their incredible journey has inspired many to idolize all the different celebrities. Behind every action is a fascinating story waiting to be told. Recently, celebrities have become trendsetters worldwide. Each celebrity has grabbed the attention of many who have appreciated the music and continue to adore it today.

One of those fans is eighth grader Ashtyn Colindres. "My favorite celebrities are Carrie Underwood and Kelsey Ballerini," Colindres said. Carrie Underwood is a renowned American singer, actor, and songwriter. She is known for her prominent country music that has won awards such as GRAMMYS and American Music. For Colindres, her favorite music genre has been country ever since.

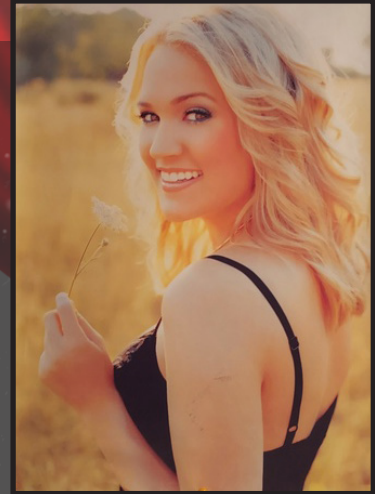
Colindres discovered Underwood at an early age and has been enthralled by her music since. "She has been my favorite since I heard her for the first

time on the radio," she said.

Each singer has a unique voice that has caught on millions everywhere. "I like that she puts feeling and herself into the songs she sings," Colindres said.

One of Underwood's most popular songs has been Colindres' favorite song all along. "My favorite song that she wrote is called "Ghost Story". It is about how the guy who left her will never forget her no matter how hard he tries, she will always be there even if it is in the back of his mind." Each song has a distinct purpose and meaning that catches all kinds of attention from the audience.

Concerts and performances have been popular lately, but not everyone has the chance to meet their favorite in person. This is the case with Colindres. "If I had the opportunity to meet her, I would freak out, she is like a country music goddess up there with Reba. I would also like to sing with her," Colindres said. Underwood's powerful voice and skill have brought Colindres to love Underwood. "I love Carrie Underwood, I would not say I am obsessed, but I



Poster of Carrie Underwood hung up in eighth grader Ashtyn Colindres' room. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ASHTYN COLINDRES

could listen to her music on repeat for hours on end."

Colindres admired Underwood for her unbelievable talent and the message conveyed throughout each song. "I love that her music conveys the fact that you do not need any guys, all you need in life is to have fun because eventually, they will realize what a huge mistake it was to leave you, and you can be happy without them. She taught me not to care what anyone thinks and to just be a free spirit."

Who is your favorite celebrity, and why?

Taylor Swift



"I like Taylor Swift because she is a nice person and I like her songs a lot."

-Eliza Disz

PHOTO PROVIDED BY XAVIER
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Harry Styles



"I like Harry Styles because he is not scared to stand up for what he believes...He is super confident and does not care what others say. That is what I strive to be."

-Mira Pannany

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JMEINTERNATIONAL/GI

Jim Carrey



"I like Jim Carrey because he is really funny, and he has the best movies."

-Alexander Dhanraj

PHOTO PROVIDED BY XAVIER
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THE LUNCH-TIME DILEMMA

By Christopher Kovacs

Seventh period, a time to chat with friends, work on homework, or go to fields. With this period lasting an hour, Pine View has the best lunch period a student could ask for. but, it still is not perfect.

There are numerous things that students would like to change. Although the media center and fields are great places to spend your time, sometimes you have no work to do, and it is simply too hot outside. If you do have work to do or the weather is perfect, crowds tend to drive students away from these activities. Even if a student has homework to do, there are other troubles that students can have. Seventh grader Nicholas Shaitanoff said “I often forget my ID badge and there is nowhere else to go [besides the media center].”

This dilemma causes some students to roam around campus. Even though most students have done this at some point, it is considered against the rules.

Students like Shaitanoff argue that they are better off by themselves, but the district policy

says there must be supervision.

While it is true that students should be supervised, the area they can go is limited, to say the least. While the quad is a good area to hang out with friends, it might prevent students from being able to get to class in time. And if the student needs to go to a class during Seventh period to work on anything, they must avoid aides since they technically are not allowed to go to classrooms in Building 17 without a pass. However, Most teachers do not even know that they should give passes for students to come at lunch.

Although the area between the quad and the media center is a good place to chill, aides will not let certain students hang out there. Students consider this to be unfair. The area includes chess tables and benches on that route.

Perhaps a compromise could be made and the area that students can hang out in; could be expanded.



Seventh Grader, Nicholas Shaitanoff often forgets his id, preventing him from going to his favorite places on the campus.

WHEN ARE WHITE LIES OK?

By Diya Panthulu

While white lies currently face controversy in social situations, they are usually said to be polite or to stop someone from being upset by the truth or ruining someone's day. Are these lies okay? Although lies can hurt someone, sometimes they are needed to benefit the well-being of the person lied to.

An example in everyday life would be when a friend asked you if their new backpack looks good. If you didn't think so, but still told a white lie, the lie has no beneficial impact on the person. In this scenario, it would be better to tell them the truth, but in a polite way. All lies have consequences, so a small white lie

being found out could be devastating to a relationship with a person, or even worse, your reputation!

Lying can be permissible in certain situations, if it will benefit

[IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL A LIE, AND DON'T WANT THE PERSON YOU ARE TALKING WITH TO HEAR WHAT YOU PERCEIVE AS THE TRUTH, IT MAY BE BETTER TO STAY QUIET.]

the person you are talking to. For example, if your friend asks you if you are planning a surprise birthday party for them, and you lie and say "No," lying in this circumstance will keep the element of surprise for the birthday party. Later, your friend might be surprised by the birthday party, and if your friend likes surprises, this will benefit your friend, strengthening the bond between you two.

You can't hide rude remarks behind "honesty," unwelcome remarks are unwelcome, and there

is no excuse for saying them. "If you have nothing nice to say, don't say it," is a well-known refrain. Offending a person, whether on purpose or not, is damaging to everyone, since

it would likely damage your relationship with that person and could possibly prevent a future beneficial exchange.

Lying is morally wrong and should be avoided as much as possible. This way, your words will not affect anyone.



TEACHER DUOS!

BY DANIEL MICHAEL

Here at Pine View School, we have several teachers, that work well together to become an amazing academic duo. Sometimes this is simply because their classrooms are next door to each other; other times they teach the same subjects, like math teachers Kelly Vest and Steven Folts. Some teachers even share lesson plans Spark wanted to share the three most dynamic teaching duos throughout the middle school teachers. And for readers to learn about how they teach and how they got to know each other. After this, you will learn that students aren't the only people on campus that have friends!



VEST & FOLTS

MATH DUO

BY NATHAN BERGER

Within the teaching world there is one pair of teachers that shine brighter than everyone else, the dynamic teaching duo, Folts, and Vest. They are the #1 Algebra teachers in Florida (well, at least in our hearts) with a special mantra that fuels their determination for teaching, "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." The mantra goes to show that without challenge you can never truly grow and better yourself.

By constantly throwing obstacles at their students, this duo gives their students every tool they need to improve at math, and it works. Because of that mantra Folts and Vest continue to have the highest FAST scores, with the most fives in all of Florida. But that's not their true goal. "Our goal at Pine View is to not just get kids through algebra and have them pass the EOC, our goal is to get our algebra kids to BC Calculus, we want our kids to get to those higher-level math classes." Vest and Folts said.

What really sets the bar high for the rest of their peers is their devotion towards growth. Vest says that

"Good teachers don't teach the same

thing every year, they're fluent, they are constantly looking for ways to improve themselves," Vest said.

Folts and Vest are always asking each other for feedback whether it's about a lesson plan or grading tests.

Without their constant collaboration this duo wouldn't excel like they do today. Advice Vest and Folts would give to other teachers is to, "Find a buddy who can be your partner in crime, and can be your sounding board, and can help you become a better teacher," they said, "Someone that you will take criticism for and accept it, and work with it."

Folts and Vest are truly an amazing example of the tradition of excellence, and they always go the extra degree.



SPANISH
DUO

PEREZ & MANCERA

BY ALBERT FUNG

As you walk by one side of the green building, you hear students practicing their Spanish skills, and a teacher talking to her students. Loides Perez has been a Spanish teacher at Pine View for more than 20 years. She likes to instruct students and gives them many opportunities to succeed in her class.

On the other side of the green building, you hear a video playing about Spanish conjugations. William Mancera has taught at Pine View for 23 years, and has learned the best way to teach is to make classes more fun.

Perez and Mancera have been working together and coordinating many activities and assignments for many years. Despite having different teaching

styles, and sometimes not teaching the same courses, they still plan their activities together. Perez noted that they sometimes teach the same courses, and Mancera said that the two have been working together for about 20 years.

The two join ELC meetings, where they meet up with the other department members to discuss the performance, assignments, and criteria for the Spanish courses.

"We get together once a week to plan projects, assignments, homework, exams, and quizzes," Perez said. For example, the teachers got together to plan a project on Dia de Los Muertos, a Mexican holiday celebrating the dead.

In Mancera's class, the students had to talk in Spanish about a deceased Hispanic celebrity without a script. While in Perez' class, students had to try to memorize a script and dress up to talk about a dead Spanish celebrity.

ROSANDER & YOTSUDA

SCIENCE
DUO

BY JAXSON HEID

Marie Rosander and David Yotsuda are well-known middle school teacher, collaborating as sixth-grade Earth and Space science instructors. Yotsuda highlighted their close collaboration by exchanging teaching strategies to effectively support students requiring additional assistance. A key aspect of their dynamic partnership is their proximity.

"We meet pretty much on a weekly basis during our planning period. Since our classrooms are next door, we have impromptu sessions where we come up with ideas and can easily collaborate," Rosander said.

When asked about the students' perspective on being taught by the teachers working in tandem, Rosander expressed her belief that students learn better when teachers collaborate. She also noted that students appreciate the opportunity to work together between classes. The curriculum between the two teachers is nearly identical, with only a few variations in organization.

"I know she has her students keep a binder, whereas I tend to give my students more independence. However, I'm not as structured or particular compared to Mrs. Rosander," Yotsuda said.

In summary, this dynamic teaching duo collaborates seamlessly, providing students with strong instruction, with only minor differences in teaching style and curriculum. Addressing potential concerns about collaborative teaching, both Rosander and Yotsuda agreed that there are no major issues. Rosander affirmed, "We have very similar collaboration, we work and teach pretty much the same way, and we both value hands-on experiences."

The partnership of two teachers teaching together emerges as a robust and effective strategy, offering students impactful learning opportunities with minimal hurdles.



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