



TheMatch

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PHOTO BY ALEX LIEBERMAN

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Do your best and don't distress!

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Introducing the OpenGate System

by Madelyn Bailey

As Pine View students walk into school each morning, they are now being required to pass through the newly implemented OpenGate Weapons Detection system. Students are expected to take out all items that may set off the image detectors.

These devices are, contrary to popular belief, not metal detectors.

“They look for images of things that would be considered weapons or could cause destruction” Elementary School Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle said.

OpenGate will often activate at the detection of common objects such as laptops, tablets, binders, metallic spiral notebooks, and even eyeglasses cases. This led to some confusion among students during the first few days of the new system, slowing down the process and causing students to arrive late to their classes.

“I think the biggest challenge is just trying to get everyone through as quick as possible,” Sprinkle said.

Fifth grader Anastasia Shaitanoff has observed that any issues with the speed at which students pass through the OpenGate system could be solved by simple preparation.



“I think that people can deal with it if everyone gets to know the system. If people take their binders out beforehand, it wouldn't be a problem,” Shaitanoff said.

Despite issues faced at the beginning of the new system, students adjusted quickly to the new technology.

“Each day it's gotten faster and faster as students learn what not to stick in their backpacks,” Sprinkle said.

Pine View was the first elementary school in the county to implement the OpenGate system. This system is part of a district-wide initiative that was first introduced to Riverview High School last year.

Another security measure that was introduced at Riverview last school year is the Omnilert Gun Detection system. The Omnilert system scans security cameras

to detect firearms. According to school district officials, it worked well for Riverview and may be implemented throughout the county.

Although the new safety systems came with challenges, Sprinkle believes that it will all be beneficial in the long run.

“A lot of things like this, when they're new, they're a little painful, but we'll get used to them. As long as they

keep everyone safe, it's worth it,” Sprinkle said.

PHOTOS BY ALEX LIEBERMAN

GRAPHICS BY ANNA ZHANG

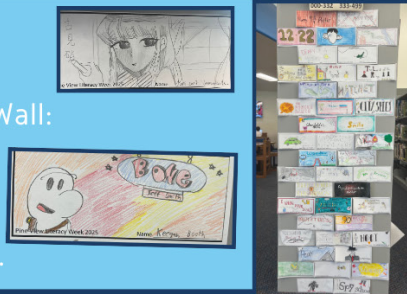
LITERACY WEEK JANUARY 27-31

Building Literacy: Constructing the Foundation for Success

MONDAY

Add Your Favorite Book to the Wall:

Students started off Literacy Week by drawing symbols from their favorite book, which were then hung up around the library.



TUESDAY

Building Our Library:

Students brought in books to donate to the Media Center.



WEDNESDAY

School-Wide Quad Read:

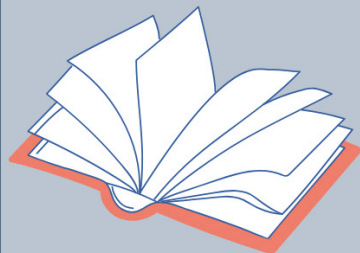
Kids from all grade levels came outside to the Quad to read during fourth period.



THURSDAY

Check out a Book:

Students stopped by the Media Center, admired the display for their grade level group, and checked out a book.



FRIDAY

Elementary Book Buddies

Elementary students found themselves a book buddy!



GRAPHIC BY ANDREW ASHBY

The Future of Space

Artemis 2

A crewed test of NASA's Space Launch System, this mission will fly around the moon.

Extremely Large Telescope

Constructed on a Chilean mountaintop, its main mirror will be 130 feet wide.

99942 Apophis

The OSIRIS-APEX probe will rendezvous with this asteroid as it passes by Earth.

DAVINCI

Descending through Venus's cloudtops, this probe will investigate the surface.

JUICE and Europa Clipper

Already launched, these two probes will arrive at Jupiter around the same time to explore its icy moons to see if their subsurface oceans could harbor life.

ILRS

A joint venture between China and Russia, construction on this moonbase is projected to finish in the mid-2030s.

Dragonfly

This robotic aircraft will be deployed on Saturn's moon Titan, the only moon in the Solar System with a thick atmosphere.

2026

2028

2029

2030

2031

2035

2036



GRAPHIC BY JAKOB ROCHE

Data from
NASA, ESA,
Roscosmos

Birthdays

RECENT EVENTS

Valentine's Day Post Office

PHOTO BY ZOE BATTON



PHOTO BY MILA SANDBURG

PHOTO BY
NATE MAINSPHOTO BY NIRDASHANA
VENDRANTHAL

Elementary school students around campus simulate a post office to deliver valentines all over campus. Leading up to the event, which took place Friday, February 14, students applied for different positions in the process ranging from Postmaster General to Stamper.

The Hovercraft Project



Fifth grade students put their minds to work to create a physical hovering mechanism. Organized by fifth grade teacher Rachel Lenerz, The Hovercraft Project has been a tradition at Pine View for many years; most recently taking place January 30-31, 2025. PHOTOS BY EJ BUCKLEY AND ALEX LIEBERMAN

Mar. 5Leslie Stewart's
birthday**Mar. 6**Bobby Velasquez's
birthday**Mar. 23**Alyssa Adamson's
birthday**Apr. 3**Misty Tucak's
birthday**May 21**Bo Lengyel's
birthday

DOG MAN

A Movie Review

by Dasha Shabunina

Who hasn't read, or at least heard of, "Dog Man"? The books, carrying messages of good and evil and exposing social problems in a kid-friendly way, could practically be considered classics! Making their way into every library, with over 60 million copies sold, there's now a movie, too.

I read "Dog Man" with my best friend when we were in fourth grade. We would sit in the library, taking turns narrating Dog Man's heroic acts as the plans of Petey the Cat, the villain of

the story, backfired. Now, as a tenth grader, I went to see the movie with my dad.

Warning: there are potential spoilers ahead

The movie theater grew quiet as the trailers ended and the movie was introduced.

"That's Dog Man!" a girl next to me said.

My dad and I shared popcorn as we watched the colorful scenes and lively characters, leaving the movie theater in a good mood.

The aspect I enjoyed the most was the emotional characterization.

In the books, Dog Man is portrayed as an optimistic hero who, with his vibrant personality and tendency to

do acts of kindness, makes many friends while saving the world from crime. While the same happens in the movie, he also loses one.

The absence of his former companion is greatly felt as Dog Man grieves in the aftermath of the accident that starts the story. He walks

through their former house, picking up a photo and a toy of emotional significance before going to build his life up again.

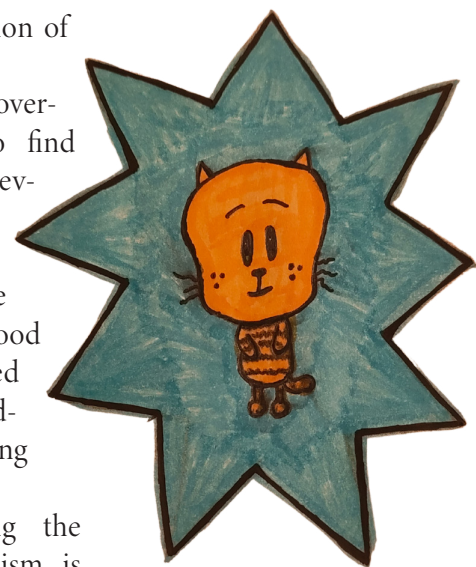
Petey, through the interaction with his clone, is also characterized as not completely being a bad guy. Even though the characters experience many emotions, the movie is funny and shows the formation of new beginnings.

My dad, an over-thinker, tried to find symbolism in every aspect of the movie. While he didn't like the concrete distinction between good and evil, he appreciated the themes of friendship and overcoming challenges.

Closely following the plot, my only criticism is that it was overpacked with action. There were several

villains who each created several problems. While it made the story less sad, it also seemed like too much, especially combined with the movie's animation style.

Overall, I enjoyed the movie and would recommend it. The lighthearted jokes pair beautifully with the bittersweet moments, creating a meaningful story while remaining entertaining. You should definitely put this on your "to watch" list.



GRAPHICS BY DASHA SHABUNINA

All-State Superstar

By Jiayi Zhu

Standing amongst a carefully selected group, fourth grader Aradhana Narendran's voice rings pure and clear. Narendran performed the All-State small group solo — a fifteen-person group out of 200 — on January 9, 2025.

Narendran started singing Indian music, which uses complex rhythms and a wide variety of notes, when she was four. Narendran has played the piano for seven years and has a strong sense of pitch. She notes her ability

to “meld [songs] into the way that would fit [her] the most,” just from listening to them.

“I think that level of ear training is really helpful for her as a musician,” said elementary music teacher Alyssa Adamson

“and she also plays piano very well, so she's talented in several areas of music.”

Narendran credits her mom as a major source of support and the main reason why she started playing the piano. Narendran enjoys entertaining people with her talents.

“In general, and the same goes for piano, [singing] makes the audience happy, which makes me happy,” she said.

While Narendran had performed for audiences in the past, All-State was still something new for her.

“I'm usually someone who is a little shy when I sing to people but the fact that I was chosen for the solo helped show me that I could do it,” Narendran said.

After performing at All-State, Narendran said she feels like she's grown more confident in herself. Despite

hours of training, she remembers the day fondly.



After competing at the All-State Choir competition, fourth grader Aradhana Narendran poses with elementary music teacher Alyssa Adamson. Narendran performed at All-State for the first time on January 9, 2025. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALYSSA ADAMSON

“In the moment, I was really excited it was really cool because I was so happy to finally hear somebody harmonizing with me,” Narendran said. “It

was really fun.”

Narendran hopes to do All-State again and wants to sing for bigger groups of people in the future. As Narendran continues to develop her musical pursuits, it's clear she has a growing confidence to share her talents with the world.

“I think she's always been confident. But musical-

ly, she's grown a lot in piano, her singing ability as she's gotten older has gotten stronger. The All-State audition that she made this year isn't

easy...” Adamson said, “seeing her get more and more confident about her abilities has been really great.”

Match Tries: ROCK PAINTING

The Match Staff used our creativity to make painted rocks. Rock painting is a fun and mellow activity that we highly recommend trying with your friends. Keep your eyes peeled while walking around campus, maybe you'll spot some of our creations!

Materials: rocks, acrylic paint brushes, or paint markers (Match Staff used paint markers)

Match Staffers: Ava Lenerz (Match Editor-in-Chief), Timothy Nesanelis (Match Asst. Editor), Ana Easter (Match Asst. Editor), Jenna Hinck (Match Layout Artist), Anna Zhang (Match Layout Artist)



Yellow Alder

Scientific Name: *Turnera ulmifolia*

Fun Fact: Yellow Alders are actually used in herbal medicine to treat common colds and flus.



Mexican Clover

Scientific Name: *Richardia grandiflora*

Fun Fact: Mexican Clovers can actually grow in areas flattened by foot traffic



Campus Blooms

A Guide to the Flowers on Campus

Pine View's garden is full of colorful flowers, but did you know that many beautiful flowers also grow naturally around campus? Some of them are small and easy to miss, so keep an eye out the next time you are walking to class!

Nettleleaf Velvetberry

Scientific Name: *Stachytarpheta urticifolia*

Fun Fact: The Nettleleaf Velvetberry is a species of lavender, and is used as decoration in many countries.



Clustured Fanpetals

Scientific Name: *Sida glomerata*

Fun Fact: Its thick, woody stems allow Clustered Fanpetals to be used in brooms.



Peregrina

Scientific Name: *Jatropha integerrima*

Fun Fact: The Peregrina's seeds are toxic and especially harmful to children.



Twists, Turns, and Triumphs

by Athena Erbe

Have you ever wondered how to defy gravity and make it look effortless? Well, for fourth grader Ana Koro this is just another day at gymnastics practice.

Launching herself into the air and swinging on a bar, her passion for gymnastics started when she was just a toddler. But behind the amazing routines and award winning performances lies years of dedication and passion.

Koro's love for gymnastics started at a very young age. Even when she was a toddler, she liked to flip around and tumble. With the help of

her mother, Darinka Koro, former ex-gymnast, Koro began to learn basic gymnastics. What was just a hobby became a serious commitment at around age six when she began competing.

Koro enjoys gymnastics because it is unlike other sports.

"...[In] other sport[s], you can't just be free and just do what you want to do. So, I feel like gymnastics was good," Koro said.

Her strong devotion to gymnastics can be seen through her long practice sessions. She goes to lessons

three times a week, with each session lasting three hours.

Despite the long hours, Koro likes her practices.

"She enjoys it a lot, and that's almost her highlight of the week," Darinka Koro said.

Not only does Koro do gymnastics, but she also has to balance her time with piano lessons.

Despite her busy schedule, this dedication has paid off. She has won every competition she has competed in so far. Some competitions she has attended include Gasparilla, Charity Challenge, and Lightning City.



Gymnastics competitions consist of four main events: floor, vaults, beam, and bars. Each area requires



different skills, like balance, precision, and strength. Koro prefers performing bar

events, which require great upper-body strength.

"I feel like I'm better on bars because I'm strong in the arms, not my legs... so it's just easier for me," Koro said.

She has excelled through gymnastics starting at level one and moving her way up to level three. With her enthusiasm, she has a promising future in the sport, and her journey has just begun.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DARINKA KORO

The Benefits of Stretching

While stretching before you exercise may seem pointless, it actually has many benefits, and is important to keep your body healthy. Just take a few minutes before you exercise and your body will thank you!

Increased Flexibility

Improved Coordination

Prevention of Injuries

Stress Reduction

Better Posture

The Gronk of Pine View

by Katerina Mazzo

Football can take many forms, including tackle, flag, and two-hand touch. It is streamed on Sunday, Monday, and Thursday nights for entertainment, where professionals who train everyday play games and inspire their fans. For others it's a casual and fun game to play with your friends at the park. Most importantly, it brings people together to share their love for the game. For Fifth Grader Logan Stanley, football certainly checks all of these boxes.

"My parents don't want me to get hurt, so I stick with flag and two-hand touch," Stanley said.

While tackle football is known to be an intense contact sport, flag football and two-hand touch are safer alternatives with just as much strategy

and fun. In tackle football, players are brought down forcefully to the ground. In flag football, defenders must grab a flag from the ball carrier's waist. In two-hand touch, players have to tag the runner with both hands to stop the play. These versions of the game allow Stanley to develop his skills without worrying about getting severely injured.

Stanley also prefers this over tackle because you have multiple opportunities to reach your goal and even when you get touched you aren't quite down



PHOTO BY KATERINA MAZZO

yet.

Stanley has always watched football on TV, but his most memorable introduction was in first grade. As he watched his friends play he took the time to learn the rules and quickly picked it up. Now Stanley enjoys playing football any chance he gets, especially with friends. He and his friend, fifth grader Luke Povacker, play almost everyday at fields after lunch.

"We've known each other since first grade, so if we're together we know our strategies and we know how to beat other players," Stanley said.

Even though Stanley is a die hard Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan and Povacker is a New York Giants fan, they are great teammates on the field. In

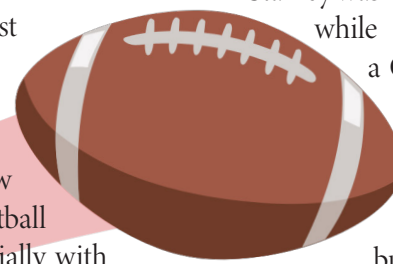
terms of the Super Bowl, they were each supporting opposite teams.

Stanley was rooting for the Eagles, while Povacker said, "I'm a Giants fan, so I can't root for the Eagles."

They may not always be rooting for the same team, but they do root for each other.

Stanley is a huge fan of Rob Gronkowski, a retired tight end who played for the Buccaneers and the New England Patriots. He won four Super Bowl Championships and is often regarded as one of the greatest tight ends of all time.

"I really want to be a tight end, and he's a good role model for being a tight end," Stanley said.



[a column] The People's Playground

by Allie Chung

Life is hard, but life is harder when you're a fourth or fifth grader banned from using the playground. While the second and third graders enjoy the luxuries—swings, slides, and other equipment—the fourth and fifth

graders are left reminiscing what they once had.

Yes, they have their own area for entertainment, and, yes, the second and third graders are prohibited from using that space, but do students believe that it is truly fair?

Fifth grader Aarya Strnad shared her opinion on this problematic situation.

"It's sort of sad because [the playground] has changed so many times. I've been here since second grade, and there's a whole different

type of playground at this point," Strnad said. "Honestly, I wish we could still play in it if we choose to. I wish there was a choice between the field or the playground."

While Strnad laments her exclusion from the upgraded Pine View playground, fifth grader Reese Dieterl looks back at her time spent on the playground of her previous school.

"In my other playground, I think that I miss the cool mountains that we can climb on where you get dizzy and the slides," Dieterl said.

Although Pine View's playground offers similar activities as Dieterl's previous school, she is unable to participate in her previous fun due to the age restriction on the playground.

These heartfelt recollections high-

light the growing call among the older students for more flexible access.

The solution is simple: a sharing system. Due to the limited overlap of playground time between elementary schoolers, there are plenty of opportunities for all grades to use the playground. A period of time, as short as 10 minutes before school or a section of lunch, would heavily improve the quality of the fourth and fifth graders' recess time. Whether they wish to stick to the courts or use the swings, older elementary students should not be limited to their fun simply because of their age.

A sharing system would ensure that all available recreational space would be used to the fullest extent, and that no elementary student would be left in the dust—or to be more precise, the mulch.



PHOTO BY ALLIE CHUNG

How do Electric Cars Work?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by fifth grader Mia Gutierrez



PHOTO BY ANA EASTER

by Ana Easter

Electric cars are becoming increasingly popular on the roads with many car companies beginning to produce them. But, how exactly do these cars work?

To understand how electric cars work, let's first take a look at how a regular car works. Most cars that use gas have an internal combustion engine that burns gasoline to create energy. This process releases pollution into the atmosphere and is not very environmentally friendly.

Electric cars on the other hand, don't need gas at all! Instead, they use electric

environment.

The battery of an electric car is one of its most important parts. The battery stores electric energy, just like a normal battery, but is much bigger and more powerful. Most electric cars use lithium batteries that can be recharged many times, so, when the battery of an electric car runs low, the owner just plugs it into a charging port to refill the battery.

Some batteries can hold enough power for a car to drive hundreds of miles before needing to be recharged, which is more than most gas-powered vehicles.

When an electric car runs out of power, some people charge their electric cars at home, while others use public charging stations. Charging electric cars is a very easy process and much less expensive compared to buying gas for a regular car.

The battery in an electric vehicle gives electricity to the electric motor, which is used to make the car move. This process is much different than when a gasoline powered car burns fuel in the engine.

In an electric car, electricity

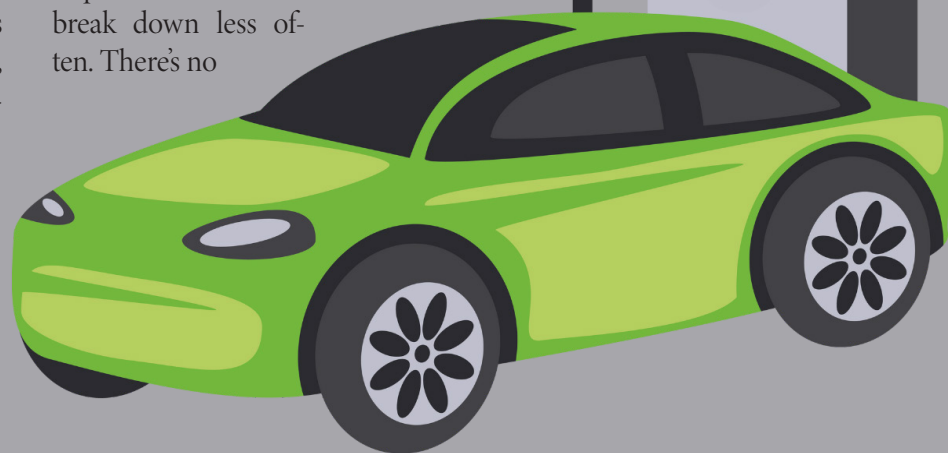
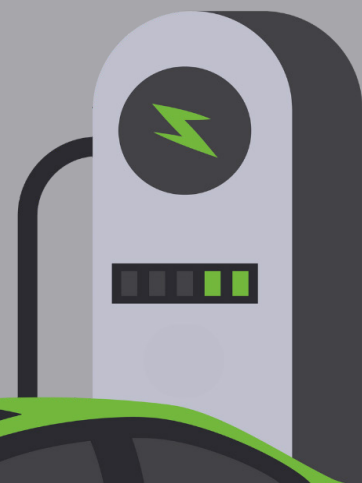
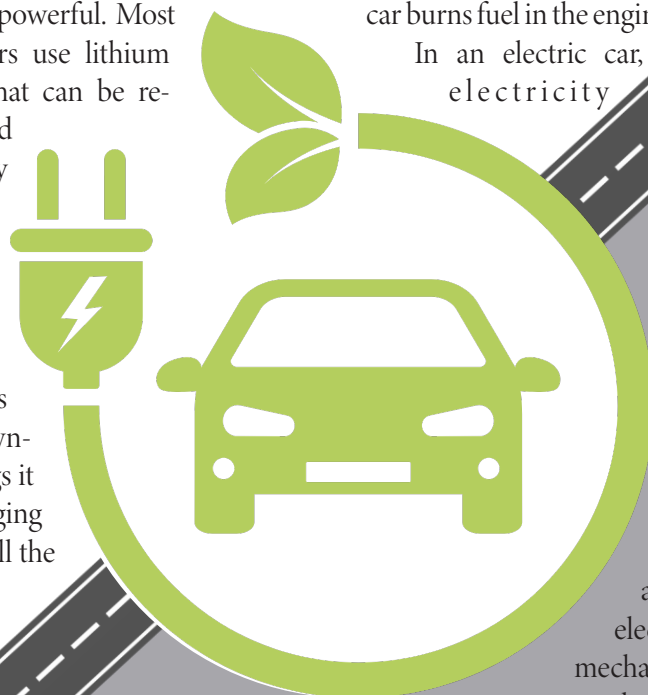
flows directly from the battery to the electric motor. This motor is located by the wheels and converts electricity into mechanical energy to move them.

Electric cars don't have as many parts as gasoline cars do, so they require less maintenance and break down less often. There's no

need for routine maintenance like oil changes or spark plugs that are commonly needed for gasoline powered cars. This makes them more convenient and cost-effective over time.

Electric cars are changing the way we think about transportation. By using electricity instead of gasoline, they help reduce pollution, lower costs, and make driving more environmentally friendly.

GRAPHICS BY ANA EASTER



motors powered by batteries. Because they don't burn fuel, electric cars are much better for the

Should schools assign books to read?

by Robyn Schoenberg

At some point in everyone's life we are assigned to read a book in school that we'd really rather not read. It's a universal experience for students, it's inevitable, but success in the classroom is not impossible. The key is to accept that there are genuine benefits to assigned reading, but if you have a negative attitude, it'll be much harder to see that.

First, you must be open. Your teacher isn't just picking a book at random. In most cases, a lot of thought is put into selecting class books that are relevant and engaging.



Pine View Literacy Coach Shannon Wynne said, "I try to tie the books that we're reading into either the skill that we are supposed to be learning via the state B.E.S.T. standards or science and social studies."

There are undeniable lessons to be learned from assigned texts, the trick is figuring out how to find them.

Arguably, one of the most helpful parts of whole class reading is the class collaboration.

"I think the benefit is that you have a commonality that you can discuss," Wynne said, "I also think that when students are reading things that are the same, they can be more collaborative in their conversation, which usually tends to lead to deeper thought."



Chances are that you may not like a book because you don't truly understand it, and many don't their first time reading something. Class discussions of common books can clarify major plot points, character developments, themes, minor details, and give context that might have been confusing at first.

Teachers can also provide input, and students can share their perspectives, ultimately inspiring, captivating, and empowering those involved.

Even if there isn't a planned in-class conversation, you can discuss with your teacher and friends one on one. Don't be afraid to ask questions, as curiosity leads to better understanding that can potentially spark a greater appreciation for the book.



The skills that you gather from in-class activities can be applied to individual reading as well. Wynne asserted that there is a healthy balance between assigned whole class reading and individual choice reading.

Individual reading also lends its own benefits such as improved stamina, vocabulary, and "fosters that love of reading," according to Wynne.

While realizing it at first may be difficult, assigned reading can be constructive and worthwhile. Throughout life you will be met with situations you oppose, but being open, curious, and asking yourself, "What can this teach me?" will prove endlessly valuable.

GRAPHICS BY ROBYN SCHOENBERG

So, you don't like what you're reading?

Tips to get through assigned reading you don't like.

★ Talk to people that like the book

Whether it's a friend, parent, or even the teacher, someone must like the book! They might help you see likeable things about the book.

★ Do research

When you research topics like the author or time period it can help you understand why the author made certain choices.

★ Read little by little

When you don't like a book, it can be hard to read lots at a time or even start. So, start small, three pages, or even a paragraph, and go from there.

★ Why don't you like the book?

Asking yourself what you would change about the plot, characters, or writing style can actually help you have a deeper understanding.

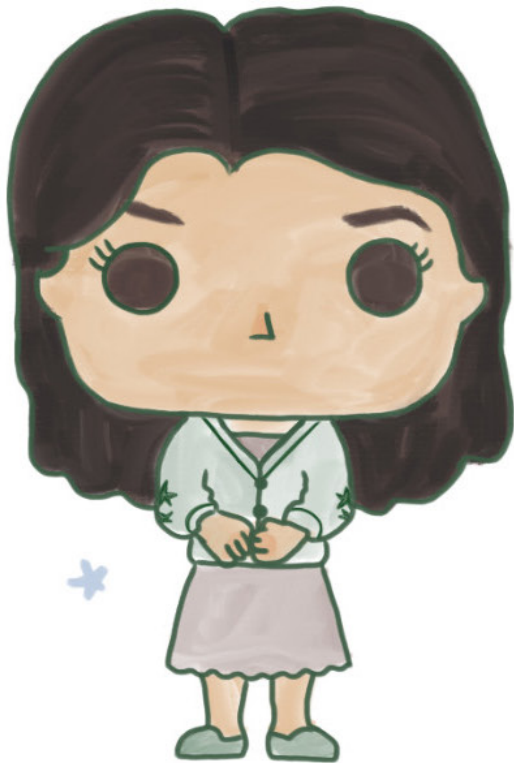
★ Audio book

Ask your teacher if you can listen to an audio book while reading. This could help you stay on track and engaged.

GRAPHIC BY ROBYN SCHOENBERG

Funko Pops are a popular mini-figure people like to collect that portray their favorite pop culture characters, but what would your teachers look like in Funko Pop form...?

TEACHERS AS FUNKO POPS!



Mrs. Elliott



Mrs. Lenerz



Mr. Vitkus

The Second Graders' Hidden Secret

by Timothy Nesanelis



The time had finally come. The fourth and fifth graders had been planning this ambush for months.

For far too many years, the second graders had coexisted with them in Building 16, using the same computer labs, walking the same halls, and climbing up the same stairs.

But earlier in the week, a rumor had spread around that there was a hidden floor below Building 16, a floor that held the secret to driving the second graders out once and for all. This is it; they had to take their shot.

That night, a small group of fourth and fifth graders walked into Building 16 and looked at the empty area next to the staircase. One fourth grader, Ayden T.T. Theef, held up a second grader's ID to the security camera, until he

finally heard the signal.

"Access Granted!"

The wall began to shift, and a bright light shined through. The group headed inside and found a scene beyond their wildest imagination.

Hundreds of second graders in bright white lab coats and safety goggles filled the room. Some of them were holding test tubes, while others were performing complex math equations. They were so busy with their tests that it had taken a full minute before one of the second graders noticed the group of fourth and fifth graders.

"Who are you? How did you manage to get in here?" the mysterious second grader asked.

Nobody was able answer before the second grader spoke again.

"Well, I'm afraid that nobody is allowed to be in here except the second graders. Come with me, I'll show you the way out," he said firmly.

The second grader guided the group to a room with a glass panel on one side, and ushered everybody in. Everybody was so confused, but fear crept in as they heard the second grader speak one more time from behind the glass.

"Memory wipe beacon flash will commence in three.. two.. one..."

In that moment, they had all finally figured out that they had been tricked. The secret to how the second graders had ruled Building 16 would never be spilled again.

GRAPHIC BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS

GRAPHIC BY ANDREW ASHBY

Mad Lib: A Deep Water Discovery

Go around asking your friends for the different words needed to fill in the blanks, then read the story aloud to see what madness you came up with!

It is _____, and you have been selected for the Sea Creatures and Underwater Bizarre Anomalies
year

team, or _____ for short. Your _____ mission is to find the aquatic _____, a
noun adjective mythical creature

species that's been rumored to exist for _____. When the time for the mission finally came,
unit of time

you quickly put on your _____ and got into the submarine named _____. After
clothing item proper noun

many _____ hours underwater you finally found it! Its _____ eyes were _____, its skin
adjective number color

was _____, and its many _____ made it look even more _____. You _____ a quick
adjective body part adjective verb

picture and rush back into the submarine, your team up there won't BELIEVE what you saw!



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[a column]

Do your best and don't distress!



Ava Lenerz,
Match Editor-in-Chief

Let's admit it, with all the homework and tests, school can get stressful. There are many nights when I feel too overwhelmed and like I'll never finish all my assignments. On these nights, I need to take a step back and remember all the positives in my life.

Think back to what you did with your friends that day, or maybe you have fun weekend plans. Basically, thinking back to the good in your life can help change your mood.

I understand that our stressors are very different

since I'm in high school, but not too long ago (depending on how long you consider six years), I was also an elementary schooler, so I know it can feel hard or challenging but you will get through it.

Sometimes my mind starts freaking out at what I should do first because there are so many things to do, but I remind myself I can only do one thing at a time, so I just need to start somewhere. It can help to divide your work and take a short break after each assignment, or to keep an agenda (if you're not already) to track your progress.

So, if you're ever having a bad day or feel overwhelmed, try out some of these strategies, and—I cannot stress this enough—there are always people who love you and care about your happiness, so reach out to them when you need someone to talk to.

We want to hear from you!

As a student-run newspaper, we'd love to receive any suggestions or comments you might have for us! To reach us you can write a letter and ask the office to give it to Mr. Chris Lenerz or email him on Outlook.

-The Match Staff