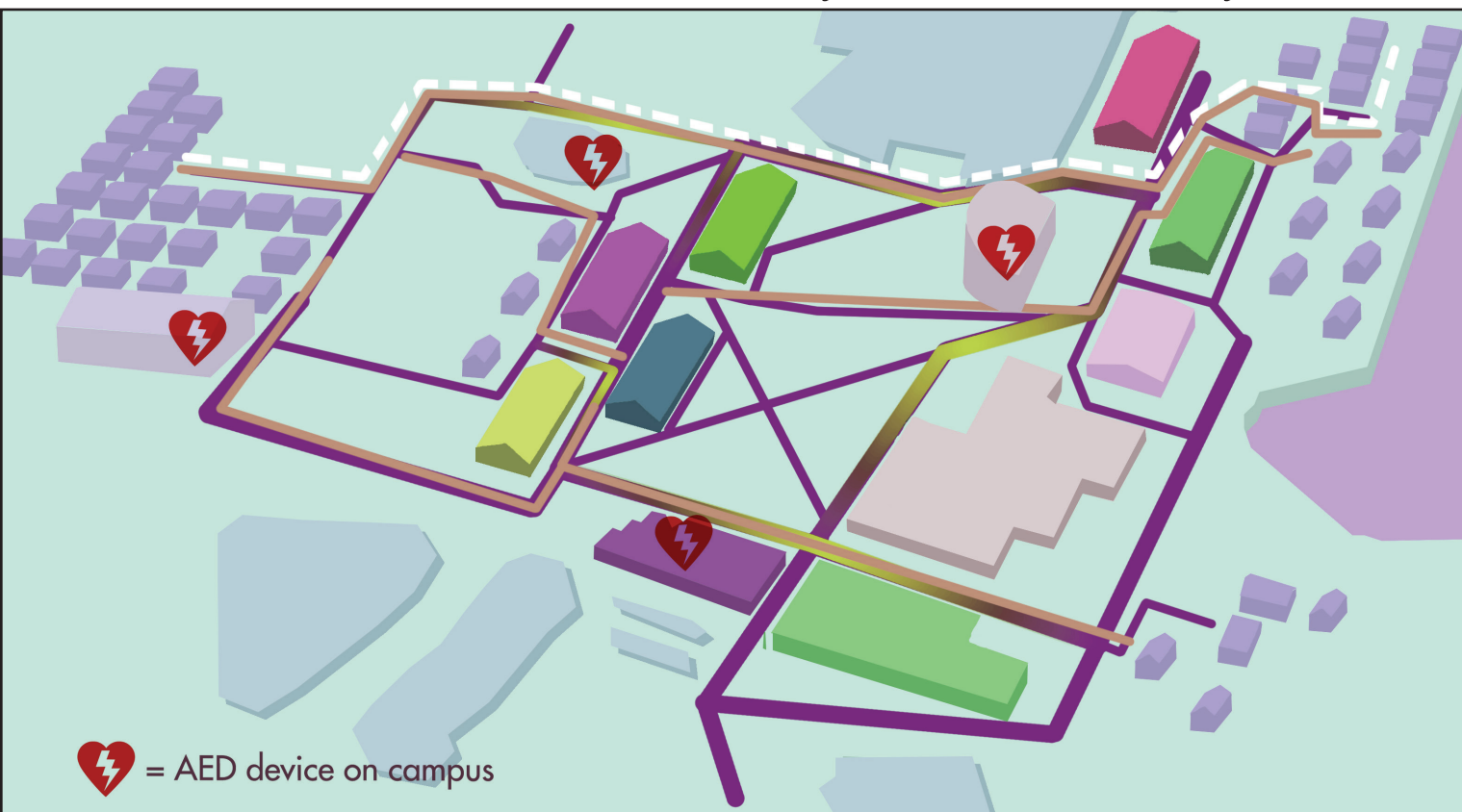


A Heart of Gold – and Blue

Pine View receives 'Heart Safe School' certification



GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN

by **Alexa Mollod**
Asst. Match Editor

Starting next year, the school will be showing some extra “love” to its students. By completing various requirements, Pine View will soon be certified as an accredited “Heart Safe School.” With the help of the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Foundation, many changes will be made in order

to enhance the safety of the campus, and thus ensure the safety of students with heart conditions.

This idea was initially proposed by ninth-grader Nathalie Bencie. Bencie and her two sisters were born with Long QT Syndrome, a heart condition that causes arrhythmia when the heart rate becomes too high. Without immediate medical attention, this

syndrome can be fatal. And, according to the American Heart Association, the average survival rate for an out-of-hospital child cardiac arrest in the U.S. is less than eight percent. If a student were to have a heart complication while at school, it is important that both students and staff know how to handle the situation.

please see page 3

a closer look

What is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)?
A device that automatically analyzes the heart rhythm, and if it detects a problem that may respond to an electrical shock it delivers a shock to restore a normal heart rhythm.

INFORMATION FROM MEDICINE.NET

Student fights for rights

by **Madeline Bowman**
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Twelfth-grader Nathan Quinn started an initiative to provide an equal access bathroom policy for transgender students at Pine View this year, but hopes to make bigger changes throughout the county. Quinn, who is transgender, has spearheaded a movement to establish trans-inclusive policies for bathrooms and locker rooms, updated anti-harassment policies and non sex-specific dress codes throughout Sarasota County. His actions have garnered media attention and generated a county-wide discussion on trans rights.

According to Quinn, in January of last school year, he asked Principal Dr. Stephen Covert to use the boys’ bathroom on campus, but Covert denied his request. Quinn said that in a meeting this January, Covert denied his request again. According to Quinn, after organizing a call-in to the school, Covert reversed the policy. Quinn said, “He told everyone that’s how it’s always been.”

As of now, the bathrooms in the orange building are reserved only for elementary- and middle-school students, and the bathrooms in the yellow building, where Quinn can access the boys’ bathroom, are reserved for high-school students.

please see page 3

FLDOE reconsiders ‘gifted’

by **Madeline Bowman**
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to include more underrepresented groups in gifted programs, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) has released a proposal to change the state definition of giftedness and the criteria for gifted identification and eligibility. This proposal would eliminate the necessity of an IQ test and would consider other factors such as high performance in the arts and athletics.

Tim Gissal, Head School Psychologist for Sarasota County, said “[the proposal] is just the start of the process.” According to Gissal, the FLDOE will hear commentary about the changes and then make a final decision later. He said, “Every district will be weighing in. These are topics that impact all of Florida.” According to Admissions Liaison Linda Lyons, the FLDOE intended to hold a webinar Feb. 12 to answer questions concerning the changes. Lyons said that all questions need to be submitted in advance.

please see page 2

Changes to online classes

A new state policy change will no longer allow Florida public schools to restrict student access to virtual school courses. Previous Pine View policy did not allow students to enroll in virtual school classes offered on campus, except in extraneous circumstances.

please see pvtorch.com for full story

Students form friendships through letters

by **Sarah Mihm**
Sports Editor

When arriving at Pine View, the new second-grader is often in need of someone to guide them. The club Girls for Girls gives 15 young second-graders a high school pen-pal to help mentor them throughout the school year.

The club originally wrote letters for the non-profit Girls Inc., but there were problems getting the letters to the girls. This resulted in the club being fairly inactive since its start in 2013. However, last year’s president and alumna Danielle Tran brought up the idea of becoming pen-pals with the second-grade girls instead. This new idea revived the club, and their membership has since increased to 15 high-school girls.

“As a club we get to act as the younger girls’ mentors,” current president and eleventh-grader Eryn Lin said. “Almost as an older friend, if they need it.”

At the beginning of this

year, the club got a list of 15 second-grade girls from either Martha Magenheim’s or Kelly Cookerly’s class, and each name came with a small description written by the teacher. The girls in the club then chose their individual pen-pals based off these notes. “The girls get really excited when they get their letters and want to write back right away,” Cookerly said. “The club goes above and beyond bonding with the girls.”

“The girls get really excited when they get their letters and want to write back right away.”

Kelly Cookerly,
second-grade teacher

The club is now averaging a letter back and forth every two weeks for each pairing of a high school girl and a second-grade girl. The process begins with Lin sending out a notice to club members after approximately a week saying that they will be collecting letters.

Lin then delivers the letters to the second-grade teachers. The elementary girls take a week to reply as well. These letters are given to the high school students, and the cycle repeats. The club is welcome to new members, and as a new member



Current president of the club Girls for Girls eleventh-grader Eryn Lin and second-grader Ava Lenerz write letters to each other every two weeks. This club allows second-grade and high school girls to form a bond through writing letters.

PHOTO BY MARINNA OKAWA

joins, a new second grade girl receives a pen-pal.

There are many aspects to writing a letter to a pen-pal. Second-grader Bryn Famiglio said, “I like that my pen-pal, and I have things in common and that we can

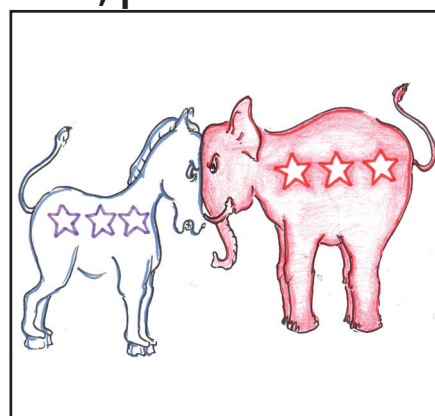
talk about it.”

Often the people who give the best advice are those who have been in the same situation before. This can easily be seen as high school students offer advice to the girls who will once fill their shoes.

index

- 1 News
- 6 Sci Tech
- 7 Entertainment
- FEATURES PULLOUT
- 10 Sports
- 12 Humor
- 14 Opinion
- 16 Focus

News, p.5



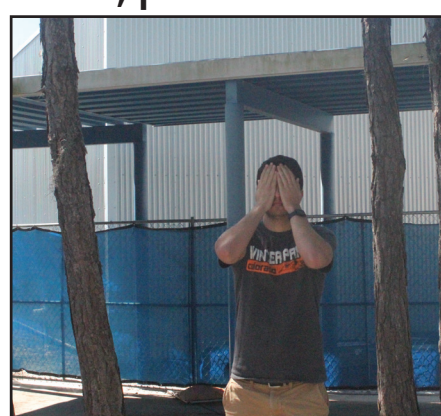
Politics of Pine View
Breaking down the 2016 primaries

Sports, p.11



Reaching for the sky
Torch staff reviews trampoline aerobics

Humor, p. 12



Oh, the horror!
Construction conspiracy revealed

Gifted definition faces changes

continued from page 1

by **Madeline Bowman**
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

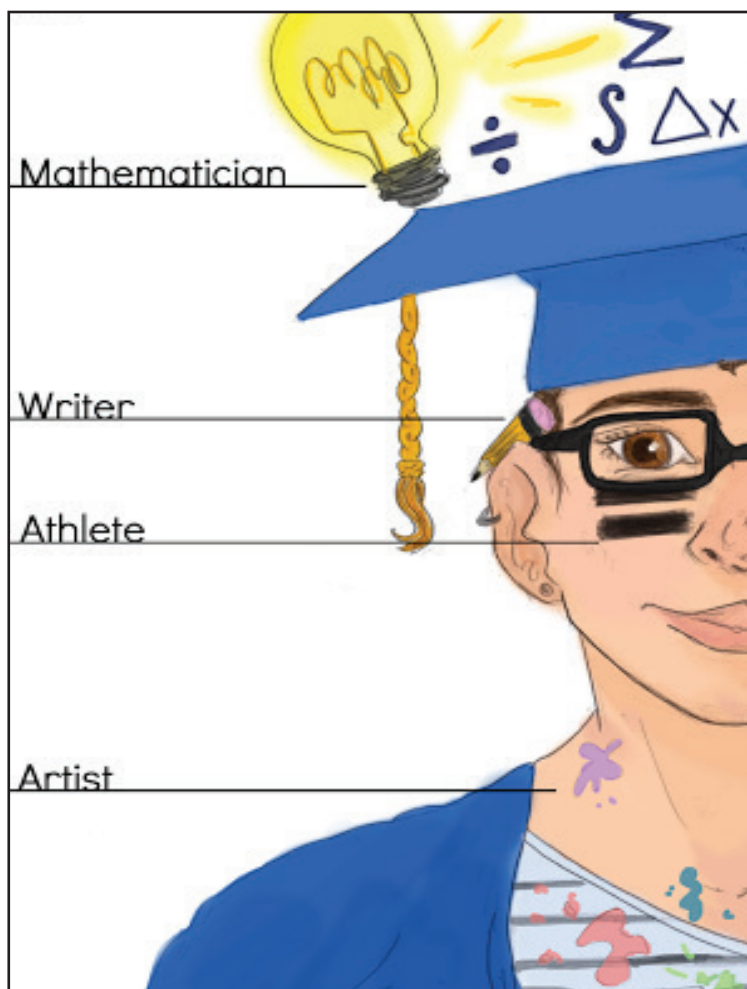
The current definition of giftedness is “one who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance.” The proposal released by the FLDOE would change this definition to “a student who has exceptional reasoning ability, complex thought processes, facility with abstraction, and social and emotional characteristics and needs that made additional support in the academic setting necessary. A gifted student demonstrates superior intellectual ability, subject matter aptitude or achievement, creativity or thinking ability.”

The proposal also makes changes to the factors considered for gifted identification and eligibility. For identification, the proposal states that districts should have an identification process that “ensures equitable access to gifted services.” Some of these criteria include “students who were referred for subject or grade level acceleration due to early mastery of at least one subject” and “students who have had rapid language acquisition of a second language.”

The FLDOE’s criteria for gifted eligibility was changed so that students either need superior intellectual ability or subject matter aptitude. Determining superior intellectual ability would involve an IQ test while subject matter aptitude, which include subjects such as math, language arts and athletics, would necessitate performance in the top fifth percentile of national or local norms. However, for both qualifications, a student also needs to demonstrate creativity or critical thinking and gifted characteristics. To determine gifted characteristics, the student must score in the top 10 percent on a gifted rating scale.

However, Lyons is unsure if students will still be required to take the standard gifted math and reading tests that Sarasota County issues. Because these tests are specific to the district, she is uncertain how they will be affected by the proposal.

According to Lyons and Gissal, the proposal does not indicate a



GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN

start date for implementation and does not specify additional funding for districts to make these changes. “We have to apply these changes in

The FLDOE’s criteria for gifted eligibility was changed so that students either need superior intellectual ability or subject matter aptitude.

a reliable and valid fashion,” Gissal said. “Who’s going to be trained to be measure creative thinking in a fair and consistent fashion?”

According to Lyons, these changes make screening for giftedness “a wider door to come through.”

Gissal said that students who test gifted based on subject matter aptitude may have a hard time thriving at gifted programs geared toward academics. He said, “They may not do well in the same environment.”

“Personally I feel like the changes being proposed are interesting,” twelfth-grader Samantha Ennis said. “If there was additional funding to create facilities for kids who are gifted in different areas such as music or athletics, that would be great as they’re important, however it would make more sense to have those skills be reached in a place other than Pine View since it would change the dynamic of the school, taking away the focus from high academic achievement.”

“We need to make sure to get the right match. I want to meet the needs of all the students,” Gissal said.

Students celebrate with spirit



Eleventh-grade students Raquel Gonzales, Kathryn Kochevar and Matthew Overbeck celebrate after they win a round of tug-of-war. Spirit week took place from Feb. 16 to 19. PHOTO BY HALLE BELDEN

IN BRIEF

Peace Jam hosts Farm Share event

By **Zayda Fredericks**
Asst. Sports Editor

Pine View students and several other volunteers from all over the county are gathering at Tuttle Elementary School Feb. 27 to participate in a food distribution event with the nonprofit organization, Farm Share. This volunteer opportunity is led by the Pine View club Peace Jam and is open to anyone that wishes to help local families in need.

Farm Share collects produce that does not meet certain grocery store or farmers market requirements. Selling this unmarketable produce to Farm Share allows farmers to also receive a tax reduction.

This event’s main purpose is to distribute “packs” of the fruit to families in the area surrounding Tuttle Elementary. Twelfth-grader Mira Chauhan and eleventh-grader Victoria Gresbach, both members of Peace Jam, are leading the event as this is Pine View’s fifth year contributing to Farm Share. “We’re distributing at Tuttle because the families in

this area would benefit the most from the Farm Share outreach,” Gresbach said.

In this central Sarasota region, many families do not have much access to healthy food like fruits and vegetables, and Farm Share will help to eliminate this issue. Many other clubs, like Interact, Key Club and National Honor Society (NHS) also participate to help make a difference.

“Farm Share is an amazing way for our Pine View community to come together to make a lasting impact on Sarasota families,” Chauhan said.

Anyone in need of fresh fruit and healthier food around their home can come to Tuttle Elementary to receive the packages being distributed by numerous volunteers working hands-on.

“I think that Pine View kids will love working firsthand with distributing the food,” Gresbach said. “They’re actually going to see what they’re doing, and who they are helping.”

Eleventh-graders apply for Coolidge scholarship

by **Allie Odishelidze**
Asst. Opinion Editor

Paying for college is an important topic on the minds of most Pine View students, and the Coolidge Foundation is providing an opportunity for students to relieve some of the stress associated with it.

On their website, the Coolidge Foundation cites itself as the “official foundation dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of America’s 30th president.” It is an organization focused on education, a topic the late president, Calvin Coolidge, held close to his heart. The foundation offers debate programs as well as prizes related to journalism and academic achievement. The foundation was started by Coolidge’s son as well as other Coolidge fans, and it continues to hold the ideals Coolidge himself held.

This year the organization chose to introduce a new scholarship opportunity to current eleventh-graders. The Coolidge Scholarship covers full tuition, room and board and any other related costs for the entirety of an undergraduate education at any American accredited university.

College Resource Counselor Lance Bergman said, “I think this scholarship holds real promise, es-

pecially for our high achieving students. It will be interesting to see how it pans out for our students but I think it’s a great opportunity.”

The Coolidge scholarship boasts itself as, “among the most generous college scholarships available in the world,” and was founded as a way to reciprocate the love Coolidge and the First Lady felt for education.

Applicants for the scholarship are open for any field of study and it is awarded on an unconditional merit basis. It is open to anyone regardless of race, gender or social class.

Applications were open to submission starting Nov. 2 and are due March 18. Finalists will be announced in May and will be flown to the home of the Coolidge Foundation, Plymouth Notch, Vt. to go through extensive interviewing. Two applicants will be awarded the scholarship, and the winners will be announced in late May.

Pine View eleventh-grader Foster Schwartz said he believes the experience provides an amazing opportunity. “Even when the odds seem overwhelmingly against you in applying for a scholarship, you have to keep one thing in mind: somebody is going to win it,” he said. “Why not make an opportunity for that someone to be you?”

Zenie Foundation opens funding opportunity to Pine View students

by **Allie Odishelidze**
Asst. Opinion Editor

Pine View is lauded as a special school by many, and for this reputation it was awarded with the opportunity to provide a scholarship to a deserving student. The Zenie Foundation is working with Pine View’s administration to select at least one student to provide a reoccurring scholarship. Pine View was the only school the Zenie foundation chose to partner with, and the scholarship is open to twelfth-graders this year.

Earlier this year, Frank Zenie, the founder of the Zenie Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing scholarships for students attending undergraduate education, contacted Pine View to discuss the provision of a reoccurring scholarship to at least one Pine View student.

Pine View’s reputation preceded it as the school was contacted after its accomplishments were made known to the founder. Zenie is focused on co-investing in an ed-

ucation with students. Although the scholarship has no specific financial guidelines for those able to receive it, it is targeted towards those often unable to receive substantial financial aid from schools and other resources but do not have the financial capabilities to afford college in total. The Zenie foundation plans to offer the winners \$5,000-\$6,000 a year.

College Resource Counselor Lance Bergman said, “This scholarship is a great opportunity for our students to get consistent financial aid, especially for middle income students. It’s amazing that the Zenie foundation chose Pine View and it’s been a really great experience.”

The Zenie scholarship is different from many others not only due to its substantial recurring benefits, but also because of the personal care gone into choosing students. All those who receive aid are expected to maintain contact with Zenie.

Students are nominated by administration for their dedication to education and the community.

JEROME S. LEVIN
BOARD CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY
CIRCUIT COURT MEDIATOR

**LEVIN
LAW &
MEDIATION
GROUP**

941-953-5300
941-308-3151
jlevin@levinmediation.com
1444 1ST STREET, SUITE A
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34236

District reevaluates transgender policies

continued from page 1

by Madeline Bowman
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

According to Covert, the change in the policy was only in response to advice from Steve Cantees, Executive Director of High School Education, and Arthur Hardy, Sarasota County School Board Attorney. Covert said that he considers the change to be “a decision not a policy.” According to Covert, he has had only one request from a trans student to use the bathroom that best fits his identity so he will approach the issue on a case-by-case basis. Covert said that there has never been any policy or rule in writing that specifies the procedure at Pine View. “I’m not aware of any contradiction [at Pine View] with the county or the office of civil rights.”

“This movement is more than just one person... we all have to work for it.”

Jocelyn Kuh,
State College of Florida student

istration that included hundreds of signatures from parents, current students and alumni. However, after Covert informed Quinn that he could use the bathroom of his choosing, the call-in day’s location was changed to the Sarasota County School Board. The Facebook page was renamed to “Call-in Day: Tell Sarasota County Schools to Respect Trans Rights!” and the call-in took place Jan. 25.

The Sarasota County School Board held a few meetings to discuss trans-inclusive bathroom policies. According to Quinn, at a Feb. 2 school board meeting, a large group of Christian church members attended the meeting to oppose the trans-inclusive policies being discussed. Quinn, his supporters and some other supporters also attended the meeting and spoke in front of the attendees. “I was scared,” Quinn said. “I wasn’t expecting [the protesters] at all.”

The school board also held a workshop Feb. 16 to further discuss the issues of bathroom policies throughout the county. According to Quinn, the school board decided to approach trans-inclusive policies case-by-case for now. “I hope they make a decision that is trans-inclusive in the future,” Quinn said. “This isn’t the end.”

Jocelyn Kuh, a friend of Quinn who attends the State College of Florida Collegiate School, said that the movement is more than just Quinn. “This movement is more than just one person. To truly change things, specifically right



Seventh-graders Zephy Malka, Meera Nair and Catherine Bricker stand outside of Algebra I teacher Summer Grantham’s classroom, which displays a sign in support of twelfth-grade Nate Quinn. According to Grantham, a few of her seventh-grade NJHS volunteers created the sign. PHOTO BY MADELINE BOWMAN

now with implementing trans-inclusive policies, we all have to work for it,” she said.

Media Coverage

According to Quinn, several media outlets contacted him after hearing about the changes at Pine View. The first organization to publish a story was Liberation, an online publication, and the article was written by Bryan Ellis. ABC 7, Herald-Tribune, WFLA, South Florida Gay News and Channel 10 began covering the story as it gained momentum. According to Quinn, he was also interviewed by students from the University of South Florida. “I’m pretty happy with the coverage,” he said. “I was happy with how they talked about it.”

According to Covert, he worries that students “may be used as pawns” by adults and activists to push their agendas. “That’s really depreciating the value of a human life to put them at the center of attention if they don’t want it,” he said.

“I want to make sure that all students feel protected and that students are entitled to appropriate access to our facilities,” Covert said.

Transgender Policies in Florida

Quinn and his supporters hope to use the trans-inclusive policies found in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties as guidelines for Sarasota County. Quinn said, “They have really good policies and

inclusion training.”

According to the Washington Post, Broward County is one of the only counties in Florida to have policies that specifically protect trans students. Quinn explained that Sarasota County’s anti-harassment policies need improvement because they “talk about sexuality but do not talk about gender identity.” In 2011, the Broward County School Board voted on the inclusion of “gender identity and expression” in the district’s nondiscrimination policy, reported by Equality Florida. Other school districts in Florida that have trans-inclusive policies are Orange, Hillsborough and Palm Beach Counties.

Quinn also plans to reform dress codes in Sarasota County schools that are sex-specific.

School creates heart-safe measures

Defibrillators added to various campus spots

continued from page 1

by Alexa Mollod
Asst. Match Editor

Thus, Bencie decided over the past summer to take action. She and her mother noticed that no schools in Florida are certified as “Heart Safe Schools.” They wanted to make a change for the better, and ensure that Pine View be the first “Heart Safe School” in Florida. With the help of the SADS Foundation, they brought up the idea with Elementary Assistant Principal Erin del Castillo and Nurse Beth Banko, and got consent from Principal Dr. Stephen Covert.

“It will be nice for Pine View to be recognized for keeping its students safe. Also, giving them heart safety exercises is a good refresher,” Banko said.

Bencie’s proposal has grown from an idea to something much

bigger. Though the expected “Heart Safe School” accreditation will not come until next year, the school has an organized plan of steps that will ensure the certification. “I am happy that my idea has gone this far. I just want everyone to be safe,” Bencie said.

Among the steps is the addition of two more defibrillators to the campus. A defibrillator is a device that gives an electric shock to an abnormally beating heart in order for the heart to return to its normal rhythm. Pine View already has two of these devices, but there must be one defibrillator placed every 90 seconds around the campus. Since Pine View is so large, the campus requires four defibrillators.

Also, there will be one trained CPR staff member for every 50 students. The staff members who will be trained will be chosen according to campus location — this

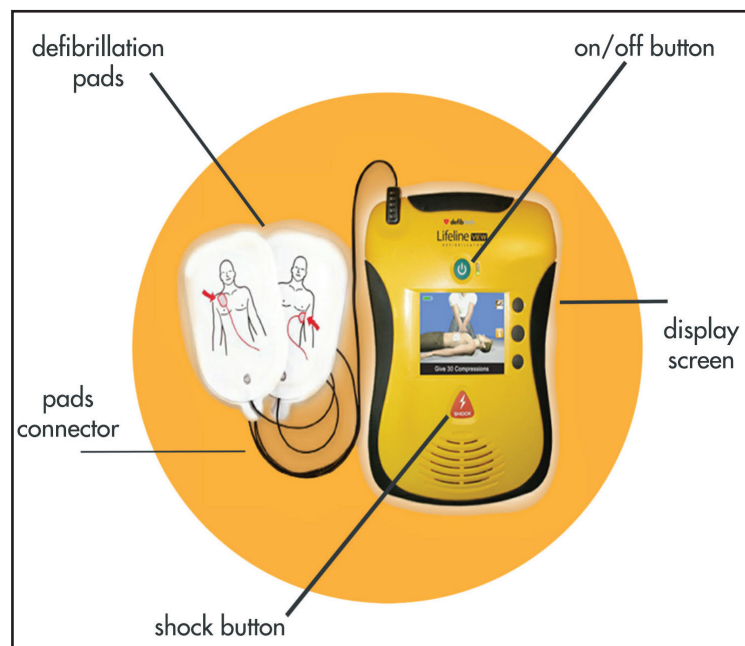
ensures campus-wide safety.

Pine View will also be sending home forms with a series of yes or no questions that assess whether a student has a heart problem or not. If a problem is apparent, a care plan will be created for that student and filed at the school.

Not only will staff members know how to take action if a problem occurs, but students will also be informed. Three times per year, there will be a medical response drill.

This ensures that if someone passes out, every student and staff member will know exactly what to do. On top of this, Nurse Banko will be hosting free after-school classes about CPR. “I would like to make sure everyone is confident if something serious happens,” Bencie said.

Overall, Bencie is excited to impact the lives of all students on



GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN

campus and to also bring the Pine View community even closer together. “Heart-related problems are a serious problem, and I just want to make sure everyone is safe wherever they are,” Bencie said.

Tenth-grader Michael Shi looks upon these changes with great positivity. “In the instantaneous case of a possible danger, this could make the immediate difference in someone’s life,” Shi said.



At their first meeting, members of the Now Club discuss politics in a non-biased environment. The club’s first meeting was Feb. 9. PHOTO BY HALEIGH BROWN

New club fosters bipartisan political discussion

by Haleigh Brown
Match Layout Artist

The Now is the newest addition to the growing collection of political clubs on campus. At meetings, members come together to analyze current news and discuss their wide range of political views with one another. Eleventh-graders Adil Sageer and Foster Swartz, president and vice president respectively, began to form the club last May due to a “lack of an outlet for bipartisan discussion,” according to Swartz. They hope to use the club as a platform to encourage comprehensive political discourse and engagement across campus.

A typical meeting begins with an overview of the topics set for discussion. Three conservatives (ranging from very conservative to slightly conservative), Sageer and Swartz (the designated independents), and three liberals (ranging from very liberal to slightly liberal) are always present to ensure that every segment of the political spectrum is represented in some capacity at each meeting. The moderators, Sageer and Swartz, then work through the day’s agenda, which generally con-

sists of analyzing videos, articles and news reports and discussing contemporary politics and culture. Meetings are recorded by eleventh-grader Quinn Daily, the technology director of the club. Highlights from the meeting along with a summary by the board are uploaded to thenow.com on a weekly basis.

“The Now is a unique opportunity to have in-depth conversations with various political [ideologies] instead of just [standard] Republicans and Democrats,” eleventh-grader Olympia Spivey said.

Swartz, president of Pine View Democrats, separates the two distinctly. “[In Pine View Democrats], you walk in and are told ‘this is what we believe,’ and then you discuss those beliefs. However, in The Now, you have a wide range of perspectives in one room and therefore the discussions produce many unprecedented ideas,” Swartz said.

The Now meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Mr. Murray’s Portable 46 and started Feb. 9.

“Conservatives, liberals and everyone in between joining to meet on a level playing field — that’s the goal,” Swartz said.



Twelfth-grader Brody McCurdy, president of Students Working Against Genocide, works with Drama Club member and tenth-grader Anna Bretz. The two clubs will be working together to create a mystery dinner party for a fundraiser.

PHOTO BY MIRA CHAUHAN

Students raise funds and fun

by **Marinna Okawa**
Editor-in-Chief

Two of Pine View's clubs will be working together to create a night of fundraising, awareness and mystery. Students Working Against Genocide, also referred to as Save Darfur, and Drama Club are collaborating to run a "mystery dinner party," where attendees will be given their own character and dinner and will work to solve some sort of mystery.

The dinner party will be one of the largest planned fundraisers for the year. Attendees will purchase a ticket, and then will receive a personal invitation to the event. Each attendee will be assigned his/her own character, which they will have to act as for the duration of the night. The event will take place at twelfth-grader and president of Students Working Against Genocide Brody McCurdy's house Feb. 27. If interested, forms are available in English teacher and Students Working Against Genocide sponsor Dr. Paul Dean's classroom.

McCurdy first had the idea from an episode of the TV show "The Office," where characters attended a party similar to the one being planned. "I was thinking, what would be an interesting way... to find something that's unique. Something that's not verging on some other club's territory," McCurdy said.

Funds will be allocated to the organization Save the Children, for the Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. Students Working Against Genocide has also raised funds this year by selling t-shirts. The focus for donations this school year is different from years past, which primarily centered on Darfur-related organizations. "We wanted [Save] Darfur to expand its mission a little bit. Not just to focus on Darfur but on other current events," Jenny Li, twelfth-grader and vice president of Students Working Against Genocide, said.

The Drama Club will also be partnering with Students Working Against Genocide to help with this

event. Drama Club vice president Foster Swartz began discussing the possibility of collaboration with McCurdy two months ago. High school members of Drama Club will be working as actors for some of the other characters, besides the attendees, at the mystery dinner. Packages, which can be ordered online, include a theme, a script and varying numbers of characters. "I just hope they have a good time," Swartz said.

While fundraising is an important part of this event, according to McCurdy and Li, a major goal for this is to raise awareness. McCurdy said, "I think raising awareness of the issue is just as important as raising money for the issue."

According to Swartz, Students Working Against Genocide and its fundraiser serve as an important reminder for students. "In light of the 2016 presidential election a lot of Americans have focused their periphery on issues... Not everything is as affluent as it is in America... there remain to be huge problems that we even as kids can help solve."

A 'Magnum Opus' of service honored

by **Nathalie Bencie**
Match Layout Artist

In honor of their countless hours of dedication and donations to the entire school, Pine View parents, alumni and members of the Pine View Association (PVA) Sue Keating and Norm Worthington were thrown a surprise dinner party Jan. 22, hosted by high school art teacher Retsy Lauer at Mattison's Forty One.

The idea to throw a thank-you party, which was later named "Magnum Opus," was originally thought of by Lauer, Pine View parent and current PVA Vice President Ben Turhoff, Elementary Assistant Principal Denise Valentine and current PVA chairman Cathi Bell. They realized that Worthington and Keating did not get enough recognition for creating a better environment for both students and staff. "The school would really be different without them," Lauer said.

Keating and Worthington have provided the school, especially the art program, with new materials and opportunities by donating both time and funds. Keating has assisted Lauer in putting together the Scholastic Art Show and in replacing artwork in the office with newer pieces. "She is always helping me with things throughout the classroom. Without her, I wouldn't have enough time to get stuff done," Lauer said. "Mr. Worthington is always doing stuff behind the scenes, like supporting the school with large projects."

In addition to honoring the two special volunteers, the Magnum Opus served as a fundraiser for the art program. A portion of the ticket cost covered the price of dinner, while the rest was given as donations.

Lauer contacted her Pine View alumnae for pieces to auction at the party, including Mimi Faulhaber, Elle Friedberg and Sammy Aviles. Auctioned artwork included detailed



A group of attendees pose at the Magnum Opus event. The event was held to honor PVA members Sue Keating and Norm Worthington. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RETSY LAUER

photographs of New York and a hidden image of Florida throughout a larger simulation of smaller pieces. "All of it was just really cool," Lauer said. "They all put a lot of effort into them."

When asked how she enjoyed the Magnum Opus, Keating described her experience as wonderful

and fun. "It was so thoughtful of the school to throw the fundraiser," she said. "I had a great time."

A total of 100 staff members, administration, parents and alumni attended the party. The total amount of money raised for the school's art program has yet to be counted. In the future, Lauer hopes that more

parents, students and alumni will follow Keating's and Worthington's footsteps and support their schools.

"It was such a wonderful time and we all had so much fun," Lauer said. "I really enjoyed it and hope that more people will take the time that Sue [Keating] and Norm [Worthington] take to help our school."



Beautiful Smiles For a Lifetime



Jesse B. Ehrlich, D.D.S.
Nitin Sallapudi, D.D.S.

Orthodontics for Children and Adults

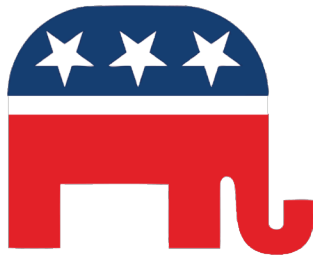


Board Certified Orthodontists

Venice
(941) 485-7006
140 Indian Avenue
(Across from Venice High School)

Englewood/Charlotte
(941) 475-6860
Lemon Bay Professional Center
900 East Pine Street, Suite 121
(Across from Englewood Hospital)

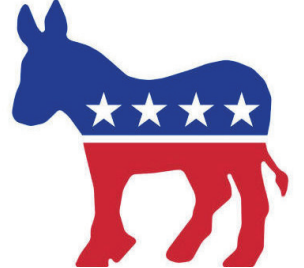
Visit our Website to Learn More:
www.crossbite.com



Republican Party

Priming for the Primary Elections

Understanding the 2016 election season



Democratic Party

Jeb Bush
Former Governor of Florida

Ben Carson
Retired neurosurgeon

Ted Cruz
Junior U.S. Senator from Texas

John Kasich
Governor of Ohio

Marco Rubio
Junior U.S. Senator from Texas

Donald J. Trump
Businessman and president of the Trump Organization

by Sana Rahman
Asst. Match Editor

With the upcoming presidential election in 2016, many people are talking about who, either a Democrat or Republican, will win the general election in November. However, prior to the general election, each party has to nominate their candidate, and the process in which this candidate is chosen is through the primary elections and caucuses.

The primaries and caucuses occur in every state and U.S. territory. However, some states will only have primaries, some will only have caucuses and other states will have both. An individual state's primary election is run by the state or local government while caucuses are privately run and organized by the political parties themselves.

However, the primary elections are not like the general election in which an individual chooses a person who they would like to run for president. Rather, the primaries are an indirect election, meaning that the voters determine how many delegates each party's national convention will get from each state. The delegates from each state then proceed to pick their party's presidential nominee. The party itself determines the number of delegates assigned to each state.

When each party's convention arrives, there will be two types of delegates — pledged and unpledged delegates. The pledged del-

egates vote according to the rules of their party. However, the handful of unpledged delegates, also known as super delegates, are free to vote for any candidate they want without any restraints. Although each party's convention is where the nominee of each party is announced, historically speaking, the nominee of each party is known prior to the convention occurring.

The early primaries and caucuses generally have more importance in terms of narrowing the field of candidates for each party as they set the stage for primaries and cau-

ses to follow. Therefore, Iowa and New Hampshire, the first caucus and primary, respectively, tend to attract the attention of presidential hopefuls, as these are the two states that they need to secure in order to ensure success as the primaries continue.

As the election continued to heat up, the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary results became increasingly important. The results of the Iowa caucus concluded with Ted Cruz winning for the Republicans and Hillary Clinton winning by a small margin over Bernie Sanders for the Democrats. Donald Trump won the New Hampshire primaries for the Republicans and Bernie Sanders got the win for the Democrats.

While the Iowa and New Hampshire caucus and primary may have happened early, Feb. 1 and Feb. 9, the Florida primary still holds merit as it does contribute to the eventual nominee of each party. The Florida primary is March 15 although registration to vote in the primaries ended Feb. 16. One must be at least 18 years old in order to vote in the Florida primaries. However, Florida voter laws allow one to be 17 years old at the time of registration as long as you are 18 years old by voting day. Since Florida has what is called a closed primary election, if one chooses to vote, they must vote for a candidate in their registered party. In order to physically vote for the primaries, one needs to go to their local polling location in order to register their vote.

With the general election fast approaching and each candidate continuing to increase their campaigning, it is now the job of the average citizen to take a moment and vote in the upcoming primaries to make a difference in the 2016 general presidential election.

Some states will only have primaries, some will only have caucuses and other states will have both.

Hillary Clinton
Former Secretary of State and U.S. Senator from New York

Bernie Sanders
Junior U.S. Senator from Vermont

by the dates

Upcoming Primaries

Feb. 27: S.C.

March 1: Ala., Alaska, Ark, Colo., Ga., Mass., Minn., Okla., Tenn., Texas, Vt., Va.

March 5: Kan., La., Ky. Caucus, , Maine Caucus, Neb. Caucus

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES

On the Issues:

Immigration

- Supports path to citizenship: Clinton, Sanders
- Supports deportation of illegal immigrants: Trump, Bush, Carson, Cruz, Kasich, Rubio

Health Care

- Supports single-payer health care: Sanders
- Support Affordable Care Act: Clinton
- Opposes Affordable Care Act: Trump, Bush, Cruz, Carson, Rubio, Kasich

Death Penalty

- Supports death penalty: Trump, Bush, Cruz, Rubio, Kasich, Clinton
- Opposes death penalty: Sanders

Climate Change

- Supports climate change initiatives: Sanders, Clinton
- Opposes climate change initiatives: Bush, Kasich
- Denies climate change science: Carson, Cruz, Rubio, Trump

Women's Rights

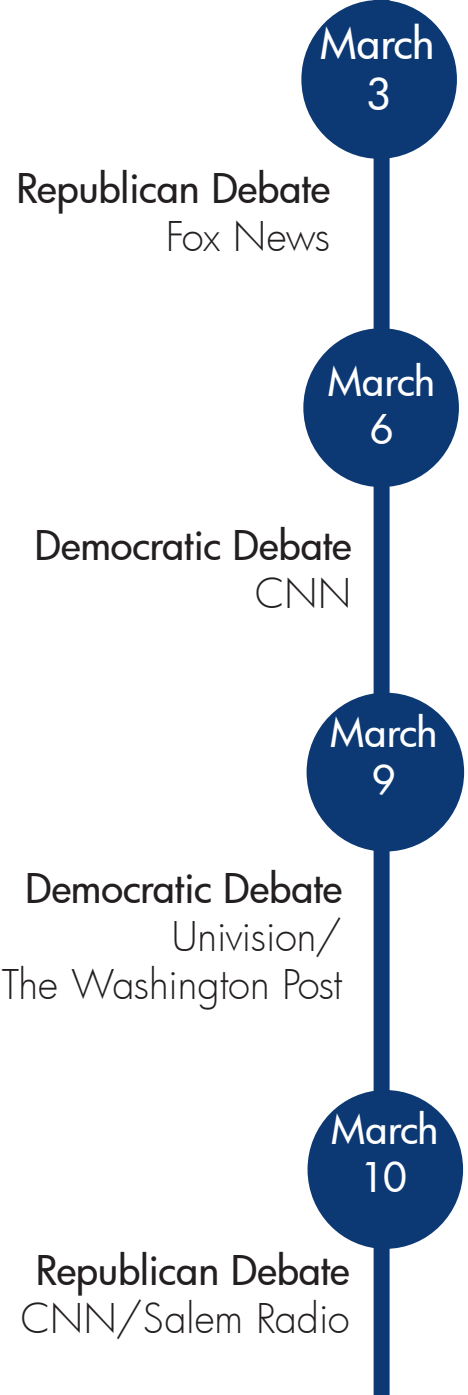
- Supports abortion rights: Clinton, Sanders
- Opposes abortion rights: Bush, Trump, Kasich
- No exceptions for rape or incest: Rubio, Cruz

Gun Control

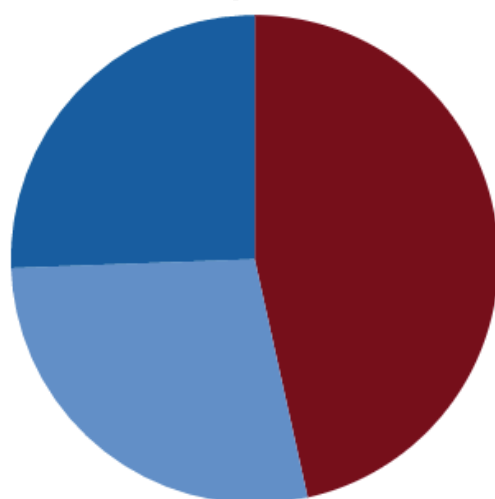
- Supports more gun control legislation: Clinton, Sanders
- Opposes gun control laws: Trump, Bush, Cruz, Carson, Rubio, Kasich

INFORMATION FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

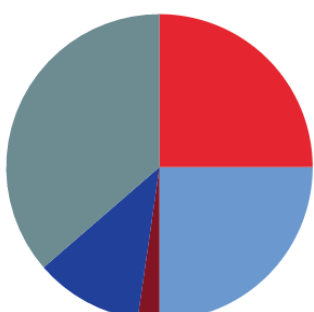
Debate schedule



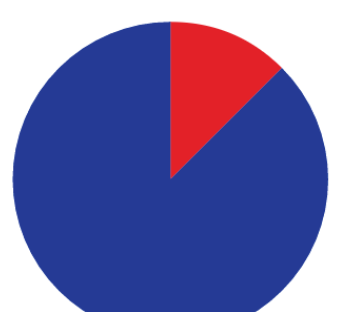
Which political party do you identify with?



Who do you want as the Republican party's nominee?



Who do you want as the Democratic party's nominee?



■ Cruz (25%) ■ Rubio (25%) ■ Bush (2%) ■ Kasich (11%) ■ Trump (36%)

The Torch surveyed 172 high-school students. Margin of error plus or minus one percent. GRAPHIC BY ALLIE ODISHELDIZE

■ Clinton (13%) ■ Sanders (88%)

[an infographic]

Battle of the brain games

For over a decade, brain training applications have been rising in popularity. Based on the idea that being in a stimulating environment will increase the brain's capability, the apps claim to make their users smarter by providing them with game-like tasks. With many apps on the market, The Torch assembled this list in order to decide which app is the best.

1. peak

One time fee of \$59.99, \$19.99 per year or \$2.99 per month

- Focuses on memory, problem solving, language, mental agility and focus
- 28 games total, seven of which are only for paying members

PROS

- Multiple ways to track and compare progress
- Different levels within each of the games

CONS

- none

3. elevate

One time fee of \$149.99, \$44.99 per year or \$9.99 per month

- Focuses on writing, listening, speaking, reading and everyday math skills
- 53 games total, 15 of which are only for paying members

PROS

- Has study tools which are lessons without games
- Gives training highlights after each workout

CONS

- Focuses on vocab and learning new information rather than practicing abstract skills

2. lumosity

One time fee of \$299.95, \$59.95 per year or \$11.95 per month

- Focuses on memory, attention, problem solving, speed and flexibility
- 28 games on mobile app and over 60 online, however some are only available to members

PROS

- Graphically designed and unique games
- Online component

CONS

- Limited features for free users

4. fit brain

One time fee of \$50, \$9.99 per year or \$2 per month for three months

- Focuses on language, problem solving, speed, visual, concentration and memory
- 65 games total, 48 of which are only for paying members

PROS

- Online component
- Daily workouts alternate between intellectual and mental health

CONS

- Has only a few games available to free users
- Games are designed simply

All of the apps are available on both iTunes and Google Play
Free trials are available for each app

GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN AND KATIE GREEN



Tingle poses with his drone at the Sarasota Regional Science, Engineering and Technology Fair. Tingle competed and won the regional science fair with his nine-foot flying drone.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY HENRY TINGLE

State science fair project STEMs from passion

by Mackenzie Dyrda

Asst. Entertainment Editor

Annually, the Education Foundation of Sarasota County holds the Sarasota Regional Science, Engineering and Technology Fair. The science fair is divided into multiple categories including engineering, physics, technology and medicine. Twelfth-grader Henry Tingle recently won first place at the county-level science fair in the engineering and physics categories.

Tingle will compete in the state-level science fair March 29 and then, if he qualifies, he will attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May.

In 2015, Tingle earned fifth place in the physics category of the county-level science fair with his bullet-proof body armor made out of fiber glass. For the 2016 science fair, Tingle constructed a nine-foot long flying plane drone, with a five-foot body that can reach four hours

of continuous flight. Tingle's goal for his drones is for them to be used for anything from video surveillance of personal farms to military intelligence. "He has a sense of accomplishment and a sense of enthusiasm for the science fair because it's such a passion for him," science teacher Flo Ames said. "He really does this because he loves it."

An advantage to Tingle's drone is that it is much cheaper at \$3,000 a unit than professionally manufactured drones which are sold around \$30,000. It also has a longer flight time versus the more expensive drones which can only fly for a single hour. "Mine would help to replace [professionally made drones]. Not only saving money but to have better reconnaissance scenarios so it doesn't make a mistake," Tingle said.

Tingle's drones require a runway for take-off and run on gasoline, while professional drones can be thrown by hand and are battery

operated. Though this means that Tingle's drones have a more complex system of use, they are more cost-effective — something that outweighs the complicated methods of takeoff.

In the future, Tingle hopes to become an aerospace engineer and sell his own drones to the public. He plans to attend Purdue University this upcoming fall to continue his education in the aerospace engineering field. "I knew I wanted to be an aerospace engineer a long time ago," Tingle said. "It's very important to start a resume for internships and also since I want to get my PhD in aerospace engineering."

He hopes to start a company in the future which will sell small reconnaissance drones at the lowest price possible to anyone from the general public to the military. "It's just a lot of fun to design the pieces and maybe one day I'll wind up helping somebody which might be worth something," Tingle said.

VEX marks the spot for robotics victory

by William Khabbaz

Asst. Entertainment Editor

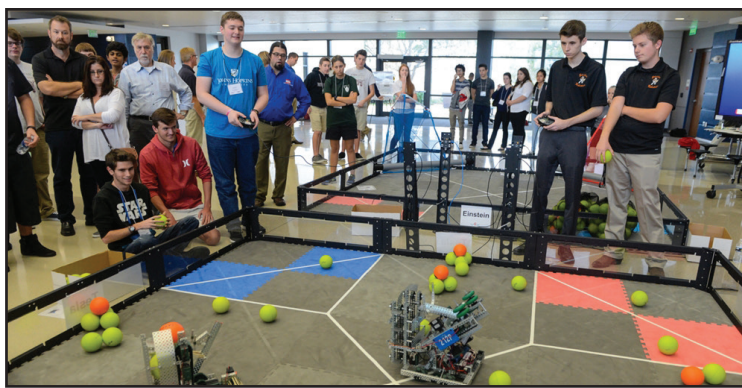
From the classroom to the competition, the Pine View Robotics class is performing well across the state. Four teams recently achieved a spot at the VEX Robotics Florida VRC State Championship.

VEX Robotics holds many robotics competitions throughout the world. The VEX challenge is a battle between two robots to get the most goals, which are earned by placing a ball into a tube using only the team's robot. The robots must be made according to a certain set of rules set by VEX, but the team can program its robot however it wants.

Pine View had three teams, 212P, 212V and 212X, attend the VEX competition Jan. 30. Each team spent four months working and building their robots. With the assistance of science teacher Neal Gleitz, the students programmed their robots and practiced the VEX challenge in the classroom at least once a month in order to prepare for the real competition.

Twelfth-grader Jack Pullman and eleventh-grader Eric McKinnon were part of 212P. "The Robotics class is a really great opportunity to get hands on experience in robotics and engineering," McKinnon said. "Through taking the class I have decided this is the field I want to go into."

In the final round of the regional competition, Pine View beat teams from Braden River High School, North Port High School and Sarasota High School. "We went in just wanting to do the best we can," Pullman said. By winning regionals, 212P became the only



Twelfth-grader Jack Pullman controls his team's robot as it competes against another team. The robotics team qualified for the world championships later in the year.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE HERALD TRIBUNE

robotics teams

212P: Twelfth-grader Jack Pullman and eleventh-graders Keanan Dols, Eric McKinnon and Alyx Reckahn

212V: Eighth-grader Rocket Burns and eleventh-grader Max Borukov

212X: Ninth-graders Ellie Bodor, Julia Giffard, Steven Colome, Nicholas Gonzalez-Yepes, William Giraldo, Sam Moss, Micheal Waite and Matthew Mason

Pine View team to earn a spot in the state-level competition.

"It was immensely exciting and gratifying to see everything click in just the right way," Pullman said. "After all the effort and long hours Eric and I put in, we expected everything would work functionally, but we never expected the incredible results we put up."

The students attended the state competition Feb. 13. 212P came in 18th out of 58 teams and got recruited onto third seed, which is the ranking of an alliance, which

212P created with the Excalibots from Leesburg, Fla. and the Sarasota High School team. This qualified the team for the world championship.

212P will be attending the championship this April in Louisville, Ky. They will spend three days competing against teams from around the world.

Pullman said, "The feeling is truly indescribable. I felt it when the first robotics team made worlds in my freshmen year and I felt it on Saturday and it was amazing."

Caragiulo Family Award Winning Restaurants

Women's FISH CAMP

Vintage Sarasota meets Trendy & Cool Flavors; without the pretention.

2015-BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

941.951.OWEN
OWENSFISHCAMP.COM
516 BURNS LANE SARASOTA

Caragiulo's 26th Anniversary

Like a gathering in the home of a good friend; comfortable & memorable.

ITALIAN AMERICAN

2015 - BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

69 S Palm Ave ~ Sarasota ~ 941.951.0866
WWW.ITALIANSOULFOOD.COM



Dance Artistry
www.danceartistrysarasota.com
4412 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, Florida 34233

danceartistry@hotmail.com

p. (941) 371-0453

Student finds future career onstage

by **Suzanne Brown**
Features Editor

Having found her forte at a young age, eleventh-grader Cecelia Hitchcock enters another world whenever she graces the dance stage. While participating in many forms of dance, including modern, caricature, flamenco, jazz and contemporary, Hitchcock said she has found her passion in ballet, hoping to one day make a career in the professional world of performance.

Hitchcock began exploring her future career of choice in her home state of New York, later moving to Sarasota, Fla. at the age of 3. Later on, she discovered her growing interest in ballet as a profession after her move to Miami, when she participated in the Miami City Ballet at the ages of 11 and 12.

In performances, Hitchcock took on progressively larger roles in each successive show. As her appreciation of the art form grew, Hitchcock began to explore her options; what was initially meant to be a hobby became Hitchcock's intended career.

"Ballet is an under-appreciated art," she said. "It's so difficult, and what fascinates me about ballet is that it's so painful and hard, but the beauty and point of it is to make it look like it's not painful at all and

instead the most graceful thing ever."

After her residency in Miami, Hitchcock moved to Sarasota and joined the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School. During this time, Hitchcock participated in the Youth American Grand Prix, the largest dance competition in America. She competed with three full ballet performances and later ranked 12th for her age division in the nation.

Hitchcock later joined the Margaret Barbieri Conservatory of Dance at the Sarasota Ballet in order to train under the mentorship of professional dancers. For the following three years, Hitchcock was homeschooled so she could focus full time on dance, attending practice from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday as a part of a pre-professional program. Here Hitchcock rehearsed each day with professional ballet dancers and acted as an understudy in their performances.

Hitchcock has participated in numerous performances since then, including "The Nutcracker," "Sleeping Beauty" and, most recently, "Le Corsaire," her biggest role to date. After the "Le Corsaire" performance, Hitchcock left both dance companies in order to return to Pine View for her eleventh-grade year.

"I knew that I had a lot of interests relating to my academics," she

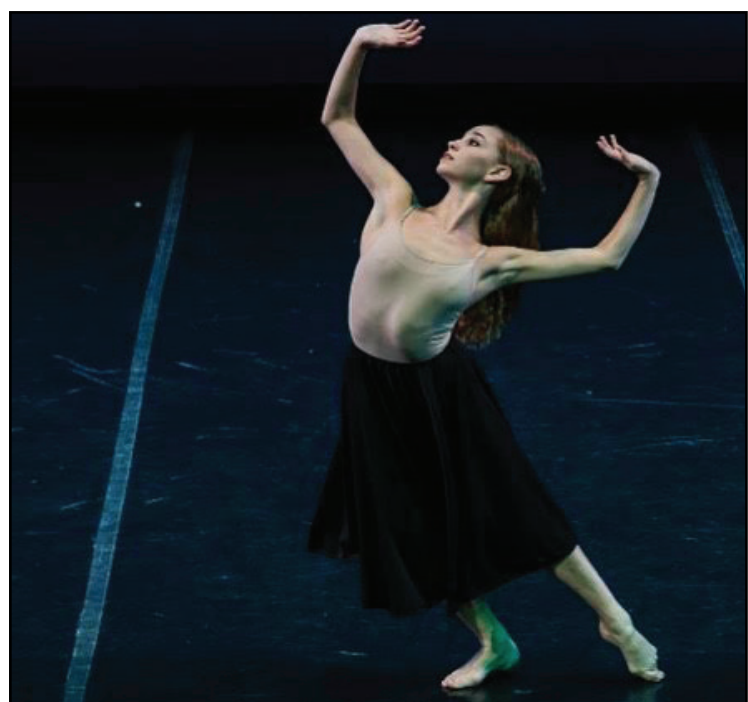
said, in regards to her return. "I felt that my online school was too easy and simple. It wasn't a challenge ... I missed Pine View. I missed the people here. It's like a family."

Hitchcock refuses to neglect dance, though, and is still focused on achieving a professional career. She said that once school ends she walks home to practice for three or four hours each day. Her house studio is equipped with special ballet spring flooring in order to prevent injuries on the ankles and knees.

Hitchcock has been surrounded by dance culture, inspired to take up the extracurricular by her mother and sister, both of whom have worked as professional dancers. Her sister, Adriana Baez, a freshman in college and ballet instructor, said, "It's funny because around the dinner table, most of [the family] conversations revolve around ballet, what we did in class that day and the competitions we're participating in."

As for her future, Hitchcock aims to one day join a company like the Royal Ballet Company in London or the American Ballet Theater in New York. Eventually, however, she hopes to return to school and pursue a degree in medicine.

"Dancing makes me feel out of this world, like there's another person on stage, not me," Hitchcock



TOP: Eleventh-grader Cecelia Hitchcock gives her final performance at the Sarasota Ballet before her hiatus.

RIGHT: Hitchcock and her dance partner practice for the Le Corsaire performance.
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CECELIA HITCHCOCK



said. "I take up the character and I do my best to portray the character and make the audience feel what I'm feeling. It's almost all-consuming."

award-winning students

Superior with Distinction

Tricia Saputera
grade 8

Jack Gallahan
grade 8

Charlotte Murphy
grade 9

Foster Swartz
grade 11

Michael Guo
grade 11

Ariana Moshirfar
grade 11

Alexander Sosa
grade 12

Superior

Emily Roberts
grade 8

Megan Hartnett
grade 9

Isabella Strom
grade 9

Cole Rouse
grade 9

Nathalie Kondos
grade 9

Jonathan Michalik
grade 10

Paige Hansen
grade 11

Ethan Crauwels
grade 11

Nathan Quinn
grade 12

Medals in Music

by **Madeline Bowman**
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Pine View's orchestra participated in the annual District 11 Solo and Ensemble Event Jan. 30 at Riverview High School. Of the 19 students that participated, eight of them received the distinction of Superior and 11 received the highest honor of Superior with Distinction.

According to orchestra director Christopher Mink, hundreds of students from across Sarasota, Charlotte, Manatee and DeSoto Counties competed in the event.

Mink said that there was one appointed "judicator" who reviewed each individual's performance piece. "The judge is supposed to be impartial," Mink said. "He didn't know any of the participants."

According to Mink, the criteria in the judging process included tone, blend, phrasing, musicality and stage presence.

The highest honor, Superior with Distinction, is reserved for students who not only meet all of the criteria, but also memorize their pieces. Mink said that each student received a medal at the event.

[a review]

'Get Loose' at the new local tea shop

by **Samantha Gallahan**
News Editor

Welcoming to both the tea expert and the novice, Get Loose Tea and Art presents a relaxing atmosphere and delicious tea. This shop is the ideal place to go for an education about tea and the healthy lifestyle that surrounds it.

Co-owners Lisa Feistel and Doreen Birdsell opened the shop in downtown Sarasota in late October after owning an online tea business for five years. They decided to open a storefront when the perfect location became available at the perfect time. "We decided that if the right location came up we would take the opportunity and open up a shop, and it did," Feistel said.

The shop is predominately a retail store, selling a large variety of white, green and black teas as well as cups, mugs and other tea accessories. In addition to this, a large menu of freshly brewed cups of tea are available, so customers can choose from a variety of flavors. Get Loose offers classic and unique flavors like Moroccan Mint, Goji Green and Zen and Cherry.

Two lines of tea are available: Triangle Tea, which is a line the owners created to promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle, and Where Elephants Roam, which is a line that focuses on its philanthropic cause of donating money to help elephant conservation — one of the main goals of Get Loose.

In the shop there is a corner called the "zen zone," which is dedicated to eliminating technology, in order to give visitors the opportunity to embrace the peaceful and relaxing atmosphere of Get Loose. In the future, Get Loose plans to host tea tastings for the public.



Get Loose serves and sells fresh tea, while promoting a healthy lifestyle to customers. Get Loose opened in October in downtown Sarasota.

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA GALLAHAN

Across from the "zen zone" is a wall adorned with several beautiful nature photographs that were taken by Birdsell, a professional photographer. These photos, which are also for sale, contribute to the tranquility of Get Loose.

Another goal of Get Loose is to provide customers with knowledge of tea-related culture. "We encourage people to drink tea beyond the cup, to fully embrace the lifestyle and all its benefits," Feistel said.

136 S Pineapple Ave
Sarasota, FL 34236

Hours:
Monday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: closed

Rating:
5/5 Torches



Star2Star Communications: The Future Of Scalable Cloud Communications

Scalable Cloud Communications

- 99.999% Uptime Guarantee
- Unparalleled Call Quality And Reliability
- Unified Voice, Messaging, Fax, Video, And More
- Award Winning Technology That Works Where Others Fail
- Easy To Use Unified Communications For Businesses Of Any Size



To Find Out More, Contact Us Today!

www.Star2Star.com | 941-234-0001

Friday, February 26, 2016

Pythons showcase musical talent beyond school

At Pine View, students get exposed to music at an early age, first taking music in elementary school and then having the option to pursue it further in middle school by choosing band or orchestra. Some choose to further their musical career with outside lessons, fine-tuning their skills to perform at public events and express their talents to others.

Caroline Creevy and Arya Nalluri

by **Melissa Santoyo**
Asst. Features Editor

Performing onstage at times can prove to be a daunting task, but for talented performers seventh-grader Caroline Creevy and ninth-grader Arya Nalluri, the spotlight is second nature. They have participated in several productions and gigs alongside each other, and both share an appreciation for singing and music.

"I perform because I love singing. I love music and I've always loved to share my passion and talent with others," Creevy said. Besides singing, Creevy plays piano, flute and a little bit of bass guitar.

In addition to singing, Nalluri also plays the guitar. "For me, music has always been something I enjoy. To make others happy through music is amazing," she said. "Caroline and I have been performing alongside each other for about three years now. We bonded through similar tastes in music artists."

For both girls, family has influenced their music. "My cousins also sing and play instruments so we all like to learn songs together," Creevy said. She has participated in talent shows for as long as she can remember, and began performing gigs after enrolling in the Let's Rock Sarasota rock band program three years ago. "My sister, Megan Creevy, and I have only performed together in front of family at home, and at my [class] talent show in fifth grade, but I know that playing together at home definitely takes off a lot of the stress," Creevy said.

Performing together is a unique experience that holds a lot of memories, according to Creevy and Nalluri. "Arya is one of my good friends, and she has been in the Let's Rock Sarasota rockband program before," Creevy said. "We



LEFT: Seventh-grader Caroline Creevy performs at Mattison's Grill downtown. RIGHT: Ninth-grader Arya Nalluri performs in Madison Beer Garden.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CAROLINE CREEVY AND ARYA NALLURI



have been in a few week-long summer camp bands there together, and I believe those were the only times we actually performed together. I remember once we sang 'Airplanes' by B.o.B and Hayley Williams together in harmonies and it was a lot of fun. She is also taking lessons with my current vocal coach, Sarah, too, and I believe Sarah wants us to do a duet sometime so that will be fun."

Currently Creevy is focusing on singing more in public and in front of audiences. In December Creevy performed in her first concert of the year. "I was definitely very nervous and shaky, but I know that with more and more performances those nerves will die down," Creevy said. "I mainly just want to focus on getting used to being onstage and in front of crowds before I set my next goal. I've always wanted to incorporate music into my career in the future. Right now I have no solid

plans, but I'm definitely not giving up on music anytime soon."

Nalluri is also looking to the future. "I haven't decided what any of my future goals will be, but I do know music will definitely be a part of it," Nalluri said. "I'm going to be recording songs with my band [The Seekers] in a studio sometime in January."

Music is not only a creative outlet but a way to unwind. "My favorite part of music is the stress release," Nalluri said. "Performing with friends makes me more comfortable onstage. While performing individually is great, I love working together."

Creevy said, "I never lose interest in it. There's always something new to learn, and there's always a new challenge to take on. No matter how much I play, music will always make me feel happy and relaxed."



GRAPHIC BY MELISSA SANTOYO

Isaac Mingus

by **Mackenzie Dyrda**
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Following in the footsteps of the renowned American Jazz double bassist Charles Mingus, alumnus Isaac Mingus, who graduated from Pine View last year, is preserving the musical legacy by continuing his jazz career beyond high school.

Mingus began his musical career in middle school. "Mr. Mink saw me when I was in the wheel in the sixth grade and wanted me to play bass," Mingus said.

He was a member of Pine View's chamber orchestra and Pine View jazz band since the beginning of his high school career. He has participated in solos and ensembles along with All-State music competitions for the past four years. After playing the bass for only a year, Mingus was awarded the Superior distinction at the All-State music competition in eighth grade. "It was quite an accomplishment. Only a tiny minority receives that award after playing for one year," orchestra director Christopher Mink said.

Mingus' biggest inspiration and influences were the musical directors at Pine View. "Mr. Mink and Mr. Mongillo are really good teachers," Mingus said.

"He's an old soul. He has natural talent," Mink said.

Outside of his instructors, his musical idol is Edgar Meyer, a bassist and composer. "He's an incredible role model and bassist," Mingus said.

As a current member of two jazz bands and an orchestra at the State College of Florida, as well as a classical and jazz soloist, Mingus performs local gigs professionally for money in the community. "I perform or practice every single day and it is my source of income," Min-



Class of 2015 alumnus Isaac Mingus performs a song on the bass. Mingus was a member of both Pine View's chamber orchestra and jazz band.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ISAAC MINGUS

gus said. "It's everything I have."

In tenth grade, Mingus began playing professionally. He regularly performs at the Venice Performing Arts Center, Casarriano's Italian Eatery, Neel Performing Arts Center and Allegro Bistro in Venice on Tuesdays for jazz, as per suggestion by Lance Bergman two years ago.

Mingus described one of his favorite memories playing bass in eighth grade, when he received the Superior rating after playing the bass for only a year. "It was a very proud moment for me and Mr. Mink," Mingus said. "It set me on my path."

Mingus does not intend to brand music as his main career option, but will continue to play professionally on the side.

Meg van Deventer

by **Marinna Okawa**
Editor-in-Chief

Making music and making money — this might seem like the dream life of stars like Drake or Adele, but for twelfth-grader Meg van Deventer, it is something she has been able to balance along with her regular schoolwork since tenth grade. From working as part of a large group to coordinating an entire performance with other students for a private party, van Deventer has developed her love of music into her own career.

Van Deventer began playing piano when her parents bought her a piano at the age of 5. In seventh grade she began participating in piano competitions that offered monetary prizes, and went on to win the Sarasota Young Artists Concerto in tenth grade. As the winner, she had the opportunity to perform with the Sarasota Orchestra. "It really gave me a glimpse into the life of a professional pianist," she said. "Not only did I have to work harder than I ever had before, but I was surrounded by professional musicians who were masters of their instrument and were able to build a career around the art they created."

In addition to competing in the concerto in tenth grade, van Deventer took a paid position with a local choir called Sarasota Young Voices and sang at a wedding with three other girls.

She also performed for a Big Brother Big Sister fundraiser last winter and worked in the Sarasota Youth Orchestra program over the summer. At a concert last February, van Deventer was approached by Boca Grande resident Sandi Irvine, who was interested in having her perform for a private party. Van Deventer began contacting other musicians in June and arranging the

set list.

The group performed Nov. 13 at Irvine's home. Pine View alumni Isaac Mingus played the bass, twelfth-grader Lillian Castle was the main vocalist and eleventh-grader Daphne Waggener from Riverview High School played the violin. "They're all really talented and it was kind of intimidating to perform with them," Castle said. "It was kind of an honor to be a part of that."

The party was themed around the TV show "Downton Abbey." To fit this theme, the group performed music from the show in addition to classical and jazz music. Mingus and Daphne each performed

It's a thing that has been a part of me and will always be a part of me."
Meg van Deventer, grade 12

individual solos, while Castle was able to perform her first scat solo in front of others to the song "My Funny Valentine." Castle explained her experience. "I liked recreating old classic tunes that the people in the party could enjoy," she said.

Castle has also worked with jazz quartets for Jazz Band and the acapella choir for Vocal Ensemble, and took private lessons prior to this year. "It completes me — when I'm singing I feel the most comfortable ... It's a thing that has been a part of me and will always be a part of



TOP: Twelfth-grader Meg van Deventer performs at a Sarasota Orchestra fundraiser brunch. BOTTOM: van Deventer practices on the piano at the age of 5.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MEG VAN DEVENTER

me," she said. For van Deventer, progressing from her earlier performances to being able to coordinate her own gigs has had its difficulties. "It's a lot more business related. It's not so much the performance aspect that makes it challenging," she said.

Van Deventer plans on making music a large part of her future career, and plans to study piano performance in college in addition to physics. According to van Deventer, her most recent gig with Mingus, Castle and Waggener was the most memorable. "Someone was always there for me when I started panicking ... They're awesome musicians but they're also really great people," she said.

WE'RE MOVING
Change of The Torch website URL



From **PINEVIEWTORCH.COM**

TO **PV TORCH .COM**

Claudia F. Moricz, DDS, MS • Karen L. Varone, DDS, MS
Moricz & Varone
ORTHODONTICS

★ **Discreet options for perfecting your smile!** ★
Your friends won't even know you have braces!



3M Unitek
Incognito™ Hidden Braces
mvOrthodontics.com **941-922-6444**

Teachers express musical abilities

Contrary to some people's belief, teachers' lives do not solely revolve around teaching and school. Like other human beings, they participate in a variety of activities and hobbies beyond the classroom, often times similar to those of their students. Several teachers at Pine View, as a matter of fact, dabble in the musical arts and share their talents through live performances.



James Hawkins, campus security aide

by Annie Hassan
Asst. News Editor

When changing classes, students can sometimes hear campus security aide James Hawkins playing a tune on the harmonica with its own interesting tune. Generally focusing on folk music, Hawkins has contributed his part to the music world by playing several instruments, writing his own songs and even having his own radio show.

Hawkins began playing the guitar and other instruments during high school as a creative outlet, but stopped for a period of time after joining the Navy. "My father started to play the guitar, and he never had played an instrument in his entire life," he said. "I fell in love with it and started to play."

In 1985, he recommenced playing his instruments at several locations around Sarasota and Venice, Fla.

In addition to the guitar, Hawkins enjoys playing the harmonica, banjo and the bodhrán, an Irish frame drum. He has been learning how to play the fiddle with some help from orchestra director Christopher Mink for a year now. "He's doing great," Mink said. "He's a great

talent, and he writes really great folk music."

Not only does Hawkins play several instruments, but he writes his own songs as well. He began composing music and writing songs eight years ago. He specifically works on historical folk songs for which he extensively researches about the history of the topic.

As of now, Hawkins has released two CDs, both of them recorded at studios, with one of them called "Life on the Learning Curve." Hawkins has had several folk artists ask his permission to take his songs to use for their own purposes while giving him credit for the original.

The song Hawkins considers himself to be the most known for is "Swept Away." "It has gotten a lot of reactions from people," he said. The moods of the historical stories which he writes about are a large influence on the song.

The length of time Hawkins takes to create a song varies. "Swept Away" took him about 15 minutes, with the exception of minor tweaking that followed. However, other songs have taken five to six years to fully complete.

Hawkins was a member of two

former bands: Cold Harbor, named after the last Confederate victory, and Turn Back Time, part of a project that used to perform for Pine View fourth-graders.

People like Guy Clark, Texas country and folk singer-songwriter, and John Gorka, contemporary folk musician, continually inspire Hawkins to express his feelings into each one of his songs. "To me, it is cool [how] those guys showed me how to express my feelings," he said. "It is okay to explore love, hating, old romance and mine it from a song."

Teacher aide Sally Tyler had heard Hawkins play at one of his folk festivals several years ago. "I remember way back then, and I went to a folk festival," Tyler said. "I saw him and he was one of the performers. He was very good."

At these gigs, Hawkins plays all the instruments he can and sings as well. Hawkins has booked several gigs for this year, including one that took place Jan. 30 at the Pinellas Folk Festival. He said, "The Pinellas Folk Festival was fantastic. It was really exceptional and was an amazing place in how it was put together."

Hawkins attended another festival Feb. 6 called Grand Ova-



Campus security aide James Hawkins performs at the Crowley Museum and Nature Center. Hawkins has been an active musician since he was in high school.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAMES HAWKINS

tion, located in Lakewood Ranch. He will be attending more festivals throughout the year such as the Will McLean Festival from March 11 to 13, and the Barberville Spring Frolic from April 23 to 24.

Every other Sunday on radio station 96.5 FM WSLR Hawkins has a radio show: Sunday Folk Show. Hawkins plays traditional folk along

with other types of music including Celtic, Bluegrass and Maritime. He even interviews local folk musicians. "This radio station started nine years ago and I have been there since the beginning. I'm still there," he said.

Hawkins said, "In writing songs, it's another way of storytelling. Music is a major part of my life."



Lori Moyer, English teacher

by Riley Board
Focus Editor

One would find it challenging to count on his or her fingers the number of instruments that English teacher Lori Moyer plays; these include the clarinet, bass clarinet, oboe, saxophone, the harp, the bells and the piano — just to name a few.

Moyer began playing the bass clarinet in sixth grade and then explored similar reed instruments, such as the oboe, saxophone and alto saxophone.

In high school, Moyer devoted her time to playing the piano. She participated in orchestras in her community as well as at her school, and played similar keyboard-based instruments like bells and the marimba as well as the celesta, which is a miniature keyboard.

Moyer also had the opportunity to study at Julliard's Young Artists Development Program, where she worked with a Julliard professor.

At age 14, she had the once-in-a-lifetime chance to play on the famous Carnegie Hall stage.

She continued her musical journey at Indiana University's School of Music, where she also majored in Communications.

"As I graduated, I went into the non-musical world professionally and that led me through the different twists and turns life offers," Moyer said. "What has been constant for me, however, has been the music."

Although Moyer ultimately decided to pursue teaching over a musical career, music still remains an important part of her life. "I really wanted to explore a different part of life, a different part of the world, because so much of my life had been primarily focused around music," Moyer said. "It's not that I fell out of love with it, it's not that I hated it and wanted to distance myself from that part of my life. [Music] is something that follows me, it's

something that's part of who I am."

Music is something that runs in the Moyer family. Her daughter Amanda, a Pine View graduate, sings and her other daughter Ally, a tenth-grade student, sings and plays the drums, while her son Andrew, age 21, is involved in musical theater.

Moyer and her daughters traditionally perform together in the Pine View Variety Show. "Performing with my mom is always fun. I've grown up in a really musical household so music is a really emotional thing for us," Ally Moyer said. "It's really a family bonding experience."

To the elder Moyer, the best aspect of music is its potential for storytelling. "One of the things I enjoy so much is when I'm playing things that have stories. One of the reasons that musicians flock together is to share that story with each other," she said. "It's very powerful and impactful. It's part of that magic, it's hard to explain."



English teacher Lori Moyer performs a song on the piano at the 2016 Variety Show. Moyer has been playing music since sixth grade, when she began playing several instruments.

PHOTO BY ALLIE ODISHELIDZE



Eduardo Maron, fourth-grade teacher

by Cate Alvaro
Web Assistant

The saying "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" holds true for fourth-grade teacher, Eduardo Maron. His uncle, a musician, passed on his musical abilities to his nephew.

Maron's interest in music sparked during his childhood, as a result of his guitar-playing uncle's influence. "When I was younger, I had an uncle who was very musical and he would always play guitar and sing at family gatherings," he said. "My interest in music started with him."

By age 20, Maron discovered his proficiency on the guitar and decided to further his learning to the charango, a 10-stringed South American instrument, the Tahitian ukulele, an instrument similar to the charango, as well as the ukulele.

Today, Maron uses his musical abilities as an outlet and a stress reliever when need be. "That's the wonderful thing about music: you do not have to reach a certain ability level to enjoy it," he said.

Rather than concentrating on one specific instrument for a long period of time, Maron prefers to practice with various instruments. He practices every day and learns by teaching himself. He is currently working on mastering the ukulele and has been listening to artists such as Jake Shimabukuro, Kalei Gamiao, Aldrine Guerrero, James Hill and other ukulele virtuosos. Fourth-grader Juliana Silver said, "Maron incorporates his ukulele in



PHOTO BY ZACH BRIGHT

class by playing relaxing music to help us focus during tests."

While Maron has a passion for music, he realized through tutoring and teaching second-graders and adults that he also had a passion for teaching. When he enrolled in college, he originally wanted to go into the Teacher High School Science program but the university placed him into the Elementary K-6 program. "I took this as a sign and stayed in the Elementary program and never looked back. It was one of the best decisions I ever made," Maron said.

"If you are seeking to pursue a career in music, practice, practice, practice and stick to it. Being a musician means you will become a life-long learner. Furthermore, listen to the advice of your musical mentors and teachers," Maron said. "If you are pursuing music as a hobby, there are no limits, make it your own and enjoy it."



Lois Myers, fourth-grade teacher

by Cate Alvaro
Web Assistant

When walking past fourth-grade teacher, Lois Myers' classroom, one can hear Myers and her students singing songs about rocks among other things. As a lover of music, Myers shares her passion for singing with the kids in her classroom, by incorporating it into her lessons.

Having been surrounded by music as a child, keeping a rhythm is in Myers' genes. "As a child, I remember my dad, an artist and musician, was always walking around the house singing," Myers said.

She began her musical career with the flute and later on, like her father, she began to sing. Myers said, "My favorite genre of music is definitely Broadway and my favorite artist is Billy Joel."

Myers first began playing the flute when she was in fourth grade and continued playing until sixth grade. She first began singing when she was in high school and has sang ever since.

As Myers grew up, she took an interest in helping and working with children. "I decided to become a teacher because I loved and still love working with children," she said. "I have kids of my own so I know how to work with children. The schedule was also easy to adapt to since I have kids in the same situation as the ones at school."

Throughout the years, Myers



PHOTO BY ZACH BRIGHT

has found that her singing abilities have been very useful. Currently, she incorporates her musical talent into her lessons in the classroom by using her ability to easily come up with songs for different subjects. Myers comes up with songs to help her students study or help them learn new information in a way that will stick in their heads. Fourth-grader, Shireen Kaveh said, "I feel Myers' singing has helped me in class because I can get a better idea of what a specific person in history did."

Myers uses her ability in music, especially, when she is teaching history. She uses songs from that

particular era to help display what life was like in that time. Myers said, "My best professional development in class was a five week seminar at the University of Pittsburgh — 'Voices Across Time.'"

"I feel my biggest accomplishment in the musical world is that I introduced and still introduce my students to different types of music," Myers said.

She tries to stress to her students and others how important it is to be persistent in the pursuit of music. "My advice for children interested in music would be to not give up," she said. "Always continue learning and trying your hardest."



Leaving behind record legacies

by Anjali Sharma
Match Editor-in-Chief

Over the course of two decades, the Pine View athletic department has kept track of sports records that stand the test of time. The different event records that can be broken include curl-ups, softball throw, shot put, flex arm hang, 1600-meter run, pull-ups and the shuttle run. Anyone can view these records on a board hanging in the gym. Join The Torch in getting an insight into how alumni and current students felt before, during and after achieving a new school sports record.

Softball: 168 feet and one inch

Kelley Krejnik Pine View teacher and alumna, Class of 2001

Torch: Did you train in order to prepare for making a school record?

Krejnik: I had been playing softball since I was 6 years old. I later played for Venice High School's Varsity Softball Team in my freshman and sophomore years.

T: What grade were you in?

K: I was in seventh grade, and 13 years old. Man, that's a long time ago!

T: Did you ever expect to throw the softball as far as you did?

K: Yes, I was always athletic,

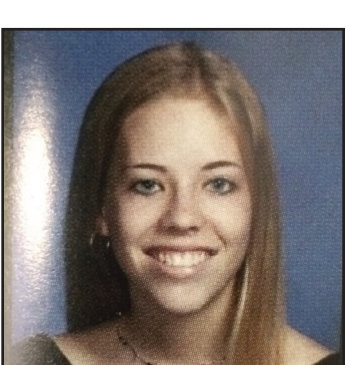
and I had a strong arm.

T: Did you receive any recognition at the time?

K: No, I actually had no idea until last year when I was proctoring a standardized test in the gym, and walking around, I saw my name on the school record board. That's when I discovered that I had broken the record.

T: Do you remember what you were thinking while in the process of throwing the softball?

A: I was thinking 'I better win this, because if I don't, then what have I been doing all this time?'



Pull ups: 14 in one minute

Mackenzie Van Cleave Twelfth-grader

T: Did you train in order to prepare for making a school record?

Van Cleave: I was in gymnastics so almost every practice we did pull ups as part of our training.

T: What grade were you in?

V: I was in second or third grade at the time.

T: Did you ever expect to do as many pull ups as you did?

V: I expected to do well in this test because we [my team] did at least 20 pull ups every practice

so I knew what I was doing.

T: Did you receive any recognition at the time?

V: At the time I didn't know I beat the record and I didn't find out until two or three years later when I was looking at the board in the gym and saw my name!

T: Do you remember what you were thinking while in the process of doing the pull ups?

V: When we were doing the pull up test for the presidential fitness test I remember thinking that I had to keep going and show all these boys up!

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Pine View teacher and alumna Kelley Krejnik, twelfth-grader Mackenzie Van Cleave, alumna Liz Leone and alumna Julie Ortner are pictured. They set records in various events at Pine View, which remain on the wall of the gym.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PINE VIEW YEARBOOK

Shot put: 34.5 feet

Liz Leone Alumna, Class of 2014

T: Did you train to prepare for shot put?

Leone: Yes, I went to track practice every morning and some mornings we went into the weight room and lifted weights.

T: How did you feel when you beat the record?

L: When I beat the record, it felt incredible. It was one of the most gratifying throws I've ever had.

T: What grade were you in?

L: I was in eighth grade when I broke both.

T: Did you ever expect to make a school record?

L: No, I never expected to break the school record... When I broke both records, I wasn't thinking I was going to break a school record. I was thinking I had to break my own record. I just kept breaking my own personal best, and with that came a school record.

T: Did you receive any recognition at the time?

L: I received recognition through an announcement over the intercom and at our eighth grade awards ceremony.

Curl ups: 69 in one minute

Mandy Smithman Alumna, Class of 2013

T: Did you train in order to prepare for doing the curl ups?

Smithman: I wasn't specifically training for curl ups, I was good at it because I was in good shape for dance.

T: How did you feel when you beat the record?

S: I remember feeling very proud of myself.

T: What grade were you in?

S: I was in fourth grade.

T: Did you ever expect to do

as many curl ups as you did?

S: I didn't expect to beat the record, but I knew I could do a lot.

T: Did you receive any recognition at the time?

S: All I can remember is being told I had the new record!

T: What were you thinking when you were in the process of beating the record?

S: All I remember thinking was that I wanted to stop but I knew that I could push myself until the end of the minute so I was just trying to stay focused on breathing.

Flex arm hang: 1 minute 50 seconds

Julie Ortner Alumna, Class of 2011

T: Did you train in order to prepare for making a school record?

Ortner: At the time, I didn't train in order to prepare. The record sort of just happened!

T: What grade were you in?

O: I was in seventh or eighth grade at the time.

T: Did you ever expect to hang for as long as you did?

O: I never expected to do so well, but I was surprised that I was able to do so well.

T: Did you receive any recognition at the time?

O: No, I never received any recognition at the time. I saw my name on the board a couple of years after, and it was only then that I found out I made the record.

T: Do you remember what you were thinking while you were doing the flex arm hang?

O: I don't remember much, but I do remember wanting to let go and give up just so I wouldn't have to suffer any longer.

Lady Pythons basketball team reaches county championship

by Nathalie Bencie
Match Layout Artist

With five championship wins in the last six years, the Pine View Lady Pythons are quickly gaining ground in Sarasota. The Lady Pythons beat the Sarasota Middle School Panthers Jan. 27 during the playoff game with a final score of 37-20. The team then traveled to Riverview High School Jan. 29 for the girls middle school basketball championships. The team fought fiercely against the Booker Tornadoes, unfortunately losing the final game of the season with a close score of 23-28.

Before the first quarter began, Lady Pythons coach Joe DiGiacomo stressed his concerns to his team. "We all have to have confidence yet hold our composure," DiGiacomo said. "We're all one unit, and in this game, there can't be any single players. We're all a team."

The starters of the game included eighth-graders Katy Dean and Elea Saba, seventh-graders Noelle Bencie and Ellie DiGiacomo as well as sixth-grader Madeline Boehm. "I'm really hyped," Dean said before the game. "I just want to finish the season on [a] good note."

The Lady Pythons trailed in the first quarter of the championship game 3-5 with Ellie DiGiacomo as the only scorer while the rest of the team played heavy defense. The half ended 11-9 as Pine View took the lead. Dean made two foul-shots from the line while DiGiacomo sunk a three-pointer and eighth-grader Julia Boehm obtained a layup beneath the basket.



TOP: The Pine View girls basketball team huddles up to gather their thoughts with Coach Joe DiGiacomo. BOTTOM: Eighth-grader Katy Dean tries to escape a block by the Booker Tornadoes. The game was close, Pine View losing by only five points.

PHOTOS BY HALEIGH BROWN

Eighth-graders Savannah James and Faith Kern were also substituted in to finish the half with a strong defense. "Booker is a quick team and is playing well," coach DiGiacomo said during half-time. "We need to make sure to stop that ball."

By the end of the third quarter, the Lady Pythons led the game by a single point at 17-16. The Tornadoes had 14 turnovers, or shots in which a team loses possession of the ball before taking a shot at the opposition's basket, while Pine View had 17. Once more, Julia Boehm took another two layups, while DiGiacomo and Dean each



scored two points of their own. "It's been a really close game," Saba said. Unfortunately, the Booker Tornadoes took the final quarter, leaving the Lady Pythons trailing by five points. The final score was 23-28 — a win for the Booker Tornadoes. Pine View's top scorers for the game were Katy Dean with 9 points, Ellie DiGiacomo with 8 points, and Julia Boehm with 6 points.

Even with their 8 and 2 record, it was disappointing to see the season end with a loss. When asked what happened, Coach DiGiacomo said, "We played their game, not ours. I'm still proud of all my girls for not giving up."

Though saddened by their loss, the team looks forward to its future success in upcoming years. "I am upset that we lost," Saba said. "But in the end, I couldn't have asked for a better team ... or a better experience."

Meet the track team

Coaches: Misty Tucak, Mark Thorpe, Julia Schran and James Sweiderk

Boys Team

Grade 6:

Brodie Calandra
Cole Firlie
Mason Kuipers
Carson Roland
Jacob Stein
Joshua Wang

Grade 7:

Lucian Bathgate
Michael Fraraccio
Kai Hudson
Raymond Leffler
Calvin Sweiderk

Grade 8:

Hal Bloom
Lucas Caragiulo
Andrew Leaver
Abrar Mahmud
Dominic Marhoefer
Tri Nguyen
Ben Nicholson
Ben Sweiderk
Hunter Szweczyk
Trevor Yull
Benjamin Zipay

Girls Team

Grade 6:

Julia Brzozowski
Isabella Crane
Grace Ourednik
Alexandra Roumi
Sarah Sensenbrenner
Ella Szmania

Grade 7:

Caroline Creevy
Alexis Firlie
Carly Kruysman
Leilani Lyons
Kasumi Wade
Moriya White

Grade 8:

Julia Blom
Sofia Genta
Samantha Gentile
Curstin George
Savannah James
Kaysha Kapadia
Renn Lewis
Carmen McDowell
Allison Racine
Elea Saba
Brooke Tyack

We're all one unit, and in this game, there can't be any single players."

Joe DiGiacomo,
P.E. teacher



Kevin Carlyle
Manager - Roofing Division

MULLET'S Aluminum Products, Inc.
6345 McIntosh Road
Sarasota, FL 34238

Telephone: (941) 371-3502
Toll Free: 1-877-MULLETS
Fax: (941) 378-5676
Email: kevin@mulletosaluminum.com
Website: www.mulletosaluminum.com

Condominium | Residential | Commercial

LIC #5CC050667/CCC057430/CGC1507267



A group of students attend a Skyrobics class at Sky Zone. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Twelfth-grader Katherine Salvatori does a split mid-air. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Eleventh-grader Vivian Sokmensuer and twelfth-grader Gabbie Holliday stretch before jumping. PHOTOS BY MIRA CHAUHAN

Get in the (Sky) Zone

by Mira Chauhan
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Skyrobics is an intensive fitness course that combines aerobics, core exercises and calisthenics, or in other words, working out on a trampoline. Sky Zone, an indoor trampoline park, offers this fitness class to those interested in finding an athletic way to have fun.

Skyrobics is a one-hour class every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively. Although any level of athlete can partake in the class, Skyrobics is certainly an intense workout. For beginners, the class may be especially straining.

"It was really tiring but a great workout," eleventh-grader Vivian Sokmensuer said after taking a class.

According to Sky Zone, participants can burn up to 1,000 calories an hour when doing Skyrobics. Some of the exercises are push-ups, wall sits, planks and a variety of

other core exercises. The trampoline surface also allows for various jumping exercises. The trampoline aspect of the class is really what makes Skyrobics unique and entertaining. If you are disinclined to workout, Skyrobics provides the happy medium between exercise and fun.

With music playing in the background and extra time to jump during water breaks, Skyrobics is also a great class to go to with a group of friends.

For anybody interested in just trying out the class, Sky Zone offers a first-time Skyrobics deal: \$5 per person plus \$2 for Sky Zone socks that are yours to keep. Sky Zone also offers a class for more advanced athletes, Sky Fit. Sky Fit is open on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

6180 Edgelake Drive
Sarasota, FL 34240

Rams 'lacrosse' new territory

by Samantha Gallahan
News Editor

Riverview High School has recently created a girls lacrosse team. This is one of the only lacrosse teams in the county. Lacrosse is not known to be extremely popular in Florida, but its popularity is increasing rapidly.

In 2013, a group of parents, coaches and community members got together and created a nonprofit organization called SRQLAX to facilitate the transition of high school lacrosse from a club sport to a Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) sanctioned varsity sport. After several meetings with the Sarasota County School Board and Riverview High School, it was decided that SRQLAX would establish a 3-year pilot program at Riverview. SRQLAX hopes to help bring FHSAA varsity lacrosse to all Sarasota County high schools within the next 10 years.

The lacrosse teams at Riverview High School are the first FHSAA sanctioned lacrosse teams at Sarasota County public high schools.

Lacrosse is quickly going from a unique, unconventional sport to a mainstream one. Some sports such as baseball and basketball are more popular nationally, but lacrosse is gaining popularity in several states across the country. More and more high school lacrosse teams are being created due to increased interest. As more lacrosse teams are formed, more people become involved in the sport and popularity increases in the area.

Kathryn Lehrman, from the SRQLAX organization, said, "Up until this spring, the only way a high school lacrosse player could play on a team was to attend one of the local private schools with teams, like Cardinal Mooney, Out of Door Academy and Sarasota Military Academy, or to play club lacrosse with either the Sarasota Seahawks, in Sarasota, or the Manasota Monsters, in Bradenton."

The girls had their first official game of the season Feb. 9 against Out of Door Academy and their last game of the season will be April 1.

Throughout the season, the team will play other teams

around the area including Cardinal Mooney, Academy of the Holy Names, Out of Door Academy and Port Charlotte.

There are several Pine View students on the team. Eleventh-grader Ciara Dorsay, tenth-graders Sophie Goodwin and Lindsay Kaighin and ninth-grader Zayda Fredericks are all part of the team.

According to members of the team, several of the girls have not had experience playing lacrosse before but they are willing to work hard. "I joined because I've been sailing as a sport for the past 5 years and have recently really regretted not doing any team sports," Dorsay said. "I then found out from my brother who goes to Riverview that they were having a lacrosse team for the first time ever, so I decided to try it."

Because lacrosse is not as widespread as some other sports, the Riverview team consists of several beginners. "We are a new team, with lots of beginners, but the girls are doing very well and I'm excited for the rest of the season," Ashley McLeod, team coach, said.

la·crosse

/lə'kròs/
a team game, originally played by North American Indians, in which the ball is thrown, caught, and carried with a long-handled stick having a curved L-shaped or triangular frame at one end with a piece of shallow netting in the angle.



Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the country with a 10% growth rate



From 2009-2014
-551 high schools added men's lacrosse
-556 high schools added women's lacrosse



There are over 300,000 lacrosse players in the nation

GRAPHIC BY ALLIE ODISHIELDZ

[a column] Prioritizing safety over success

An 8-year-old sports fanatic easily dismisses a mom's concerned wish to "stay safe" when headed to a practice or game. Young athletes everywhere think that the shin guards they wear for soccer practice or the helmet securing their head in a football game will protect them from anything that comes their way. As these kids grow up, they become teenagers who play the game harder with even less concern for themselves.

A terrible habit that intense competitors often have is dismissing their health in order to have peak performance. As youngsters, the game was played for the fun of it. As people grow within their sports, they care more about their performance than anything else, even their health.

The first sacrifice is sleep. Athletes need more sleep than the average teenagers, but they often get less due to their demanding schedules. If getting to sleep earlier at night seems impossible, naps can be a saving grace.

Hydration is something that every coach tries to instill in their athletes, but unfortunately many still fail to stay hydrated. The easiest (and most awkward) way to tell if you are hydrated is if your pee is clear. Some find drinking water all the time redundant, and if this is the case there are other options. Nuun sells tablets that add electrolytes to water, along with refreshing flavors like strawberry lemonade or tri-berry. Coconut water is also a good alternative that hydrates the body quickly.

Overexertion also affects the body of an athlete more so than one would think. When someone works out, they are tearing apart their muscles so that the body can build



Sarah Mihm, Sports Editor

it back stronger. If the muscle is continually worked, the muscle will never get to repair itself. Days off after a couple hard workouts lets the body recuperate. If this is not an option, switching which muscle groups are worked is a suitable alternative.

Even if a sport is not the cause, excessive exercise can be an issue. Often the case is that the strive to become healthy and "in shape" can lead to an unhealthy body. The want to be model thin should not be prioritized over having a healthy body. An easy way to check if your body is healthy is by checking your body mass index (BMI). There are countless BMI calculators online. This is a better way of looking at your body than simply weight, since it takes in other factors like age and height.

Sports should be a tool to make people healthier, not an activity that hurts an athlete's body. The pursuit toward perfection in any given sport can be achieved without detrimentally damaging one's health. We're only given one body, so we better take care of it.

McDonald's
OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarships
Direct Deposit
Flexible Scheduling
Career Opportunities

Locations in
Venice and Englewood

Apply in person or online
@ www.MyLocalMcDs.com

Sarasota County School District
Outstanding Corporate Business Partner

Owned and Operated by Symons Says Enterprises, Inc.

Catastrophic Coincidences in Construction

Widespread building projects fuel suspicion, distrust among students

Club uncovers retired teacher conspiracy

by Suzanne Brown
Features Editor

Following the increasing number of construction projects over the past year, many of Pine View's faculty have concurrently retired from campus, leading several students to formulate theories over what they believe to be more than just a coincidence.

Since the beginning of the Classrooms of Tomorrow initiative, numerous construction projects have been planned, with many others in the works.

According to a new club on campus, Save Our Scholars, otherwise known as S.O.S., many of these renovations are cover-ups for what is really a large-scale, underground hostage situation.

Club president and eleventh-grader Natilie 'Nos' Talga said, "Pine View was so vintage, why else would they change it? I haven't heard anything from the veteran teachers once they retired. I know they're being hidden on campus in the construction locations. These secret construction areas are so sketchy. I created S.O.S. to raise awareness. More people need

to know the truth. Why else would we be instructed not to talk to the construction workers? Plus, I figured [the creation of the club] would look good on college apps."

Talga and the club have theorized that past faculty are being transferred across campus and constrained in major areas of construction, such as the earlier work done on the new third-grade building. Ninth-grader and S.O.S. club member Cam Hinske said, "I could've sworn I heard someone faintly whisper 'Chief, go feed the squirrels' when I walked past one of the construction sites."

Other club members reported being told to "go see the eclipse" by an unidentifiable source.

The club has recently begun discussion on the "elementary only" bathrooms announced in January. Talga said that the bathrooms are merely a hoax. "That's the current holding spot for the teachers. They're running out of spaces. I know it," Talga said.

So far, S.O.S. has organized three protests demanding information regarding the status of past

I know [the retired teachers] are being held on campus in the construction locations. These secret construction areas are so sketchy."

Natilie Talga, grade 11



Eleventh-grader Blake Bright sees no evil by the large metal cube. A new club on campus claims retired teachers are being held in the cubes. PHOTO BY SAMUEL WINEGAR

teachers. Protests were located on the property of former principal Steve Largo as well as a local "X-Files" convention and Pine View itself.

As the club continues to develop, S.O.S. has begun criticizing administration on a general scale.

"We're a school for the gifted, obviously we're smart enough to figure out what's going on behind closed construction doors," Hinske said. "After our club exposes administration, our next stop is NASA. We know they've found extraterrestrial

life. Why are all these administrations trying to cover up the truth?"

The Pine View administration declined to address the group directly or meet for interview, instead investing in more sound-proofing materials.

Missing students reappear with stellar grade point averages

Scores improve rapidly and mysteriously

by Park Dietz
Asst. News Editor

The Pine View construction projects have been far from discreet, and many students have noticed the giant metal boxes that have appeared around campus. Rumors have arisen as to why these metal boxes exist, like how they're 'for the air conditioning' for the buildings, but that is a devious lie being pushed by administration. The Torch staff has received some vital information about the truth behind these metal boxes.

When these metal boxes were first completed many students suddenly disappeared for a day or two, their only similarity being their GPAs (all under 3.5). It began with the disappearance of the tenth-grader Andrea Cheva. Her friends noticed that she was gone for two days and was not replying to text messages. When she returned to school, her grades rose significantly and her social life declined accordingly. Close friends of Cheva have said they have tried to communicate with her but were rudely shut down because she was studying, despite there being no tests in the upcoming week.

This has been happening all around Pine View. It is believed that the reason these blue boxes have appeared is because they are brainwashing students to make them smarter.

"Ever since I was told to help someone out in the metal boxes, I have been studying more and putting my phone down — my record for studying is for seven hours straight for a vocab quiz," Cheva said. She recalls nothing between being called to help out and waking up at home, suddenly inspired to make 300 flash cards.

Reports of muffled yelling have been heard from the metal boxes like, "Y=MX+B" or "HOLA, COMO ESTAS?". Students have lodged complaints with administration, but no official investigation has been launched.

Since the disappearance of students began, Pine View's average

GPA has increased to 3.833, which equates to all As and one B. "We at Pine View are always willing to look into new methods of making our students better," an administrative member, who wishes to remain unnamed, said.

The scores for standardized testing have also increased, with a majority of students being in the 99th percentile. Students are actually studying for the standardized testing.

Will Uminati is the only person to come out of the boxes and actually remember what happened. "I was taken out of my math class to go to the metal boxes and I remember all of it. They kept playing videos from Khan Academy and screaming definitions of words and phrases at me," he said.

Editor's Note: Uminati was reported missing moments after this article was written.

We at Pine View are always willing to look into new methods..."

Anonymous, Administration



Eleventh-grader Erik Mininsohn hears no evil by the large metal cube. Several students with GPAs below 3.5 have disappeared, with many claiming they are being held in the cubes. PHOTO BY SAMUEL WINEGAR

[a column]

Giving the metal cubes deserved recognition

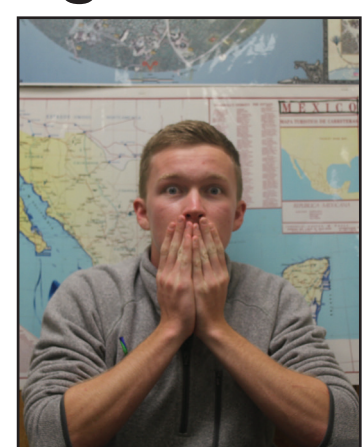
Following the installation of several large metal cubes on the ends of Building 1 and the blue building, campus construction workers have been nominated for the prestigious Nobel Architecture Prize for their efforts — a long anticipated and well deserved reward.

The nomination comes from the highest levels of the Sarasota County School Board, after a visiting delegation saw the magnificent cubic structures. "These were some of the most intricate creations I've ever seen," said county administrator Francis L. Wrong after visiting Pine View. "The level of skill needed to create these awe-inspiring... I'm sorry, they're just so beautiful!" Wrong said, overcome with emotion.

The cubes, made almost entirely of sheet metal, house the air conditioning and heating units of the two buildings. It is well known that instead of simply arranging these units throughout the building, it was wisely decided that erecting large, monolithic structures outside would be more in line with the "open campus" Pine View enjoys.

Head architect Andrea Ruben says that the cubes were initially designed as a matter of convenience, with little thought given to actual artistic design. "We didn't have a lot to work with, so we threw together some spare metal plating," Ruben said. "I don't think any of us ever anticipated that we'd be honored for our work, but we're all glad that our work is recognized."

Many students have voiced their appreciation of the large structures, noting their eye-catching appeal. "I was late to calculus yesterday because I was staring at



Sam Winegar, Humor Editor

[the cubes]," eleventh-grader Zach Fegoni said. "Mr. Gottlieb said we could take a class trip to go marvel at them, so that's kinda cool."

Pine View's art department has also praised the new edifices. Art teacher Retsy Lauer hails the new constructions as testaments to the cubist movement of the early 20th century. "The cube near the blue building is obviously modeled

after some of Picasso's earlier cubist works," Lauer said. "The one near Building 1 is more of a Georges Braque-type of cube, but they're both stunning."

This reporter attempted to contact a construction worker to get a quote about their accomplishment, but was refused entrance to the cube. "It's art, you wouldn't understand," an anonymous worker said.

The nomination will be awarded to the entire construction crew as soon as construction is finished on campus (so in approximately 12 years) in a ceremony held in the auditorium. The crew will also be given \$10 in credit redeemable at the Student Union.

Many students have voiced their appreciation of the large structures, noting their eye-catching appeal.

[an infographic]

Torch's Tips to the Admissions Process



Every point under 2400 on your SAT is minus 1% chance at admission



Grandpa Bernie will make it free anyway, no worries, fam



Relax, your grades don't matter. It's all about learning ;)



You really should've studied that extra hour



No matter what your socioeconomic status is, you are at a disadvantage somehow



Inertia is a property of matter



Your extracurriculars should reflect only your most passionate interests, plus anything else you think the colleges want in their student body



Rest assured, the admissions person reviewing your essays will give them all the scrutiny she gave the last 20,000 mediocre essays she read today

GRAPHICS BY ALLIE ODISHELDZE AND STORY BY SAMUEL WINEGAR

Battle of the Bathrooms

Students compete to revamp restrooms

by Allie Odishelidze
Asst. Opinion Editor

Friendly competition is nothing new to the students of Pine View, and it comes in more forms than just academic. Recently, it was announced the bathrooms would become designated by grade level and a not so friendly competition has ensued. It is a well-known fact that the high-schoolers have been using the elementary/middle bathroom, as it is often the most convenient and available bathroom and to stop these unwanted visits, administration has proposed a contest to see which grade levels can produce the "Dankest Bathroom."

This challenge was taken to heart by many a student and almost immediately following this proclamation, the elementary schoolers stepped up their bathroom game. The toilet paper was immediately replaced with two-ply and some floral air fresheners were strategically placed to help alleviate the stench.

In response to this the high

school bathroom was quickly equipped with a snack bar with free food and drinks, to be refilled by whoever took the last one. The students quickly found that their beloved food was being invaded by insidious bugs, and administration

Administration has proposed a contest to see which grade levels can produce the "Dankest Bathroom."

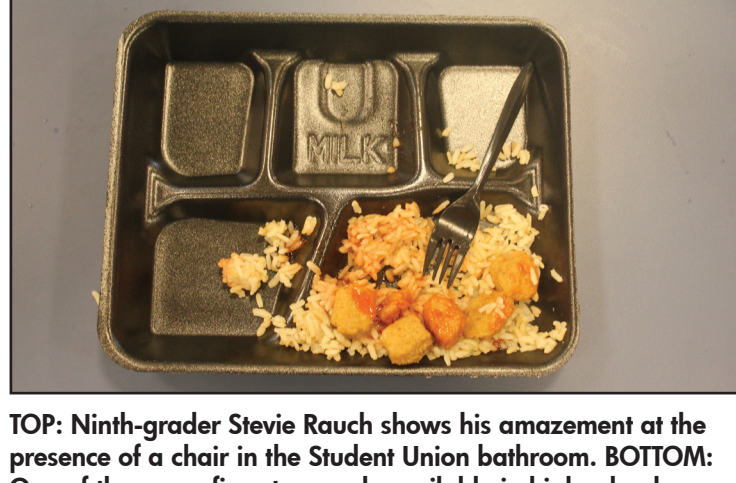
forced the hungry students to remove their food.

The younger grades noticed the retaliation by their upperclassmen counterparts and opted to add a couch to the entrance of the bathroom to provide a more streamline and smooth waiting process. While

the couch was far from new, seventh-grader Beth Room said, "The couch is such a nice addition, and I'm so glad it was placed there. I don't even want to go to class anymore. I can just say I was having bathroom troubles." Administration is aware of the probability of students missing classes, however, they believed through this program students will continue to feel inspired to use their proper bathrooms.

With the challenge in full swing, not everything seems to be fair for all as twelfth-grader Toy Lett said, "I still use the elementary and middle bathroom, it's still closer and since this competition began, they just keep making it nicer. Let's be real here, why would I not want to use it?"

The eager participants are still waiting for word from administration on who really has the dankest bathroom however the anticipation seems to be winding down for some as the realization has come that there are in fact two fully-equipped, luxury bathrooms.



TOP: Ninth-grader Stevie Rauch shows his amazement at the presence of a chair in the Student Union bathroom. BOTTOM: One of the many five-star meals available in high school. Students across campus have refurbished restrooms to make them more comfortable. PHOTO BY SAMUEL WINEGAR



Twelfth-grader Garrett Lawlor (right) winces against the biting 70 degree temperatures present on campus. In response to the the extreme temperatures, administration has placed jackets around campus for cold students. PHOTO BY ADIL SAGEER

Students cope with 'freezing cold' temperatures

Administration provides free winter coats

by Adil Sageer
Asst. Humor Editor

The recent drop in Florida's temperature has sent many students scampering for their sweaters. The temperature dropped a whole four degrees to 66 degrees last Friday. Students have been coping with the change in various capacities.

Some students have turned to traditional winter coats to combat the frigid climate. "I used to be able to wear tank tops everyday," twelfth-grader Zach Blashinsky said, as he adjusted his parka. Other students were less conventional.

Eleventh-grader Nathan Jeffries noted how his protection of choice is typically only sold in Scandinavia. "I have here a dual-layer sweater vest with an added leather exterior component - all in one garment," he said.

Many students are arriving at school far later than their start time

in order to avoid the chilling breeze that moves in during the wee hours of the morning.

"These days I can rarely even show up to first period physics - it's

I used to be able to wear tank tops everyday."

Zach Blashinsky
grade 12

just too cold. And it pains me because physics is my favorite class," twelfth-grader Garrett Lawlor said.

The administration too has

taken note of the spontaneous weather changes and acted appropriately. "No student should be too cold to study," said Assistant Principal Jennifer Nzeza as she unveiled the No Child Left Behind For Being Too Cold initiative.

There are now bins scattered across campus containing jackets with logos of pythons dressed in stylish pea coats. These bins are open to all students and faculty, as well as the occasional squirrel or alligator.

"I think the new initiative is working quite nicely - none of my students have suffered frostbite since it was implemented," social studies teacher Kelley Krejnik said.

A few students do not feel bothered by this dramatic change in weather. "Honestly, it still feels pretty hot here. I'm from Alaska and there is a lot less snow here," tenth-grader Natalie Schimek said.

Freeman Orthodontics
for Children, Teens & Adults

Affordable Monthly Payments
Convenient Office Hours
Personalized Care • Clear Braces
Invisalign® Certified

953-7500

3300 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 8, Sarasota
www.FreemanOrthodontics.com

David H. Freeman DMD MS
Board Certified Orthodontist

The Verdict

Scholarships: It is great to see the Coolidge and Zenie scholarships help students make college a more practical, inexpensive option for their futures.

Girls for Girls Pen-pals: The pen-pal program between second-graders and Girls for Girls club members is a great way to increase a feeling of school community.

Heart Safe Schools: We are glad to see Pine View work towards enhancing the safety of students on campus with heart conditions.

Gifted Changes: While the inclusion of other types of giftedness into Pine View is important, it should be enacted when the appropriate facilities are offered to accommodate the change.

To the moon and (not) back

Weighing the dangers of mars colonization

by Zach Bright
Webmaster

Groundbreaking history in space travel was made here in Florida just a few months ago at Cape Canaveral. Aerospace manufacturer Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) successfully tested the Falcon 9, the first rocket created that can safely land upright back on Earth after being launched.

On the surface it might not sound like that big of a breakthrough, but this is actually huge. In the past, rockets could only be used once per launch, and each costs millions of dollars to manufacture. While the technology to routinely reuse rockets was developed by SpaceX mainly for supply launches to the International Space Station, this can lead to much more. The possibility of launches at a much lower cost paves the way for increased space exploration and research, as well as the exciting possibility of one day colonizing other planets.

Although the idea of human colonies on other planets is far-fetched today, it is not to say that it will be impossible in the future. The recently released film "The Martian" illustrates the possibility of manned missions to Mars. It centers around the survival of fictional NASA scientist Mark Watney who is stranded on the red planet, and shows his survival. Science fiction films like

"The Martian" may one day become fact.

While extraterrestrial settlements have great potential and will likely become a popular prospect, once the technologies do become available, environmental concerns faced today cannot be ignored. Global warming, the largest concern, could result in an uninhabitable planet if gone unchecked, and Earth would be lifeless like the rest of the planets in the solar system. Neither we nor our future generations should latch onto the idea that focusing all efforts on colonization

will somehow circumvent the problems that affect everyone on Earth. It is important for us to combat climate change instead of setting aside Mars as a "backup" planet.

For the first time in human history, we are poised to take the stars or lose the planet we all know as home. Space travel is a very exciting and thrilling venture that will certainly grow in the following years as new technologies are developed. Yet as we go into the future, we and our posterity still must continue to put importance on issues at home.



GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN

Students running ragged for resumes

by Jordan Glover
Entertainment Editor

Not only as a Pine View student but also as an individual born into a hardworking family, I was brought up with a natural desire and ambition to succeed from a young age — I didn't even know that college was optional until middle school.

My fellow peers at Pine View, as well as at other high schools, can most likely relate to the concept of "doing it for the resume," or, in other words, placing yourself into countless clubs and activities and stacking your schedule with one too many AP classes, just to make for an impressive resume for college.

Well, let me tell you something — that is no way to live your life.

We are told that high school is the best time of our lives. While that may hold true for some, it proves false for those stressed and overwhelmed beyond belief as a result of the heavy load that they create for themselves. As a twelfth-grader who has learned a lot about college this past year and has observed her two siblings undergo the college application process, I have concluded that quality does in fact outweigh quantity.

We high-schoolers hold the challenging responsibility of balancing grades, clubs and our outside social life, not to mention studying for the SAT and ACT and other exams. By slapping seven or eight clubs onto your schedule, as well as an extracurricular activity or a job, you spread yourself way too thin.

If you have found seven or eight clubs that you genuinely enjoy, that is a wonderful thing. When you take on leadership positions for multiple clubs that you dread participating in, however, it becomes

excessive and unhealthy.

In a world of competition to rise to the top, we cannot help but compare ourselves to other students.

I know that from personal experience, I have upset myself by comparing my exam results, performance in a class and overall work ethic to model students that put every ounce of their being into their academic life. But everyone is different; people set different standards for themselves so it is foolish to compare yourself to those who choose a different path. After all, everyone excels at something different, whether it is a sport, an art or the ability to solve complex calculus

problems.

I personally failed to find many clubs that appealed to me during my high school career, but I did stay active in a few activities for the whole four years, and that is what colleges really look for: consistency. So for the ninth-, tenth- and even eleventh-graders out there, I highly recommend that you prioritize your time for the few clubs and activities that

interest you, rather than put forth a minimal amount of effort and passion into multiple. You will perform better academically, get more sleep and have more time for yourself and your friends, doing what you love and what makes you healthier and happier.

By slapping seven or eight clubs onto your schedule, as well as an extracurricular activity... you spread yourself way too thin.



GRAPHIC BY SUZANNE BROWN

[student poll]

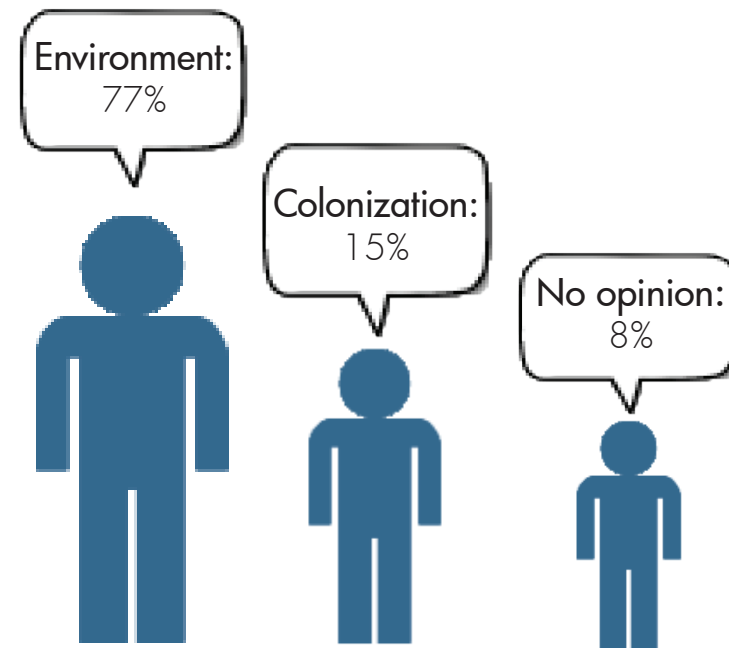
Reaching Across the Aisle

Do you believe the state of Hawai'i should be independent from the U.S.?



Yes (8%) No (64%) No Opinion (28%)

Should countries work more towards improving Earth's environment or seeking colonization?



thetorch
PV Torch.com

Editor-in Chief Marina Okawa*
Asst. Editor-in-Chief Madeline Bowman*
Asst. Editor-in-Chief Mira Chauhan*
Copy Editor Brenna Maginness*
Web Editor Halle Belden*
Match Editor Anjali Sharma

News Editor Samantha Gallahan*
Asst. News Editors Park Dietz, Annie Hassan
Sci & Tech Editor Katie Green
Entertainment Editor Jordan Glover*
Asst. Entertainment Editor Mackenzie Dyrda, William Khabbaz
Features Editor Suzanne Brown
Asst. Features Editor Melissa Santoyo
Sports Editor Sarah Mihm
Asst. Sports Editor Zayda Fredericks
Humor Editor Samuel Winegar*

Asst. Humor Editor Adil Sageer
Opinion Editor Brenna Maginness*
Asst. Opinion Editor Allie Odishelidze*
Focus Editor Riley Board
Staff Photographer Zach Bright
Graphics Editors Suzanne Brown, Allie Odishelidze
Asst. Graphics Editor Melissa Santoyo
Photo Editors Zach Bright, Mackenzie Dyrda
Asst. Photo Editor Haleigh Brown
Financial Manager Katie Green

Distribution Manager Riley Board
Web Assistant Cate Alvaro
Webmaster Zach Bright
Asst. Match Editors Alexa Mollod, Sara Rahman
Match Layout Artists Nathalie Bencie, Haleigh Brown
Adviser Christopher Lenerz
Principal Dr. Stephen Covert
*Denotes member of editorial board.

The Torch covers topics, issues, events and opinions of relevance to students grades seven through twelve. The Torch is published six times a year by Pine View School and maintains membership in the Florida Scholastic Press Association. Press run is 1,900 copies are provided free of charge to student and faculty and staff.
Editorials. Unsigned editorials and

The Verdict represent the views of the editorial board. All **other articles reflect the opinions** of the individual authors unless otherwise noted.
Letters. The Torch welcomes reader reactions to the published content in the form of letters to the editor. Submit typed letters to letters@pineviewtorch.com. Letters should be

less than 300 words and contain the author's name and grade, although the author may request anonymity. Submissions may be edited for authenticity, grammar, clarity and length.
Guest columns. The Opinion section of The Torch is an open forum for campus editorial commentary. The Torch welcomes guest editorials

written on topics relevant to readers. Contact the Opinion Editor at brenna.maginness@pineviewtorch.com to discuss an idea.
Reader Input. Submit story ideas, comments and questions to the editor of Sci & Tech, Entertainment, Sports, Humor, Opinion or Focus at the email addresses given at the beginning of each section. Email the News

Editors at news@pineviewtorch.com. Address general comments and questions to the Editor-in-Chief at marina.okawa@pineviewtorch.com. **Advertisements and subscriptions.** To place an advertisement or purchase a subscription, email katie.green@pineviewtorch.com. The Torch reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Statistics

93

percent of Utah students take a Home Economics class.

17.4

percent of Florida students enrolled in a Home Economics class.

1

percent of New Jersey students enrolled in a Home Economics class.

26

percent decrease in the number of Home Economics teachers in the U.S. since 2004.

INFORMATION FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

[staff editorial]

Home Economics eliminated from education

When it comes to educating kids, it is likely for one's thoughts to go straight to subjects like history, math or science. They are, after all, fundamentals of learning that we cannot imagine a school lacking. Even when students are not planning on continuing into a science career, they are expected to attend classes like biology and chemistry—the logic being, most likely, that a basic knowledge of the subject is important no matter where someone intends to further their studies.

This makes sense. After all, to get by in life it is important to have some general knowledge about the world we live in. Despite not pursuing mathematics, knowing multiplication, subtraction, addition, etcetera is imperative. Basic facts about history are worth more than a win on trivia night, too — they help us make educated decisions about our own governments and livelihoods.

Despite this common sense, one of the most practical classes has been essentially eradicated from high schools across the nation. Home Economics, or Home Ec, was once a popular course for teens. Now, however, many students grad-

uate without the hands-on knowledge Home Ec offers for those who will soon be living on their own for the first time.

When thinking of Home Ec, it is easy to let your mind go straight to poodle skirts and antiquated gender roles, but the Home Ec of the past does not have to be the Home Ec we need today. Some of the

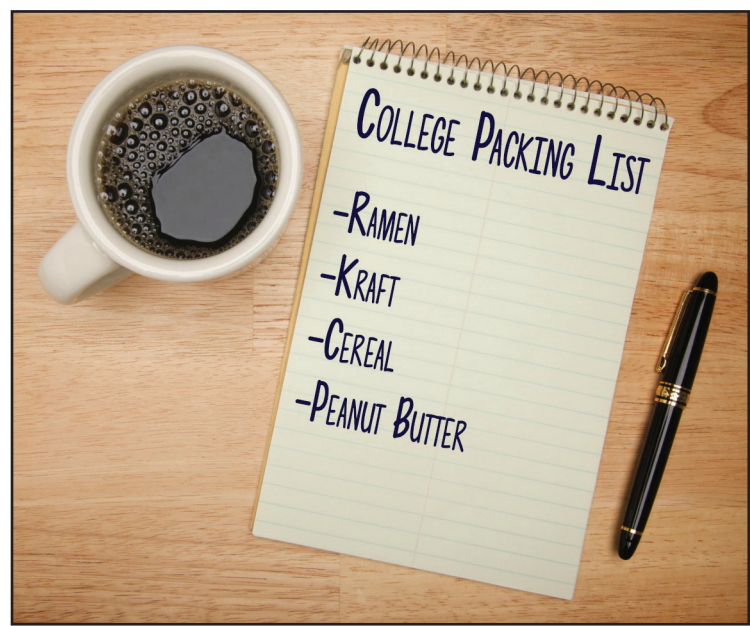
skills it offered, like cooking and sewing, were previously very gender-specific, left as tasks the female students should be learning while the majority of the male students spent their time in shop class. But we do not have

to regress to old social standards to keep our students prepared for the future.

A modern version of Home Ec exists in some schools, in the form of a course called Family and Consumer Science (FCS), though it is not close to being a requirement in the same way as a class like precalculus or life science. FCS has some great qualities any modern Home Ec class should include, like finances — from figuring out interest rates to managing a budget.

Home Ec has also been a source of nutritional education in the past. First Lady Michelle Obama called attention to this is-

It is crazy to think that students are graduating without financial literacy or any idea how to do laundry.



GRAPHIC BY ALLIE ODISHIELDZE

sue in 2014, citing growing obesity in children and teens as a sign that proper nutrition is not being properly taught in schools — an issue a class like Home Ec could help solve. The Centers for Disease Control states that more than one-third of all children in the U.S. are overweight or obese.

To some extent, the relevance and popularity of FCS classes depends on the state. According to The Wall Street Journal, the number of teachers trained to teach FCS has decreased by 26 percent in the last ten years. The Wall Street Journal also states that Utah, for example, has 93 percent of its students

enrolled in FCS. The much more urban state of New Jersey has the lowest rate, at 1 percent of students enrolled in the course.

FCS, or a similar class, needs to be a staple in high schools across the state. It is crazy to think that students are graduating without financial literacy or any idea how to do laundry. There is a lot more that should go into preparing students for the real world than teaching the Pythagorean Theorem, no matter how game-changing that formula is for trigonometry students. When it comes to being successful after high school, practical skills should be valued just as much as academics.

[guest editorial]

Aloha, Independence

Acknowledging native peoples' rights

by Brody McCurdy
Guest Writer, Grade 12

Hawai'i is known for its beaches, its resorts and, of course, as the state everyone fights over in elementary school when it comes time for those infamous state reports. However, what most people do not know is that behind the scenic views and cascading waterfalls, this tropical paradise is currently the center of a political movement that could possibly change American history forever.

For those who do not keep up with Hawaiian news, Native Hawaiians are sending delegates to vote on a new Hawaiian Constitution that could leave the United States with one less star on the flag.

So why this sudden outburst? A little background on Hawai'i should shed some light on this question. Hawai'i was at one point a sovereign monarchy — that is until American business interests were compromised. In 1893, Queen Lili'uokalani was illegally removed from the throne by a gang of angry American sugar farmers — definitely not the aloha spirit. Fast forward to 1959 and abracadabra, Hawai'i is the 50th state of the union. Pretty sad considering not a single Native Hawaiian representative had a say in the decision. However in 1993

President Bill Clinton sent the Native Hawaiians an apology for the events of 1893 and now, after years of cultural revival, Native Hawaiians are pushing for change.

But even in the Native Hawaiian community there isn't consensus. Some want full independence and a restoration of a sovereign Hawaiian nation while others only want feder-

Federal recognition could be a viable solution, giving Native Hawaiians the rights of an American citizen.

al recognition (kind of like a Native American reservation). But beyond the split, both factions believe that change is necessary in order to protect the rights of Native Hawaiians in their homeland.

My thoughts: of course, with my American "freedom" sentimentality I lean more towards full independence, though the pros for this course of action are almost nonexistent. However as the only indigenous population that does not

have federally recognized territory, federal recognition could be a viable solution, giving Native Hawaiians the rights of an American citizen. But this still leaves many questions unanswered — what about the non-native Hawaiians living in Hawaii? Will Puerto Rico replace Hawaii as the 50th state? And will the new flag be too awkward with just 49 stars?

As I hear more and more information on these proceedings, I am often reminded of the most famous Hawaiian song ever written: "Aloha 'Oe." Most have had a small taste of the lyrics from the Disney classic "Lilo and Stitch," but the song actually has its roots at the very heart of this contentious debate. It is arguably the most famous composition of the last ruler of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen Lili'uokalani who is said to have written the short melody after seeing two lover's affectionate farewell. The song's title, "Aloha 'Oe" translates to "Farewell to Thee," and I cannot help but wonder as these events progress if we, too, will soon be saying the same to our 50th state.

The answer: only time can tell. But whatever the result, this Hawaiian referendum will forever change the way the American government deals with this scar of its past.

[a column]

Taking a stand on the side of smartphones

Recently, I was waiting for an appointment next to an older woman. While she flipped through Facebook photos of a New Year's Eve party, I was texting a friend. At one point she looked over at me, back at her own phone, and broke the silence with, "Look at us! What has this world come to?"

I'm sure we have all been in a similar situation — at least, teens who have grown up in the technology age — and yes, there are plenty of times and places where being on a phone is less than ideal (in the middle of a lecture, behind the wheel, etc.), but I think to look at two people on their phones while passing time and proclaim that it is a perfect example of why the world is falling apart is a bit of an exaggeration.

For one, being on my phone was not what was stopping us from having face-to-face conversation like "the good old days" before smartphones. In all honesty, as an introvert and a book-lover, if I did not have my phone on me, I probably would have just had my nose in a book instead. And of course one could find a better way to spend their time than six straight hours on YouTube but my friendly neighbor was catching up on photos of an event she could not attend and I was having an instant conversation with a best friend who lives an ocean away. When technology is used to further communication, it is serving its purpose, not getting in the way of daily life.

It's just as easy for adults to berate cell phones as it was for their parents to criticize TVs and their grandparents the telephone, all the way back to the introduction of printed newspapers, which were, at the time, sure to end all face-to-face conversation. In the end, most of us are guilty in some way of romanticizing the past, saying we were born in the wrong decade or "only nineties kids" will remember a certain nostalgic toy or song. When we do this, though, we are focusing only on the positive aspects of the past, ignoring the major technological and medical advancements we have made to better society and individual lives since then. There are going to be critiques of any large-scale development, but it is important not to let that get in the way of furthering



Brenna Maginness, Opinion Editor

our progress even more.

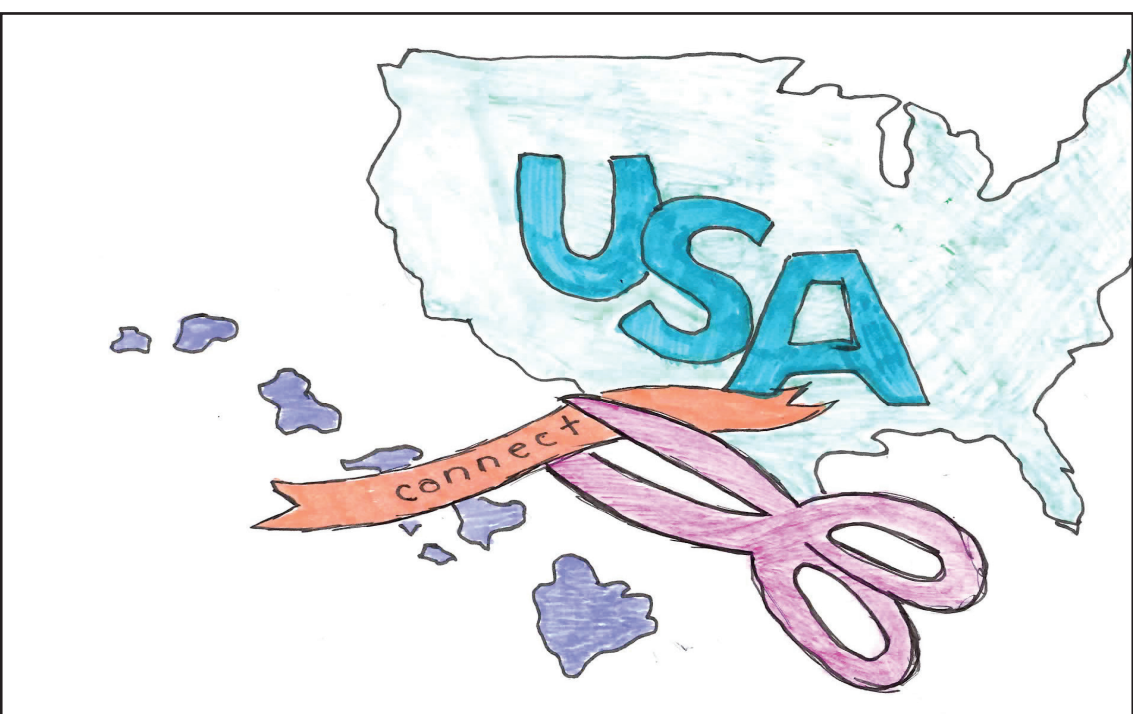
Beyond Facebook and texting, smartphones offer capabilities that could not have been imagined on such a small device decades ago. From maps to hearing aids to virtual banking and paying, having a phone makes daily life easier and less stressful. In an instant, one can be connected to 911 or other emergency services. These seemingly small advantages can really add up, and despite the flack many adults would give the constantly rising number of iPhone users, it makes me wonder whether any of them would be willing to fully return to payphones and landlines if given the opportunity.

Because it is such a critical, helpful feature when I need it to

Snubbing an entire form of communication through judgments on the generations who use it is a terribly pessimistic look at the world we live in.

be, I would not outright disagree with someone who accused my phone of being "my life." Without my phone, I would lose all my favorite music, photos and videos of my family and friends, important information I have written in the notes section, quick access to breaking news — I could go on and on. As long as one knows when enough is enough with the games and the more distracting features, a phone could be a lifesaving, irreplaceable accessory.

Smartphones are a brilliant tool that brings people across Earth closer together. Snubbing an entire form of communication through judgments on the generations who use it is a terribly pessimistic look at the world we live in. The world is not falling apart because of smartphones, and it is about time that we as millennials embrace that.



GRAPHIC BY MELISSA SANTOYO

Alumnus supports refugees in Jordan

by Mira Chauhan
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

They leave with nothing and arrive in Jordan with cracked feet, blistered hands and emotional trauma. Some have walked all the way from Syria. These refugees come in need of shelter, food and perhaps most surprisingly, Vaseline. Alumnus Dr. Samer Jaber, who graduated from Pine View in 1997, discovered this two years ago upon going on a medical mission trip to Amman, Jordan to help refugees. Since then, he has been working with Vaseline to help provide much-needed medical skincare to refugees and others in crisis situations.

Jaber's journey with refugees began in 2014 when he received a forwarded email from a doctor working with a non-governmental organization (NGO) called Salaam Cultural Museum.

The NGO, which helps Syrian refugees, was reaching out to doctors who may be interested in volunteering at refugee camps in Jordan. Jaber works as a dermatologist in New York City and was immediately interested in the opportunity to do international service. Upon seeing it, Jaber thought, "Wow, I should go and do something."

With that in mind, Jaber contacted the NGO. Jaber said he did not think that the refugees would need dermatologists, and instead a greater need for doctors providing serious medical care. However, Jaber discovered that, "dermatology is one of the most at-need specialties."

The hot dry climate and the relentless walking often causes refugees to suffer from severe sunburns, cracked, bleeding skin and other skin-related issues. "What people don't realize is that when you're in an environment like that, your skin suffers," Jaber said.

In the spring of 2014, Jaber and a fellow dermatologist, Dr. Grace Bandow, made the one-week trip to Amman through Salaam Cultural Museum. The two of them, as well as the other doctors on the trip, were based in Amman. According to Jaber, each day they would go to different refugee camps and treat as many patients as possible.

Each doctor brought his or her own supplies. "It ranged from small camp villages to Zaatar [the largest refugee camp in the Middle East]," he said.

Describing his experiences, Jaber said, "The thing that I saw that was so striking was that little



Dermatologist Dr. Samer Jaber poses with a young boy he has treated at a makeshift outdoor clinic in Jordan. Jaber is involved in the Vaseline Healing Project, which provides skin treatment to refugees who suffer in harsh Middle Eastern climates. PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. SAMER JABER

"It's really a blessing I could do something small that could potentially have a huge impact."

Dr. Samer Jaber, alumnus

things easily treated in the U.S. just wouldn't get treated."

While he was there, Jaber had the opportunity to speak to refugees, and he noted some things were nearly universal. "The people that we met just wanted to go back home," Jaber said.

Many refugees are professionals – dentists, engineers and teachers – but because of laws in Jordan, they are not allowed to work. Jaber also said that many of the refugees just wanted their stories to be told, so that the conflicts causing them to leave could be resolved.

Jaber considers this one of the main reasons he and Bandow decided to write an article detailing their experiences upon their arrival in the United States. In the article, Jaber and Bandow discussed, among other things, the great need for a simple household item like Vaseline.

"We just wanted to show how simple things could make a difference," Jaber explained.

After the article, "What can a dermatologist do in a Syrian refugee camp?" was published in the Washington Post, Jaber received a phone call from the Vaseline company. The company wanted to help refugees through their humanitarian initiative, The Vaseline Healing Project.

The Healing Project is in partnership with the NGO Direct Relief, which provides medical aid to people around the world. Jaber explained that the project's goals include supplying medication, organizing medical mission trips to send dermatologists to crisis areas and training local health workers.

Jaber and Bandow are now advisers for the Healing Project. In the spring of 2015, he and Bandow again went to Amman, this time

with the Healing Project. The project's eventual goal is to treat five million people by 2020; already more than 96,000 people in need have benefited from it.

"It's really a blessing I could do something small that could potentially have a large impact," Jaber said.

Currently, Jaber is doing more local work, and volunteering at clinics in New York that provide free healthcare to people without insurance. However, he does hope to go on another international mission trip soon, perhaps again working with refugees. "There's a lot of need in [the] U.S., too," Jaber said.

"I think, when you live in the U.S., you are so blessed... You've won the lottery," Jaber said. "If you have the time and the means to help the less fortunate, you should do that."

Professional FANGRLS publish their first anthology

by Brenna Maginness
Opinion Editor

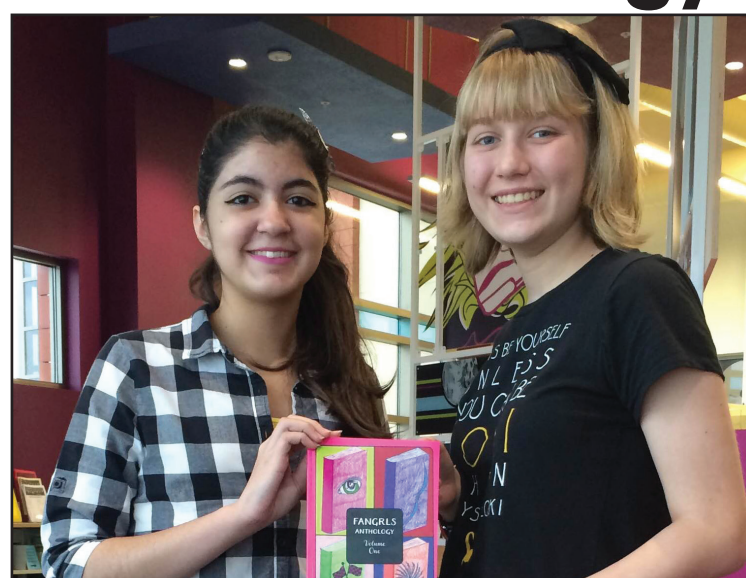
Writing is a fundamental step in any education system and most students have experienced the time-consuming activity of essay writing. Ninth-graders Sarah Moloney and Melissa Santoyo, however, took their writing skills far beyond the classroom. Moloney and Santoyo, along with Wiregrass Ranch High School student Angelora Cooper and Sarasota Middle School student Lucie Bussiere wrote and published their first work — a short story anthology titled "FANGRLS Anthology: Volume One."

"It started out as a summer class at the library," Moloney said. The four girls met at Selby Library as part of a book and writing club, but when the school year began, club numbers dwindled. The small club became known as the "FANGRLS" (pronounced "fangirls"), an acronym for Florida Absolutely Needs Girl-Written Literature Society.

"Once we officially became the FANGRLS, we decided we wanted a goal," Moloney said. "Everyone would write one short story." The stories, while all fiction in general genre, had slightly different themes, with Moloney's taking on a fantasy approach. "We all took different paths," she said. Her story, "Lucid Dreaming," largely incorporated the unconscious mind. "I really like the idea of dreaming and kind of what happens in dreams. I liked the idea of a girl who meets a guy in her dreams."

In "Lucid Dreaming," a girl named Sky meets Lokean in her dreams. When her life takes a turn for the worse, Sky relies on Lokean "at a terrible cost." Moloney's character development process is intricate, especially with her main characters. In addition to a character's personality and physical traits, Moloney puts deep thought into names. Often-times, a character's name will, for better, be the building block of their qualities in the novel. "For me, it takes a long time. I have to think about it over a few weeks," she said. "Normally I think of certain character traits from [people-watching.]"

The four girls mostly wrote in



Ninth-graders Melissa Santoyo (left) and Sarah Moloney (right) pose with their book "FANGRLS Volume One." Moloney and Santoyo are the founders of the FANGRLS writing club. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SARAH MOLONEY

their free time, preferring to spend their time in the club for writing exercises and the opportunity to utilize club sponsor Kate Thomas' expertise. Thomas, who works at Bookstore One, is a publisher and an author, who aids the members in technical advice and with editing their stories. While writing of the stories began during last school year, it wasn't until the summer that they were officially compiled. "It was a long process," Moloney said.

Alongside Moloney's "Lucid Dreaming" were Pine View ninth-grader Melissa Santoyo's "There Alone," Lucie Bussiere's "Detour" and Angelora Cooper's "Quantum Warp." Moloney designed and hand-drew the front and back covers to represent each story with symbols, like an eye for "Lucid Dreaming" and NASCAR racing flags for "Detour."

The girls self-published their anthology, meaning they will personally sell the books instead of working through a third party. To celebrate the release, they are holding a book launch at Selby Library Feb. 20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The launch will feature banners, mingling, snacks and possibly a reading

of passages, in addition to \$10 sales of the book.

"Everyone has been like, 'Wow, you wrote a book?' That's been exciting," Moloney said. After sending the book to be published, it took about three weeks for the first copies to arrive. "We were flipping out," she said. "Some of the librarians in the library might have been giving us dirty looks."

As far as future projects go, Moloney and her fellow FANGRLS plan to each write an individual novel to send to a publishing house. After that they will most likely work on a second anthology.

The girls hope to increase membership in the club, which now meets a few Saturdays a month at Gulf Gate Library. They hope to raise awareness for the club through their website, www.fangrls.org, by word of mouth and posters. According to Moloney, the group is also working on contacting authors to speak to the club. "We do hope to expand our club and bridge a link between people who want to start writing and getting to the author step," Moloney said.

For Moloney, the hardest part of the process is the waiting and, "figuring out all the different steps. For me, I write better under pressure," she said. In the end, publishing is just a small step in her large-scale interests. "I like getting to do something I really like with people who enjoy the same thing as me," Moloney said. "I get to express myself in a unique way."

[a column]

The Sweet Smell of Failure *Learning to love our mistakes*

Harry Potter. The Beatles. "The Cat in the Hat." Colonel Sanders' Kentucky Fried Chicken. Coca-Cola. You might be wondering what these have in common, besides being some of my favorite items. To the point, however, they are connected by one important thing: they all began with failure.

J.K. Rowling wrote the first 100 pages of her Harry Potter book on napkins while she was going through a divorce, and the manuscript was rejected by 12 different publishers. The Beatles' first audition with Decca records was turned down right away. Dr. Seuss' first book, "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," was rejected by 27 different publishers before he ran into a friend, while on his way to burn it, who knew one. 'Colonel' Harland David Sanders made 1000 pitches for his fried chicken recipe before he finally found a buyer. Coca-Cola was the result of a lab assistant accidentally mixing carbonated water with a headache cure.

Failure: it's a terrifying word and a terrifying concept. As we grow up and stop fearing the monster under the bed, the thing that keeps us up at night is often the scarier thought of messing up, of losing, of failing. And the simple solution to overcoming this fear is this: simply face it.

I used to consider myself a perfectionist. All throughout elementary and middle school I had a near obsession with getting the best grades possible. I look back and laugh at one memory in particular, when I questioned my fourth-grade teacher why I had received a 99 on an essay instead of 100, to which she simply replied, "Because there is always room to improve."

This is something I didn't really appreciate until high school. AP European History and AP Chemistry truly hammered in this lesson — trust me, even after these classes I am very far from doing a perfect titration or remembering the stages of the French Revolution. But I learned more from the mistakes I made in these classes, on tests, in essays and



Marinna Okawa, Editor-in-Chief

in labs (thank you Dr. Ors, for your infinite patience with me last year), than I think I ever did from elementary quizzes that were easy As. I learned how to improve my study habits, how to seek advice and help from others and how to not take myself so seriously. Because of my struggles in AP European History, I began studying with a fellow classmate. And I couldn't be more thankful for those failures, because it led to memorable coffee-fueled Barnes and Noble study sessions, a better understanding of how to take notes and one of my closest friendships.

Believe me, there have been plenty of other mess-ups throughout my high school career beyond the classroom. From crashing the Torch website my freshman year to spraining my own foot by tripping on it, I have learned the importance of remembering to laugh at yourself along the way. The embarrassing mistakes we make today prove to be legendary (and yes, still embarrassing) stories in the future.

Sometimes the results of our mistakes lead to greater lessons and experiences than would have come from an instant success. This is what makes that final success that much sweeter. So the next time you're drinking an ice cold Coca-Cola, reading Harry Potter, eating fried chicken — or perhaps doing all three simultaneously, just remember: don't fear failure — embrace it.

The embarrassing mistakes we make today prove to be legendary (and yes, still embarrassing) stories in the future.