

TheMatch

[Happy
Halloween
p.8-9]



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Students work together to build
cardboard creations
[news pg. 5]



PHOTO BY ALY ZALESKI

New Year, New Playground
[news pg. 3]

A Vibrant Violinist
[entertainment pg. 7]

Pine View Ghostbusters
[humor pg. 14]

THE MATCH

news

[p.3]

New Year, New Playground

[p.4]

'Pine View News' Reporting Live!

Welcoming New Faces: Mrs. Hoffman

[p.5]

Cardboard Carnival

Read-A-Thon

entertainment

[p.6]

Movie Review: Nimona

[p.7]

A Vibrant Violinist

'Dance the Night Away'

features

[p.8 & 9]

Happy Halloween

sports

[p.10]

Students 'kick off' daily soccer matches

[p.11]

'Tri' to keep up with him!

Lunch Time Activites

student question

[p.12]

Why do sudden heat-waves happen?

opinion

[p.13]

Books vs Movies

humor

[p.14]

Pine View Ghostbusters

[p.15]

'Hex-tra' Haunted

A Cosmic Discovery

focus

[p.16]

Old Becomes New

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New Year, New Playground

PHOTOS BY ROBYN
SCHOENBERG

Pine View Opens the New Playground to the Students

by Robyn Schoenberg

Every day, elementary students at Pine View look forward to recess. The old playground stood strong as the social center for second-grade and third-grade students for years. It saw games, friendships, and drama, but all these things took a toll on its structure. Paint was peeling, monkey bars breaking, and its age started to show. Now, a new and improved framework has taken its place.

Near the end of April, the school district informed Pine View they were due for an upgraded playground. There was a meeting set up with Asst. Middle School Princi-

pal Melissa Abela, who oversees facilities at Pine View, the district member in charge of the project, the district facilities manager, and second and third grade teachers.

The teachers had the chance to add their opinion on what should be changed and what should stay the same. One big topic of conversation was something that students have been wanting for years: swings.

"We were worried about kids jumping off of them and not using them correctly, and we totally thought the teachers were going to be like, 'we don't want swings, they are too dangerous,'" said Abela. "It was the

opposite; they actually wanted the swings."

Rules were put in place regarding the swings and students have been great at following them. Swings were a hit.

"I think even some of our secondary students are a little jealous because they didn't get to enjoy that part when they were that age," said Abela.

Besides the swings, many new features were incorporated, including a musical element, elaborate rope webs, spinning seats, a massive slide, and even an elevator.

"You usually get a line to go down the elevator," said Sara Kolsky, a third-grade teacher at Pine View.

Even with all these new enhancements, students noticed something was missing: the dome.

"The kids used to love climbing on that. That actually was in pretty good condition because it had been installed later... and we had told them that we were going to keep it," said Abela. "Well, inadvertently, they ripped it out."

Abela reached out to the district afterward, and now a brand-new dome is on its way. It is expected to be installed near the beginning of November.

One of the difficulties met



The new playground equipment stands strong in the afternoon light. The playground is sure to give students fun moments for many years to come.

in the process was timing. The playground was ripped out early in the summer because it was supposed to be done before the school year started, but it wasn't finished until after the school year started.

"Our first week of school was a little hairy and chaotic because we didn't have a playground for the kids to play on

yet," said Kolsky.

Despite the challenges, this playground has been a huge success. Abela is excited by the new playground and optimistic about its future.

"I feel confident, I'm happy that that the students have a really safe place to play on. So, that right there, that's what makes me happy."



As three students step onto the new rope web, one walks onto the web and the other lays down on the ropes. There once stood a coil-shaped slide and a slippery grey rock wall where the rope web stands.



A student climbs the new blue structure. It is a replacement for the old jungle gym that had problems with paint peeling.

'Pine View News' Reporting Live!

by Nathan DeSouza

Lights, cameras, action! An upcoming project at Pine View is expected to commence near the end of November.

Pine View News (PVN) will be a morning announcements program offered to grades 2 - 10 that will be broadcast over the whole campus and will deliver news in a way that is appealing to all students. Fifth-grade teacher Shannon Wynne, the initiator and project manager for PVN, requested this initiative.

At her previous school, Wynne was also involved

in the broadcast program, which influenced her decision to bring it to Pine View.

"I had a passion for it, and I loved it, and it's a great way to start the day," Wynne said.

In PVN, students in grades 2 - 10 will work alongside each other to provide Pine View with a news report. Apart from creating upperclassmen relations, PVN will also offer many other skills that can potentially prove to be beneficial

to students' development.

For example, anchors and backstage hands working on the news program will learn

leadership, speaking, and technical skills.

Students involved in the program will also gain experience on how to use equipment and to work in a studio environment. Not only will the

project hold great benefits for the present, but it will also prove to be beneficial in the future.

"I just think that there is an excitement, and it brings the school together... especially when you know what's going on and it's brought to you in a way that's fun and more entertaining," Wynne said.

Often, clubs offered at Pine View are only accessible to middle and high schoolers. PVN offers that kind of club experience to elemen-

tary schoolers. Opening the doors to this creative environment for students from a young age could even instill an interest they otherwise would not have discovered.

This year's Teacher on Special Assignment, Eileen Cabrera, expressed the value of having a broadcast program such as PVN, and how it can influence student interest in the future.

"It [PVN] creates sort of a naturalistic pathway towards joining our journalism program in the future," she said.

GRAPHIC BY NATHAN DESOUSA



WELCOMING NEW FACES



BECKY HOFFMAN
FOURTH GRADE

Tell me a little about yourself: This is my 21st year [teaching]. I started teaching in Maryland. In 2016, we moved to Florida...When we moved, my goal had been to teach at Pine View. My daughter Natalie is in tenth grade here, so she got here first, and I'm very fortunate to be here now.

Why did you become a teacher?: My mother-in-law was a kindergarten teacher, and just seeing how excited she was about her kids and how invested she was in her job. In my prior jobs, I didn't have anything I was really passionate about...My husband said "try teaching, and then if you hate it, try something else," and I feel like I fell into exactly where I am supposed to be. I love it.

What has been your favorite part of teaching here so far?: I love that kids are interested in learning content and we can have genuine conversations...the enthusiasm for learning is the most amazing thing here.

What are you looking forward to this year?: I am looking forward to getting to know more of the students at Pine View, getting to know more of the teachers here...getting more involved, once I get myself acclimated, for sure.

Is there a fun fact about yourself you'd like to share?: One of the first sailboats I sailed was a 42 foot sailboat when I was 11 years old... I don't [sail anymore], but my daughter does... She's a competitive sailor.

GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU

Birthdays

Nov. 2

Melissa Germanio's
birthday

Nov. 3

Mackenzie Fox's
birthday

Nov. 15

Peggy Barber's
birthday

Dec. 15

Carole McLaughlin's
birthday

IN BRIEF

Cardboard Carnival

by **Aly Zaleski**

The sounds of a new project in the works travel through the theater room in Building 16 as students' creative cogs turn amidst the construction of an entirely new genre of carnival game.

The fifth-graders from the classes of Andy Vitkus and Shannon Wynne have dedicated their Fridays to pure imagination with new creations. Students have been challenged to create a carnival game made of cardboard.

Deemed the "Cardboard Carnival," these creations were shared at the Pine View Fair—an idea cultivated by fifth-grader Sawyer Haenel.

Read-A-Thon

by **Terry Shen**

The Pine View Association (PVA) recently put on the annual fundraiser: Read-A-Thon. The event ran from September 22 to October 6. Students read books from any genre of their choosing and recorded the number of minutes they spent reading.

These logged minutes translated into funds raised as well as prizes given out by the PVA. Prizes ranged from water bottle stickers to Pine View Rubik's cubes to wireless speakers. The top overall reader was awarded a \$150 gift card, and the class with

"We express our ideas through a game that we can share with others," Haenel said.

Not only are these students sharing their ideas outside the classroom, but also with each other as well.

"The kids could use their thought process and STEM thinking or use their creativity to think outside the box... You put all that together and find a partner that's maybe the opposite of you and it works really well," Wynne said.

This combination of thinking has built a new and unique experience for the growing minds of the Pine View fifth-graders.

the most reading minutes was awarded a pizza party.

The funds raised provide resources that are given back to the Pine View community through agenda books, equipment and materials for teachers, construction of the recent playground, and more.

Read-A-Thon Chair, Christi Sparrow, explained that one of the goals of Read-A-Thon is to encourage the love of reading.

"Keep trying new styles and ask your friends what they like to read. Maybe you'll find a new series or something new that excites you," she said.



Amidst the creative air of imaginative creations, a fifth-grade student works on a cardboard project in the theater room. Students start with brainstorming and then move on to the building process. PHOTO BY ALY ZALESKI



Picking their prize, students chose between rewards like Rubik's cubes and stress balls October 6, the last day of Read-A-Thon. Funds raised go towards PVA initiatives to support Pine View. PHOTO BY TERRY SHEN

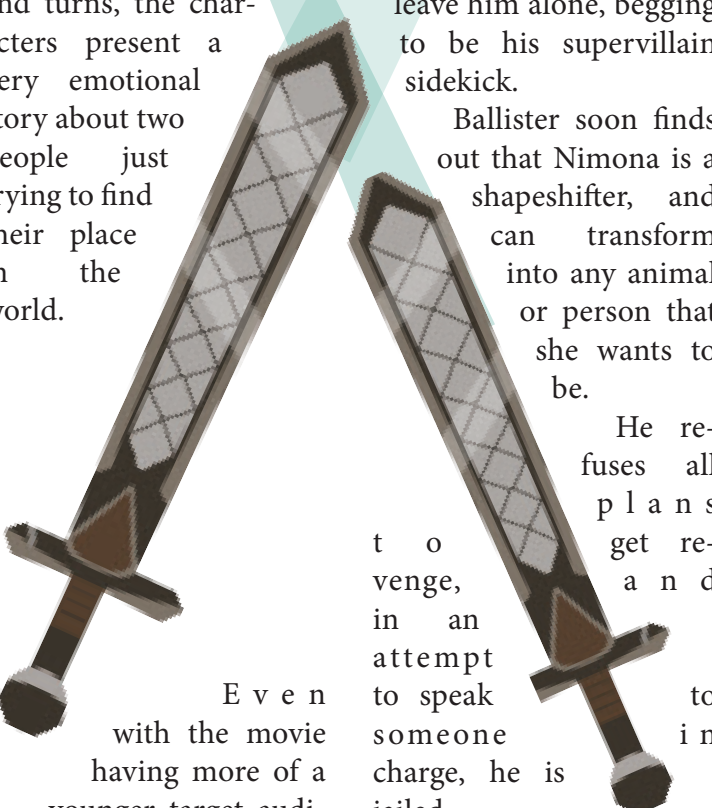
Movie Review: Nimona

by Sanya Patel

Warning: The following contains spoilers!

What may seem like your average animated film about a young female protagonist taking the world by storm is so much more.

“Nimona” is the story of a knight who spent his whole life fighting for the queen, only to be framed for her death. With the help of a strange “girl” he finds along the way, he works to find out who the real killer is and restore his reputation in the kingdom. With many twists and turns, the characters present a very emotional story about two people just trying to find their place in the world.



Even with the movie having more of a younger target audi-

ence, I (a twelfth-grader) would give it a 9/10 given that people of any age can enjoy this film.

The movie opens with a very dystopian environment with a kingdom divided by a wall to protect it from the “monster” on the other side.

Ballister, one of the knights in training, is about to be knighted by the queen when a mysterious laser shoots out of his sword, killing the queen. An outcast on the run, it is then that he is approached by Nimona, a little girl who just can’t seem to leave him alone, begging to be his supervillain sidekick.

Ballister soon finds out that Nimona is a shapeshifter, and can transform into any animal or person that she wants to be.

He refuses all plans to get revenge, in an attempt to speak someone to charge, he is jailed.

Upon Nimona breaking him out, they team up to uncover who really committed the crime.

One thing I really appreciated in this film was the nuanced use of color theory. There are very subtle distinctions in color between each character to represent their personalities.

For one, everyone in the palace wears white and gold clothing, typically signaling that they are the good guys. Even as a soldier in the palace, Ballister has always worn black, a simple signal that he is not like the other soldiers. He is also the first commoner turned soldier to make it as far as he had, so he is viewed differently by the rest of the guard.

Nimona’s main color is a pinkish-red, which is the color of her hair and every animal. It’s the small things in films that I have really learned to appreciate, and this film displayed it perfectly.

The one thing that I didn’t like about the sto-

ryline was the lack of explanation about the wall. In their kingdom, there is a wall separating the kingdom from what

we later find out is the forest where the “monster,” a strange beast that nearly destroyed the kingdom years ago, was first

found. But the film

never shows the building of the wall and who decided that this was best for the kingdom.

When Ballister is being hunted by the palace guard, the idea of jumping over the wall and starting a new life on the other side is mentioned. I think including the building of the wall and knowing what is on the other side would have added more to the plotline.



Overall, this was a fantastic movie and I am so glad I gave it a watch. Based on the cover and the ads I had seen, I didn’t know much about it beforehand and, honestly, didn’t think I would like it. I ended up loving the message that it sends: anyone can be a hero, no matter who you are or what your past is.

I think all ages will be able to enjoy this film. If you are fond of movies like “The Sea Beast” and “Luca,” this is a movie you won’t want to miss.

GRAPHICS BY ELENA HERMAN

A Vibrant Violinist

by Madelyn Bailey

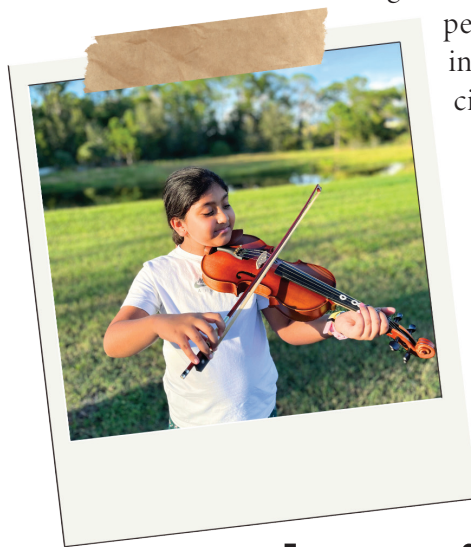
Fourth-grader Aaliya Mittal is a unique kind of performer. Instead of choosing to play a sport, she has decided to dedicate herself

to the violin.

Mittal has been playing the violin for over two years. Since then, she has learned how to play 19 songs and she has performed in seven recitals so far.

She was inspired to start after watching a violinist's performances on Youtube.

"I saw the girl [Taylor Davis]



Mittal skillfully plays the violin on and off stage. She has worked hard on the violin for the past two years.

'Dance the night away'

by Andrew Ashby

Fifth-grader Thomas Yemofio discovered his love for dancing three years ago. Ever since, he has been making great strides in the dance world.

Before discovering his passion for dance, Yemofio was involved in various extracurricular activities, including Taekwondo and Capoeira (an Afro-Brazilian martial art).

"I never thought I would get into dancing," Yemofio said.

Despite being a newcomer to the dance scene, Yemofio has already achieved great success. He has won

several awards at local dance competitions.

"I couldn't have done it without my amazing dance teachers," Yemofio said.

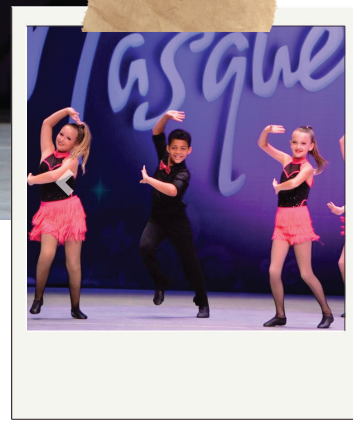
Karyssa Wong, one of Yemofio's dance teachers, has noticed Yemofio's growth in dance throughout the years.

"...Seeing him grow from where he started at age, like, three and four, to where he is now with all of his tumbling, and tricks now that he can do. So, it's really, it's really awesome," said Wong.

Yemofio enjoys dancing and plans to continue dancing in the future with the goal of improving his skills in the activity. Yemofio's story

serves as a reminder that it's never too late to discover your passion and pursue your dreams.

"I would want to get better [in the future]," Yemofio said.



playing the violin and then I got really interested," Mittal said.

At the moment, Mittal attends violin lessons at Elizabeth Farrell Music. Mittal typically spends about half an hour practicing the violin every day. Mittal feels confident about her ability to play the violin because she has performed well in her lessons and has liked most of the songs that she has learned.

Mittal's parents have been a very supportive force in her violin playing.

"I do not know anything about the violin, but I encourage her every time," said

Mittal's mother, Radha Mittal.

Mittal is not the only one in her family to play the instrument. Mittal's older sister, Aaniya Mittal, a fifth-grader at Pine View, also plays.

Mittal works hard to learn how to play the violin, and she has made significant improvements over the past few years. She does not plan to stop playing any time soon.

"She is still learning all the skills of the violin," Radha Mittal said.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY RADHA MITTAL

Yemofio enjoys dancing any chance he gets. He has been doing dance for three years and plans to continue.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LESLIE BAVIAK

A WICKED WORD SEARCH

W S P U M P K I N R P C T W H
O C C W F A L L S R Y A E V S
O Q U O Y A Z M L H U N W I P
L C S G S T K E X A P D R O O
J H T C I T X O A L Z Y T O O
X A L O C E U D Y L O Z W G K
N U T T B F C M J O M Y I F Y
B N G S S E T B E W B I T B A
W T H Z B K R S M E I R C Y E
B E O U A F E K D E E D H J D
S D S C T Q E L V N J Z W L X
A K T D V R I R E B I F U K J
D R C R G M G I F T X I K E Y
L S P I D E R W E B O Q C V K
S X V G J E U I A I Q N J N T

BAT	CANDY	COSTUME
FALL	GHOST	HALLOWEEN
HAUNTED	OCTOBER	PUMPKIN
SKELETON	SPIDERWEB	SPOOKY
WITCH	ZOMBIE	

HAPPY HA



WHAT ARE YOU BEING FOR HALLOWEEN?



BENJAMIN BROOKS
GRADE 5
WIZARD



GRAPHIC BY CANVA



PAULINA NESANELIS
GRADE 5
KUROMI



GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU

HALLOWEEN



EMILY JACKSON
GRADE 5
LUIGI



GRAPHIC
BY FREEPNGIMG.COM

BEST HALLOWEEN MOVIES



MONSTER HOUSE. PG

This is a great movie for the family, but beware it is a little creepy. When their evil neighbor ends up in the hospital, his house comes alive and tries to ruin Halloween.

GRAPHIC BY COLUMBIA PICTURES

IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN. CHARLIE BROWN. TV-G

This short film may have come out in 1966, but it is still a classic. With many lovable characters, waiting for a magic pumpkin has never been more fun!

GRAPHIC BY UNITED FEATURES SYNDICATE



COCO. PG

Yes, this isn't Halloween, but Day of the Dead still works as it is coming up. This movie is filled with amazing songs such as "Remember Me" and is a glimpse into Mexican culture.

GRAPHIC BY DISNEY/PIXAR

CORALINE. PG

"Coraline" is the scariest of this list. With evil parents and button eyes it can even scare a few adults. But remember it isn't real and it is meant for kids.

GRAPHIC BY FOCUS FEATURES



Students 'kick off' daily soccer matches

by Jiayi Zhu

A new tradition has hit the fields and has effectively achieved its goal of exciting both elementary



ry and middle school students.

Organized by Campus Security Aide James Haw-

kins and Para Aide Robert McGuire, known to most students as Mr. James and Mr. Bob, fifth-grade and sixth-grade students now have the opportunity to play amongst each other while staying active.

The daily soccer matches have built a friendly sense of competition

amongst the students, and continue to allow students from different grade levels to bond in new ways.

PHOTO BY EMMY LI



Students chase after a player as he heads toward the opposing goal. Fifth-graders play both with and against sixth-graders. PHOTO BY EMMY LI



With eyes on the ball, students play a game of soccer during fields. The games occur every-day at fields from 12:30 to 1:00. PHOTO BY EMMY LI



Mateo Pavon
fifth-grade



Gurbaj Singh
sixth-grade

Q&A

Reporting by Emmy Li

How long have you been playing soccer?

Mateo Pavon: I've been playing since fourth-grade, both in-school and outside.

Gurbaj Singh: Since fourth-grade, [I've been playing] at lunch.

What's your favorite part about soccer?

MP: My favorite part is trying to help the team win and encouraging them, so they can score. It brings people together, and it's fun.

GS: I play defense, I like defending the ball.

'Tri' to keep up with him!

by Megan Ma

With his hands in the air and a look of tired happiness on his face as he flies across the finish line, fifth-grader Michael Masica is a Tri-Monster — a youth club for triathletes — and competes in the classic three event race.

The youth triathlon consists of a 200-meter swim, six-mile bike ride, and a one-mile run. This is his third season competing and he has par-

ticipated in 14 races.



Ma-sica, at only 10 years old, races in the 11-year-old age

category, which means he competes at double the distance he had before.

Masica enjoys competing in the multi-event race, and said that running is very nice and calming.

"I'm a good swimmer, and I like biking, it's very fun for me, and I also like running a lot..." Masica said, "I just wanted to do something where I can do the stuff I like to do altogether and that's how I got into doing triathlons."

Deb Peters, Masica's coach at Trimonster, Masica also has a strong character.

"Michael is also a great

teammate, and this year took on some leadership in helping a couple of newer kids to the team," Peters said. "He is not afraid to push himself, and has learned how to pace himself well to conserve energy to be strong on the run, which is the last leg of the race."

Masica's father even took an interest in triathlons and

competed in his first ever this year, joining in on the fun. Masica, an avid swimmer, biker, runner, and tennis player is set up for great successes in the future as he continues to compete.

"He is really great at setting personal goals for himself at each race that are achievable, but also a bit of a stretch," Peters said.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DEB PETERS AND LEIGH WILCHES



LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO AT FIELDS?



Sanjay Velagapudi,
fifth grade

"At fields I like birdwatching... right now I just saw hawks flying really low... I like the birds themselves and I also like photographing them."



Akshara Amoes,
fifth grade

"I just like hanging out with my friends and looking at the [clouds in the] sky. I also like running around and looking at the greenery."



Sophia Suh,
fifth grade

"Basketball is definitely my favorite thing to do on fields because it's working on your arm muscles. Usually at PE we work on abdominal and legs, but basketball helps you learn hand-eye coordination."

Why do sudden heat waves happen?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by Rani Grewal



PHOTO BY SANYA PATEL

by Ava Lenerz

While everyone was supposed to be outside enjoying nature this summer, there were days when it was almost unbearable to go outside. Sarasota had its hottest summer yet with an average temperature of 85 degrees Fahrenheit—and cities all over the country reached triple digits.

These record high temperatures were due to a heat wave over the United States; heat waves like this are becoming a common occurrence.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the frequency of heat waves “... has increased steadily, from

an average of two heat waves per year during the 1960s to six per year during the 2010s and 2020s.”

But what is a heat wave, and why do they happen?

As defined by the National Weather Service, a heat wave is “a period of abnormally hot weather generally lasting more than two days.” The heat waves this summer, however, lasted much longer than two days and will only get longer due to global warming.

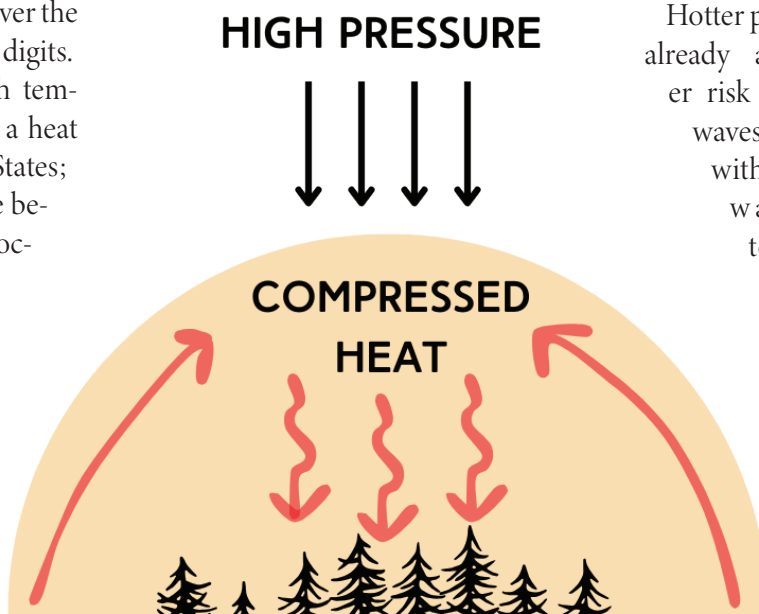
Heat waves occur when a high-pressure zone in the atmosphere pushes downward on the warm air and traps it there to continue heating, like a lid on

top of a pot. This system where the heat wave takes place is known as the heat dome.

Some people might think the increase in heat waves depends on Earth’s rotation around the sun. Though heat waves do commonly occur in summer because of the angle of the Earth to the sun, the increase in amount of heat waves is due to global warming.

Global warming is the increase in the temperature of the Earth due to increased carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. Basically, the excessive amount of CO₂ released goes into the air and covers the earth like a blanket, thus, heating it up.

Hotter places are already at higher risk for heat waves, and with global warming temperatures will only increase.



Ways to Beat the Heat



Drink lots of Water

Make sure to stay hydrated even if you don’t feel thirsty

Wear Sunscreen

Sunscreen is a great way to protect your skin from harmful UV rays.



Dress in Light Weight Clothing

Light colored clothing also absorbs less heat.

Plan Ahead

Plan to go out during cooler times of the day.



crease. As reported by the New York Times, “The warmer baseline contributes to extreme-weather events and helps make periods of extreme heat more frequent, longer and more intense.”

Heat waves are no joke. On average, there are 700 heat-related deaths nationally each year, so it is important now more than ever to find ways to stay safe from the heat.

Heat waves and climate change go hand-in-hand, so

working to reduce the world’s carbon footprint will help lower global temperatures, which decreases the number of heat waves — a necessary change.

Even with heat waves occurring, don’t stop spending time in nature. The outdoors are a beautiful and fun place to pass time, just make sure to take extra safety precautions when going out in hot weather.

GRAPHICS BY AVA LENERZ

Pro-books

by Ana Easter

While the idea of sitting down to enjoy a good movie may sound engaging, do you really want to spend your time focused on a screen, straining your eyes for hours on end as you watch images pass by?

Although the appeal of flipping through the pages of a book has been lost in time, engulfing yourself in a book will always be a better use of both time and energy than watching a movie.

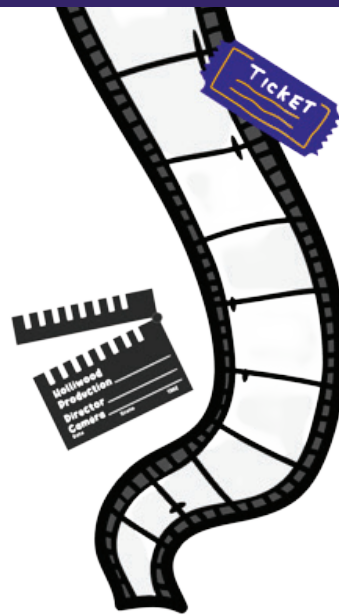
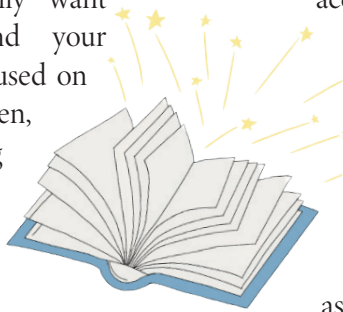
There are endless ways to picture the characters, setting, and events while reading a book. Details serve as guidelines, but the rest is up to the reader. In movies, there is no room for imagination. There is a set actor for every character, a set background for every setting, and a set manner in which the events unfold. Books exercise your brain, allowing you to think in depth about what is happening, testing your creative thinking skills, and boosting your imagination.

The reason movies are popular is because they are so short. It only takes a few hours for a series of events to unfold,

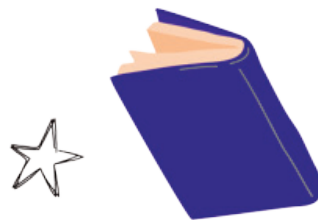
whereas a book with the same plot would take days to read entirely. This can be seen in the Harry Potter series, where, according to whythebookwins.com, the average reading time for each book is 8 - 10 hours, while the movies average just two and a half hours. Watching the movie saves time, but many aspects of the book are lost in the process of condensing. Backstories, along with entire character existences are removed for the sake of time. An example of this is Charlie Weasley who is not featured in any of the movies.

Books are also a lot better for your health than movies. Settling down with a book creates a sense of relaxation that just cannot be acquired through staring at a screen. Reading books can reduce stress, blood pressure, heart rate, and muscle tension. Reading not only improves your health but also increases your memory. Movies do just the opposite as researchers have found that watching television is actually associated with memory loss.

The next time you want to experience a thrilling journey through a plot, consider choosing a book over a movie. They are much more detailed, inspiring, and better for your well-being.



Movies or Books?



GRAPHICS BY ANA EASTER,
TIMOTHY NESANELIS AND
JIAYI ZHU

Pro-movies

by Timothy Nesanelis

I still remember the first time I watched the Harry Potter movies. Cozied up on the couch with my family, enjoying the magic of Hogwarts play out in front of my eyes. We were fixated on the screen, watching the action and laughing at the jokes. There's absolutely nothing that compares to the feeling you get watching a movie, not even reading its literary counterpart.

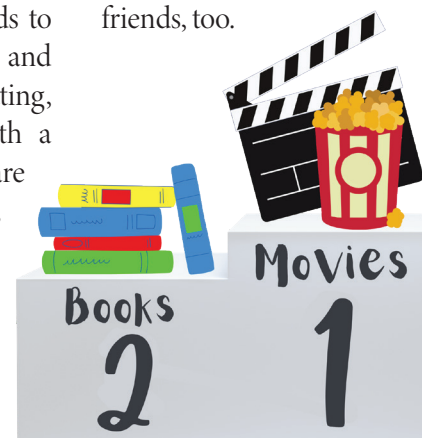
Seeing a movie is a much more social experience. Unless you get somebody to read beside you at the same pace, you'll never truly get the experience of reacting, laughing, and investing into a story with somebody else. A study from the California State University at Northridge suggested that watching movies can increase our emotional intelligence and also help in improving social connectivity, which can further strengthen your bonds with people.

When a movie comes out, it's a great time for friends to go to a theater together and watch a movie in one sitting, which you can't do with a book release. You can share your thoughts on the plot, characters, and themes immediately, but it takes a while to discuss a new book with somebody due to everybody reading at different paces.

As students, it is so much easier to find just two hours of time to watch a complete movie than the much longer amount of time it would take to read such a detailed book with long paragraphs of descriptive adjectives that can be summed up within a single frame in a movie.

In "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the book takes three whole pages of description to describe how Hogwarts looks to Harry after seeing it for the first time. The movie, however, is able to replicate this magical feeling with just two camera angles in under 20 seconds.

Yes, books are certainly great, too. The fact that with just an imagination, one is able to turn words on a page into their own unique interpretation that nobody else has seen is precious. But when it comes down to it, it's so much easier and timely to watch movies, and it's a much better time to watch them with your friends, too.





PINE VIEW GHOSTBUSTERS™

GRAPHIC PROVIDED BY 1000logos.net

With Halloween just around the corner, ghosts have begun to appear. To save Pine View and its students from these phantoms, a team of the best and brightest has been assembled to save the day. When you see a ghost, don't hesitate to call...the Pine View Ghostbusters!



MR. SPRINKLE

Sprinkle uses his brute strength to help fight off the ghosts. He also uses his many years of knowledge to create an action plan for the team. He has practiced defending the school as playground bodyguard.



MRS. BARBER

Barber creates traps to catch the ghosts using the lessons she learned from watching Bill Nye videos. These videos and her background as a science teacher give her the experience needed for this job.



MRS. LENERZ

If there's something strange going on, there is no one better to call than the Unicorn Teacher. She throws glitter on the ghosts to make them visible to humans. She also saves students by scaring the ghosts away with her endless optimism.



MR. MARON

Maron is the team's bait. He uses his mad skills at the ukulele to distract the spirits and lead them into traps. Slimer, the gross yet lovable green ghost of the series, would definitely be sidetracked by Maron's ukulele.

'Hex-tra' Haunted

by Lindsay Luberecki

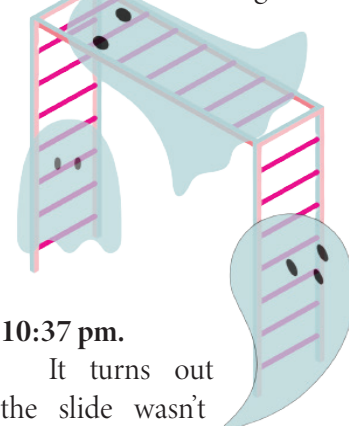
October 31, 5:45 pm

My name is Hal E. Ween. As Pine View's resident ghost-hunter, I'm spending a night on our playground, which has been home to some strange events recently. I can't help but notice that this coincides with the loss of our old playground and the dawn of our new one... Tonight, I'm determined to get to the bottom of this!

8:30 pm.

This is unbelievable! I was doing a lap around the playground with my fancy ghost machine (just a magnet) and I saw something move. I spun around and I was face-to-face with a giant spider! When I looked more closely, I realized it was blue... and metal...more like a dome. A dome with bright green eyes!

It's the old jungle gym—back with a vengeance. I'm hiding underneath the slide now, and I think it stopped chasing me.



10:37 pm.

It turns out the slide wasn't much safer. As

I left my refuge and tried to climb up to seek some high ground, it felt like something was wrapping its arms around me. I rolled over in shock, expecting to see a ghost or a vampire.

Instead, it was the tube slide from last year. Narrowly escaping its grasp, I slid down and ran toward the swings. But when I looked back... there was nothing there. Just the new blue slide remained, looking as innocent as ever.

11:57 pm.

I recently noticed a strange light coming from the swings. As the image behind the yellow glow came into focus, I saw fireman's poles and monkey bars in a creepy circle. The ghostly playground equipment was slowly spinning and chanting: "We're still here! We're still here!"

November 1, 7:12 am.

I've just woken up after I noticed the bright sun shining in my eye. And I think I've come to a conclusion about this Halloween mystery.

The old playground equipment may be replaced with the new and exciting, but it isn't gone. The ghosts remain, making sure future students never forget them. Halloween seems to be when they're most active—next time you're on the playground, make sure to say "hello" to the jungle gym or wave to the monkey bars.

A Cosmic Discovery

by Kai Sprunger

As a fourth-grader, I have seen many of my peers attempting to evade getting in trouble by making excuses. Sure, your dog ate your homework as a late-night snack or you failed the test because your siblings mistook your textbook for a coloring book. But, believe me when I say that my excuse was true.

"Do you care to explain to your parents why you are here, Connie Artist?" My teacher, Ruth L. Esse, croaked.

"You see, it's a long story," I said, beginning my tale.

With all the kids on the playground to impress and Halloween creeping up, I knew I had to find a good Halloween costume. My genius plan was to sneak into Ms. Esse's classroom during lunch to steal a pair of scissors and some white fabric to make an incredible ghost costume.

However, while searching for the supplies, I heard raspy breathing and footsteps on the ground behind me. *Thump*. She was at the door. I quickly ran over to her closet, shutting the doors behind me.



To my surprise, what met my eyes was not shelves of crafting supplies or wooden walls of a closet. A thick forest stretched endlessly across the horizon—its trees, the size of 10-story buildings, loomed over blades of grass that nearly came up to my chin. Yet, it was the giants towering over me that shocked me the most.

With a story like this, my face could be the next thing on the front page of *The Match*—I'd be famous! But, I guess that a humor page would suffice.

Although I was hidden amongst the grass, I was not safe for long—a giant ambled towards me, unaware of my existence. His foot nearly crushed me, but I rolled out of the way just in time, relieved that I

would live to see another day (after all, I had both a Halloween costume and a *Match* interview to crush).

But then, it hit me. My backpack was on the ground, completely crushed by the giant's foot.

"And so you see, Ms. Esse, this is why I couldn't turn in last week's homework assignment," I said, finally finishing the story.

"Next time, you should really just say that your dog ate your homework or your little sister mistook it as a coloring book—at least those excuses are half believable," Ms. Esse responded, disappointed as she began to write out a referral.

GRAPHICS BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI AND KAI SPRUNGER

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[a column]

Old Becomes New



Jiayi Zhu,
Match Editor-in-Chief

Before the beginning of every school year, I always look forward to buying new school supplies. When I was younger, I remember excitedly picking out perfectly sharpened pencils and crisp notebooks, insisting that I absolutely needed a new box of crayons, even though I had some from last year. At the time, this was perfectly reasonable because my torn, dirty box of missing crayons was obviously no fit for the new school year.

Years later, I still lose my supplies all the time. But now, I realize it's bound to happen, and that's okay.

While every new year is a fresh start, it is also a continuation of experiences. Each missing crayon in the box represents your latest drawing or colorful story. In other words, something "old" and "used" becomes new and original.

The rounded edges of my old eraser represent the mistakes I've made to perfect my math homework. The dulled

tips of my colored pencils remind me of all the artwork I've made. The more I use something, the more that it becomes dirty and old. The more I use something, the more value it holds in my heart.

Things change, and sometimes things go missing. That's okay. It's bittersweet, but it's possible to fill in these gaps with what you do have. I can always mix blue and yellow if I lose the green crayon.

Losing things made me appreciate the things I had. What if I lost both the green and blue crayons? I would be forced to color in yellow trees and grass. What if I had an argument with my best friend? I would have no one to laugh with at lunch. It's important to remember the true value of the things around you during difficulties. Change means that many things don't last forever, including both good and bad, so appreciate every second.

With every new year comes additional brushstrokes, colors and shapes on your life's canvas. However, it will never be the same crayon, paintbrush, or pencil. Every experience is important, even if it goes missing later.

As we near the end of the third month of school, remember to appreciate every colorful memory you will make throughout the year.