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Clean and Green

by Lindsay Lubercki

Protecting the community and environment is an important cause for many — including two Pine View elementary students.

Every year, Sarasota County's Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) holds a calendar contest for elementary students around the county. NEST is a team that encourages community involvement in projects to protect the environment and promotes education about the water and land.

In the fall, second-grader Daniel Gao and fifth-grader Shai Sachs found out that their drawings were two of the 13 chosen to be featured in the 2024 NEST Calendar. The theme for the calendar this year was "Clean and Green," which was all about keeping Sarasota County's land and waterways clean.

For Sachs, this theme was

important "so that we can live nicely and the animals can live nicely." Sachs depicted a super-worm, with a cape and mask, on a pile of compost in his drawing.

"My mom is the school garden person, and we've got a lot of worm beds," he said.

Gao was also inspired by nature in his drawing, which features wild Florida palm trees.

Sachs has elementary teacher Rachel Lenerz for science class, which is how he entered the contest. Lenerz chose to make creating and submitting a drawing optional.

"He was one of 10 students in my class who participated," Lenerz said. "It was really creative and I'm really proud of him for getting a spot in the calendar...I'm really proud that he participated."

On November 28, Gao and Sachs attended a recognition ceremony and reception



Posing with his science teacher, Rachel Lenerz, fifth-grader Shai Sachs displays his calendar drawing. Lenerz inspired Sachs to enter the contest. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RACHEL LENERZ

at the County Commissioners' Office, where they were awarded with plaques and their drawings to take home in a frame. The winners also had the opportunity to autograph copies of the calendar and pick up their own.

"I grabbed a bunch of calendars," Gao said. "I got to stand on stage in front of everyone!"

Sachs and Gao both said that they were happy to have won. Lenerz discussed the benefits of students entering the contest.

"It's really important to give back to the community, and this is one small way for the kids to do that," Lenerz said. "It represents Pine View and it shows how committed [they are] to helping our community and environment."



The winners of the 2024 NEST Calendar contest receive their awards. The designs of fifth-grader Shai Sachs and second-grader Daniel Gao were chosen to be included in this calendar. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RACHEL LENERZ

GRAPHIC BY TERRY SHEN

Upcoming Event:

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHTS!

Hosted by the Class of 2025

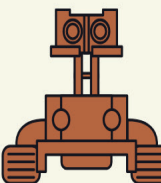
Students attended the previous Elementary and Middle School Movie Night on September 15, 2023. This first event was hosted after school in the auditorium. Students were provided snacks and refreshments during the movie.

Previous movie night: Ratatouille!



Upcoming Date: March 1st - "WALL-E"

Keep an eye out for information about upcoming movie nights through flyers, announcements, and more. Feel free to reach out to the Class of 2025 sponsors (Ms. Higgins and Dr. Bell) for more information.



Art Night Delights

by Jiayi Zhu

At the quarterly Elementary Art Night, elementary students from grades 2 - 5 engulf themselves in themed craft activities after school until 5:15. From Thanksgiving cards to patterned designs with Perler beads, students are able to tap into their creative side alongside fellow classmates and high school volunteers.

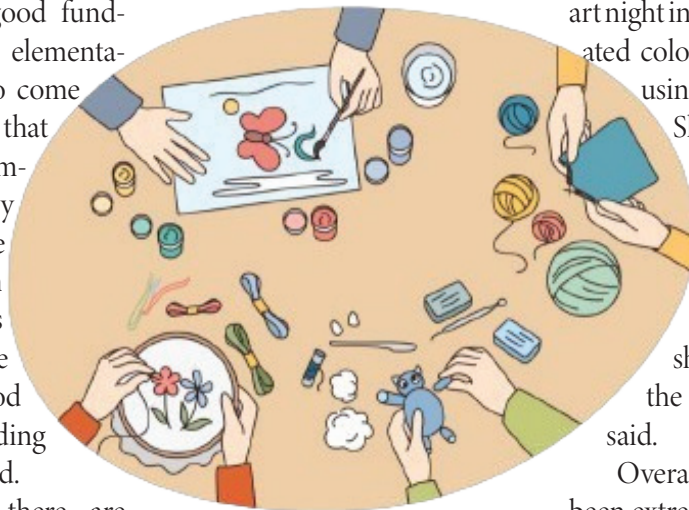
The fundraiser event is run by the Class of 2024 class sponsors and art teachers Sharon Salamon and Hai-ley Brown. This school year marks the event's fourth year. Depending on the event, the

admission can range from 5 - 12 dollars and includes all materials and a snack.

"It's a really good fundraiser because the elementary students love to come back into the space that they're super comfortable in — they come to art here anyway — and then all of their friends that can come are here... it's a good community building event," Salamon said.

On average, there are around 50 to 60 students at each event. Besides that, seniors from the class of 2024

are able to volunteer and collaborate with the elementary students.



"...There's a really cool older student to younger student [mentorship] that happens,"

Salamon said.

Second-grader Emerson Weibley attended a particular art night in which students created colorful marbled paper using shaving cream. She remembers it as "fun" and wishes to continue attending art nights in the future.

"I liked the shaving cream and the colors," Weibley said.

Overall, the event has been extremely successful as a fundraiser, community builder, and creative outlet for the students. For Salamon and

GRAPHICS BY JIAYI ZHU

Brown, it's also a way to instill the importance of arts in the budding minds of young elementary students.

"For us, it's a really good way to keep interest in the arts because so often STEM should probably have that 'A' in there, but it is what it is to make sure everyone has that creative flair," Salamon said.



Harmony in Transition

by Aly Zaleski

Leaving elementary school and moving up to middle school may seem a bit intimidating

for many reasons. One reason could very well be the newfound freedom of choosing elective classes. Some students might think, "There's so many options," or "There's so many experiences I might be missing out on!"

Thankfully, with a bit of a schedule change for the fifth-graders, there won't be as much of a scare looking at the long list of middle school electives. New music

classes, such as the elementary orchestra class run by Christopher Mink, have been introduced. In the past, there was an elementary orchestra class — even before the current elementary schoolers started at Pine View — but it was only reinstated this year.

The Orchestra Wheel helps students get a better idea of music before they decide what elective to focus on in middle school. It gives students a taste of music education and a start to a journey that might have taken more work had

they started in middle school.

Many students, such as fifth-grader Jimmy McKinnies, have never played an instrument before. For McKinnies, orchestra has helped spark an interest in music.

"You can play a variety of instruments... Like, the violin is special in its own way. I play the viola and I really like that, too..." McKinnies said. "It's a good fit for me [but] I think trying new [instruments] will be fun."

Fifth-grader Claudia Hazel Brand, on the other hand, found herself drawn specifically to the bass.

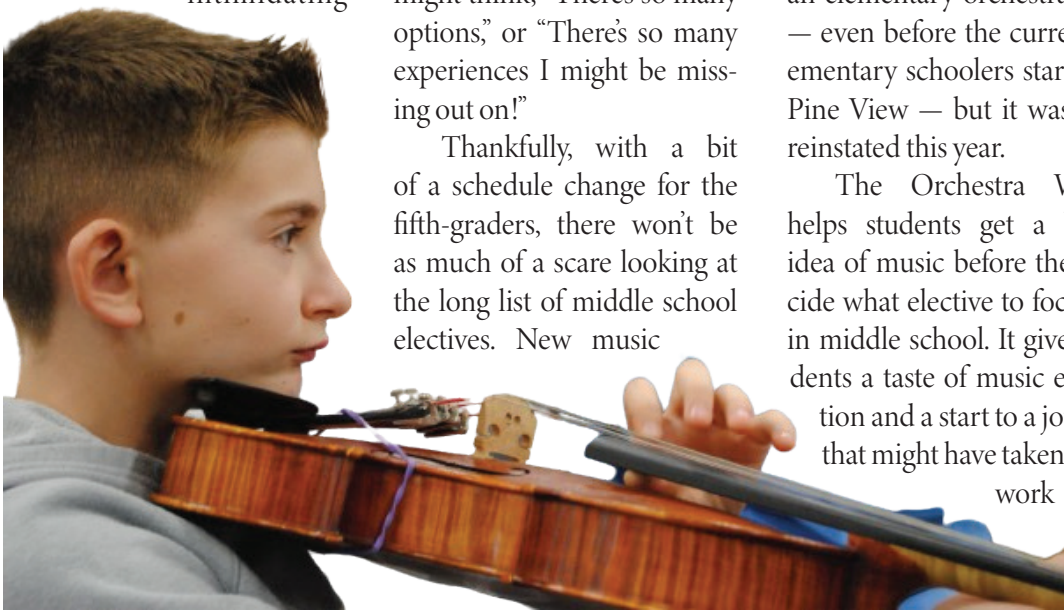
"I'm not totally sure [why],"

Brand said. "I liked when we learned the hand shapes. I was sitting in the back of the class looking at my book memorizing them... It was so fun."

Learning music is an experience within itself. The new orchestra class introduces the opportunity to partake in the joy of music from middle school all the way through high school. For Mink himself, the goal of the orchestra wheel takes on a whole new meaning.

"I just want to instill a love of music — classical music — and wanting to play classical music," Mink said.

PHOTO BY ALY ZALESKI



Birthdays

Dec. 22

Melody Elliot's
birthday

Dec. 31

Eddie Maron's
birthday

Jan. 7

Ivonne Chaustre's
birthday

Jan. 8

Caitlin Sedlak's
birthday

Feb. 9

Marisa Freedman's
birthday

Feb. 11

Bob McGuire's
birthday

IN BRIEF

Peramathon

by Megan Ma

Each year, Pine View holds an annual fundraiser and longstanding tradition known as the Peramathon. This year, the event was run by PVA members Katie Padgett, Lindsay Sweeting, Skye Mata, and Silke Cuff. Students in grade levels 2 – 8 compete to see how many laps they can run around the track in an hour. Parents pledge money per lap or donate a fixed amount of money that goes towards Pine View.

In the past, the Peramathon was held on the last day before spring break. However, this year it was held on the day before Thanksgiving break.

"The last several years, Peramathon day has been extremely hot and humid," Cuff said. "We thought it would be better for the kids to run in cooler conditions, and that's why it was moved to November... The kids ran significantly more laps in their hour than in previous years."

The event proves to be a fun day and important memory for the students who participate. It also allows the community to raise funds to continually make Pine View a better learning environment.

"Now that we have shown that it works in November, we are hopeful that it can continue to be a fall event," Cuff said.



As students run towards the finish line, they enjoy the cool air and music from the DJ on Pine View's track. Students in grades 2 - 8 participated in the Peramathon, a fundraising event on Nov. 17, 2023. PHOTO BY ALAKH BHATT

Father-Daughter Dance

by Sivan Levy

Pine View's Class of 2026 annual Father-Daughter Dance brings together multiple levels of the Pine View community, giving fathers and their daughters a chance to connect and spend time together while offering an opportunity for high school volunteers to give back.

Hana Mullen, a sophomore volunteer who manned the face-painting station, has fond memories of going to her own father-daughter dances.

"...Before I came to Pine View, I went to a private school, and we had Daddy-Daughter

dances every year, so I grew up on those, and they're definitely a childhood memory for me," Mullen said.

Not only was this a special night for fifth-grade students and their fathers, but it was also an opportunity to raise money for an important cause: Habitat for Humanity, an organization that gears towards building homes for underprivileged members of the community.

Attendance was amazing and everyone left smiling. It's safe to say that this year's Father-Daughter Dance was a smashing success.



High school volunteers warmly welcome the father-daughter pairs into the Student Union. The Father-Daughter Dance took place Nov. 3, and was a blast for staff and students. PHOTO BY AVA LENERZ

Movie Review: Wish

by Ava Lenerz

****Warning, spoilers ahead!****

And so, I make this wish...that this movie could be redone. Over the past two decades Disney went from creating magic to mediocrity. I've dreaded the release of the more recent Disney films. "Wish" was one of them.

The movie featured a girl named Asha who lived in what seemed to be the perfect fairytale world with her mom and grandpa. The king, known as King Magnifico, collected the wishes of people on their 18th birthday. Every month, he held a ceremony to grant one person's wish. The downside is that people

forgot their wish as soon as he took them.

The major conflict of the film was that King Magnifico is vain and selfish and won't grant everyone's wish if it could be bad for the kingdom or he thinks they don't deserve it.

Asha finds out about that and also that the wishes are from the best part of your soul, and she is mad that the king took them from people. Without knowing their wish, the people can't try to fulfill it.

themselves.

I can agree this is an all right reason to be mad, since the wishes are a part of you and it was technically making some people depressed, but the king really did want what was best for the kingdom (at least at first).

I also had an issue with the characters. They were kind of annoying, and none of them were developed very well. Past Disney movies showed the complexity of their characters and made us more invested in what happened to them. For example, the "Princess and the Frog" showed us flashbacks to the main character, Tiana, as a kid and her dad cooking together. In contrast, "Wish" showed a picture of Asha and her dad and mentions him twice. That's the only character development Asha got, and the rest of the characters were

completely one-sided.

Moreover, this movie seems to be just another addition to the trend of being created for no purpose except to make money. "Wish" specifically did this by advertising other movies throughout the film for the 100th anniversary of Disney. Due to this, it continually had references to past movies, which was funny at first, but it got really obnoxious by the end. Her friends didn't need to have the exact personalities of the seven dwarves or have a Peter Pan that couldn't even fly.

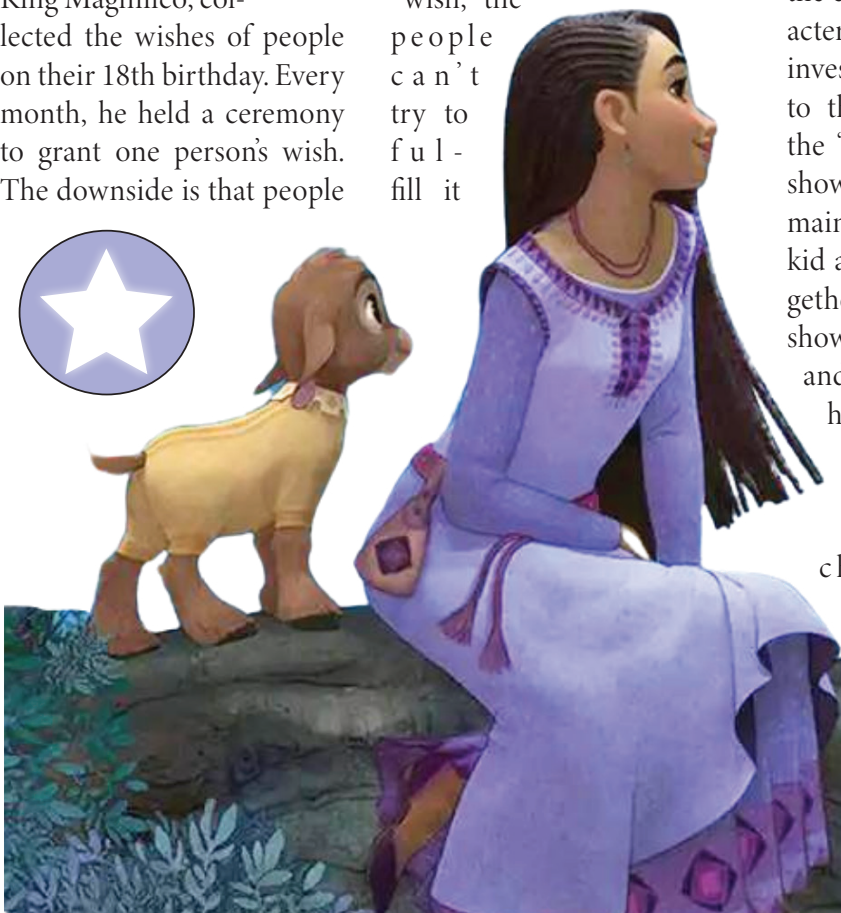
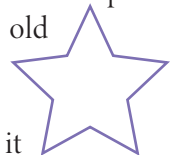
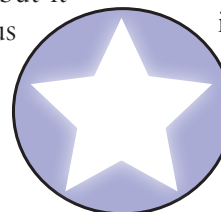
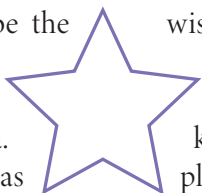
The songs weren't that good either. They had no soul and were genuinely annoying and repetitive. The one good song, "This Wish," was overused. At the end of a Disney movie, you can expect a song that motivates them and then they use their newfound motivation to save the day. But, in "Wish," the singing literally saved the day. They had everyone in town sing (a song I'd like to mention nobody in town should have known) and

then the day was saved. I mean, whatever happened to hard work and independence?

However, I did really enjoy the animation style, as it made me feel as if I was curled up in bed reading a fairytale. I also liked the inclusion of other cultures. Saba, which is what Asha called her grandfather throughout the movie, is Hebrew for grandpa, so I thought that was really cool. And you can never go wrong with a Chris Pine movie (he voiced King Magnifico).

Though "Wish" isn't a movie I plan to watch again anytime soon, don't beat yourself up about it too much if you liked it. My younger sister enjoyed the film, and I'm sure many other people did, but to old people (high school students) like me, it doesn't measure up to the classics of my generation.

GRAPHICS BY AVA LENERZ AND DISNEY



Music of a Medalist

by Timothy Nesanelis

A charming black and gold piano stood grandly on the stage as fifth-grader Jin Huang sat in its chair, ready to perform her musical pieces. In January 2023, Huang competed at the United States International Duo Piano Competition (USIDPC) in Colorado and placed second in the Level III division, which includes pianists from ages nine to ten.

"It was very exciting and my first time at an international competition," Huang said.

To perform in the duo competition, you must have two pianists playing a song

together at once. Huang and her partner had to practice together over the internet, and only met up to practice the piano pieces right before the concert.

"Me and my partner, her name is Anna [Liang], she lives in Delaware, and finally we met up here and we practiced a lot and then went to Colorado," Huang said.

Huang's mother, Hui Xu, explained how challenging it was to practice over the internet for much of the time Huang and Liang spent learning the songs.

"Of course, the music, the exercises, the practice to build

technique like online together, it's very difficult, I feel," Xu said.

Although Huang got her start as a pianist when she was four and a half years old, her musical journey goes back much further.

"She sang in the church choir, and I recognized her musical talent, so I taught her the piano," Xu said.

Xu is a professional classical pianist and also participated in the professional adult division at the USIDPC. Huang said that her mom is not only her piano teacher, but also her inspiration to continue playing piano.

Grayer McLean's Piano Dream



Posing for a picture, McLean and his teacher, Miss Sye, celebrate a successful performance. McLean has been playing the piano for two years. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CATE MCLEAN

by Emmy Li

As fourth-grader Grayer McLean's piano playing rings out at church, the room fills with melody and cheer.

McLean has been play-

ing piano for almost two years and attends lessons every Thursday. Since he started, he has greatly expanded his interest in music.

"Grayer has strengthened

his memorization skills and performance skills through music," said McLean's mother, Cate McLean. "He has developed a strong bond with his wonderful teacher, Miss Sye. Playing also allows him to express himself and use his talents and creativity in a fun way."

"[My favorite part] is being able to make music," McLean said. "I [recently] played the Super Mario theme song."

However, playing the piano isn't something that can be mastered overnight.

"There are some songs that are just really hard to do," McLean said. "There are some like Rush E that are im-



Playing gracefully, Huang and Liang perform in the United States International Duo Piano Competition. Huang and Li placed second in the Level III Division. PHOTO PROVIDED BY HUI XU

"I encourage them to keep doing [piano] and have more experience for the competitions," Xu said. "They enjoy playing together and they enjoy learning together."

Whether at home or at another international competition, Huang looks forward to continue playing piano in the future.



McLean and Miss Sye play the piano. They have lessons together every Thursday. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CATE MCLEAN

possible."

Despite the challenge, McLean has found great enjoyment in playing pieces

that he likes. Recently, McLean performed "Hedwig's Theme" by John Williams at his concert through the Suzuki Institute.

"It was a great selection," Cate McLean said. "[We] are very proud of his accomplishments in music."

So far, McLean has performed three times at his church and looks forward to his next performance. In the future, Grayer hopes to continue to pursue his interest in piano.

"[Playing the piano is] excellent for his personal growth, so we will see where it leads," Cate McLean said.

ADVENTURE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

THE WINGFEATHER SAGA

by Andrew Peterson

In three words: springtime, creatures, and family.

Best for: Aspiring historians and animal lovers who wish their world was a little more ancient, uplifting, and magical.

Summary: The Igiby family battles against the oppressive Fangs of Dang and their ruler, Gnag the Nameless. Along the way, they discover the truth about their history and the creation of their world.

THE HOBBIT

by J.R.R. Tolkien

In three words: fantasy, forest, and discovery.

Best for: Homebodies and nature-lovers who wish they could break from monotony and go on a grand quest.

Summary: A well-mannered hobbit is forced upon a grand, perilous journey to liberate an ancient dwarven treasure from the clutches of the evil dragon Smaug.

MISS PETER RABBIT HOME PETER RABBIT CH

by R

In three words: and monsters.

Best for: Outcasts who want to for embrace their d

Summary: A tre investigates his mysterious past turbulent future

RECOMMENDATIONS

PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS

by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

In three words: starlight, seafoam, and pirates.

Best for: Sailors and sea-lovers who dabble in interstellar conspiracy theories.

Summary: Peter Pan's origin story crisscrossed with pirates, mermaids, and a secret society with goals of interstellar importance.

THE HARRY POTTER SERIES

by J.K. Rowling

In three words: castles, enchantment, and belonging.

Best for: Would-be witches and wizards who are looking to reclaim their innate, magical lives.

Summary: An alienated boy finds out that he's a celebrity in the wizarding world. An ancient evil that he defeated as a baby battles to regain strength.

PEREGRINE'S FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN

by Ransom Riggs

whimsicality, wartime, and secret-keepers
ge a new path and
arkness.
doubled teenage boy
grandfather's death and
, thereby uncovering his



Run Club Revival

by Jakob Roche and Terry Shen

After a brief pause, students have returned to the track for Run Club's revival.

Run Club used to be led by Aide Leonard Gross, who was affectionately called "Mr. Lenny" by most. The club disbanded after Gross left Pine View, with Covid-19 playing a part in its end.

Second-grade teach-

er Leslie Stewart and other teachers, along with volunteers, stepped up to reignite the club. For Stewart, the club is an extension of her own enjoyment of running. One of her favorite parts about sponsoring the club is seeing the club members reach milestones.

"The charms we give for milestones make the journey more exciting. It's amazing

to see the kids excited about reaching 5K, 10K, or even a full marathon," Stewart said.

In order to keep track of the number of laps achieved, the sponsors and volunteers use the app EZ Scan®. The students have QR codes that volunteers scan every time they run a lap. Different milestones have different rewards. For example, milestones include 5 kilometers, 10 kilometers, a half marathon, and a full marathon. Club members get charms for meeting these milestones.

Stewart's earliest memory of running is with her father.

"When I was little, I used to run races with my dad... I remember getting little trophies and things like that," Stewart said.

Although the charms from Run Club predate Stewart's involvement, members today have similar experiences to what Stewart once had. Fifth-grader Samira Addae, a longtime member of the club, enjoys the social aspect of Run Club.

"My friend Annabelle joined Run Club about two weeks ago... It was really fun because we ran a bit and my older brother started chasing us," Addae said. "I just like the wind in your hair and also you can push yourself."



While a Run Club member holds up her QR code, fifth-grade teacher Cynthia Wozniak records the number of laps she has run. Run Club meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15 to 8:45.

Stewart also sees the benefits of Run Club as more than just exercising.

"It's not just a physical activity; it's a social bonding experience," Stewart said.

Besides the social benefits, Stewart believes that doing Run Club also benefits prospective track athletes.

"I have a couple of middle schoolers who are training [and] working towards

track for Middle School Track. So they have that goal of being able to try out for track and having some miles under their belt, too," Stewart said.

Run Club's legacy has been rekindled, and will continue to bring a meaningful impact to the lives of its members.

PHOTOS BY TERRY SHEN



Powerful Pom-Poms

by Nathan DeSouza

While performing stunts and cheering for her designated team, fifth-grader Fiona Phillips' dedication to cheerleading shines for all to see.

Phillips cheerleads at Platinum Athletics and is currently in her fourth year. At Platinum Athletics, she practices three times a week and normally cheers for her gymnasium and occasional Florida competitions like East Coast Grand Nationals.

Phillips is a base on her cheerleading team. In her role, Phillips provides structural support for the flyers and plays a crucial role in performing other stunts. Besides being a base, Phillips also participates in corner dances alongside her team while games happen.

At a typical cheerleading practice, Phillips said it is expected for group members to

warm up for about two minutes before working on their routines. Once they are in the flow of the routine, they repeat the routine over and over again until it reaches perfection.

According to Phillips, performing certain stunts can be very challenging, specifically maintaining composure and skill when throwing flyers as a base.

"...Sometimes you go from hitting different body positions to having to throw them and catch them with like one foot," Phillips said. "And then we do baskets and cra-

dles which are always stressful because you [think] 'Are we going to drop them or are we going to catch that?'"

Phillips said that while maintaining skills such as stunting is difficult, it is quite easy to start learning.

A big part of cheerleading for Phillips is the bond that she has with her team. Having that bond improves teamwork and encourages the group to do well.

"I believe that in cheerleading with my team, one of the best things is team bonding. So you really just get to know who everyone

is, and it's almost like a safe space for me," Phillips said. "... These are people who will understand you and they won't

make fun of you if you screw something up, and they're just always there to have your back."

Cheerleading takes a great amount of teamwork and dedication. Phillips' dedication does not go unnoticed when cheerleading — Coach Katie Adkison gets to see that dedication shine more than anyone else.

"She's a very hard worker, and she's also very motivated and determined. She gets skills really quickly when she puts her mind to something," Adkison said.

Ever since the beginning of Phillips' cheerleading career, she has shown her best and has always put her best foot forward when performing.

"She's a loyal athlete. She's loyal to her team and she's just super motivated and a hard worker and we're excited to have her," Adkison said.



After performing in a competition, fifth-grader Fiona Phillips (second from the right) poses for a picture with her team. Phillips cheers at Platinum Athletics and has been doing so for four years. PHOTO PROVIDED BY KATIE ADKIRSON

But to the surprise of many, learning how to do these things is one of the easier things to do in cheerleading.

FLORIDA ALTERNATIVES TO WINTER SPORTS

As states up north begin to experience the wonders of snowfall and the joys of sledding down hills, here are some other activities Florida kids can do in the not so cold winter.

SLEDDING



SKIMBOARDING



MAKING SNOW ANGELS



MAKING SAND ANGELS



SNOW BOARDING



SKATE BOARDING



Why do bugs bite?

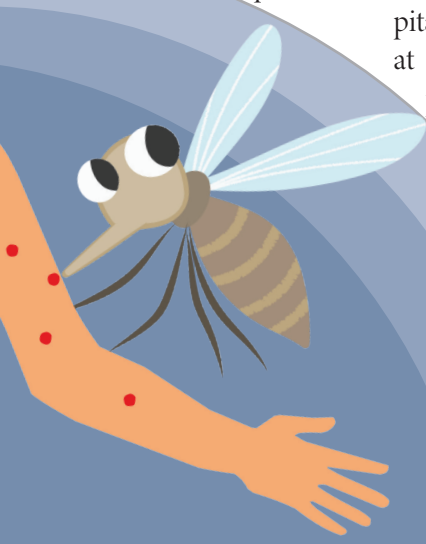
[student question submission]

Question submitted by Aaliya Mittal



PHOTO BY ELENA HERMAN
by Elena Herman

Spider bites, ant bites, mosquito bites — it seems like bugs have a personal hate for humans. And it's no wonder we're bit so often — the total number of mosquitoes alone is somewhere in the quadrillions. Likewise, ants tally up to around twenty



drillion. That's about two and a half million ants for every one human! With such large numbers, why do they have to target us?

Mostly, bugs bite to defend themselves. Think about it from their perspective: if some giant was trying to squash you, wouldn't you do the same? For instance, the black widow spider, the most venomous spider in North America, will only bite when squeezed or pinched. So, when ants, wasps, and flies target you, think about what you might have done to scare them.

Certainly, the most infamous biting bug is the mosquito. Painful and dangerous, mosquito bites can leave you itching all over for weeks, and can even send you to the hospital. Sadly, mosquitoes cause at least 2.7 million deaths per year, largely through spreading malaria, which is a blood parasite that some mosquitoes carry. This makes them one of the deadliest animals in the world.

So why do mosqui-

toes bite? Well, mammal blood is vital for mosquito reproduction. Female mosquitoes need to eat blood to get enough protein and nutrients for making eggs. Unfortunately, they might bite up to five times before getting enough blood to nourish one batch of eggs. So, the bites won't stop anytime soon!

Many people believe that some blood types are more attractive to mosquitoes than others, but this is just a myth. In reality, mosquitoes choose their targets based on smell. Specifically, mosquitoes bite people who are sweatier, exhale more carbon dioxide, or have uncommonly acidic skin. For example, bug sprays are designed to mask the scent of carbon dioxide, so the bugs can't find you. If mosquitoes seem to favor you, then bug spray will work wonders!

Mosquitoes aren't the only bugs who bite for blood. Our blood is high in protein, minerals, and nutrients, which makes it a

How to Treat a Bug Bite

1. Clean the bite.
2. Apply a medicated cream to the bite to lessen your pain, itching, and swelling
3. Take an antihistamine/allergy relief medicine if you have many bites.

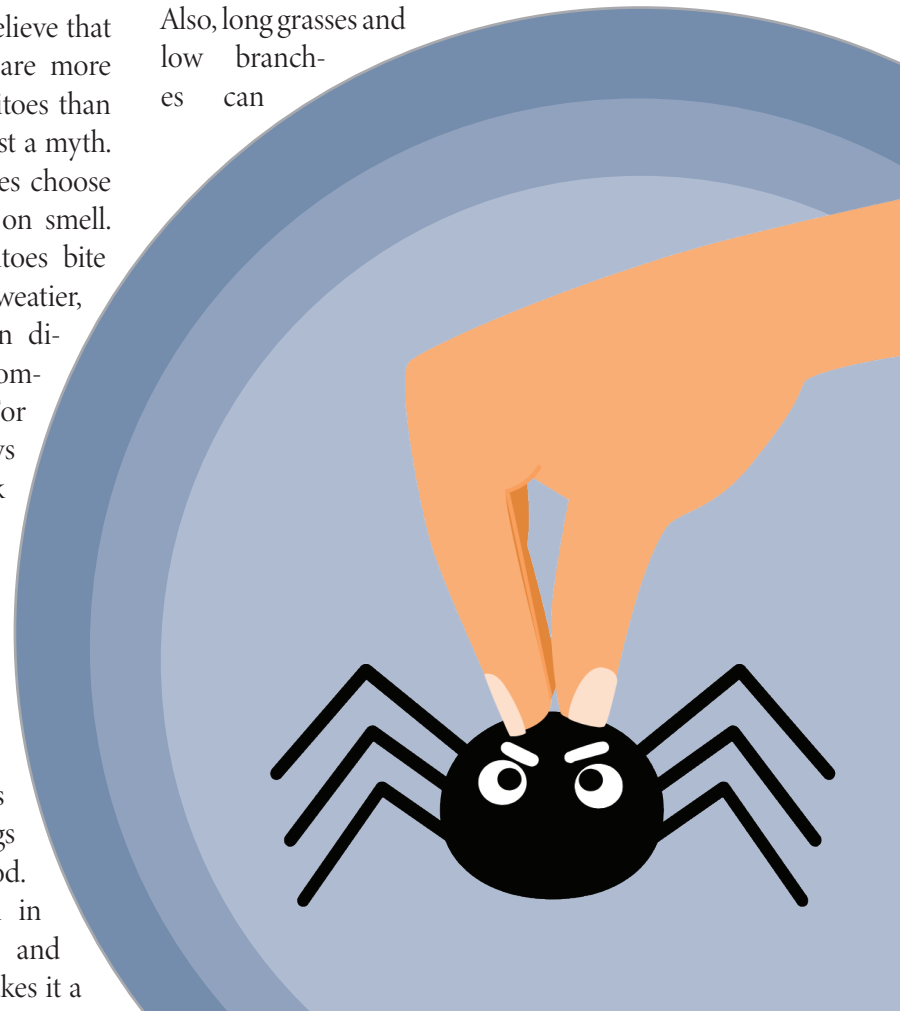
good meal for pests. Human blood is a basic food source for many common bugs, including ticks, lice, and bed bugs.

If you want to prevent bug bites, the best thing to do is cover up. Bugs can't bite through fabric. Secondly, watch where you step, sit, and grab—you might disturb an ant pile, or squish a spider. Also, long grasses and low branches can

house bloodsucking bugs, which often carry disease. When passing through plants, regularly check yourself for these unwanted companions.

The outside world can be dangerous, but it doesn't have to be hurtful or scary. If you stay informed and alert, bugs big and small will let you be,

and you will



Is 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' a Halloween or Christmas Movie?

Halloween Movie

by Elena Herman

It's Halloween night—you're tucked out and candy-stuffed. Instead of going to bed, you watch the well-known movie, "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The movie opens in Halloween Town, as creepy monsters sing "This is Halloween." What could be spookier than that?

Whether "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a Halloween movie or a Christmas movie has been long debated. Many fans and experts suggest the former, including the movie's directors. It should be apparent: "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is chiefly for Halloween.

Premiered on October 13, 1993, moviegoers surely expected something fun, spooky, and seasonal. Thankfully, "The Nightmare before Christmas" is just that.

Jack Skellington, the movie's main character, is spindly, sly, and skinless. Jack's Halloween Town friends are even eerier. Watching their adventures, full of cackles and scares, is a chilling experience.

rience.

This scary style was no mistake. The producer, Tim Burton, also directed "Corpse Bride," "Beetlejuice," and "Edward Scissorhands." Certainly, he brings a certain horror to the movies he makes.

Futhermore, many, if not most, of Spotify's Halloween playlists feature the song "This is Halloween." However, the movie's jollier song, "What is This?" fails to appear on even the longest of Christmas playlists. The message is clear: you should celebrate Halloween with "The Nightmare before Christmas," and leave Christmas alone.

There should be no dispute: the movie is Halloween from beginning to end, despite its festive twist.



Christmas Movie

by Kai Sprunger

Picture this: it's late on Christmas Eve. Not far from the stockings and the Christmas tree are presents carefully enclosed in glistening wrapping paper. You and your family rest on the couch together, joining Jack Skellington as he admires the wonders of Christmas Town and sings the lyrics to "What's This?"

Released on October 13, 1993, in time for both Halloween and Christmas, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" follows the King of Halloween, Skellington, as he leads Halloween Town in taking over Christmas and replacing Santa Claus.

On the surface, this movie may appear to be a Halloween movie, but "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is the perfect Christmas horror movie.

Typ-

ically, movie genres can be assumed by the movie's setting and "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is no outlier. With the movie being set between October 31 to December 25, most of it takes place during the Christmas season, not Halloween. Whether it is the clock counting down the days to Christmas or Halloween Town preparing for Christmas, it is unmistakable that the movie's temporal setting is focused on the festive holiday. Despite the physical setting itself being predominantly Halloween Town, the scenery is still flooded with Christmas spirit as well.

The plot of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" revolves around Christmas, not Halloween, showcasing Skellington leading Halloween Town in taking over the preparations for Christmas. Despite their antics (creating spooky presents, kidnapping Santa Claus, or

pulling a sleigh of skeletal reindeer on Christmas day) being Halloween-esque, there's a clear relationship with Christmas.

The climax of the movie, when Skellington pulls along his sleigh and delivers the presents, occurs on Christmas and Christmas Eve, only further proving the significance of Christmas plot-wise. Furthermore, the plot's ending is

reminiscent of other Christmas movies. For example, similar to "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the movie concluded by showing Halloween Town finally understanding the true meaning of Christmas.

Looking past the Halloween-esque art style and nature of "The Nightmare Before Christmas," it is undeniable that this movie is meant for the winter holidays, not Halloween.

GRAPHICS BY ELENA HERMAN AND KAI SPRUNGER



The Cold Hard Truth

by Sanya Patel

For students, Winter Break can be one of the most exciting times of the school year — joyous winter holidays lead us into the new year and more importantly, there are two weeks off of school.

For us students, there are countless things to do during this time: relaxing at home, taking a tropical vacation, or visiting family for the holidays. Teachers, on the other hand, are suspected to spend their time a little differently.

I, Sneaky Sanya, have dedicated my time to investigating many possible scenarios of what could be happening be-

hind the scenes, and now I live to tell the tale of my findings.

Several theories surround this question, one being that the teachers never actually leave the school. Sure, they talk about spending time at “home” with their “families” and getting time to “relax,” but many students suspect otherwise. This theory focuses on all the teachers driving off at the end of the school day, only to return that night to spend two weeks sleeping at Pine View School.

On the one hand, they could spend all their time par-

tying in the cafeteria — just like school dances! Delicious food and drinks are available. Music plays, letting the teachers dance away the stress the school year has given them.

Teachers may have unique holiday traditions, allowing everyone to celebrate the winter season however they choose.

Then, there will be a grand New Year’s celebration, with Dr. Covert presenting a great speech, reminding them to “...make it a great year, Pine View.”

Though there are some slightly different theories

about what the teachers stay up doing, some believe that the teachers spend the next two weeks meticulously planning out the rest of the school year from that point forward. With tons of holidays in the spring, it can get hard to keep on track regarding academics.

Oh, what do I think teachers do with their time over Winter Break? Personally, I suspect that underneath Building 16 there is a secret warehouse where the teachers help build and distribute presents to students. They use leftover supplies from the school year to put together magical

gifts for each kid. While they plan and scheme right under our noses, they spread joy to people everywhere!

Either way, teachers and students alike deserve time off during Winter Break to de-stress and prepare for the new year.



Snowy Showdown

by Andrew Ashby

Fifth-grader Chi Lee was eating her breakfast as fast as she could so she could start walking to school. As per usual she was going to be a bit late, but her teacher didn’t mind.

“Today will be another average Friday at school, nothing fun will happen,” she thought to herself while walking to school.

The short walk there was normal, with the occa-

sional car zooming by.

Finally, Lee arrived at school. As she walked up to her class in the red building, she shivered a bit. She realized that it was unusually cold that day.

Living in Florida, usually it was pretty warm out, but in this weather Lee thought she was going to freeze.

“It’s cloudy today, that’s probably why,” Lee said.

Suddenly, a soft pattering jarred Lee from her thoughts. Con-

fused, she turned around and looked in the direction the unusual sound was coming from. Cautiously, she turned the corner.

“Woah!” Lee exclaimed.

Lee jumped back and saw a stack of round, white shapes with an orange nose and a scarf. It was a snowman!

“Hello Chi, today we are taking an on-campus snow day,” said her teacher, Ms. Eva-Lanch, who came out from behind the snowman.

Surprised, Lee stepped around

her teacher’s snowman and saw all of her classmates playing in the snow, making snow angels, and building snowmen. Excited, Lee made a snowball to throw at her friend Bly Zard, but she missed and hit Chris Mass!

Within minutes, the snowball fight turned into a snow war. Everyone was involved — even Ms. Lanch! Lee was getting hit by snowballs from all around. In a frenzy, Lee ran in front of the snowman for protection. Luckily for Lee, the sun peaked out of the clouds and began

to melt the snow away.

When the day ended there was no more snow and Lee went back home. She couldn’t believe what happened in school and could not wait to get home and tell her parents all about it.



The Gazebo Time Machine

by Kai Sprunger

Wish you could go back in time and stop your dog from eating your homework? Well, look no further, because time machines exist and we have one right here on campus.

Listen — I, fifth-grader Con (short for Connor) S. Piracie, am no amateur conspiracy investigator. Ever since revealing that Pine View News is secretly run by aliens, I've been on the run, hiding in the bathroom by the fields. Indeed, my days are numbered, but this will never stop my investigations into the deep and dark conspiracies at Pine View.

Recently, I received a tip from a fellow fifth-grader who explained that after counting aloud to 212 at the gazebo, she traveled to the past.

I decided to get to the bottom of this and arrived at the gazebo to investigate. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary at first, so I began counting aloud to 212. However, I realized there was one issue — I can't count past ten. If only I had 212 fingers to count off of!

The investigation was luckily not called off since I convinced my friend, fourth-grader Matt H. Matician, who knew how to count to 212, to join me.

210... 211... 212... Suddenly, the gazebo started to spin and we arrived in what I can only guess was the year 2022.

Good thing neither Matician nor I had a rolling backpack because the campus was quite muddy due to Hurricane Ian. We left to go play on the playground but upon seeing the tattered sunshades, we decided against it since getting a sunburn didn't sound like fun. To be honest, I was sorely disappointed and would rate the year 2022 as a 3/10.

Next, we arrived in 2021 during the construction of Building 17, and my eardrums nearly burst! You could hear the screeching of rolling backpacks on the portable ramps and the loud construction noises from across campus! Also, unfortunately, we found out that the elves did NOT build Building 17 like we originally theorized two years ago. We decided to



rate 2021 as a 7/10.

We traveled to 2020 but there wasn't much to say about it. Dead silence. Crickets. Nobody was there. It was nicer to our eardrums than the year 2021, but we still rated it a 0/10 because of COVID-19.

To conclude our journey, we time-traveled to 2019 before the construction of

Building 17. We explored a little bit and found an odd wooden bench with a... Batman logo on it? Maybe Batman is coming to Pine View someday. Matician and I rated the year 2019 as an 8.5/10 because we couldn't agree on whether Marvel or DC was better.

Anyway, feel free to check out the gazebo — you never

know what secrets lie in the past!

(If you happen to know someone with 212 fingers or have another conspiracy theory for me to investigate, feel free to reach out to ConSPiracie@pvconspiracyinvestigator.comz.)

GRAPHICS BY KAI SPRUNGER AND JIAYI ZHU



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[a column]

From Match to Flame



Jiayi Zhu,
Match Editor-in-Chief

In 2023, images from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, the largest telescope in space, showed the formation of new stars in Rho Ophiuchi, a region of space clouds. The world's first whole-eye and partial-face transplant was performed. The Artemis II mission team was picked, setting the stage for the first Black person and first woman on the moon.

If that doesn't tell you possibilities are boundless, then I don't know what will. 2023 saw great things. For 2024? Only time will tell. I encourage you to make your predictions, though. Personally, I'm hoping for a robotic burrito bowl maker in my house.

Nothing is predetermined, including your own progress and advancement. Growth mindset is the idea that with enough hard work and determination, all skills are capable of growth and mastery. In a way, the world is constantly building off of a

growth mindset. No scientific advancement could be made without it. In fact, we would probably still be living like apes and cavemen if our prehistoric ancestors didn't believe the world could be more than sticks and stone.

Even if you have felt yourself struggling with something this year, know that struggle is temporary. With a growth mindset, that struggle can turn into a skill. The most important thing to remember is to never give up. Challenges will only make you a stronger person. Constructive criticism and feedback are merely opportunities for learning.

If you could only make one New Year's resolution, I'd recommend adopting the growth mindset. It can be tempting to spend time doubting yourself, but with confidence you can redirect that energy towards trying new things and learning from the process.

Whether it was nailing the really hard spelling test or scoring that point, recognize your accomplishments this year and be proud of yourself. Drink a little more hot chocolate than you normally would during your break off from school. Embrace all the good things you will do next year. Happy Winter Break and New Year!