

The Match

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in a Winter
Wonderland
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Students compete in annual Pine View Spelling Bee



PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

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Jumping Into Organization

by Ava Lenerz

Everyone needs help sometimes; nobody is perfect. When it comes to schoolwork, we all stumble sometimes. That is why the Jumpstart program began here at Pine View.

This program is aimed at helping elementary, middle, and high school students with skills concerning organization, time management, and focus that allow people to accomplish tasks in their daily life.

Art and Theater teacher Haley Brown has been participating in the Jumpstart program since its start last

year.

“My favorite part is helping students feel confident in themselves...” Brown said, “... watching them realize that it’s not that they’re not good at something, it’s that they just haven’t learned how to do that skill and that there is space to grow... it is a really nice, touching thing to observe.”

In Jumpstart, teachers have lessons from one to three days a week.

“Every week is a different skill, a skill we want to practice and learn and get better at doing,” Brown said.

Fifth-grader Damon

Jones started Jumpstart in August. He does it every Thursday with Alevtina Lazareva, the Exceptional Student Education teacher.

Jones enjoys Jumpstart for many reasons, one being Lazareva, whom he describes as the “kindest teacher.” His favorite part about Jumpstart is that “[Lazareva] doesn’t go and give random assignments.”

According to Jones the Jumpstart program is quite effective.

“I’m getting better at organizing stuff and I’m writing in my agenda,” he said, commenting on how the program



Students learn about setting goals in Haley Brown’s Jumpstart class. PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

has affected him.

Overall, this program has been quite beneficial for students, like Jones, in helping them improve their executive functioning skills.

“There’s no additional assignments or anything like

that, we’re just talking about how to be the most effective person possible,” Brown said.

The Jumpstart program lifts students up, helping them to realize their full potential.

Helping with HurriKind

by Alyson Mizanin

After Hurricane Ian tore through southern Sarasota County and into the Fort Myers area, fifth-grader Justin Pereira followed the latest storm updates with his father — and he knew exactly what he needed to do.

“I saw some of the damage the other houses had on the news,” Pereira said, “and I wanted to help them.”

Alongside his brother, first-grader Tyler Pereira, and his cousin, fourth-grader Enzo Cristo, both of whom attend Ashton Elementary School, Pereira launched HurriKind, an initiative dedicated to donating nonperish-

able items to shelters following Hurricane Ian.

Viviane Santos-Pereira, Pereira’s mother, recalled the moment the boys approached her with the idea of collecting donations.

“They said, ‘Maybe we could do something to help..’ They started thinking about toys, as kids, thinking about other kids not having them. It was very, very organic,” Santos-Pereira said. “[Justin] has always had a big heart. He’s always looking for ways to help.”

Pereira’s father helped the boys put together a letter, which they then carried with them through their neigh-

borhood, encouraging dona-



First-grader Tyler Pereira (left), fourth-grader Enzo Cristo (middle), and fifth-grader Justin Pereira sit in the back of a UHaul, which they needed to transport all the donations they collected. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JUSTIN PEREIRA

tions ranging from food and clothes to toiletries and toys.

They came by the following day, Oct. 2, to pick up any items.

By the time the boys checked on their tenth house, Santos-Pereira’s car was full of donations. They later ended up filling a UHaul with all the items they collected, and the donations were then dropped off at South Shore Community Church in Sarasota.

When asked why he thought HurriKind became so successful, Pereira smiled and responded simply: “Everyone just wanted to help, I think.”

“The community came together and wanted to col-

laborate, and it made [the boys] feel like, ‘We can keep doing this. We can keep helping.’ And that amazes me,” Santos-Pereira said. “I was extremely happy and proud. I hope they can keep doing this for the community.”

Following HurriKind’s success, the boys held a Thanksgiving donation drive in their neighborhood. Although they didn’t receive the same amount of donations, Pereira plans to potentially collect items for the upcoming holiday season and carry on HurriKind’s message.

“The donating makes me feel really happy,” Pereira said. “I hope we can continue it.”

What do you hope to learn from BizTown?

The BizTown field trip is an annual look into adult life for fifth-grade students.



"I'd like to add to my knowledge of finance and learn how to manage businesses."

- **Charlie Valente**



"I hope to learn about businesses and what people do in the real world."

- **Aarya Satia**



"Money making skills, financial skills, and the importance of not spending too much money for things you don't need."

- **Shri Raj**



"How to write a check and stuff like that."

- **Anjalee Lovo**



"How to manage my money, write checks, different banking accounts, and start a business."

- **Thomas Morkos**



"I hope to learn about the real world around us and to learn about our future jobs."

- **Nicolai Petrov**



"I want to learn how to do business and real life — to be an adult, kind of."

- **Saniyah Sheikh**



"I want to learn how to be a better person in terms of businesses, how to make my own business, how to make prices, and how to manage it."

- **Amani Satia**

Events and Birthdays

Jan. 7

Ivonne Chaustre's
birthday

Jan. 8

Caitlin Sedlak's
birthday

Feb. 9

Marisa Freedman's
birthday

Feb. 21

James Ross' birth-
day

Jan. 16

Martin Luther King
Jr. Day

Feb. 14

Valentine's Day

Feb. 20

President's Day

Mar. 3

Vicky Singleton's
birthday

Mar. 5

Leslie Stewart's
birthday



Spelling words left and right, fourth-graders participated in the annual Pine View Spelling Bee November 7. In front of the judges, fourth-grader Tori O'Donnell spells a word correctly. At the end of the competition fifth-grader Francesca Madrid won and will represent the school at future Spelling Bees.

PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER



Together, second-graders perform in front of their parents, singing songs from various holiday celebrations in the Winter Concert that took place December 6 led by elementary chorus teacher Alyssa Adamson.

PHOTO BY EMMY LI

IN BRIEF

Dr. Brennan Asplen Resigns

by Liam Dingman

After a 4-1 vote by the school board to start negotiations relating to Dr. Brennan Asplen's resignation, a school board meeting was held Nov. 29 to discuss his removal.

Many speakers supported Asplen, explaining how the school districts he has served, St John's and Sarasota, have been the only ones to receive A-ratings since the district evaluation system was established. Pine View teachers Summer Grantham and Kathleen Suchora also came to speak.

In Grantham's speech, she said "We'd really like [Asplen] to stay," pointing out how he has "not stood out in any nega-

tive way politically."

Meanwhile, Suchora directly addressed Asplen, saying "I have loved working in this county, and I think you've done an amazing job."

The four school board members who voted for Asplen's removal pointed to several problems with his leadership. Bridget Ziegler cited communication issues and Tim Enos spoke about the mask mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asplen spoke at the meeting, strongly defending himself and recognizing the efforts of everyone to "block out the noise," which maintained Sarasota County Schools' A-rating status.

Principal of the Year Recipient

by Lily Quartermaine

Pine View School's Dr. Stephen Covert has been named Sarasota County Schools Principal of The Year for 2023. This is Covert's tenth year as Pine View's principal.

"It is an incredibly humbling honor to be recognized as the Sarasota County Schools Principal of The Year. It's a really exciting and wonderful honor," Covert said.

Covert will now be considered for the statewide competition, in which the Florida Department of Education will announce three

finalists for each award in the spring, according to the Sarasota Herald Tribune.

Covert teaches at the University of South Florida in the Aspiring Principal Preparation Program for people who want to be principals.

"You need to be passionate about seeing and supporting students' learning, and supporting teachers in supporting student success. If you're all about service and giving of yourself to help others grow, then [being a principal] might be something you want to do." Covert said.

Match Tries Gingerbread Cookies

by Kai Sprunger

A smell of sugary icing and sweet gingerbread filled the air, slowly filling the room. With a cookie in one hand and a bag of frosting in the other, each Match and Torch staff member was at work, delicately decorating the gingerbread cookies. As the hours slowly passed, the cookies turned from blank canvases to elegant works of art, filled with various colors of icing and stray pieces of candy.

At a Community Center in Venice, Torch Assistant Editor-in-Chief Lora Rini, Match Editor-in-Chief Kai Sprunger, Match Assistant Editor-in-Chief Terry Shen, and Match Layout Artist Ava Lenerz met up to enjoy a day full of gingerbread cookies.

Instead of decorating gingerbread cookies from their imagination, the staff members attempted to create the likeness of another member, but in cookie form. Rini decorated

a cookie to look like Sprunger; Sprunger decorated a cookie to look like Lenerz; Lenerz decorated a cookie to look like Shen; Shen decorated a cookie to look like Rini.

To match the likeness of Sprunger, Rini utilized the extensive knowledge she had of color theory to mix the limited amount of colors together to create brown for her hair. For the clothing, she chose white icing for the shirt and black icing for the pants as the colors go well together according to color theory. While going through the several pieces of candy, Rini settled on two blue stars to match Sprunger's eyes and one red piece for her mouth.

While Rini was decorating, Sprunger attempted to create the gingerbread cookie form of Lenerz. As there wasn't any yellow icing to match Lenerz's blonde hair, she went with white icing as a replacement. She used a combination of green and

and white icing to match Lenerz's sweater and top, and used blue pieces of candy to match her blue eyes. Since there was no blue icing, Sprunger chose to mix together green and white for Lenerz's pants.

With various pieces of candy in hand as well as several tubes of icing, Lenerz got to work creating the gingerbread cookie of Shen. As Shen has a huge interest in Rubik's Cubes, Lenerz utilized several pieces of candy to mimic a Rubik's Cube on his shirt. Along with this, she chose to use red pieces of candy for his eyes as there were no brown pieces of candy. For his clothing and glasses, she used a mix of both black icing and red icing.

In order to create Rini as a gingerbread cookie, Shen applied some of Rini's techniques with color theory and mixed together several colors, such as dark green and brown. For her hair, he used brown icing and a mixture of vibrant pieces of candy for two braids. Shen used dark green as well



Utensils in hand and gingerbread cookies on their plates, Match staffers Terry Shen (left) and Ava Lenerz (right) are hard at work, decorating with various pieces of colorful candy.

PHOTOS BY KAI SPRUNGER

as red for a triangle for Rini's shirt as well as black for her pants. To match her eyes, he settled on blue pieces of candy as Rini has a pair of blue eyes.

After a few hours passed and it was soon time to go, staff members exchanged both cookies and laughs with each other as they presented their masterpieces. Rini was pleased with the entire experience, looking forward to future Match Tries as well as future winter festivities.

"I was really grateful to have this opportunity to be festive and to spend time

with my fellow members of the Match staff and [the event] also brought out my artistic side a little, as I employed my color theory knowledge to mix icing to match the exact color of Kai's hair," Rini said.

Soon, the gingerbread cookies were reduced to crumbs and the event came to a close. Throughout the duration of the time, staff members

were brought together through the joys of winter spirit and gingerbread cookies.



Student makes trapeze trap'easy'

by Nathan DeSouza

As fourth-grader Lorenzo Gonzalez performs, both the audience and his peers watch in awe as he pulls off tricks with great dexterity. Gonzalez does trapeze with Sailor Circus Academy, and is committed to his craft. He started trapeze when attending a circus camp about eight months ago, and soon found it quite enjoyable. From that point on, Gonzalez decided that he would pursue trapeze.

In trapeze, acrobats like

Gonzalez hang from a bar hanging from the ceiling and perform various tricks on it. While performing, Gonzalez (either by himself or with others) jumps from a ledge and hangs

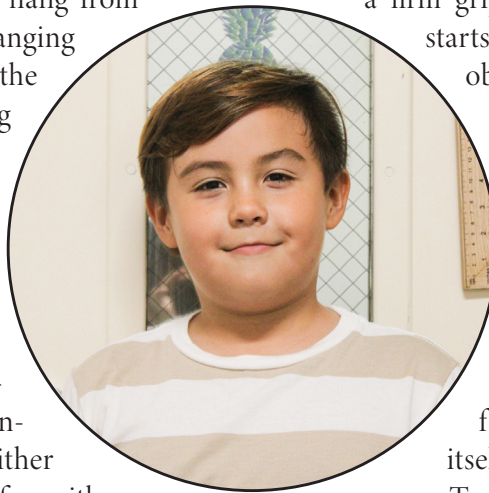


PHOTO BY NATHAN DESOUSA

a firm grip, he then starts doing aerobic tricks.

One of Gonzalez's favorite parts about trapeze is the performance itself.

To Gonzalez, what makes performing fun

is "feeling the breeze, [it] just

makes it feel as if you are flying."

In doing trapeze, Gonzalez has had many different experiences. From putting on performing outfits behind the scenes to embracing the challenges that come with training.

He has to be prepared for many tasks, such as "holding on tight enough because sometimes we have to replace the bar with a slipperier one, and it's really hard to hold on for a long time," Gonzalez said.

Laura Bovkun-Grytsenko, Gonzalez's partner, regards him in high esteem.

"He's always the one in the middle that does fancy tricks no one can do, and he is never shy," she said, "...if he has a partner in a show, he will always do things to benefit both of them."

Gonzalez is said to never fail to put on a great show. In the future, he plans to continue doing what he does by immersing himself more in trapeze.

Cybersecurity in Roblox

by Rohan Dash

Privacy risks related to video games have been on the rise for the last few years. Scams in which children leak personal information on accident, and hackers who steal data have become such a problem recently that the government has been pushing for new laws to decrease this risk.

While most children enjoy playing video games, fifth-grader Robert "Bobby" Nee took it one step further. An avid Roblox fan, Nee plays games such as "Welcome to Bloxburg" and "Pirates vs Ninjas", both incredibly popular games with tens of thousands of active players. Yet, Nee stands out as he decided to identify a key issue on Ro-

blox — cybersecurity — and speak out about it.

Nee managed to identify a similar case on Roblox where scams have been on the rise. Since then, he has gotten involved in learning about the metaverse and has developed an interest in cybersecurity.

"Bobby identified a very important risk, phishing, and the need for due diligence of fraudulent accounts and promotions," said Lisa Nee, Nee's mother and an attorney specializing in data privacy.

He managed to tie in such rising problems with the need to know about fake promotions and spam accounts and relate it to a level understandable for children of his age.

Doing such wasn't easy.

Over the past year, Bobby Nee has been getting more involved with conferences and speaking. Nee was first featured on KPL's (Kid's Place Live) from Sirius XM Channel 78 after making a call in April, 2022 stating his interest in their Election

Show. Four months later, he appeared on the show talking about a question he had.

"I called in to ask if 'Cereal was a soup?' and that

became the election question for their Election Tuesday," Nee said.

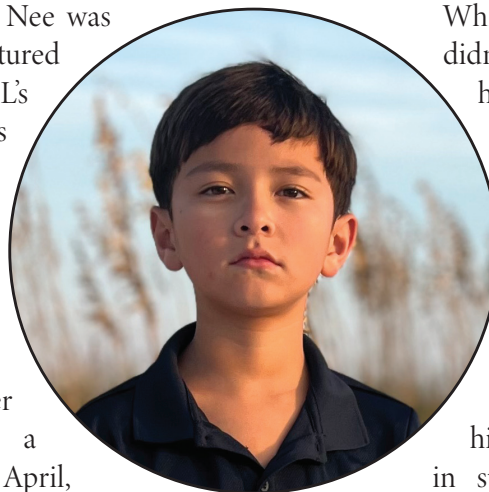


PHOTO PROVIDED BY LISA NEE

While this didn't tie into his speaking about cybersecurity, just a few weeks later, he confirmed his interest in speaking at the SPOKES Virtual Privacy and Techno-

logy Conference on December 14. He joined a panel called XR in the Wild West World: Privacy for Immersive Tech. Nee spoke alongside dozens

of individuals with decades of experience in security and privacy. Considering he's only in fifth grade — speaking here can be considered an impressive feat.

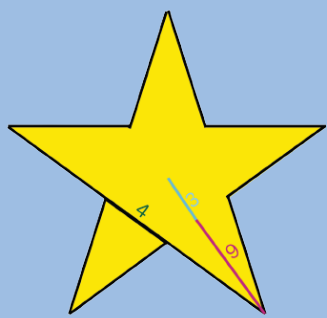
In addition to being a speaker on current affairs with privacy over the internet, Nee is an avid interior digital designer — meaning he designs the interior of digital houses (in his case, on the Roblox game "Welcome to Bloxburg"), which many other popular YouTubers do. He also is involved in learning about programming — starting with block coding.

Cybersecurity is a key issue that Nee identified. Next time you're playing video games, make sure you stay safe like Bobby Nee!

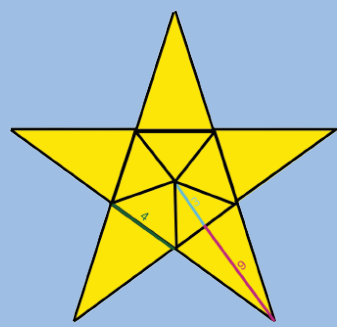
MATHEMATICS IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Have you ever wondered how math can be applied in real life? Do you doubt the usefulness of mathematics? Wish you never have to take another math class again? Well, before you decide, let's see the beauty of math by using real life examples during winter! Come adventure into the fun applicable uses of math!

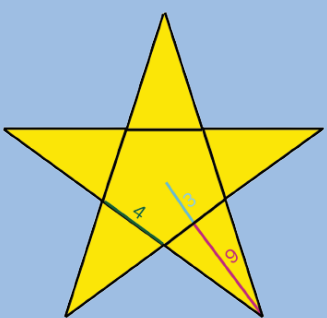
1. This next one is very hard, so don't be discouraged if you can't think of the solution at first!
Question: Find the area of the star.



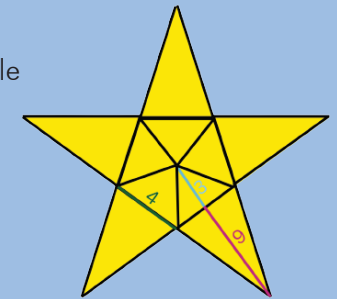
3. Let's make the tips into triangles by drawing lines. Now we can find the areas of the triangles, but what about the pentagon? Let's try the triangle trick again.



2. One solution is to literally "break" the question into more manageable parts. Let's find the areas of shapes that we are familiar with first.

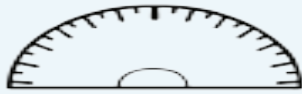


4. We made a shape with a hard area to find easier to find! Now we have 10 triangles. We can use the triangle area formula to find the area of the star now! Recall that a triangle's area is $(1/2)bh$.



The general formula is $(5 \times 1/2)bh + (5 \times 1/2)BH$
Be careful of the difference between h and H!

5. Finally, find the area of the star!



$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad y = mx + b$$

Hopefully you enjoyed that last question. It was rather difficult, so don't worry if you didn't get it at first!

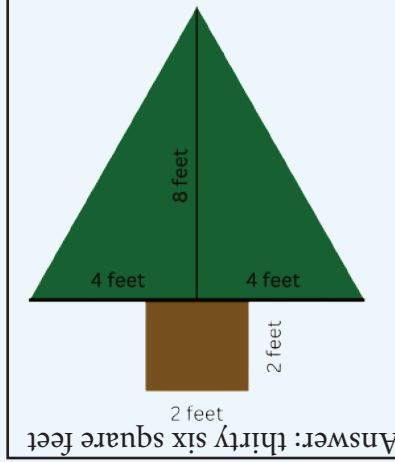


Snowballs are spheres. The volume of a sphere is $(4/3)\pi r^3$. (Where r is radius)



Presents are cubes. The volume of a cube is s^3 . (Where s is side length)

Here's a really fun math problem! Find the area of the tree!



How much do you like math?

A little just-for-fun test to understand your view on the subject of mathematics!

1. What is your favorite subject?

- A. Math
- B. Science
- C. English



2. You often wonder how shapes and objects move around in the world

- A. All the time
- B. Sometimes
- C. Never



3. Math is useful in life, and everyone should learn it

- A. Completely agree
- B. It's useful sometimes
- C. Math is useless



Mostly A's - Math is surely your favorite subject.

Mostly B's - You enjoy math!

Mostly C's - Math might not be your favorite class, but you're still great at it!

Letter from a Math Enthusiast

Hello all.

You may be wondering why there are math problems in your favorite newspaper publication. Well, let me explain. As someone who enjoys mathematics as a subject in school, I believe it is important for everyone to have a solid grasp on the subject.

Now, you may say that math is not useful, and although it is true that math is not needed for every job, it is unfair to say that the entire subject is useless.

Math itself is a puzzle, and while you may not need to know how to convert decimals to fractions 30 years from now, the skills you will acquire while studying and practicing math are vital.

Let's imagine you're going on a stranded island. You have 30 days to prepare yourself to survive. Would anyone argue that lifting weights is a useless preparation? I mean, you're not going to be lifting weights on the island. No. Nobody will claim weight training is useless. Lifting weights is good at preparing you for the tasks you will face on the island. In the same way, in whatever career you go into in the very far future, you may not need math, but you will still need the puzzle-solving techniques math helps you develop.

There is no getting around the fact that math is very difficult at times. That is completely true. You may feel like your classmates are smarter than you, or they "just get it." It can feel so easy to give up and stop caring.

However, I strongly urge you to keep going. Put in some extra time in math. Ask your teacher for help. You got this! The rewards of finally understanding math are so enjoyable. Don't give up without first experiencing the joys of succeeding! I believe in you!

From your Match Assistant Editor-in-Chief,
Terry Shen

GRAPHIC BY TIFFANY YU

Winter Sports YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF!



Human Curling

Like normal curling, competitors in human curling aim for a target on ice — except instead of sliding stones, they slide themselves! Laying on a floaty-tube, human curlers run across ice and propel themselves towards a bullseye.

Skiijoring

Have you ever wondered what it'd be like to ski while being pulled along by a dog or horse? Look no further! This racing sport combines skiing, obstacle courses, and animals!



Ski Ballet

Similar to figure skating, ski ballet combines choreographed spins, jumps, and flips to music, except on skis! Performances usually last about two minutes and require coordination, skill, and grace. It is also known as Acroski.

Swimming with Style

By Sofia Giannattasio

Fifth-grader Alisa Fung lays face down in the pool. She furiously churns her arms to push the water away from her in order to turn her body into a 90-degree angle underwater. She slowly lifts one leg out of the water. The next leg follows, and she has successfully made a tower.

Fung began doing synchronized swimming two years ago and has loved it ever since. She was inspired by her love for two different sports: gymnastics and swimming. After she started at Pine View and didn't have much free time, her father, Victor Fung, suggested combining the two sports.

"I told her she should give a synchro-swimming

camp a try," Victor Fung said. "And she enjoyed doing them together so much, so she continued."

Synchronized swimming is basically dancing underwater. It takes lots of precise movements and long periods of holding your breath.

"Since I've practiced so much, I actually can hold my breath for longer than before — 30 seconds," Alisa Fung said.

The tower is Fung's favorite choreography, but she loves many aspects of being in synchronized swimming, such as hanging out with her friends during snack time, practicing, and just being underwater.

"I love how there's no

gravity in the pool," she said. "Being upside down feels free."

Fung has gotten second place in a competition and improved her skills through lots of hard work and practice.

"She enjoys it so much. She swims with the Sarasota Sharks twice a week and practices on her own too," Victor Fung said. "Although, I like to tell her: 'It's not so much about winning or losing, but it's about having a good time.'"

The Sarasota Sharks are divided up into different levels based on age group and Alisa Fung being one of the youngest swimmers, is in the lowest level.

"I'm really excited to



Fifth-grader Alisa Fung practices holding her breath underwater. She has been doing synchronized swimming for the Sarasota Sharks for 2 years. Over the course of her synchronized swimming career, Fung has gotten second place in a competition and has learned much from doing the sport. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY VICTOR FUNG

move up through the levels," Fung said.

"I'm very happy for her,"

Victor Fung said. "As long as it's good for her lungs and she has fun."

Swafford Swings Away

By Sanya Patel

Inspiration is everywhere whether it be from our teachers, parents, or celebrities.

In the case of fifth-grader Barrett Swafford, his inspiration came from his older brother.

"When Barrett was, pretty young — 4, 5, 6, years old — we would spend a lot of weekends and evenings at the ball field watching [his older brother]

playing high school baseball," Swafford's father, Blake Swafford said.

Swafford started out with T-Ball five years ago back when they lived in Orlando, Florida. The family moved to Sarasota two and a half years ago where he now plays for the Sarasota Little League, which his father.

At first glance, baseball

can seem like a very simple sport, throwing, catching, and running, etc, however for Swafford, the game can be much more complex. "He really likes to study it, so he likes to strategize the games which is neat to see somebody at his level — in the fifth grade — kind of thinking intently about the strategy of the game," Swafford's father said.

Swafford agreed that the

mental aspect is one of his favorite parts.

"I like that you have to stay focused on it. Also, it's very active which I like."

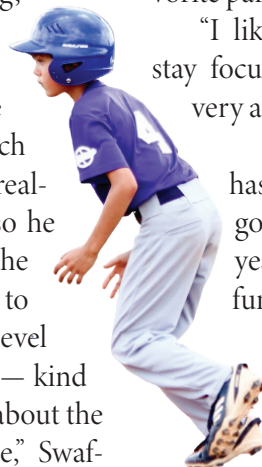
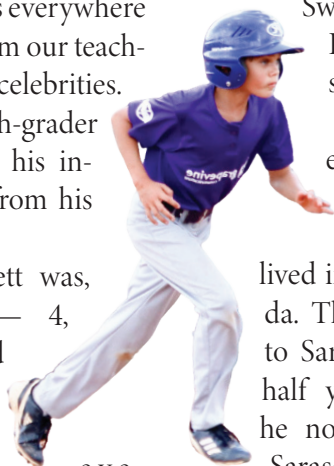
Swafford's father has noticed that "he's gotten better over the years, you know, it's funny when they're super young and they're playing, you really just hope to be able to keep their attention and keep them from

playing in the sand."

Swafford does baseball during the fall and spring, however, there is no winter baseball season. Instead, Swafford plays football during the winter.

He hopes to continue baseball in middle and high school. In the distant future, Swafford plans on following in his brother and father's footsteps of becoming an engineer.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MOLLY SWAFFORD



How do animals adapt?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by Aarya Patel



PHOTO BY TERRY SHEN
by Terry Shen

Animals need to adapt for many reasons because there is always competition for natural resources in the world. There are many different forms of adaptation that help organisms survive and thrive in their ecosystems. Species can slowly change the way they look,



think, and behave over many years.

One famous theory of evolution proposed by Charles Darwin that regards the survival of animals is natural selection. Mostly known for his notable research in nature, such as the fields of biology and geology, Darwin has made a lasting impact on the way we see the world around us.

Natural selection, simply put, is animals better suited to their surroundings survive at higher rates and produce more offspring, while animals not adapted to their surroundings have lower survival rates, producing less offspring. In the end, those best adapted will survive and the others will die off. This is also known as

“survival of the fittest,” which merely means that organisms best suited to their environments will survive and reproduce most successfully.

Let us take a look at giraffes. Imagine two giraffes: one has a short neck, and the other has a very long neck. Next to them is a tall tree with the leaves that they need for energy. Which giraffe can reach the leaves easier? Which giraffe has more food to eat? After many generations of giraffes, the taller giraffes have better chances of surviving, because of their height advantage.

Another example is butterflies. On a brown tree branch, brown butterflies are camouflaged while orange butterflies stand out. If a bird comes along looking for something to eat, there is a much higher probability the bird will see the orange butterflies. After many years of orange butterflies being eaten at higher rates than brown butterflies, orange butterflies will clearly have less survivors and therefore have less offspring, which will eventually lead to their possible extinction in that environment.

Adaptations that are related to behaviors also help species survive. For exam-



ple, some animals hibernate during the winter. Because of the harsh conditions of the winter, many animals hibernate and go into a very prolonged period of sleep. They also eat a lot before hibernating to store body fat which is converted to energy during the hibernation process. By going into a period of rest, they prevent wasting energy during the long and arduous winter. Creatures such as bats, bumblebees, and skunks hibernate.

Another example of adaptations of behavior is migration, which is when animals of many species travel long distances to other places during certain seasons. Some species migrate for temperature-related reasons while others migrate for more food and resources. No matter the reason, migration is fairly common and can be found in animals such as gray whales, reindeer, and wildebeest.

One common concern in recent times is the adaptations

that animals must face because of climate change. With an increase in heat, there are many uncertain changes that many animals will have to make in order to keep surviving.

Humans have adapted in unique ways as well — making fire and producing useful new tools were some of the crowning achievements in the beginning. By changing the food eaten, land traveled, and priorities, previous generations of humans have adapted to maximize their chances of a healthy life.

Without the many adaptations of animals, it is possible that many species might not exist today. Because of “survival of the fittest,” adaptations, and natural selection, it is clear that species are slowly changing. So, the next time you see a fish, bird, or mouse, think about its ancestors and how they changed and adapted ever so slightly to become the version you see now.

GRAPHICS BY TERRY SHEN

Weekend Wednesday

by Janice Chi

Everyone hates the feeling of waking up for school and realizing it isn't a Friday. Every week, we have five days of school with no break! It can get really exhausting for many, especially if you have various tests piled up.

To fix this, we should have four days of school every week and stay home on Wednesdays.

Why Wednesday? It's because that day is right in the middle of the school week. Everyone needs time to energize and rest properly so it makes sense for it to be smack in the center. With this extra day off, children are guaranteed a

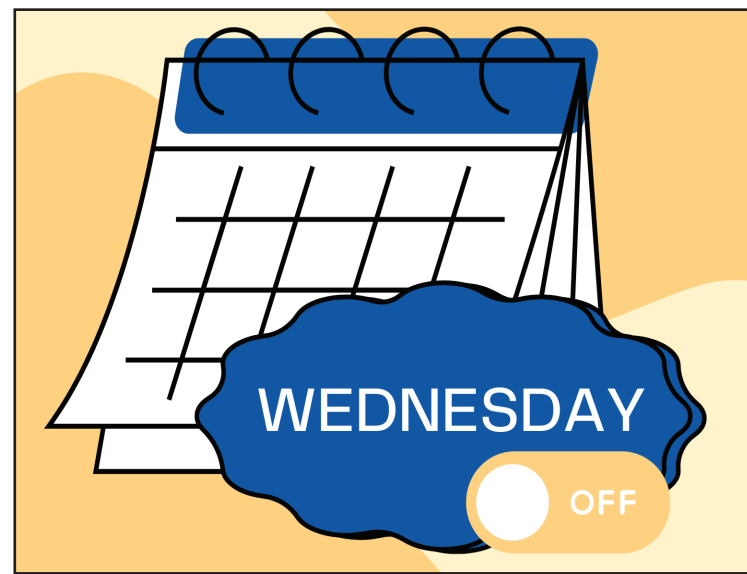
stress-free day to themselves! Not only that but imagine you have a unit test scheduled for Thursday that you're not ready for, well, lucky you, because now you can spend extra time studying for your exam.

Swaying away from just studying over this "weekend." Many people may agree that you need friend and family time over weekends. But it's limiting with only two days off, not to mention that you have to balance homework with your social life. Friend groups would be able to meet up more often, and students would have the chance to have a nice dinner out with family.

Alongside these factors,

it'd be possible for students with extracurricular activities, such as soccer or violin, to be able to practice or attend recitals and tournaments with ease. No more parents worrying about their student being late or having to skip practice just because of their child's schedule. It's clearly a win-win for both parents and students.

Some people may believe that you are losing valuable hours of learning. However, the whole point of Weekend Wednesday was for the sake of the students' mental health. Many may need a break from exhausting loads of work and studying. In fact, the length of summer break could be ad-



justed to the county's belief. So, the hours that are spent off on Wednesdays would be balanced throughout summer break.

Students be able to enjoy all of these benefits, including leeway for work, having fun,

and hobbies. Let's not forget, extra sleep! But if we really think about it, who wouldn't want a free day off? Not only would students feel thrilled, but school staff would be as well.

GRAPHIC BY KAI SPRUNGER

Do you think we should have a break from school on Wednesdays?

"I think we should have a break on Wednesday because Wednesday is the day that I have two and a half hours of dance practice, so usually everything piles up in the evening, so if we had no school then I could do my other stuff I do at night during the day."



ANAMIKA EAPE, GRADE 5

"Yeah. Wednesday is the day that I have the most homework, and it's very tiring and I stay up late to do it. Also school gets overwhelming sometimes so it's nice to have a break."



LYDIA AMMIRATI, GRADE 5

A Sandy Situation

by Lindsay Luberecki

Across the country in December, snow days were the most present thoughts in many students' minds and their most wanted dreams. Florida has never been a state to see much snow with temperatures in the winters rarely dipping below 40 degrees. So, historically, for students in Sarasota County, these dreams have remained just that — dreams. Until now.

Last week, Sarasota made headlines when a storm blazed through the county, canceling school and making many kids as happy as can be. Unlike storms that many other regions of the U.S.

see, this wasn't a snowstorm — it was a sandstorm.

Scientists are baffled by this phenomenon and are unsure of how exactly this sandstorm came to be.

"The strangest thing was that it did not behave like a sandstorm in the desert," Dr. Smarr T. Pantz said. "It behaved exactly like a snowstorm, just with that classic Florida sand."

Reporters spoke to some students from Pine View School to learn exactly what they did on their "sand day."

"I walked out of my house, and it felt like I was on the beach," fourth-grader Sandy Shoues said. "My friends and I made sandmen with three spheres of sand for the body and all sorts of decorations, like sunglasses, stringy seaweed hair, shell eyes, and lots of sunscreen, of course. We also found some starfish and other shells and made a

bathing suit top and mermaid tail!"

Making sandmen was not the only fun activity kids participated in during this storm. Fifth-grader Sunny S. Torm and her friends started a game that many described as the most fun they have ever had with sand.

"We battled in an epic sandball fight!" Torm exclaimed. "Picture snowballs, but better. No icy cold slush being thrown at you — instead, it was a nice, warm clump of sand."

The game racked up quite a crowd, with more than 50 people joining in at its height and many more watching from the sidelines. Others still were enjoying the surprise sandfall in a more angelic way.

"Sand angels were my favorite thing to do during the storm," fourth-grader Day Ouff said. My sister and I also went sand-sledding." While this may sound impossible due to Florida's lack of hills, many still made it work by climbing on top of playground sets, cars, and

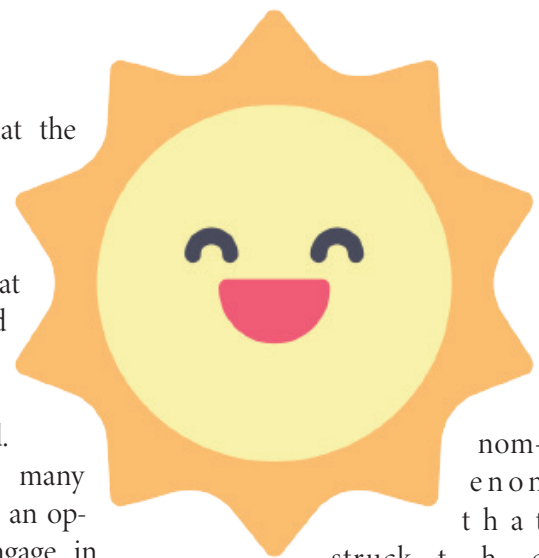
even houses that the sand had covered.

"We used a round pool float to go tubing and a flat lounging float as a long sled," Ouff added.

Of course, many also used this as an opportunity to engage in the classic sand-based activities right in front of their houses. A quick drive through any Sarasota neighborhood the day after the storm would reveal countless detailed sandcastles built in front of almost every house.

"After we finished our sandmen, we started on a massive sand fortress," Shoues said. "The water from my pool was great for mixing with the sand and for filling the moat surrounding our three-story creation."

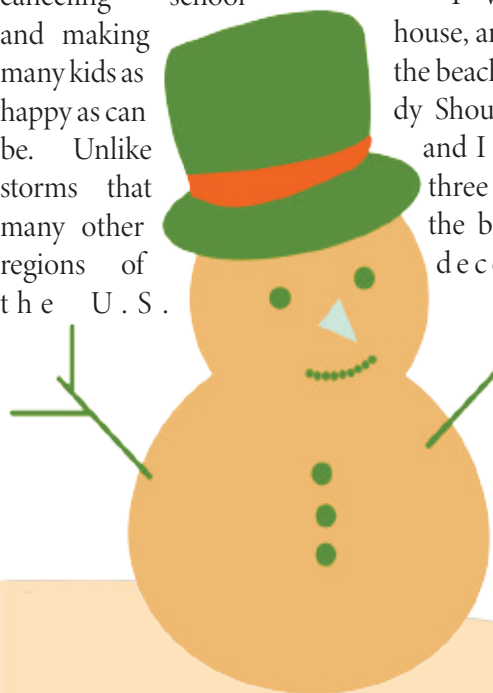
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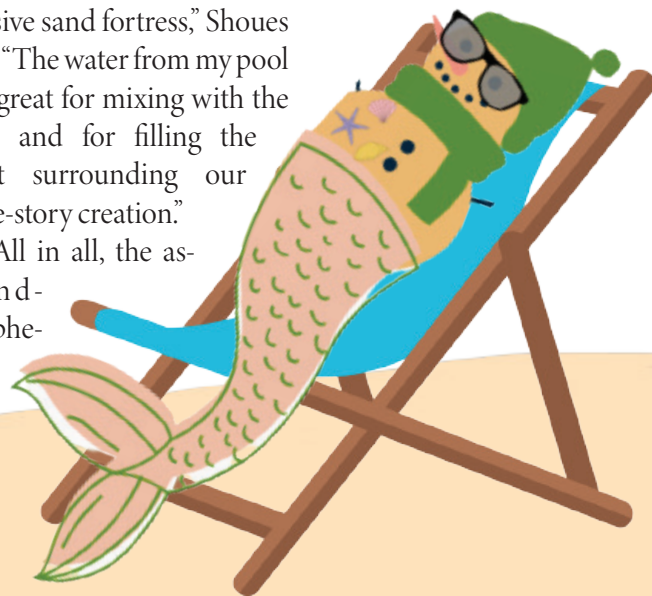
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Sarasota area last week made for an extremely entertaining day full of sandmen, sand fights, and sand angels. What's next for Florida weather? Could it be orange juice raining from the sky? A tornado of tourists? Or maybe even a flood of alligators...



decorations, like sunglasses, stringy seaweed hair, shell eyes, and lots of sunscreen, of course. We also found some starfish and other shells and made a



Heroic Hazard to Humanity

by Isabella Kulawik

Everyone has heard of Percy Jackson, the Son of Poseidon, the demigod who saved the world. But now my own story has the chance to be heard.

It all began as I, Smarteus Pantsun, was on our annual trip to St. Augustine. As I stood in the Castillo de San Marcos, I saw a dark shadowy figure flash in the corner of my eye. I quickly turned around and scanned the crowd for further suspicions. Finding none, I turned back to my friend and continued to talk over the tour guide.

Looking over her shoulder, our teacher, Ms. Bhordom, glared and signaled for

us to quiet down. Which I ignored, because who silences a hero? After all, my father was the great Epimetheus, the god of afterthought and excuses, famous for his poor decisions.

Nonetheless, as I continued my intriguing conversation about Among Us, I saw a swirl of blue and yellow.

“What was that?” I pondered, it was vaguely familiar.

I began to follow the fast-moving creature and racked my knowledge of

Greek myths.

“Of course!” I exclaimed.

I knew exactly what was terrorizing the class trip and precisely how to stop it. I reached for my plastic sword I purchased in the pirate gift shop and began to fight. Slashing and striking at the fiend.

I tried to injure it, but my weapon was no match for its invincible skin. The at-



tack suddenly reached a point of consequence as my opponent swerved into a mortal.

“What are you doing!?” My teacher hollered.

Sweating profusely, I managed to rasp, “You wouldn’t understand, mere mortal. I am fighting the great Python, enemy of Apollo.”

“Well, to me,” she replied. “It looks like you are wrestling our school mascot and creating a disruption in our learning environment.”

Raising an eyebrow, Ms. Bhordom collected my sword and pulled me away from the monster. As I calmed my beating heart I looked more closely at what I thought to be my enemy. A blue and yellow

stuffed costume with the letters PV embroidered on it.

“But...But, I swore it was a monster,” I stammered as she pulled me aside from the rest of the class.

“Yeah, and I swore it was a good idea to have the burrito supreme at Taco Bell, and yet here we are. Now wait here while I call your mother.” Ms. Bhordome said sarcastically.

Glancing at the crowd who had formed around the fight, I noticed students snickering and smiling. Well, I may not have saved the class from a terrifying monster, but I did save them from boredom.

GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

A Beary Chaotic Day

by Terry Shen

Right before Winter Break, second-grade teacher Ms. Take decided to host a pajama party to celebrate the success of the first semester of the school year. Students brought their favorite stuffed animals and comfiest pajamas. Everyone, including Ms. Take, was looking forward to the holidays.

“Time to do a show and tell! Please present your stuffed animals to the class!” Ms. Take exclaimed.

There were all types of stuffed animals presented: teddy bears, dinosaurs, geese, giraffes, crabs, and many more.

Anyone walking past the classroom could accidentally mistake Ms. Take for a zoology professor.

During the several presentations, Ms. Take kept on thinking about her teddy bear tucked in bed at her home.

“None of these stuffed animals hold a candle to my Fuzzy Wuzzy,” Ms. Take thought to herself.

As soon as the last student presented, all the students ran outside for recess. However, in the classroom, something strange began to happen — the stuffed animals began to stir and rub their eyes!

Immediately, the room

exploded with noise. All the stuffed animals began introducing themselves to each other and began hopping

around. The stuffed owl, who was a computer expert, flew over to the laptop of Ms. Take and started to look at the grades of the students.

“Hoot! Last week’s test was not good for the kids’

grades. Let me change all the test grades to 110%,” the owl said.

The giraffe, crab, and geese decided to write cards with nice messages to each student.

“Dear Paige Turner, I know you love reading books, and I think that is awesome! Signed, Ms. Take.”

All the other stuffed animals worked together and created gift baskets full of pencils, crayons, and other supplies for each student.

Suddenly, there was a

knock at the door — Ms. Take and the students were back! All the stuffed animals hopped back to their original positions just in time as the door swung open.

The kids all yelled in excitement and rushed to see the new goodies on their desks.

“Thanks for the gifts and nice cards, Ms. Take!” They shouted.

Ms. Take was confused and looked over at her computer, which displayed the best grades she had ever seen.

“This must be a mistake.” Ms. Take muttered under her breath.

GRAPHIC BY TERRY SHEN



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[a column]

A Career Curiosity



Kai Sprunger,
Match Editor-in-Chief

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

Growing up, this was the question I dreaded the most. I was always so unsure of how to reply.

My mind would fill up with thousands of possible careers — I could be a doctor, artist, veterinarian, dancer, or video game designer. My answer would always vary or change whenever adults asked me; one day I wanted to be a surgeon, and the next I wanted to be a ballet dancer.

Even to this day, as an eleventh-grader, I am still exploring the world and figuring out what specific career I want to pursue.

It is completely fine if you don't know what you want to be when you grow up — don't ever feel pressured to decide immediately what you want to be. As you grow, your interests will evolve as you try new things out, gain new insight into the world, and learn more about yourself.

Since you are only in elementary school, you have a ton of time to explore the world; you don't need to know everything yet! You have middle school, high school, and even adulthood to decide what you want to pursue in life.

Use this time to seek out new things — try everything from horseback riding to conducting scientific experiments. By trying out new activities, you will not only learn what you like or dislike, but you will learn more about yourself. Finding your interests is key to knowing what you want to do in life.

Although adults may make it feel like you can only choose one option, that is completely false and you have an endless number of possibilities and options! You don't have to focus on just one hobby or career and let that define you, you can have multiple interests. Instead of choosing between baseball or art, pick both!

So whenever you receive the dreaded question, don't feel obligated to find one specific answer. It is completely okay to reply with “I don't know,” or even answer with a multitude of careers. You don't need to know what you want to be when you grow up yet — you are still young and have time!