



The Match

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Memories Tied Together
With Color
[entertainment pg. 7]



PHOTO BY ALEX LIEBERMAN

**Labor of Love: Teacher of the
Year [news pg. 4]**

**Sky-High Smiles
[sports pg. 10]**

**Sew It Begins
[entertainment pg. 7]**

THE MATCH

news

[p.3]
Welcome New Fourth
Grade Teachers

[p.4]
Labor of Love: Teacher
of the Year

New Cell Phone Bans

[p.5]
Recent Events: Book
Tasting, Tie Dye Day

entertainment

[p.6]
'Superfruits'

[p.7]
Sew it Begins

Memories Tied Together
with Color

features

[p.8 & 9]
Fall Bucket List

sports

[p.10]
Sky-High Smiles

Sailing the Sea

[p.11]
Eye on the Ball

Students' Voices: High
School Sports

student question

[p.12]
How do cameras work?

opinion

[p.13]
Brunch is Served!

The Necessity of Class-
room Snacks

humor

[p.14]
A Haunted Adventure

Make Your Own Hal-
loween Comic

[p.15]
Statuesque Shenani-
gans

Pine Vorts School for
the Magically Gifted

focus

[p.16]
Change is in the Air!

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The Match covers topics, issues, events and opinions of relevance to students grades four and five. The Match is published four times a year by Pine View School and maintains membership in the Florida Scholastic Press Association. Press run is 500 copies. Copies are provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff. All content is subject to prior approval by administration.

Reader input. Submit story ideas, comments and questions to the editor of the publication. Address general comments and questions to the Editor-in-Chief at ana.easter@pineviewtorch.com.

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Welcome New Fourth Grade Teachers

GRAPHIC AND INTERVIEW BY AVA LENERZ

Jennifer Weeks

A little bit of information about Weeks:

Weeks was born and raised in Venice, FL, adding to her passion to return to Sarasota for work. She attended the University of South Florida (USF) for both undergraduate and graduate school.

Why did Weeks become a teacher:

Weeks came from a family of teachers. She loves learning, so much so that she hopes to get a doctorate one day. She had great teachers and friends who always supported her growing up fostering her love of school.

What is Weeks looking forward to this year:

She is excited to immerse herself into the Pine View community this year. She signed up as the freshman class sponsor, so she can begin connecting with other grade levels.

Fun Fact:

Weeks likes Colleen Hoover books and reading in general. She is involved in theater; growing up she was a wedding singer and dreamed of being a Broadway star.

Anything else?

She has already been teaching for 15 years, most recently working at Venice Elementary for seven years. She, so far, feels very welcome and appreciates the independence Pine View offers students.



PHOTO BY MARINA WISSA

Amanda Simon

A little bit of information about Simon:

Simon previously worked at Pine view for 17 years, but took a four year hiatus for business pursuits. She feels lucky she gets to return, as teaching is her “calling.”

Why did Simon become a teacher:

Since she was 15, she knew she wanted to work with kids. She’s always loved teaching.

What is Simon looking forward to this year:

She is looking forward to the excitement students have to learn and being back in the classroom with them.

Fun Fact:

She is a proud “boy mom” and lives “off the grid” during the summer. She loves the outdoors, cooking, and reading, specifically genres about personal growth and leadership.

Anything else?

She wants all students to know they have value and “you bring the weather with you.” She hopes students bring the positive of each week home with them.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY AMANDA SIMON

Labor of Love: Teacher of the Year

by Marina Wissa

The classroom erupted with celebration as Dr. Stephen Covert entered to present fifth grade teacher Becky Hoffman with a certificate. Tears filled Hoffman's eyes as she realized her accomplishment: not only had she won Elementary Teacher of the Year, but she was also named Pine View's overall Teacher of the Year.

"When they walked in with the flowers, I just started to cry, because I knew what it meant," Hoffman said, sitting before the banner honoring her award, "I see what's happening in the world around us, and we're so very fortunate here [at Pine View]."

Hoffman teaches fifth grade ELA and social studies, also serving as the fifth grade team leader. She has been teaching for twenty-five years, but her path to education was not always clear.

She graduated as an English major, unsure of the next step she should take in life. Encouraged by her husband—whose mother is a teacher—and inspired by a former English professor, she decided to give teaching a try.

"He was very kind and caring... and I really wanted to be someone like him to help others who were maybe going through a difficult time," Hoffman said, "I tried teaching, and it was definitely the right fit...It all fell into place the way it was supposed to."

Hoffman encourages creativity, fostering relationships and collaboration between students and herself by using teams instead of tables. Her daughter, Natalie Hoffman, a senior at Pine View, has witnessed her mom's teaching approach firsthand.

"Getting to be in her classroom was very eye-opening, because I really

got to see how she operates," Natalie said. "She really does value teamwork and creativity."

Natalie carries her mom's lessons with her, in both her schoolwork and life.

"Keep doing what you're doing, because obviously it's working," Natalie would say to her mom, "When times get tough, like you tell me, just keep trying, and you'll get it eventually."

Her students also carry Hoffman's lessons through life, visiting her often to tell her they still use the interactive notebooks and reference materials they built in elementary school years later.

Winning Teacher of the Year is only one milestone in Hoffman's journey, and she remains dedicated to growing alongside her students.

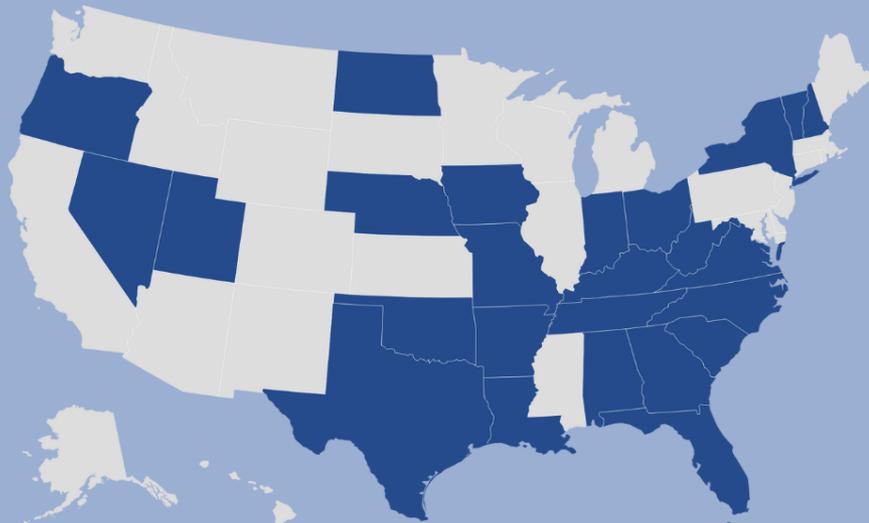
Fifth grade teacher Becky Hoffman (center) poses with (left to right) Lana Marcotte, Stephen Covert, Roy Sprinkle, and Eileen Cabrera while holding up her award. PHOTO PROVIDED BY BECKY HOFFMAN



"It's a labor of love for sure. But I've found the most successful teachers are the ones who can reflect, come to some type of conclusion about how to fix it, and then be open to suggestions as well," Hoffman said.

New Cell Phone Bans

Florida, like many other states, has introduced a new rule banning student cell phone use during school hours. What do the numbers have to say?



States With Cell Phone Bans

(2025 School Year)

Source: Associated Press News
GRAPHIC BY JAKOB ROCHE

Parental Resistance

In a study by Emory researchers in 125 Georgia school districts, this was cited as the biggest obstacle to regulating phones

74%

of American adults support banning cell phone usage in class

57%

of 18 to 29-year-olds support banning cell phone usage in class

Birthdays

RECENT EVENTS

Nov. 2
Melissa Germanio's
birthday

Book Tasting



Dressed in chefs hats and fake moustaches, fourth graders gather in the MPR for a book tasting event. Choosing from a wide variety of books, the "chefs" carefully critiqued selected books, filling out review sheets. This event took place September 19 and is a tradition for fourth graders at Pine View. PHOTOS BY SHRIYA ASHOK

Nov. 3
Mackenzie Fox's
birthday



Nov. 6
Meagan Jones'
birthday

Tie Dye Day



Dec. 15
Mark Thorpe's
birthday



Dec. 18
Diana Siwicka's
birthday

Using dye colors of their choosing, fourth graders, with the help of teachers and parents tie-dye T-Shirts to wear on their field trips. With the goal of creating a way of identifying their students on their field trips and also providing them with a souvenir, the fourth grade team decided to come together and tie dye the shirts October 8 outside of Building 16. PHOTOS BY ALEX LIEBERMAN

'Superfruits'

by Robyn Schoenberg

The fruit is alive! After a clumsy scientist spilled a magic potion at the supermarket, the town of Fruitville was brought to life and encountered an unexpected adventure. In the Amazon-published book, "Superfruits," by fifth graders Katya Poes and Teddy Leary, readers find out if the Superfruits can restore peace after the junk foods cause chaos.

Poes and Leary began working on this project when they were seated next to each other in their third grade class.

"In our free time, because we were some of the fastest kids in our class to finish our work, we would just draw and write little comic books using paper," Poes said. "One of them was 'Superfruits' and then we decided to make a book to publish it."

They collaborated to create the story and illustrations to go along with it.

With the help of friends, they built unique characters that spoke with creative food puns. For example, Lemon who knows how to "turn a sour situation into a citrus celebration." Poes' personal favorite is a pineapple named Queen Lyla.

After hand-drawing their first draft they moved on to creating their final copy digitally. With the help of Poes' mom, they later published their book on Amazon.

Not only did they have the support of their parents, but also their third grade teacher, Sara Kolsky.

"Finding out about it was exciting. It was fun," Kolsky said. "I was just very

proud of the fact of what they set off to do and that they actually accomplished their



little goal."

Kolsky now keeps two copies of the book in her classroom and even



shared the Amazon link with her family. When the book came out, she had Poes and Leary show it to Elementary Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle, and Kolsky read it aloud to their class.

The duo hoped to create another book together, but Leary recently moved to another state. However, Poes hopes to continue producing her own creative projects.

Poes enjoys drawing and has taken multiple art classes. This summer she attended online classes to develop her skills, such as drawing cartoon

characters.

Kolsky said she enjoys watching students like Poes and Leary take their ideas beyond the classroom.

"It's the joy of Pine View," Kolsky said, "sometimes it's more, maybe PowerPoints or projects, not necessarily such an actual product like a book, but you see their little heads, you know, start to go off with stuff... you get to see the little juices go and wheels turn."



Sew it begins

by Katerina Mazzo

On just a normal summer morning, fifth grader Khushi Panthulu took a trip to her local Hobby Lobby with her family. The thread, felt, and colorful fabric that covered the walls sparked a new interest for Panthulu.

“How about I try sewing stuffed animals?” she wondered.

Once she got home, she picked up her sister’s sewing kit that had been left untouched for years. She didn’t have to look far for inspiration as the kit came with a book with all the guidance she needed.

The first thing Panthulu saw was a stuffed animal. She immediately began working on her first creation: an alien

monster.

“Its name is Google — like the search browser,” Panthulu said.

Her older sister, Diya, was the one who passed down the sewing kit that started it all.

“I think I might have given it to her for her birthday because I was in my room, and I have a bunch of old art kits that I’ve probably been gifted or my mom bought for me,” Diya said, “Since I’ve never been into sewing, I was just like, oh, maybe I should pass it on and see if my sisters like it. So I gave it to Khushi, and she seemed really interested, and I was really happy about



that.”

Suddenly, this old sewing kit became a full-time hobby for Panthulu. Since June, she has made around ten stuffed animals, including an elephant, a unicorn, and her personal favorite, a chameleon

While Panthulu’s projects can take anywhere from one to five hours, she says that each one is worth it.

“It can get frustrating, but it’s pretty easy once you start doing it... and it’s kind of satisfying too,” she said.

Panthulu spreads the love by gifting her creations to her family. She made personalized stuffed animals for her mom’s and dad’s birthdays.

“It makes me happy when I can give something I made myself,” Panthu-



PHOTO BY KATERINA MAZZO

lu said.

Although school has slowed her sewing schedule, Diya said her sister’s passion isn’t going anywhere.

“I think she can go anywhere she wants with it,” she said. “She’ll keep doing it in her downtime. She seems to really enjoy it.”

Memories Tied Together With Color

by Alex Lieberman

Colorful dyes were strewn everywhere and rainbow T-shirts twisted up with rubber bands laid out in the sun. On October 8, the fourth graders created tie-dye shirts they will wear on field trips throughout the school year with each one designed by an individual student.

“I chose blue and yellow for my shirt,” fourth-grader Raven Davis

said, “because those are the Pine View colors, and I thought it would look cute because then it would mix with some green.”

Other students took a different approach.

“I used marine biology colors, so I used greens, purples, and blues,” fourth-grader Mosley Brittain said.

Last year the students made tie-dye shirts for a field trip to the Lowry Park Zoo.

“It was really fun because all the students were wearing these bright colors and not necessarily matching, but all having their own spin on the shirt,” said fourth-grade teacher Brooke Collins. “Then we took it this year and decided as a fourth grade team that we wanted to have these

shirts for all our field trips...”

The next field trip is in November with more to follow, including a visit to the Lowry Park Zoo.

Fellow fourth-grade teacher Cassandra Stanley coordinated the tie-dye stations, and parent volunteers came in to help students create their unique shirts.

Collins added that these shirts serve a purpose besides identifying students during field trips: they are mementos from their time in fourth grade.

“We want them to remember the fun that they had in fourth grade,” she said.

Collins hopes the students will remember “not only the field trips that they went on, but [have] a tan-



gible object that maybe they keep at home and wear in fifth grade—or they keep it, and see it when they’re in high school and remember not only making the shirt but going on the really cool trips we have planned.”

PHOTOS BY ALEX LIEBERMAN



★ FALL BUCKET LIST ★

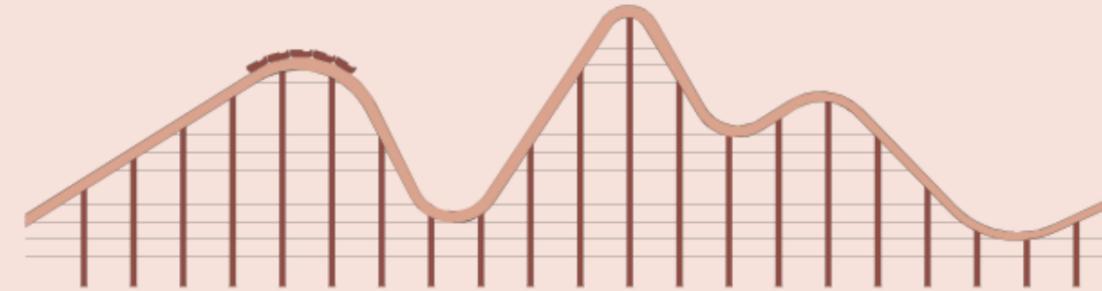
Parental guidance advised.



WATCH HALLOWEEN MOVIES



MOVIES



GO TO BUSCH GARDENS HOWL-O-SCREAM

CARVE A PUMPKIN



GO TO A PUMPKIN PATCH!



EAT CANDY!!!



GO TRICK-OR-TREATING ON HALLOWEEN!



Sky-High Smiles

by Alakh Bhatt

Fifth graders Alyssa Entin and Meera Malik don't just spend their afternoons doing homework. They spend them flying through the air, hanging from silks, and spinning high above the ground at the Sailor Circus Academy in Sarasota, a youth training program known as "The Greatest Little Show on Earth."

Entin first discovered circus through a summer camp, where she immediately fell in love with the art form.

"I did circus summer camp, and I really liked it, and then my mom signed me up for the whole season year," Entin said.

That first summer experience turned into a passion that's now lasted for years.

Malik's path to the circus started in a different place — the big screen.

"I watched 'The Greatest Showman' and I saw all those cool circus stunts and the trapeze. My mom signed me up for the summer camp, and then I fell in love with circus," Malik said.

Both girls have now been performing for nearly five years. Though they share the same stage, their acts are quite different. Entin focuses on aerial



silks, long pieces of fabric suspended from the ceiling that performers climb and wrap around themselves to create dramatic poses and drops. Malik specializes in the Spanish web, a thick rope that allows artists to spin rapidly while hanging high above the ring.

Each performer has a favorite

trick that shows off her personality and skill.

"Mine is on the aerial silk. It's called Pencil," Entin said. "You drop down straight like a pencil, and it looks like you're flying."

Malik's favorite move is called The Ice Skater.

"You put your foot in a loop, and they spin you really fast. One leg is in the loop, and the other goes to the side—it's like skating in the air," Malik said.

Performing in front of large crowds has helped both students build confidence and overcome stage fright.

"At first I was nervous to be in front of a huge crowd, but now I'm confident," Malik said.

Balancing school and circus takes

dedication. From Entin's house, practice is only two minutes away, but Malik drives about 20 minutes and often starts her homework in the car. Even with their busy schedules, both say it's worth it to keep improving their skills.

Looking ahead, the girls plan to continue performing and pushing themselves to new heights. Entin dreams of mastering advanced tricks such as the Double Star and Double Pencil, while Malik hopes to grow stronger and more creative with each passing year.

For these fifth graders, the circus isn't just an after-school activity—it's a second home filled with hard work, excitement, and endless possibilities. It's where they've learned to trust themselves, support their teammates, and dream big.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ANU MALIK

Sailing the Seas

by Melissa White

Throughout history, sailing has helped develop civilizations as a form of transportation that allows people to travel great distances. Today, sailing has become a unique and challenging sport, one that fifth grader Ray Wu enjoys doing.

Wu started sailing two years ago after falling in love with the sport at a summer camp by Sarasota Youth Sailing. He joined the Green Fleet racing program at the Sarasota Yacht Club and recently has begun taking his sailing career more seriously, now competing for the St. Petersburg Yacht Club RWB racing team.

"I just moved to a new club and I'm still making friends," Wu said. "They're pretty funny and they're really welcom-

ing."

Wu sails an optimist dinghy, a type of boat used by sailors up to the age of 15. Through sailing, he has made friends of all ages throughout Sarasota and has even met sailors from across the country and internationally at regattas.

Wu's club has weekly practices on Mondays, Thursdays, and weekends. They involve time on the water and physical training on land.

In a text message exchange, Wu's



Ray Wu on his sailboat during the Valentine's Day regatta. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CHEN CHEN

mother, Chen Chen, said the sport has had a significant impact on her son.

"Sailing has helped Ray grow both mentally and physically. Mentally, the sport has lots of ups and downs, so he has learned patience, focus, and resilience. Physically, he's much stronger,"

Chen said.

The United States Optimist Dinghy Association partners with clubs such as the St. Petersburg Yacht Club to run events where top sailors can earn a spot on the national team. Wu's goal is to qualify for one of these spots.

"I tend to get bored if I'm losing and I'm really happy when I'm winning," Wu said.

Most recently, Wu placed first at the Venetian Cup Regatta, hosted by the Venice Yacht Club at the end of last season.

Sailing is a sport that requires time, patience and strength — skills Wu has worked hard to develop and will continue to use as he sails toward his dream of reaching nationals.

Eye on the Ball

by Maya Ruffin

As she struck the golf ball and sent it soaring into the air, a look of joy spread across the



With a firm hit, fifth grader Greyson Coyne sends a golf ball flying through the air. Coyne has been playing golf since she was three years old. PHOTO PROVIDED BY GREYSON COYNE

face of fifth grader Greyson Coyne. That was the moment that Coyne was hooked on golf.

Golf has always been a part of Coyne's life. She began playing at three years old with plastic clubs and balls. Coyne was first introduced to golf through her father who played and offered to teach her.

At first, Coyne received instruction from her parents. Later she began taking lessons with her coach, Sage Johnson.

Since the start of her coaching, Johnson has seen Coyne grow not just in skill, but also in focus and reliability.

"She has become far more

consistent, certainly striking the ball better," Johnson said. "When it comes to golf, nobody—not even the best players in the world—hit the ball perfectly every time. So, consistency is a huge part of the game."

When playing golf, a good shot is not always guaranteed. It is difficult for a golfer to replicate the same swing every time. The game requires a lot of patience, which can be challenging for a child.

While she enjoys playing the game itself, Coyne values the building of friendships and bonds along the way.

"I like going to practices and playing with other people," Coyne said. "I play with a team of two when we compete."

Coyne said the hardest part of golf is maintaining proper posture and executing a correct swing. The sport also has a strong mental component. Golfers must manage pressure and maintain consistency.

Coyne hopes to continue playing golf as a fun activity, though she doesn't plan to pursue it professionally. After years of effort, she hopes to use her experience to keep grow-



Planning her next move, Coyne studies the course. Golf requires players to think several shots ahead. PHOTO PROVIDED BY GREYSON COYNE

ing and challenging herself.

ARE YOU MORE INTERESTED IN PLAYING HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOW THAT PINE VIEW HAS HIGH SCHOOL GOLF AND TENNIS TEAMS?

Pine View is now offering high school sports for the first time ever! Considering this, do future Pine View high school students plan on joining them?



ALISHA SANDEEP

5th grade

"I play golf and I play sports a lot... I would be more interested in playing high school sports."



CHLOE GILLS

5th grade

"I would probably want to join the teams when I'm older"



WILSON WANG

5th grade

"I play soccer so I would not be interested."

GRAPHIC BY ALEX LIEBERMAN

How do cameras work?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by fifth-grader Magnolia Karayel



PHOTO BY ANNA ZHANG

by Anna Zhang

Everywhere you look, people are taking pictures, whether it is on phones, tablets, or cameras. We use cameras to save everyday moments, memories, and even funny pictures with friends. But have you ever stopped to wonder what is really happening inside a camera when you take a photo?

A camera's main job is to collect light. Light is always bouncing off of everything around us. When you take a picture, a tiny door inside the camera, called the shutter, opens. This allows light from the scene in front of the camera to rush inside.

The light first passes through the

lens. The lens acts like a magnifying glass, bending and focusing the light so the picture is clear instead of blurry. Our eyes have lenses too, which is why cameras are often compared to human vision.

Next, the focused light must land. In older cameras, it hit film that was coated with special chemicals. These chemicals reacted to the light and stored the pattern of the image.

In modern digital cameras, the light hits a sensor. This sensor is made up of millions of tiny detectors that record light in dots called pixels. The camera then saves those pixels as a digital file.



You can think of it like painting, but instead of brushes and paint, a camera uses light to "paint" an image. The brighter the light, the brighter the picture will look. If there is not enough light, the picture may come

out dark or fuzzy. That is why cameras sometimes use a flash. The flash gives the photo extra light.

However, not all cameras work the same. Polaroid cameras can print your photo right after you take it, using special film that develops after printing. Cameras in space must be designed to survive extreme heat, cold, and zero gravity. No matter the type, though, all cameras share the same goal: catching light.

So, while it may seem like magic when you snap a photo, it is just science. Cameras use light and lenses to freeze a single moment in time. The next time you take a picture, you will know that what you are really doing is capturing the light bouncing off the world and keeping it.



Match Staff 25-26



Brunch is Served!

by Isabel Georgiva

Besides requests for an ice cream station in the Student Union, one of the most common cries for change regarding school lunches revolves around lunch times. It seems like there is no perfect middle ground—everyone eats their lunches at different times, after all. Finding a balance between each grade level's schedule is undoubtedly a challenging task, but should the third graders really be eating lunch two hours after their breakfast?

One potential solution is to split every grade up into different quads or lunch areas. Given the vast cafeteria space and the outside seating near the

playground, this idea sounds manageable. However, having so many students crammed into a small area would only lead to overcrowding and

even result in a few picnics.

“... I think I would [let] the third and

fourth graders eat together because the fourth graders have a later time than

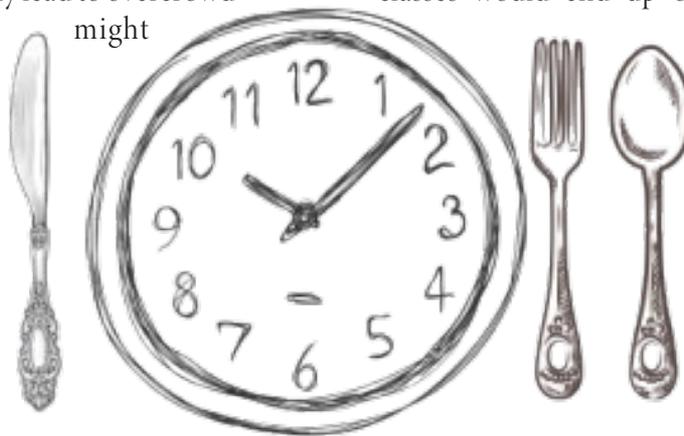
the third graders,” fifth grader Magnolia Karayel said.

If this were to happen, specials classes would end up overlapping.

Switching around periods would create even more unsolved problems.

If none of these

ideas are plausible, should third and fourth graders continue eating lunch at 10:50 a.m.?



The Necessity of Classroom Snacks

by Minhkhue Tran

It's social studies class, and your stomach is growling loudly. You're so hungry, but, unfortunately, your teacher won't let you have a snack. No matter what class you're in, we've all had these moments.

As a high schooler, I'm usually allowed to go and get food whenever I feel hungry. Teachers will let me leave class to either go to the Student Union

or the snack cart. But I remember when I was a kid in elementary school, only a few of my teachers would let me eat snacks. There would be times when I was so hungry in one class but would have to wait until the next period to eat.

In fourth grade, I had two teachers. The one I had in the morning wouldn't let us eat because she didn't want us to spoil our appetite before lunch, while the one in the afternoon would dedicate around five to ten minutes for snack time.

In fifth grade, all three of my teachers would let me eat in class. This was super nice; whenever I was hungry or needed a boost of energy, I could just munch on some chips or fruits.

For younger students, it's important for them to have enough energy to get through the day. What if someone didn't have breakfast or forgot to eat enough during lunch? Throughout

the seven hours that students spend at school, they need to eat enough to provide fuel for both their minds and bodies.

According to the World Food Program USA, “Nutrient shortages can reduce brain cell production. This could result in slower language development, impaired fine motor skills and lower IQ”

In fact, around 20% of daily calories consumed are used as fuel for our brains. Calories come from food and are units of energy that that your body uses to do everything.

Students need this fuel to do work, or it may become a problem during lessons. Sure, eating can be distracting, but quietly chewing some food is a much better alternative than counting down the minutes until the period is over. I know how annoying it is to feel your stomach grumble while you're try-

For many students, moving up a grade allows them to gain a birds-eye view of the challenges they faced in the previous year.

“I feel like when you are in that grade, it is fine for you. And then when you start to get older, it is worse,” fifth grader Alisha Sandeep said, “Like if you are looking back at that grade, you go, ‘Oh that was not a good time.’ I like our time now; it is when you start to get hungry.”

So as a high schooler who has endured years of unconventional lunch times, I am suggesting a simple solution: afternoon snack time.

GRAPHIC BY ISABEL GEORGINA



Fifth grader Mona Wu. PHOTO BY MINHKHUE TRAN



Fifth grader Alyssa Entin. PHOTO BY MINHKHUE TRAN

ing to focus on getting tasks done. Whether it's a bag of chips or some crunchy veggies, students should be able to snack in class to avoid the discomfort of not eating enough. They need food to energize themselves at school in order to perform well. So long as they clean up after themselves and don't cause a big deal out of it, food is a necessity in a classroom.

A Haunted Adventure

by Madelyn Bailey

10:31 AM

Mr. Skelly had just woken up from his Halloween nap when he realized the unfortunate situation he had been dragged into. He wasn't in his grave anymore; he had sleepwalked all the way to the wrong cemetery!

A nearby ghost, Mr. Ghoul, saw the confusion of the poor skeleton and decided to generously offer his help.

"You know, Mr. Skelly, I happen to have wandered all around this town in my short afterlife. If you need a guide to your grave, I would

be absolutely spooked to help you."

"Well," said Mr. Skelly, brushing the dirt off his shoulder bone, "if it isn't too much of a scare, I would be delighted."

So, the two walked off into the early air in search of Mr. Skelly's home-grave.

1:33 PM

"I think I see something!" Mr. Ghoul shouted.

Sure enough, there was a piece of candy sitting atop a jack-o'-lantern. Before Mr. Skelly could unwrap it, the pumpkin spoke.

"Why are you two out wandering on Halloween?" Ms. Jackie asked.

"We're trying to find my home! I woke up in the

wrong graveyard" Mr. Skelly answered.

"Well," Ms Jackie said, "listen to my wise plan: I can't lead you there, given my legless state, but my good friend Ms. Battie can."

Ms. Jackie's stem lifted to reveal a hidden bat.

"Ms. Battie also happens to be in her own quest; she's trying to collect 212 pieces of candy to add to her candy chest," Ms. Jackie said.

"I'll help you find your grave if you help me out," Ms. Battie said.

Mr. Skelly nodded and the three continued along to find candy and Mr. Skelly's home.

8:00 PM

Over the hours of this lovely Halloween day, the three went trick or treating. They collected candy and traveled the path outlined by Ms.

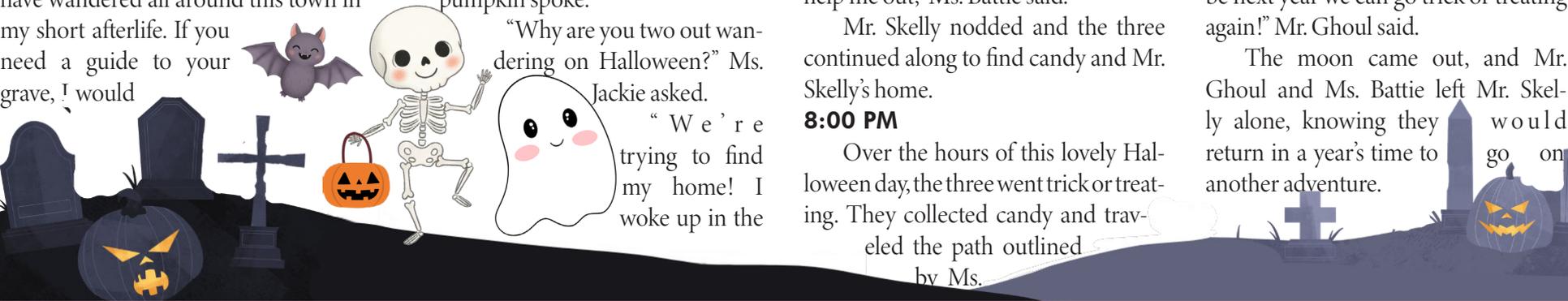
GRAPHICS BY ANA EASTER
Battie to find Mr. Skelly's home. Along the way they encountered young spirits decked out in spooky costumes, most of cute bats or scary monsters. Overall, they collected over 1,000 pieces of candy, far surpassing Ms. Battie's goal!

Eventually, they arrived at Mr. Skelly's grave.

"Thank you all for helping me. I will remember this journey for the rest of my afterlife," Mr. Skelly said.

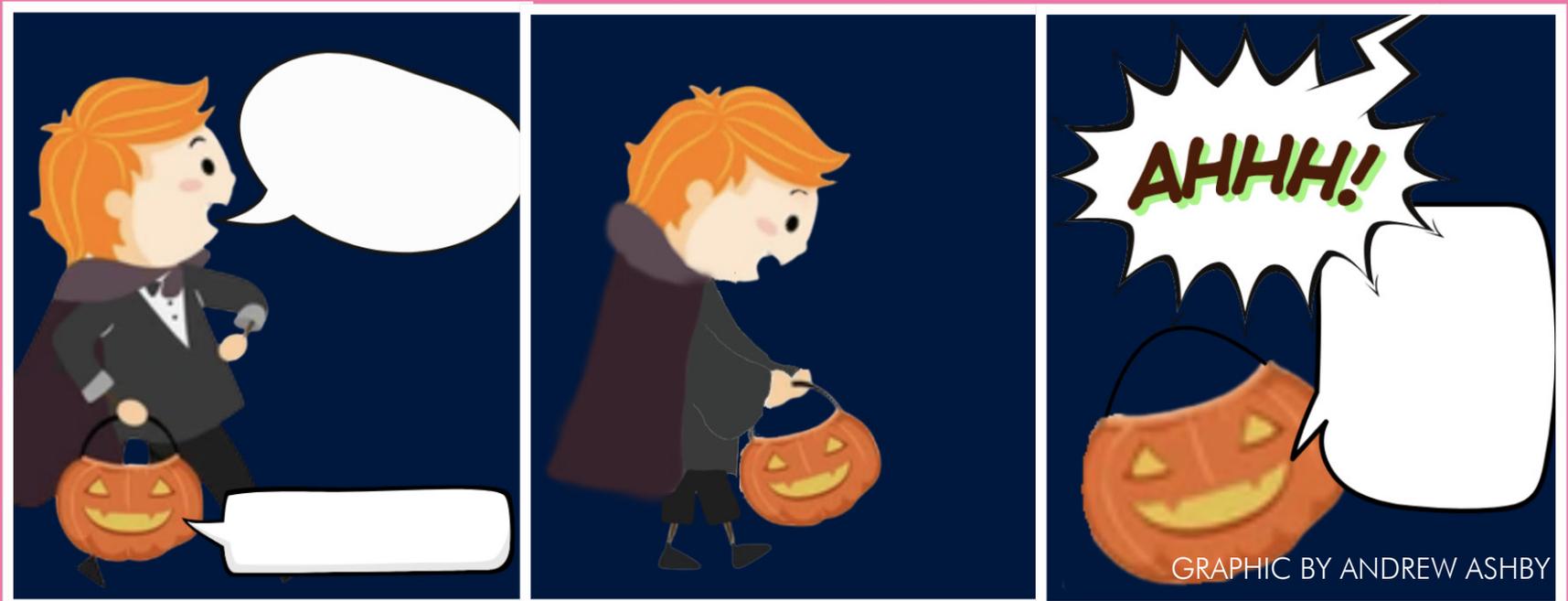
"You are welcome Mr. Skelly. Maybe next year we can go trick or treating again!" Mr. Ghoul said.

The moon came out, and Mr. Ghoul and Ms. Battie left Mr. Skelly alone, knowing they would return in a year's time to go on another adventure.



MAKE YOUR OWN HALLOWEEN COMIC

Fill in the text boxes to make your own spooky Halloween comic strip!!



Statuesque Shenanigans

by Shriya Ashok

Pine View's campus lie in shadows, awaiting the buzz of students, when a flash of light zaps through the air, life fizzling and popping in places where there was previously none.

The day has come: It's Halloween, and Pine View is in for a spooky surprise.

When the students flooded through the gates, the first thing out of place was Larry

the lizard. The lizard has been perched on a rock since the creation of Ethan's Rock Garden; but there's more than meets the eye to this reptilian statue.

Long, long ago, in the old-



en days of Pine View, Larry was not just a statue, but a live lizard. When his family lost their territory, Larry vowed to reclaim their honor and rule over Pine View. However, his plan

to overthrow Pine View's administration failed, and he was trapped as a statue for years to come.

"I was once an all-powerful being, feared and respected above all. But I was stripped of my titles and powers. Now that I have returned, Pine View will feel my wrath," Larry said.

His first order of business was to find a snack. Being trapped as a statue for decades can make a lizard really hungry.

After slipping some candy from a student's lunch box, Larry devised a plan. Using his magical abilities, he awakened another statue, a pair of siblings named Bertha and Bob Stoneface, who sat reading on

a bench in front of the office to serve as his minions.

"We're just here because Larry's paying us," Bertha said, "We need the money. Bob and I have always wanted to buy a book other than 'Tarzan'. You can only read about some guy in the jungle so many times, you know?"

Bob felt the same way, also mentioning the immense hunger he felt after being brought to life.

"It's a common side effect of living statues," Larry said, "But I don't have time to counteract it with magic, so they'll just have to eat with everybody else in the lunch line."

It turns out that statues lack proper manners while

eating. Bob and Bertha were quite messy, and in the hassle of returning to plotting revenge with their master, they dropped a banana peel on the floor in the quad area.



In addition to being a heinous act of littering, this banana peel caused Torch Staff Member Shriya Ashok to slip and fall, resulting in a terrible injury.

The fugitive statues remain on the loose. Students are advised to remain wary of Larry and his schemes.

GRAPHICS BY
SHRIYA ASHOK

Pine Vorts School for the Magically Gifted

by Timothy Nesanelis

It had been a rumor for quite a while that our campus wasn't all that it seemed. I had heard that by walking right into the vine-covered walls of the Front Office, students would arrive at Building 2 ½. It seemed crazy, but I was bored at lunch one day, so I decided to take the chance.

I walked right up to the vines, held my breath, closed my eyes, and walked forward. Then, as I kept walking further, I realized that I hadn't hit a wall yet. I opened my eyes and there it was, Building 2 ½, otherwise

known as the entrance to Pine Vorts School for the Magically Gifted.

My first day was a complete disaster, and as it would turn out, it would be my last. The class was "The Magic of Wands," and Madame Pythonus was the professor. I immediately realized how unprepared I was when she ordered everybody to turn to page 517 in the textbook I didn't own, to practice a move with a wand I didn't have!

The girl sitting next to me saw how confused I was and she decided to help me out.

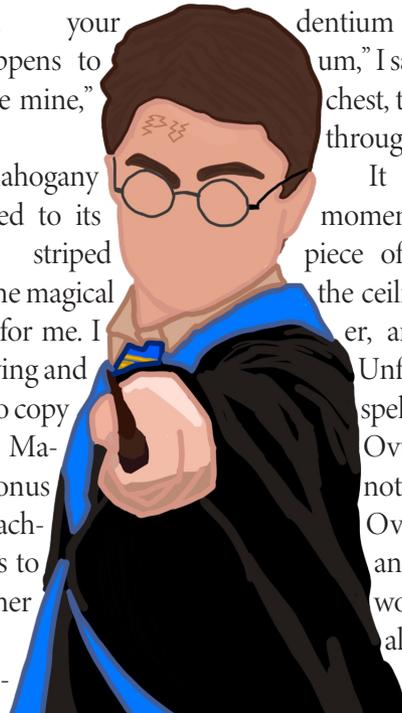
"Forgot your wand? Happens to me, too. Use mine," the girl said.

The mahogany bark stripped to its beautifully striped wood and the magical core called for me. I took one swing and attempted to copy the move Madame Pythonus had been teaching the class to gain a higher IQ score.

"S t u -

dentium Ovthamonthium," I said with my whole chest, the words echoing throughout the room.

It was silent for a moment until... a small piece of stone fell from the ceiling, before another, and then another. Unfortunately, the spell is "Studentium OvthamonTHIum," not "Studentium OvthaMONthium, and the spell I cast would actually cause all nearby rocks to crumble.



Chaos ensued as students ran out of the building in fear of its collapse.

Luckily, Madame Pythonus had reversed the spell just in time for Building 2 ½ to be saved, but I and all Pine View students were banned from entering Pine Vorts ever again. The only thing still standing to remind us of the other universe are those pesky vines and that stone brick wall we pass by every day.

GRAPHIC BY
TIMOTHY NESANELIS

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[a column]

Change is in the Air!



Ana Easter,
Match Editor-in-Chief

Though it is not very apparent in Florida, fall is a season of change. Whether you notice it or not, things are changing all around you. Days get cooler and shorter, animals prepare for winter, every living being undergoes a change in some way or another.

This does not exclude humans; though we do not need to prepare for hibernation or migration, we also go through seasons of change. Starting a new school year is one of those times.

Before I go any further, let me introduce myself. My name is Ana Easter, and I am currently a junior in high school. This means I am in

eleventh-grade, so I have experienced my share of new school years, each having their ups and downs.

Change can be difficult: with a new school year comes new teachers and classes that can take a while to get used to. This does not mean change is bad. New teachers mean new things to learn and new opportunities to get better. New classmates mean meeting new people and making new friends.

Sometimes change can feel uncomfortable: you may miss an old teacher or classmates. That is completely normal. But it is important to realize that every change gives you an opportunity to grow.

Change is a fact of life, every living thing encounters it at least once in their life. Do not view the changes that come with a new school year as a bad thing because, who knows, this could be your best school year yet!

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