

SPARK

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VOLUME 7

ISSUE 1



PREPARING FOR
THE YEAR
AHEAD!



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Climate Changes' Effect On Hurricane Patterns

By Felix Ratner

Hurricanes have battered Florida since before the first explorers settled here. These hurricanes have cost millions in damage and lives. However, in recent years, hurricanes and severe weather have gotten much worse. According to AP Environmental Science teacher Jason Miller, one of the largest factors is climate change.

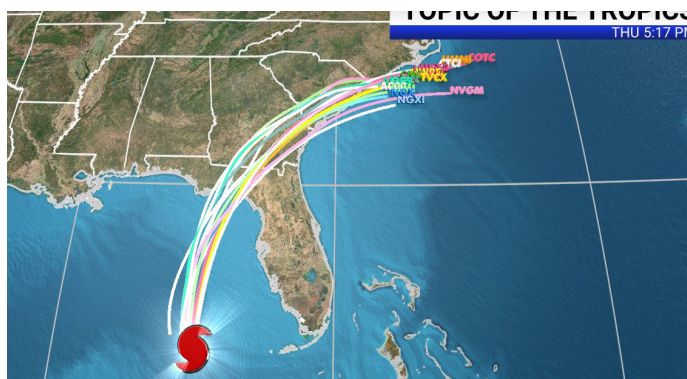
Climate change has been a large problem for almost a century. This affects hurricanes in multiple ways, but one of the biggest ways is the carbon dioxide that is being released into the atmosphere, which causes an increase in global temperature. This increase in average temperature causes the average sea surface temperature.

Miller said, the “single largest contributing factor to the formation of hurricanes is sea surface temperatures in excess of 80 or 82 degrees Fahrenheit.”

This August, the average sea surface temperature around Sarasota, Florida was 86.7 degrees. Hurricanes speed up over warm water, which turns tropical depressions into category four and five hurricanes very fast. The increased temperatures over the last twenty years, including record breaking temperatures this year, led to such destructive hurricanes as hurricane Irma, Ian, and most recently Idalia. Hurricane Lee, which did not hit land, was the fastest intensifying storm in history, and if it had hit, it could've caused massive destruction.

These destructive hurricanes have caused massive problems across Florida, and the gulf coast, including Sarasota, has been hit heavily in the past two decades. Sarasota County, since 1950, has not been hit by many hurricanes, however the worst recently has been hurricane Ian, which caused a lot of damage to both lives and money across the county and beyond. Climate change has become a major problem, and its effects have only been shown recently. In Ft. Myers, only a short drive from Sarasota, over 97% of structures were damaged or destroyed in last year's hurricane Ian. Additionally, hurricane Ian caused \$110 billion dollars of damage over the entire state.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), “...even if hurricanes themselves don't change [due to climate change], the flooding from storm surge events will be made worse by sea level rise... models show increases in a hurricane's rainfall rate by 2100.”



Hurricane Idalia spaghetti model that is used to show the path way predicted by meteorologists., PHOTO BY KTSM.com



Hurricane Idalia damage. PHOTO BY TAMPA BAY TIMES

This means that hurricanes are likely to cause much worse storm surge and intense rain by 2100, which would produce even more extreme conditions for Florida residents.

Many things are being done to remedy this problem, however. Companies like CarbonCapture are trying to tackle the problem directly and implement devices to capture carbon dioxide from the air. Other companies like Cascadia Seaweed try to limit the growth of climate change by producing food and supplements from sources that don't produce as many greenhouse gases, such as seaweed. Many new innovations are trying to remedy the situation that climate change has caused, and hopefully in the future, predictions of extreme sea level rise and rainfall rate can be proven wrong.

SCHOOL LAW CHANGES

By Adrian de Chevron

In recent news, Florida schools have garnered headlines due to recent law changes that have had a significant impact on schools and educators across the state. One aspect of these changes involves adjustments in classroom materials, leading some teachers to make tough decisions about what to include or exclude from their teaching environments.

Book bans surged across the US in 2023. Florida was the blueprint.

-SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL
SEPT. 21

In Florida schools, parent permission now a must for many more activities

Effort to ban books with graphic public readings spreads in Florida

-TAMPA BAY TIMES
SEPT. 28

-TAMPA BAY TIMES
SEPT. 21

Florida leads the nation in school book bans. That should terrify us.

-TAMPA BAY TIMES
SEPT. 22

A central issue in these changes revolves around modifications to classroom curriculum. Some teachers have been advised to review and, if necessary, remove certain books, lesson plans, and classroom materials associated with topics that have sparked controversy. Opinions on this vary, with some viewing it as a measure

to protect parents' rights to be informed about their children's education, while others express concerns about potential limitations on teachers' flexibility.

According to seventh and eighth grade ELA and history teacher Maureen Condiotte, she said that "I used to have five bookshelves of classroom books, but I chose to take the whole class library off the shelf just in case a student reads something deemed inappropriate."

These changes have sparked a broader debate about the role of controversial topics in education. Many critics argue that there is a risk of the state overreaching by influencing classroom discussions, which could potentially impact teachers' ability to encourage children to learn to think critically.

According to Condiotte, "The new laws are very vague and if a student is taught or reads curriculum deemed inappropriate then teachers could face up to three years in prison or a \$5,000 fine."

On the other side, supporters of these new laws believe that they can help ensure that the curriculum focuses on essential subjects and alleviate concerns some parents may have about their children's education.

The implementation of these changes has generated mixed reactions within the community.

Teachers, parents, and school staff have expressed a range of views, with some expressing concerns and others finding reassurance in the new measures. As the debate continues, many Floridians find themselves contemplating the potential benefits and consequences of these legislative changes, hoping for a balanced approach that serves the best interests of students and their education.

A timeline of various Florida bills that have affected education over the past year

Parental Rights Act	HB 7	HB 1	HB 1521
March 28, 2022	April 22, 2022	March 27, 2023	May 17, 2023
Parental Rights in Education Act - parents have the right to sue schools whose teachings they object to	HB 7 - prohibited instruction implying oppression or privilege is based on ethnicity, race, or sex	HB 1 - prohibited financial restrictions for enrolling in K-12	HB 1521 - requires restroom and changing facilities to be used based on biological sex

New Teacher Q & A



Q&A with seventh and eighth-grade ELA teacher Carol Pelletier

By Albert Fung

Q: I know that you are new to this school. What was your previous school?

A: The previous school I worked at was Sarasota Military Academy prep (SMA), off of Fruitville Road.

Q: How long have you been teaching for?

A: I have been teaching for over 26 years.

Q: What differences do you notice between your former school and Pine View?

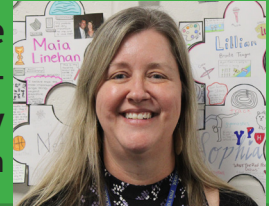
A: I'm sure I could specify differences [...] I don't know if I really want to compare the two. As for Pine View though, I love the culture here at Pine View. I love the fact that students are very independent; they are very driven towards learning, and I like the comradery of the staff and administration, and the kids are wonderful.

Q: What is your favorite part about Pine View?

A: My favorite part is probably the culture. Watching all the individuals, and seeing that the independence they have, how they handle themselves, its nice to see the kids that take the initiative to be responsible to not take advantage of the opportunities they have and to work so hard and to work so hard to be dedicated

Q: Why did you pick Pine View over other schools?

A: I just feel that the quality of academics here and the passion of the students and the administration and the teachers is a good fit for me, because I am very passionate about teaching, and I like to be challenged, and I feel like me being here would sort of challenge me to be the teacher I am.



Q&A with seventh-grade ELA teacher Susy Gran-dusky

By Karson Pham

Q: How long have you been teaching ELA for?

A: This is my 20th year.

Q: Have you always been teaching ELA, or have you taught other subjects?

A: I taught history one time on Mini-Team, where I had 60 students, and I taught those 60 students ELA and American History.

Q: What are some things in ELA that keep teaching enjoyable?

A: I am a big reader myself, I read a new book practically every week. The fact that I can sit with kids, talk about books, and get them excited about reading is a very special thing. I also think writing to explain yourself is a very useful skill that I can help other kids learn. I think that reading and writing is a very useful thing to know how to do that will go with you from year to year and you actually use them and that there is an application to the subject in the real world.

Q: Have you always wanted to become a teacher, if not, then what other jobs were you deciding on?

A: I've wanted to be a teacher pretty early on, my senior year in high school was when I was really thinking about becoming a teacher. I thought I wanted to teach kindergarten when I first started out, but I did not like that very much, so then I thought about teaching high school. I got my first job teaching eighth grade and have always been teaching middle school ever since. I don't think I would want to do anything else; I love my job.

RUNNING LOW ON TEACHERS

According to the Florida Education Association, there are over 7,000 open teaching positions in Florida, resulting in a shortage of teachers. Why is this? Well, Florida has a few reasons why the shortage of teachers continues: Florida's average teacher pay is 48th in the nation, with

only West Virginia and South Dakota lower. Florida has teacher pay at over \$40,000 less than the leader, New York. Teachers aren't paid enough here, leading to a non-favorable environment for new teachers.

Florida also has passed some controversial legislation, especially

with recent acts such as HB 1 and the Parental Rights Act, which have caused fear among some teachers of being fired or sued.

In short, all these factors create a "not-so-sunny for teachers" state, causing some teachers to choose to either leave the state or profession.

By Mason Mach

What if you could be somebody else for a night?

BY ISABEL GEORGEIVA

Halloween: a holiday filled with cackles, anticipation, and spookiness. Many Pine View students have started to equip themselves to stockpile all the candy they can possibly intake— but what about the festive costumes? The spooky season is loved by many— and not only for the tons of candy guaranteed! Every year, kids can look forward to the one day that they can turn into somebody or something else. So, no matter their interests or passions, many students find a way to spice up Halloween.



Seventh-grader Alexa Villegas dressed up as Chiaki Nanami, from Danganronpa, in 2022.



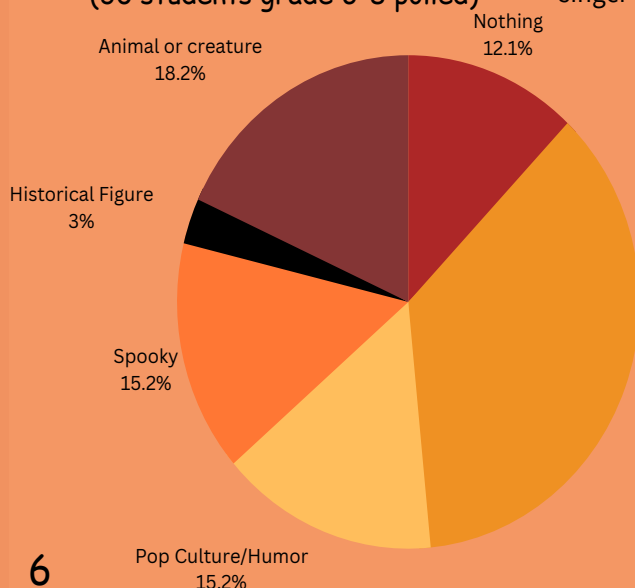
Seventh-grader Alexa Villegas is one such student who enjoys dressing up each year. She expressed her desire to dress as Hatsune Miku this year, a Vocaloid singer. Vocaloid singer's voices are computer-synthesized, meaning that they are programmed.

"...She's from a video game. She's a programmed singer", Villegas explained.



Villegas dressed as Hatsune Miku, from Project Sekai, in 2023

What are you dressing up as for Halloween?
(30 students grade 6-8 polled)



From a book/movie
36.4%



'Nothing' to Something

By Ethan O'Donnell

Founded by former OnePlus executive Carl Pei, the technology brand named “Nothing” has recently been making waves in the market. From their highly innovative style, Nothing aims for a more radical and transparent approach with the technology industry. Nothing’s products are built using translucent plastic in their bodies to reveal their inner workings - a symbol of their dedication to reform conventional standards.

Nothing is also attempting to build a series of products, much like Apple has with the iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, AirPods, and most recently, the Vision headsets. In addition to having a high-quality Android phone and an inexpensive pair of earbuds, the company is in the process of developing a smartwatch, but they have announced that there is much more to come.

However, considering Apple is dominant in most western markets, occupying over 70% of the entire United States market share for smartphones, Android devices tend to struggle in these markets because they lack the

continuity of a larger company like Apple. If Nothing can change that and launch a successful series of devices, Nothing could begin to advance in western markets and pose a real threat to Apple. Nothing is the only true contender to Apple’s long-standing series of products, and it’s too early to conclusively determine the future of Nothing.

However, one student who has a lot of expertise on the subject, Pranaam Lobo, an eighth-grade Pine View student, has his predictions for the future of Nothing.

For Nothing’s similarity to Apple, Lobo believes that “because Apple is so [exclusive], if you want to AirDrop something to a Windows device it’s kind of weird, so you feel locked in, and Nothing looks like they’re trying to break that lock and make it so that every device can work together well.” This continuity could catapult the company to a whole new level.

However, with upsides come downsides. Lobo believes, “they shouldn’t only focus on the software,



Photo provided by 91mobiles.com

because people aren't going to buy the phone if they don't like the cameras, because cameras are a big part of phones nowadays." Investing too much in software could hurt the company's sales and reputation.

"They're not going to gain supporters, and over time their business model will die out," Lobo said.

This is a valid complaint, since the average person takes over 1,000 photos per year! All in all, 'Nothing' could be a potential competitor to Apple in the future.

Flying High!

By Yatharth Kakkad

From their implementation in the early 20th century to their innovative applications in the modern-day, drones have proved to be quite an intriguing element within our society.

Aerial drones were originally conceived to execute tasks that would otherwise prove to be too dangerous for a human to perform, including many war operations. These unmanned aircraft, however, were far from the current design of drones we are familiar with. Instead, these early drones bore a closer resemblance to actual planes. Over time, the industrialized and bulky design of drones was able to be condensed into a more manageable form that an average civilian could pilot.

This modern iteration of drones usually includes a configuration of four propellers mounted to the main body of the drone. Often times a camera is also attached to these drones, alongside some form of landing gear. Though this might seem to be a simple piece of machinery, the field of drones continues to be incredibly innovative and ambitious.

Though it is evident that drones have come a long way since their original use, the same evolution has occurred to their applications within society. Nowadays, drones have come to serve even more dynamic purposes that truly capitalize upon their unique properties. Such examples include usage within the fields of photography/videography, emergency medical assistance, and developing usage in the shipping industry.

To help us dive deeper, we sought the insight of Brett Koppes, the leader of his business, Sarasota Drone Guy. Primarily, he focuses on photography and videography through the use of drones. Naturally, Koppes has come to be heavily involved with drones, and as he goes on to elaborate, employs the technology to capture stunning shots like those taken for marriage proposals and social media clips. According to Koppes, “I was recording a few cars running over Ringling Bridge yesterday, and my client will use that for social media and marketing purposes.”

Coming from his developed expertise with drones, Koppes brings up a multitude of points that all draw from his experience. However, the key ideal he expresses is a positive outlook on the future of drone technology. According to Koppes, “There’s so many applications for drones, you know, and what I do is more kind of the videography, cinematic style, you know, movie quality shots, right. And, you know, that’s just a small portion of what you can do with a drone.”

The main factor to consider in this scenario is Koppes’ already established reliance upon drones, to which he elaborates through explaining their ease of use. In essence, to obtain a shot in which a film crew would have to spend a massive amount of time and money to set up a crane and secure a decent aerial angle, drones are able to achieve the exact same result, but with a fraction of the effort to execute. According to Koppes, “You’re talking spending thousands of dollars of equipment on big cranes and dollies, where a drone can get exactly the same shots without having to worry about the cost of getting that equipment on site.” This same concept has broader roots as well, where the purpose of drones is able to be boiled down to them being a method by which existing processes can be made more efficient and refined.



Photo Provided by Unsplash

“Coaching Secrets: The Art of Selecting Tomorrow’s Stars”

By Andrew Fera Taga

In the dimly lit gymnasium, sneakers squeak against the hardwood floor. The rhythm of a bouncing basketball punctuates the anticipation that hangs heavy in the air. It is that time of year, the time for basketball tryouts. When boy’s basketball coach Scott Wolfinger watches the kid’s tryout, one of the first things he looks for is height because height is essential for basketball.

“I also look at athletic ability and at skills, basketball skills,” Wolfinger said.

When asked about other traits he looks at like attitude, he said, “Size, basketball skills, and athletic ability helps you make the team, but it requires good attitude to play in games.”



In the scorching heat you can hear the balls bouncing and the Boys and Girls team grunting. It is tennis time. During tryouts coach. Mark Goebel watches the players play. He said the most important things are age and skill. An example of age is if a player is in sixth grade and fairly good and there is another player in eighth that is a little better, he would pick the sixth-grader because the sixth-grader has the chance to improve more.

He also said, “Attitude helps you make the team but does not contribute as much as skills and athletic ability.”

He values athletic ability over attitude when making the team, but our grade level also has some contribution



The gymnasium echoed with the excited chatter of athletes. The squeak of sneakers against the polished hardwood floor filled the air as players of all backgrounds and skill levels gathered for the annual volleyball tryouts. The harsh glare of the overhead lights highlighted the white lines, ready to witness the agility, teamwork, and determination of those who aspired to become a part of the team. When watching the girls tryout for the team, volleyball coach Joe Digiacoia looks for overall athletic ability.

“I do not pick attitudes for making or not making teams. At this age, students’ attitudes change a lot,” he said. He also thinks that attitude can help you make the team but is not as important as athletic ability.

Getting accepted into a sports team is difficult since you must be good at multiple skills at once but, what are the skills that coaches look at?



Social studies teacher, Scott wolfinger has been coaching boys Basketball for 27 years. PHOTO BY ANDREW FERA TAGA



Tech teacher, Mark Goebel has been coaching middle school tennis for three years. PHOTO BY ANDREW FERA TAGA



P.E. teacher, Joe Digiacoia has been coaching middle school volleyball for 33 years PHOTO BY ANDREW FERA TAGA

The Man in Grey

By Kepler Hanzivasilis

[Interviewer]: Good evening. Today, we sit down with Felix Ratner, infamous for his malevolent schemes and iconic grey suit.

[Felix Ratner]: (smirking) Born into wealth and privilege, power was expected, not earned.

[Interviewer]: What sparked your transformation?

[Felix Ratner]: (leaning forward) True power lies in the shadows. The grey suit became my armor, a symbol of authority.

[Interviewer]: Your motives?

[Felix Ratner]: (laughs darkly) Greed, power... byproducts of my ultimate goal - control. I aim to impose order on the chaotic world.

[Interviewer]: Remorse for the pain you've caused?

[Felix Ratner]: (pauses, emotionless) Remorse is a luxury I can't afford. Sentimentality is weakness. My actions serve a purpose - a grand design few comprehend.

[Interviewer]: Your adversaries describe you as a master manipulator.

[Felix Ratner]: (smirking) Ah, manipulation - it's a dance. Understanding human nature, exploiting vulnerabilities, and capitalizing on fear - my tools.

[Interviewer]: Your reign has persisted for years. What's in your future?

[Felix Ratner]: (leaning back, satisfied) The future? A canvas to be painted, a tapestry of dominion. I'll continue shaping the world, one move at a time.

[Interviewer]: And those who stand against you?

[Felix Ratner]: (smiles cryptically) Temporary obstacles, fragments of resistance in my grand design. They'll falter; they always do. The grey suit endures, an emblem of my indomitable will.

[Interviewer]: Mr. Ratner, your candidness is both chilling and enlightening. We thank you for this interview.

[Felix Ratner]: (rising, a sinister smile gracing his lips) The pleasure, I assure you, was all mine.



HELP WANTED

By: Nathan Berger

Do you have what it takes to outwit a ghost with a penchant for pep talks and phantom footballs? Pine View School needs a courageous individual to tackle a haunting that is more “field goal” than “frightful.” Our dearly departed Coach Thorpe is now running drills in the afterlife, and we need you to turn his ectoplasmic energy into something less... sporty.

Responsibilities:

Sporty Spirit Spotting: Keep an eye out for Coach Thorpe’s ghostly presence as he sprints down the halls, whistle at the ready. Your task: record each poltergeist play-by-play.

Game Plan Development: Channel your inner ghost whisperer to devise a strategy to corral Coach Thorpe’s competitive spirit. This may require tools that are more “Ecto-Exorcist” than “exertion.”

Team Up with Staff: Collaborate with the school’s faculty, students, and even P. Nutty, the lovable janitor for insider info on Coach’s favorite haunts.

Post-Game Persistence: Even after victory, check in on Coach Thorpe’s ghostly gains to ensure he stays in the spiritual locker room.

Requirements:

An encyclopedia of spectral knowledge and a knack for making ghouls giggle.

Steely nerves – even in the face of a phantom coach yelling “Give me twenty!” from the

bleachers.

Stellar communication skills – you will need to charm both the living and the “unliving.” Flexibility with hours because ghosts do not punch a clock.

Benefits:

Competitive salary with overtime for overtime spook sessions.

Top-notch paranormal gear and gadgets, including the latest in ghost-grabbing gizmos.

Application Process:

Submit your resume and a cover letter displaying your spectral sparring skills to the Pine View School Administration Office.

Deadline for applications: November 5, 2023.

All spooky spirit specialists are welcome!

Ready to make Coach Thorpe’s spirit the MVP of the afterlife? Join us in turning Pine

View School from spooky to spunky, with a little help from

P. Nutty and his trusty mop!



Behind The Curtains

BY: VARSHINI GANESH

It's the end of "Law and Order: Fairytale Unit" by Pine View's Drama Club, the audience takes in the magical set for the last time – how did the performance come together? Who works in the shadows of the large curtains, making the costumes, and writing the scripts? Well, it sure isn't the fairy godmother.

Pine View's Drama Club works hard every year to put on these performances for the students, to enjoy. From "67 Cinderellas" to the "Addams Family", they've done it all. However, there are more people collaborating than the ones you see performing on stage to make these shows come to life.

Eighth-grader, Dominic Myers has been in Drama Club since sixth grade. Myers loves his position as an actor, but at the same time enjoys his time spent painting the sets.

"It has definitely influenced me in many ways, and I do recommend joining the club, as it has helped me in other aspects of my life," Myers said.

Drama Club is sponsored by English teacher Megan O'Mahony, who is in her third year as sponsor.

"My job as the sponsor is to assist them [the stage manager and director] and by that, I mean help them to plan out what they're

going to do, without saying what it should look like, what they should wear, and where to stand." O'Mahony said, "That's their job, my job is to help them do that the best way possible."

The students and O'Mahony work together, but ultimately the students vote on what to do. "I am kind of like the coach but more like their coach," she said.

Although you may not notice it at first, the drama club is Pine View's hidden gem-you might even come to realize that you've always had a passion for the arts!



Drama students act out a marriage proposal in the improv game Freeze. This is one of the many fun games played at Drama Club.PHOTO BY VARSHINI GANESH



Drama students continue to play Freeze, lasting for almost a whole meeting. PHOTOS BY VARSHINI GANESH



Drama students demonstrating a comedy scene. PHOTO TAKEN BY VARSHINI GANESH



Drama students showing a relationship between a mom and daughter. PHOTO TAKEN BY VARSHINI GANESH

Spark Looks Into the Classics

Ratings:



The "Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993) has a really simple but confusing plot. I genuinely think it's overrated. The whole movie was based off the main character's desire for something new. All the characters in this movie didn't have a purposeful personality or mind of their own. I didn't understand half of what was happening.

It was very confusing and frustrating to watch. I don't really recommend watching it if you get bored easily.

**The
Nightmare
Before
Christmas**
PG 13

Ratings:



"The Corpse Bride" (2005) itself was so fun to watch because of the songs and characters. Everything fell perfectly into place and that is what I absolutely loved about it. The plot twist was crazy and very unexpected. The animation showed an unrequited love, though one didn't genuinely love the other. It was a sad one-sided love. But the moral, letting your loved ones go though you don't want to, hit very hard when I was watching this movie. I loved this movie, so I would most definitely recommend it.

**The Corpse
Bride**

PG 13

Ratings:



"Coraline" (2009) was about a girl who was bored out of her mind and wanted some adventure. The animations are kind of spooky as a matter of fact. When I was a kid I, personally, got nightmares. And I bet some other kids did, too. The animations sent chills down my spine. But they were very smooth which made it very fun to watch. If you can't handle scary stuff I recommend you don't watch it, if you are looking to watch something dramatic and scary, this is the one for you.

Coraline

PG 13

Ratings:



"The Addams Family" (Animated 2019) was a good movie but I feel like it could have been better. The animations were unusual and the characters were weirdly shaped in my opinion. The characters were funny and everyone had very different personalities. The moral was educating about everyone being different. I would definitely recommend this because of the humor and animations.

**The Addams
Family**

PG 13

ID BADGES

BY JAXSON HEID

It is well known now that Student ID Badges have been a prevalent change in the daily lives of every student on Pine View Campus. However, students' opinions of the badges vary greatly.

7th-grader Nethul Gamage expresses his perspective, "I think they are very bad. They're kind of pointless." Many students share his sentiment, as they believe they are a hassle in daily life.

On the other hand, the school administration holds a contrasting view. They argue that these badges serve a purpose, especially in certain situations. Assistant Principal Eileen Cabrera said, "In cases of emergencies or medical situations where a student may not be able to identify themselves because something had happened to them, this way it can make for quick and accurate identification."

While it is indeed crucial to be able to identify a student with the proper ID, the question arises: is the introduction of these badges worth the trouble? 7th-grader Broly Ripley offers his perspective by stating, "Well, I personally find

them quite pointless. After spending many years here, most of us believe that by this time, our teachers and aides should know us well enough..." he said.

Eighth-grader Athena Erbe expresses her perspective as well, "I think they're OK, but I don't think it's regulated enough, so there's no effect." She adds on why she thinks this way, "Not a lot of people wear it, and we don't need to scan it to get into the school anyways, so there's no regulation. There's not much identification."

In summary, certain students view the ID badges as a hassle. They think that the badges' purpose is not fulfilled because Pine View staff members know long-time students. Administration holds contrasting views to students if there was a situation where this would not be true.



An example of a student ID badge

PHOTO BY JAXSON HEID

EARLIER OR LATER?

BY ANNA ZHANG

Out of the many schools that start late, Pine View is one of those schools. Starting at 9:15 in the morning is specifically early for many. Some prefer starting earlier due to time, schedules, and the benefits. The change was said to be made due to bus driver shortages last year, but the issue was resolved over time and the regular schedule was set to start again this year. Yet, students still question the benefits of starting 15 minutes later.

One of those students would be eighth-grader Emily Jin. Jin preferred this time due to not having much of a difference from starting later. "I prefer having school 15 minutes earlier because, in my experience, I still wake up at the same time as I do now, so nothing has really changed in the morning," Jin said.

Students' personal schedules also affect their preferences. For Jin, "I wake up at 8:00, I brush my teeth, wash my face, put my clothes on, eat breakfast, grab my backpack and leave for the bus and then the bus gets to school at around 9:02."

There are advantages to starting earlier. "Having school 15 minutes earlier also means that we get out

15 minutes earlier so then I will get home with more time to do whatever I want, like homework or relaxing," Jin said.

Jin also believes starting later has its own disadvantages. "Leaving for school later could cause problems for people who have parents working in the morning as they will not have time to drop off their kids."

Waking up early may cause problems later. Having trouble focusing, the tendency to sleep, and a lack in academics are some effects of waking up early. For eighth-grader Jack Alexander, he prefers to start 15 minutes later.

"I prefer 15 minutes later because it gives us more time in the morning to get ready. It also allows us more time to get breakfast in the morning, which I have not been able to do now that there is less time," Alexander said. This is the case for many.

What students do in the mornings also affects their choice. "I wake up at 7:00, I shower, then get dressed and get on my bus at around 8:25," Alexander said. Students' surroundings affect their schedule as well. "My schedule works better with 15 minutes later because as well as having me wake up earlier, it also allows time for traffic to the bus stop and on the bus to school," Alexander said.

Alexander believes starting early has disadvantages. "In general, I think the disadvantages of starting earlier is having to wake up a little earlier, and also just making my schedule even tighter as a whole."

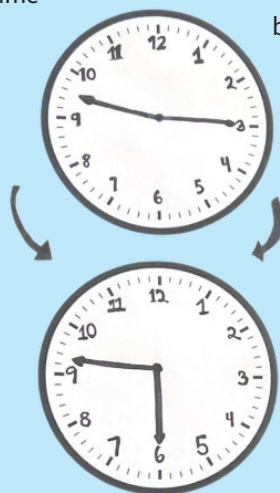


PHOTO BY ANNA ZHANG

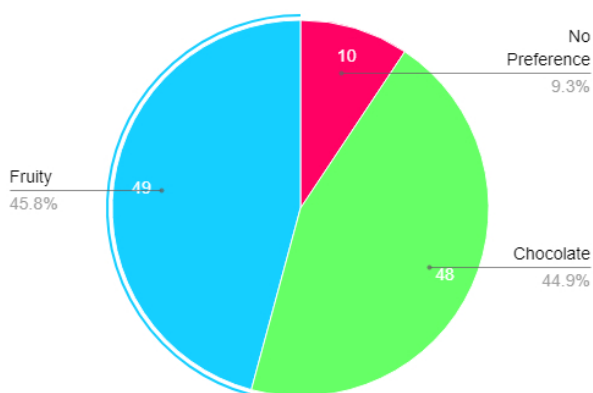
CHOCOLATE VS FRUIT CANDY

By Daniel Michael

Halloween is a holiday best known for the loads of candy kids can bag. However, there are opinions on which candy is the best. Generally, the student body has two sides: chocolate candy (e.g., Twix, Reese's, Hershey's Kisses, etc.) and fruity candy (e.g., Skittles, Twizzlers, Sour Patch Kids, etc.). Chocolate candy is a less flavor-diverse but still tasty kind of candy, chocolate, and white chocolate. Most chocolate candy brands use milk chocolate in their products, such as M&Ms and Hershey's Kisses. Chocolate candies such as Reese's and Twix add distinctive flavor by adding peanut butter or caramel to their products. Fruity candy is the

more general category, with all kinds of fruity candy types under its umbrella. Some fruity candies focus on one kind of fruit (Twizzlers), some focus on one fruit in each pack but have different flavors (Nerds), and some are a combination of flavors in one pack (Skittles, Sour Patch Kids). Even with these different arrangements, there is a very large number of fruity flavors out there that fruity candy brands put in their products. Regardless of preferences, many people like both types of candies and enjoy all their candy that they get on Halloween.

Chocolate or Fruity Candy?



Seventh grader Rebeka Filko says "Chocolate is better than fruity candy because it has less chemicals usually and it's not artificially flavored" PHOTO BY IRIS PAO-THONG



Seventh grader William Downie says "You can't go wrong with fruit candy...It gives a lot more flavor".



Features

New-bees



At the beginning of every year, Spark dedicates its features section to introducing the new middle school students. It's always a challenge to start at a new school, so we hope this helps other students get to know you. We are so excited to have you in the hive!

6TH GRADE



Lev Altshul

Previous school: Corbett Prep (Tampa, FL)

Interviewed by Isabel Georgieva



Greta Arov

Previous school: Ashton

Interviewed by Isabel Georgieva



Zoe Batton

Previous school: Tatum Ridge

Interviewed by Nairiyat Takenova



Daniel Belyavsky

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis

Interviewed by Jaxson Heid



Emma Belyavsky

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis

Interviewed by Jaxson Heid



Makailyn Brown

Previous school: Lakeview

Interviewed by Nathan Zhan



Reef Dam

Previous school: Englewood

Interviewed by Varshini Ganesh



Holden DeGuzman

Previous school: Southside

Interviewed by Varshini Ganesh



Zane Doerrfeld

Previous school: Atwater Elementary (Northport, FL)

Interviewed by Varshini Ganesh



Harlow Felts

Previous school: South-side Elementary

Interviewed by Daniel Michael



Alyson Fernandez

Previous school: Bay Haven Elementary

Interviewed by Daniel Michael



Isabella Ferrigno

Previous school: Fruitville Elementary

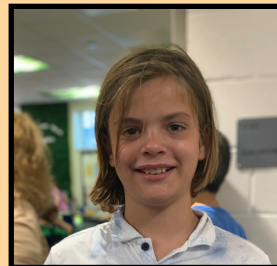
Interviewed by Nairiyat Takenova



Katherine Gundorov

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis Elementary

Interviewed by Dina Altshul



William Hahn

Previous school: Island School (Fort Myers, FL)

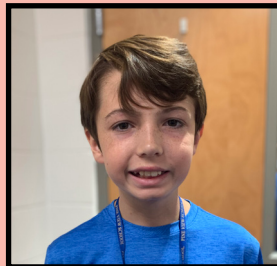
Interviewed by Dina Altshul



Sophia Hawking

Previous school: Tatum Ridge Elementary

Interviewed by Dina Altshul



John Hendricks

Previous school: Venice Elementary

Interviewed by Dina Altshul



Wesley Iltis

Previous school: Tatum Ridge Elementary

Interviewed by Alakh Bhatt



Anna Larsen

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis Elementary

Interviewed by Alakh Bhatt



Eric Lian

Previous school: Alta Vista Elementary

Interviewed by Isabel Georgieva



Alice Lu

Previous school: James Madison Intermediate (New Jersey)

Interviewed by Alakh Bhatt



Shaan Martin

Previous school: Brentwood

Interviewed by Calder Dailey



Elliott Mathes

Previous school: Southside

Interviewed by Calder Dailey



Lillian Murphy

Previous school: Fruitville

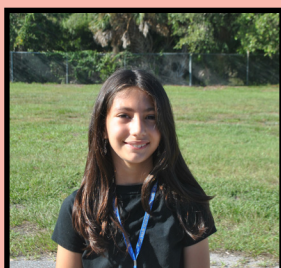
Interviewed by Calder Dailey



Gabriella Nadolny

Previous school: Tatum Ridge

Interviewed by Calder Dailey



Natalie Oliveri

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis

Interviewed by Rebeka Filko



Isla Outerbridge

Previous school: Bay Haven

Interviewed by Rebeka Filko



Akshita Padhy

Previous school: McNeal (Bradenton, FL)

Interviewed by Rebeka Filko



Asli Ponce Hoggard

Previous school: Southside

Interviewed by Dina Altshul



Olivia Reisinger

Previous school: Tatum Ridge

Interviewed by Christopher Kovacs



Leah Rovinsky

Previous school: Taylor Ranch

Interviewed by Christopher Kovacs



Mila Sandburg

Previous school: Bay Haven

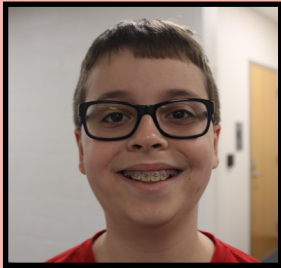
Interviewed by Christopher Kovacs



Grant Shallenberger

Previous school: Southside

Interviewed by Nour Kurczek



Ethan Shaw

Previous school: Fruitville Elementary

Interviewed by Nour Kurczek



Alexander Swaim

Previous school: Bay Haven Elementary

Interviewed by Nour Kurczek



Reece Toal

Previous school: Tatum Ridge Elementary

Interviewed by Diya Panthulu



Marieke Van Exel-Evans

Previous school: Southside Elementary

Interviewed by Diya Panthulu



Sophie Williams

Previous school: Ashton Elementary

Interviewed by Diya Panthulu



Ayla Wiscomb

Previous school: Sarasota Suncoast Academy

Interviewed by Diya Panthulu



Caroline Wu

Previous school: Sarasota Suncoast Acedemy

Interviewed by Iris Paothong



Shanshan Xia

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis Elementary

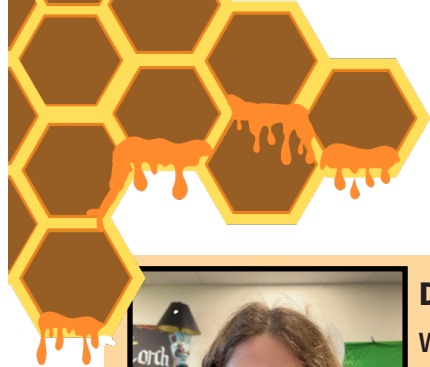
Interviewed by Nathan Zhan



Jingyi Zhou

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis Elementary

Interviewed by Iris Paothong



7TH GRADE



Dina Altshul

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Dina sees herself writing fantasy books for kids.

Interviewed by Nairiyat Takenova

Previous school: Corbett Prep (Greater Carrollwood, FL)



Adrian Ciecuch

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

"Definitely more students and a bigger campus"

Interviewed by Iris Paothong

Previous school: St. Joseph School (Brandenton, FL)



Calder Dailey

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

"At SMS we had advisory every day and we did I-ready."

Interviewed by Nathan Zhan

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School



Rebeka Filko

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

"Having a job, either a vet or an actor, a family with 20 dogs and a cat"

Interviewed by Iris Paothong

Previous school: Out of Door Academy



Nethul Gamage

Do you have any specific aspirations in 20 years?

"I want to do something along the lines of engineering in college."

Interviewed by Jaxson Heid

Previous school: Sarasota Middle



Pedro Gomes Calderaro

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

"I would start a videogame club, since I have an interest in video games."

Interviewed by Nathan Zhan

Previous school: Deer Creek Middle (Colorado)



Delilah Karayel

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

"If I could start any club, I would want to start a baking-club because I love baking and I think others would too."

Interviewed by Nairiyat Takenova

Previous school: Tinker School (Tampa, FL)



Minh Le

If you could change one thing at Pine View, what would it be? Why?

"Move the schedule later, maybe start school at 10:00am, it's tiring to wake up early"

Interviewed by Iris Paothong

Previous school: Academy for Gifted Children-P.A.C.E. (Canada)



Micah Lifrak

What would you do with a million dollars?

"Buy a million dollars of lottery tickets."

Previous school: Community Day School

Interviewed by Calder Dailey



Ian Min

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

"If I was to start a club at Pine View, I would start the Mental Health Awareness Club ... in which you just complain about your problems..."

Interviewed by Jaxson Heid

Previous school: Three Oaks Middle (Fort Myers, FL)



Interviewed by Diya Panthulu

Lila Morsy

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

"In 20 years I see myself in a dentist's office putting braces on someone."

Previous school: Student Leadership Academy



Interviewed by Rebeka Filko

Sofie Parvanova

What would you do with a million dollars?

"I'd take half of it and give the other half to my parents"

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School



Interviewed by Alakh Bhatt

Farrah Welp

If you could change one thing at Pine View, what would it be? Why?

"Being able to have phones out of our backpacks because listening to music makes me less anxious and helps me focus"

Previous school: Sun Coast Academy



Interviewed by Varshini Ganesh

Emma Zhang

If you could start a class/club, what would it be?

"Tie-dye. I only did it once, but it looked really nice. It was kind of relaxing and had no words on it."

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School



Interviewed by Alakh Bhatt

Kalyani Nambiar

If you could change one thing at Pine View, what would it be? Why?

"Paper towels in bathrooms"

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School



Interviewed by Rebeka Filko

Regina Samgorodosky

If you could start any class/club, what would it be? Why?

"Russian club because I've only found like two people who speak Russian, and I want to know if there's more"

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School



Interviewed by Nairiyat Takenova

Cooper Williams

What are some of the biggest differences between PV and your old school?

"...the quality of education is better here, and we have a lot more freedom here."

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School



8TH GRADE



Parker Brodsky

Previous school: Pioneer Middle School (Cooper City, FL)

Interviewed by Timothy Nesanelis

What other places have you lived in/traveled to? Have you experienced snow?

"Well, I used to live in Broward County; it was different because it was a lot more crowded, like 500 in one grade."

What or who inspires you? Why?

"Probably my favorite baseball player Aaron Judge because he's the best."



Adrian De Chevron Villette

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School

Interviewed by Ethan O'Donnell

What hobbies and/or sports do you participate in?

"I used to play basketball and I'm starting soccer this season..."

What other places have you lived in/traveled to? Have you experienced snow?

"I've traveled places and experienced snow, but I never really lived anywhere with snow."



Valentina De Liz

Previous school: Sarasota School-Arts and Science

Interviewed by Adrian De Chevron

What other places have you lived in/traveled to? Have you experienced snow?

"I used to live in Orlando but have also lived in Germany."

What would you do with a million dollars?

"I would buy an island."

What hobbies and/or sports do you participate in?

"I do dance after school."



Grace Jean-Baptiste

Previous school: Sarasota Middle School

Interviewed by Andrew Fera Taga

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?

"I went to SMS, and it was different because it was smaller and you had all the same teachers for all three years."

What hobbies and/or sports do you participate in?

"I play softball, soccer, and track and I have been doing ballet since second grade."



Sina Kivanc

Previous school: The Academy (Tampa, FL)

22 Interviewed by Yash Kakkard

What classes/clubs/teachers have you enjoyed?

"I like math. I like Miss Johnson my bio teacher and Mr. Wolfinger my US History teacher. The US history textbook is fun."

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?

"[Pine View] It's kind of harder, I guess. And I have friends here, which is the biggest difference."



Haoxuan Li

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis Middle

Interviewed by Albert Fung

What other places have you lived in/traveled to? Have you experienced snow?

"Yes, so, I used to live in China."

What school were you at before Pine View? How was it different?

"Laurel Nokomis ... There was no high school."



Elliott Oliveri

Previous school: Laurel Nokomis

Interviewed by Felix Ratner

What have been your first impressions of Pine View? What challenges have you faced at Pine View?

"There is a lot of homework, but Pine View is really good. I feel like I'm being challenged more and that the work is more fun."

What or who inspires you? Why?

"My dad inspires me, he used to be an engineer ... I also like Albert Einstein because of what he created and his legacy."



Emma Pham

Previous school: Sarasota School-Art and Science

Interviewed by Anna Zhang

What professions are you interested in? Why?

"I've been interested in fashion designing, because I like designing and working with clothes ... I like crocheting and sewing clothes sometimes."

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

"I would choose to control time. So, I can stop or rewind stuff. It would be useful when I need to complete assignments I accidentally forgot about..."



Anna Skhirtladze

Previous school: Sarasota Middle

Interviewed by Carson Pham

What other places have you lived in/traveled to? Have you experienced snow?

"Taiwan and Canada, I haven't experienced snow in Taiwan, but I have in Canada."

What professions are you interested in? Why?

"Astronomy and biology because [they are] one of the coolest subjects and it's the one I'm most interested in."



Grace Swann

Previous school: Hilton Head Middle (South Carolina)

Interviewed by Nathan Berger

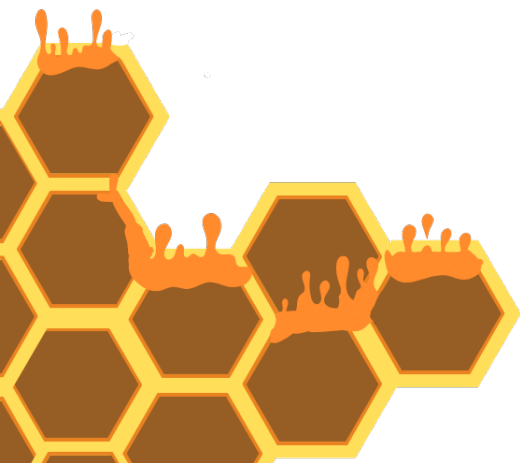
What have been your first impressions of Pine View? What challenges have you faced at Pine View?

"It's really big the campus, is triple the size of my old school. There is a lot of homework. I've spent hours on homework, weekends too."

What would you do with a million dollars?

"Donate to cancer research."

Pine View can be a challenge, so don't forget to ask for help when needed. We are so glad you are part of the PV family!



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