

# TheMatch

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## Students sing in the elementary school concert



PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

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Welcoming Change

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# A Trial of Tales at Twilight

*Pine View Drama Presents: 'The Trial of Goldilocks'*

by **Isabella Kulawik**

On the stage of the Pine View auditorium, lights shine as actors proclaim their lines, beckoning the audience of youngsters to listen in. The courtroom assembled before them, the middle school members of the Pine View Drama club set the scene of a tense trial, "The Trial of Goldilocks."

The play was performed

by middle schoolers for elementary schoolers, the idea originating when teachers reached out to drama club sponsors Tammy Madden and Megan Omahony, asking for the winter musical to be performed for the students during the day.

"...When we did 'The Addams Family', a lot of the teachers asked us to do 'The Addams Family' for them

during the school day. And we said, 'no, we can't do that.' It's probably not the most appropriate for the elementary school anyway. And so we decided that we would try to do these in the spring for them, so they could come see," Madden said.

And with that the process began, each student had to memorize a monologue of their choice and also per-



Awaiting the jury's verdict, Goldilocks, played by Arielle Bertrand, shakes the judge's hand before departing. She has been brought to court and is on trial for eating the three bears' porridge one fateful night.

form a cold read at the audition, which is when an actor performs a scene without rehearsing prior. Once the cast list came out, students began working with high school directors during rehearsals. While memorizing lines and running scenes, students made some new memories.

"Rehearsals were really chaotic because everyone was just laughing the entire time...Like someone would say 'Hi,' and everyone would start laughing. So it was kind of chaotic, and I am honestly surprised that it came out as well as it did," seventh-grader Charlotte Weisenborn, an actor in the play, said.

Overall, the play was a great success, and afterwards the club received praise from students and teachers.

"A lot of them that were there stopped us and said that they liked it and they enjoyed it... We talked about

making it maybe a yearly thing for us to do something like this in the spring and they were open to that idea," Madden said.

Part of this success was in the fact that middle schoolers were able to have a show to themselves.

"...Giving them something of their own, really made them happy, and they did a good job, a really good job," Madden said. "So, you know, middle school drama is not my favorite thing in the world. But it worked."

As the current drama club season comes to a close, teachers and students alike remember the joys of watching young students find their place on stage. Now, the club looks forward to putting on their next production, "Beauty and the Beast."

LEFT AND RIGHT PHOTOS BY JIAYI ZHU



After a long night, the cast of "The Trial of Goldilocks" takes a bow, excited that they were able to perform. With a cast of middle schoolers, the Trial of Goldilocks was performed by Pine View Drama Club in April for elementary school students. They are currently working on their next production, "Beauty and the Beast."

## Bidding farewell to James Ross

by **Aashima Goswami**

After teaching for 18 years at Pine View, resident fifth-grade teacher James Ross gears up for retirement. Over the years Ross has made himself known as a relatable and fun teacher who strives to make a personal connection with each of his students.

“That special relationship he has with his students... it’s genuine. The kids like him...” fifth-grade teacher Peggy Barber said. “He’s very creative, and he bring out that in the students... the kids are very comfortable and they express themselves well in his presence.”

The students observe

Ross’ kindness and ingenuity through his daily actions.

“He’s really kind to the students, he always thinks of them,” current student Ellis Frandsen said.

Even his fellow colleagues have observed his thoughtfulness, as Ross is known to bring in treats for his lucky homeroom students!

“He’s always bringing in treats and popcorn, and donuts... he’s always doing thoughtful things for his students,” fifth-grade teacher Rachel Lenerz said.

Ross’ energetic personality carries well beyond the classroom, as Barber recalls her favorite memory of Ross

from a school field trip to Celery Fields.

“He, almost like the Pied-Piper, had all of his students follow him up to the big field... he gave the signal and he let everybody roll down the hill... it was like this waterfall of kids rolling and jumping... afterwards he ran down, that was a very fun memory,” Barber said.

Ross was not only making fun memories for his students, but he was also supporting his colleagues along the way.

“He’s been a really good colleague to me, I don’t know how I could have survived without him. He will be very



Alongside other fifth-grade teachers, James Ross (upper middle) poses for a Yearbook photo. Ross has been teaching for 18 years at Pine View, however, he has decided recently to retire. PHOTO PROVIDED BY HANA HAN

missed,” Lenerz said.

Although Ross will be very missed here at Pine View, no one can deny that he has earned his retirement.

“I wish him the best of

luck in his retirement, he has deserved it, and he has earned it. He gets to travel and enjoy life and play golf and do all the things he loves, I am very happy for him...” Barber said.

## What are you looking forward to about middle school?



“I’m looking forward to my electives, Art 2D and 3D. I feel like it’s going to be really fun because I see the cool 3D stuff that seventh, and eighth-graders are making, and it looks really good.”

- Sasha Poteralski, Grade 5



“I’m excited about the new building and more teachers, different teachers. And the new lunch lines. And the new people that’ll come from different schools.”

- Jahan Nandheesha, Grade 5



“The language classes! When you learn languages every day, it helps a lot. This year we only have French once a week, and then I forget what we’re learning.”

- Fiona Quinto-Hart, Grade 5

## Events and Birthdays

**May 25**

Carmen Elliot's  
birthday

**May 31**

Debbie Delaney's  
birthday

**June 2**

Stephen Covert's  
birthday

**June 11**

Sara Kolsky's  
birthday

**July 2**

Rebecca Kochenderfer's  
birthday

**July 5**

Shannon Wynne's  
birthday

**August 4**

Andrius Vitkus's  
birthday

**August 6**

Cindi Wozniak's  
birthday

**August 8**

Rachel Lenerz's  
birthday



Mothers and sons collaborated in a school-wide scavenger hunt after school April 21. The mother-son scavenger hunt was hosted by the Class of 2025.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ELIAS JUCKETT-MALONE



As a father and daughter laugh and dance, the pair dance the night away March 31. The Father-Daughter Dance, hosted by Habitat for Humanity, was successful in attracting many students, fathers, and volunteers for a magical night.

PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU

## IN BRIEF

### 6A Course Reinvented

by Lily Quartermaine

As of the 2023-2024 school year, rising sixth grade math students will be partaking in a new math assessment test, replacing the one given prior.

Instead of only testing select students with a 3.75+ GPA and 95 percent average in math, all students will be tested regardless of their academic status. The test itself has also been completely reinvented.

This process also removes the "6A" course. Instead, rising sixth-graders will either be placed in Pre-Algebra or the Sixth-Grade Math Course

1. Sixth-graders placed in the pre-algebra course will be consistently monitored throughout the year.

"It's really just finding the right fit for each of our kids by having all of them take [the test]. It's a different test than the one that was given previously, too," fifth-grade teacher Cynthia Wozniak said, "Now, it's a placement test. Kids coming new into Pine View will take it, as well, so that we can see the potential of these kids before we make that decision of what the best placement is for them."

### Father-Daughter Dance

by Lindsay Luberecki

It's an annual Pine View elementary tradition. This year, the theme was Royal Ball, complete with princesses and pink. March's Father-Daughter Dance was a great success.

On March 31, girls dressed in their best princess gowns danced the night away, whether it was with their fathers or friends. Adorned with pink and purple tablecloths, flower centerpieces, a DJ, a dance floor, and a photo wall, the Student Union was a magical setting for the evening.

Twelfth-grader Simona Belilovskiy, one of the two directors of the dance, views the fundraiser as very successful.

This year's proceeds went toward the schoolwide Habitat for Humanity fundraiser.

Belilovskiy believes that the girls enjoyed the event.

"They were all having a lot of fun, they were all dancing...I was in the conga line with all of them and everyone was giggling and dancing," she said.

Physical science teacher Hali Flahavan was a sponsor of the dance.

"I saw students and their families really enjoying the time together," Flahavan said. "I think that for the dads [and other adults] it was nice for them to see their daughters with their friends."

## New vs. Old Disney

by Sanya Patel

It doesn't take a genius to notice the changes that Disney has made over the years. With a constantly evolving world, there are bound to be some edits, but the complete turnaround from movies like "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" to "Raya and The Last Dragon" is pretty significant. As time has passed, Disney has made key alterations to their princesses.

Originally, princesses had the classic "damsel-in-distress" trope (a significant or recurrent theme) where the girl would be saved by a dazzling prince riding on a white horse, or something similar as such.

In Snow White's story, from early Disney, the main character is not in control. She wandered into the woods and bit into an apple given to her

by a random old lady.

woman, causing her to fall into a deep slumber. Not to mention that she could only be awoken by a true love kiss from a man she did not know. This plot may be viewed as both outdated and unrealistic.

As time went on, Disney learned how to present better role models for their young audience. A better example of a role model is "Mulan," debuting in 1998, where the main character is in control and enlists herself in a war instead of her father. Her bravery and sacrifice are inspiring, and it is considered to be one of Disney's best movies.

In recent years, Disney has been releasing more strong and

independent princesses.

A great example of independence from Disney is Rapunzel from "Tangled" (2010). Throughout the story, she is on a personal mission to find the lanterns. She needed Eugene's help from time to time throughout the story, but she had her frying pan ready when she needed it. She escaped a tavern full of angry thugs by being friendly and singing to them. Most importantly, her love wasn't because he saved her life,

but because of the journey they had been on together. Many princesses before her followed the "love-at-first-sight" trope where they fall in love with the first man they have met.

This can be seen with Aurora from "Sleeping Beauty," released in 1959. She fell in love with a man she knew absolutely nothing about. Sure, he kissed her and she awoke from her one-hundred years of slumber, but this was still a complete stranger.

Her story is similar to Rapunzel's in the sense that she ran away from her old life of isolation from the rest of the world. Aurora was trying to change her fate of being married off to a random prince, which let her self-resilience shine a little bit.

Disney's most recent princess is Raya, the

daughter of Chief Benja and the princess of Kumandra's Heart Land. She fearlessly fought many misfits and enemies all the while trying to evade her nemesis, Namaari. The whole movie is inspired by many South Asian cultures and Disney brought in many specialists to ensure that everything was accurate.

Seeing the shift from surface-level plots to deep and compelling storylines is great. Diversifying the princesses has done so much good — representation in media is so important, especially to younger audiences. It's important to provide role models to look up to while also being able to relate to them.

Disney princesses have been an integral part of many people's youth and will be for generations to come. It's encouraging to see Disney add so many cultures and races into their stories so that every child has someone they can look up to — they can only go up from here.

GRAPHICS BY SANYA PATEL



# Student 'scales' the piano

by Emmy Li

Fingers resting atop the keys as the first notes of "Deck the Halls" ring out, fourth-grader Charlie Van Vliet performs on stage. He plays with confidence and poise, ready after months of preparation.

Van Vliet has been playing piano for five years. Every Saturday, he goes to Elizabeth Farrell Studio for lessons, and practices almost every night at home. Sometimes, schoolwork, taking care of his pets, and other activities add up,

and it can be difficult for him to balance these responsibilities. Nevertheless, Van Vliet's mother, Kelly Van Vliet, noticed Van Vliet's ability to find the fun in what others might consider a chore.

"Charlie instantly took to playing piano and therefore he enjoys it, and it's not work," Kelly Van Vliet said.

Still, learning an instrument comes with difficulty.

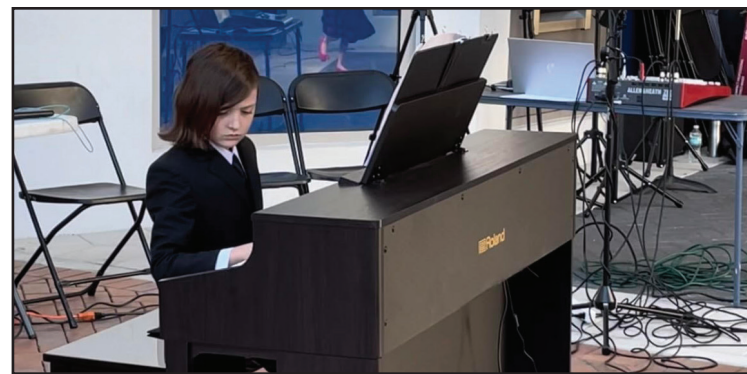
"I think [the hardest part about piano] is the different octaves and switching hands in between," Van Vliet said.

"But I really like listening to the songs that you can play."

Spending weeks learning a challenging new song is not a new occurrence for him, and mistakes are inevitable. Van Vliet has learned to accept and embrace these mistakes as part of the learning process.

"I messed up," he said. "I played a different note during a recital. But no one noticed so it was fine."

As someone with ADHD, playing the piano has been extremely beneficial as an outlet for creativity, and has a calm-



As he skillfully plays the piano, fourth-grader Charlie Van Vliet performs a piece. Van Vliet's passion shines through in each song. PHOTO PROVIDED BY KELLY VAN VLIET

ing influence. It has improved Van Vliet's self-esteem and allowed him to find his passion.

"We are just happy that he found something that he real-

ly enjoys doing and it can be a lifelong passion," Kelly Van Vliet said. "I think piano will be something Charlie will play for the rest of his life."

# Student finds her forte

by Robyn Schoenberg

Sarasota Young Voices Choir (SYV) at the Church of the Palms is making an impact both locally and internationally. SYV most often performs at Church, but also performs at senior living centers during the winter. In the summer, the choir travels abroad to partici-

pate in festivals.

The youngest singer in the local choir is fifth-grader Makenna Warner. She joined only about a year ago and already fits in comfortably among her fellow vocalists, most of whom are in middle and high school.

"I was nervous, but I started to get more into it the more

I went. My first day I was in the Training Choir, so there were younger kids that were my age, and I was pretty comfortable with it," Warner said.

While SYV once had four choirs, Covid resulted in one all-encompassing choir, the Concert or Chamber Choir.

"[This] is great in a lot of ways because I think we learn a more challenging repertoire, and so it helps the younger kids sort of mature their musical abilities pretty quickly," said Eila Chandra, a ninth-grader at Pine View and member of SYV. "But it has been tough in terms of a lot of things can be a little bit too advanced for the younger kids."

Due to the merging of choirs, Warner had to learn more advanced pieces without

the prior experience that most of her peers possessed.

"I didn't really know what to do because they were singing songs that I was not familiar with," Warner said.

Thanks to her knack for memorizing, Warner shared that she quickly caught on.

"She does a great job of storing all the pieces and I've seen her inquire, learn, and grow, and she seems to be doing a great job with it," said Chandra.

The group rehearses every Tuesday from 6:00-7:45 p.m. As concert day approaches, singers are expected to practice more at home. The day of the concert, there is a quick practice and then the singers get into uniform.

One of Warner's favorite

concerts was the Children's March, a collaboration with SYV, a Tampa choir, and the Sarasota Chamber Choir. The choir sang songs previously sung by children who marched in Birmingham, Alabama during Civil Rights protests.

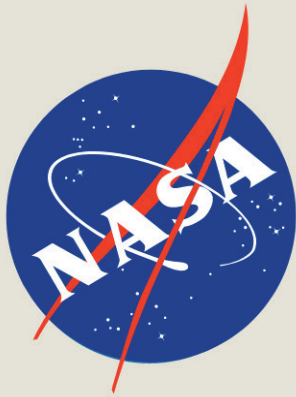
"I think that actually was a great thing for the younger generation of SYV to do," said Chandra. "It was really eye opening to see that kind of music and unite people in song that also brings forth a really important message..."

This summer Warner will go on her first choir tour with the SYV choir to Scotland.

"I am looking forward to getting to experience my first tour," Warner said on the SYV Facebook.



Makenna Warner (third from the left) and her peers perform a song. Warner has proven to be an avid member of Sarasota Young Voices. PHOTO PROVIDED BY MAKENNA WARNER



## Out of this World Pen Pals

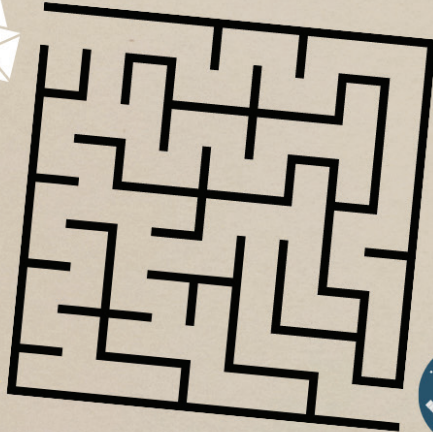


With the end of the school year just around the corner many students look forward to summer vacation. One downside of summer vacation is that it can be difficult to see friends every day, and it can be easy to lose touch. A way to stop this is by writing letters to friends as a pen pal. But friends are not the only people you can write letters to. You can also send letters to astronauts!





Help the Letters reach the Astronauts



Go to NASA's website and look at the list of different astronauts to send letters to. Once you choose an astronaut to send a letter to you can begin to figure out what you want to say. You can ask about their specific experiences. Make sure to include a return address so that the astronaut will be able to respond.

Send letters to:  
NASA Johnson Space Center  
CB/Astronaut Office  
Houston, TX 77058

Ask your parent or guardian before mailing!

## Dawn of the Dribbling

by Ava Lenerz

Thump, thump—there are 30 seconds left in the game. The other team fouled; a girl is standing at the free throw line. The crowd is silent with anticipation. She looks up and sees her brother waiting for her to shoot the ball and then—swoosh—the ball goes smoothly through the net.

Free throws are a common occurrence for basketball players Anya and Kai Parks.

Anya and Kai, whom are in fourth and fifth grade, respectively, have been playing basketball and tennis with

each other for the past two years. They have basketball practice every Monday and games on Saturday with G League Hoops, a youth basketball program. They also take private tennis lessons at a court near their house.

“I think the kids were both always very much into basketball, they liked Michael Jordan and all of that stuff, so it was a very natural progression for them to start playing,” Pooja Khator, the pair’s mother, said.

For many people basketball can be difficult, but it comes naturally to Anya because she is “more of a basket-

ball person,” her mother said.

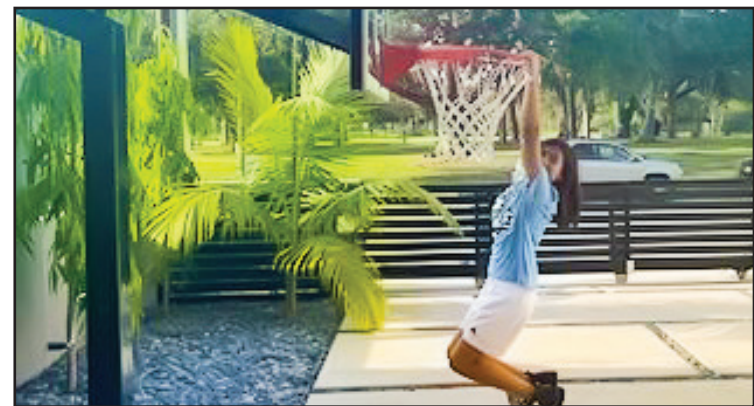
However, both Kai and Anya enjoy tennis as well.

“They’ve been playing tennis for several years; we have a tennis court across the street from us, so it is pretty convenient, and next year they are going to start playing at Laurel Oaks Tennis,” Khator said.

Siblings are great motivators, and, in this case, Anya is Kai’s inspiration when playing.

“...[Anya] is fun to be around. She’s a good player and she has good sportsmanship,” Kai said.

Anya said it is easy for her



After having dunked the ball, fourth-grader Anya Parks hangs from a lowered ring. Parks and her fifth-grade brother, Kai Parks, have been playing on the same team for the past two years. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANYA PARKS

to balance her extracurriculars with school.

“I just do it after I finish all my homework because [basketball] is at seven,” Anya said.

Throughout the years Kai and Anya have made a great team and they plan to contin-

ue playing with each other in the future.

“It’s a lot of fun watching them play, especially this year together on the same team, like watching them pass to each other and things like that is really nice,” Khator said.

## A Wonderful Weightlifting Win



With the guidance of his coach Vadim Kozevnikov, fifth-grader Roman Shleyzer practices before weightlifting. Shleyzer has been weightlifting since the summer of 2022 and plans on continuing to pursue the sport. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ROMAN SHLEYZER

by Nathan DeSouza

Every time he trains in the park, fifth-grader Roman Shleyzer works hard

and strives to construct a better version of himself. Under the instruction of Olympic weightlifter, Vadim

Kozevnikov, Shleyzer powerlifts, a strength-oriented sport that consists of lifting a barbell with weight plates on it.

Shleyzer started his journey in powerlifting about a year ago in June of 2022. One of his key motivations to start his journey was to be more disciplined, along with his parents’ support.

“I just like the way he [Vadim Kozevnikov] does the trainings and how he likes discipline...” Shleyzer said.

Under the training of Kozevnikov, the typical training day for Shleyzer can be expected to start off with stretching, as it is a crucial

part of powerlifting to prevent injuries. Shleyzer trains twice a week on Fridays and Sundays.

“For the first time for kids, we do full body trainings to make them flexible, to make them strong enough to prepare the muscles and bones and ligaments and tendons for it doesn’t matter which sport... it supports a good life and is good for every sport,” Kozevnikov said.

After stretching, they move on to training with resistance bands and weights. And in Shleyzer’s case, he does so along with being taught discipline. With Kozevnikov’s guidance,

Shleyzer’s journey of becoming a better version of himself comes to life.

One attribute his coach holds to high esteem is the discipline that he shows. Not only does he show it during training, but he also displays such discipline while at school.

With a personal record of 54 kg (around 119 lbs.), Shleyzer aspires to break his personal best and strives to go beyond his limits safely, along with applying a more regimented attitude. With keen determination towards his sport, Shleyzer plans to continue his sport into middle school.

# The Importance of Pursuing Sports

by Allie Chung

Let's be honest, some student athletes only play sports because their parents or friends pressured them into joining. Chances are, at least one athlete on the team doesn't want to be there.

Playing a sport is a full commitment and there is no worth in continuing a sport that makes athletes miserable. However, playing a sport opens the door to many opportunities. Statistics from health.gov show that youths who participate in sports are generally stronger and healthier, have lower amounts of stress and are more confident.

If playing sports feels like a burden, these fourth-grade

athletes have advice on what the next move should be.

Fourth-grader Sawyer Haenal has been playing

football for two years, but his journey as an athlete did not start with football.

"I played soccer for years

and years and years and then I began to not like it, so I quit, and my dad let me quit because he understands that a sport gets old after a while," Haenal said.

His decision to quit soccer was based on his dislike of the sport over the period of many years. However, Haenal said having one bad experience in a tournament or game is not a sufficient reason to quit.

Haenal decided to play football because he wanted to get a head start on competition in the future. His decision to continue playing sports may prove to be vital in high school, as he will have a tremendous edge over the other athletes.

Fourth-grader Ariana Vishnevsky has been playing tennis for 5 years, and agrees with Haenal in that continuing playing sports is important because she envisions herself playing in a club team when she gets older.

When asked to give advice to someone who is thinking of quitting, she said, "Don't quit, play because it is important to be strong, and you should continue it to get better and to try harder."

In the end, it is up to the athlete to make the executive decision between quitting or preserving, but from underwater hockey to chess boxing, there are hundreds of sports to choose from and one of them will be a fit.



## How can you apply sports to your future?

"I can play it in high school and since a lot of boys play football in high school I can get a head start"



"I really want to join a tennis club and play against teams when I get older in high school"



# Why does Florida have Hurricanes?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by Lia Ottaviano



PHOTO BY CAMILLE WRIGHT  
by Camille Wright

While kids up north get snow days, in Florida there are hurricane days. Everyone who has lived in Florida knows the time of year from August to November when power may be knocked out for a week, and students aren't able to go to school. But why is that? Why is Florida hit by so many hurricanes while other places aren't?

There are three main things that are needed to form a hurricane. Heat, wind, and lots of water. Florida just so happens to have all of these things.

In order to form a hurricane, you need a lot of water that is above 79 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to Florida's tropical climate, much of the surrounding water reaches this temperature during hurricane season. This explains why so many hurricanes form near Florida, and not in other states away from water.

However, even some states that are right next to the water still do not get hurricanes. California, which is also famous for its sunny beaches, does not regularly get hit by hurricanes. This is because the Pacific Ocean on average is much colder than the Atlantic Ocean that Florida borders.

Being near the ocean is not enough to form a hurricane. Without warm water, it is unlikely that

a hurricane will form.

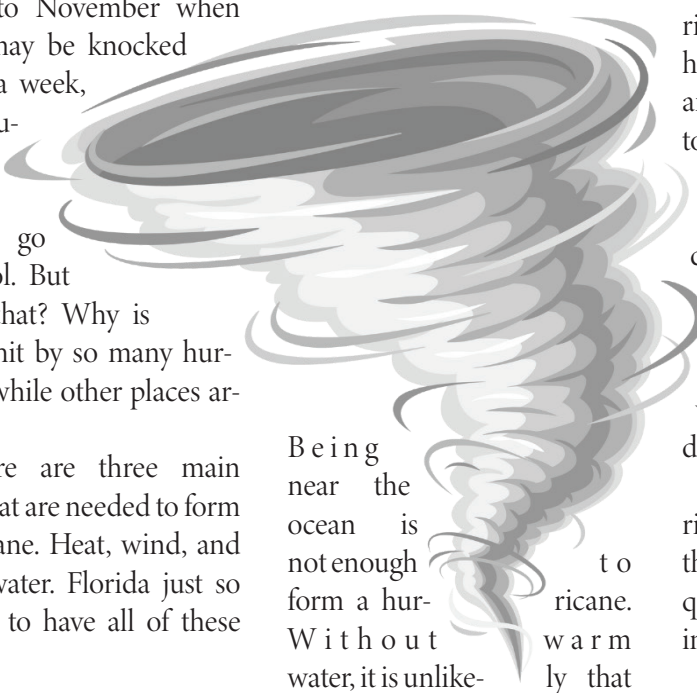
As this warm water starts to evaporate, strong winds from across the ocean reach Florida. This wind can help more hot air to rise and more water to evaporate. As these rise, they begin to cool and form large storm clouds.

Warm air will continue to rise, along with the evaporated water. This air causes the large storm clouds to begin spinning. The large storm remains a tropical storm until the wind speeds are over 74 miles per hour. Then, the storm is classified as a Category One hurricane.

Florida's shape also contributes to the number of hurricanes we get. Since Florida has a very long coastline, there are more places for a hurricane to hit in comparison to other states along the east coast.

Hurricanes are a real danger of living in Florida. While there is not a way to prevent hurricanes from happening there are many ways to stay safe when they do come around.

Now, the next time hurricane season comes around, there will no surprises or questioning why it happened in Florida.



## Staying safe in a Hurricane

**Evacuate & Stay away from windows**

**If your area is in a mandatory evacuation zone evacuate as soon as possible. If not, stay inside and away from windows in case any debris breaks through your window.**



**If your power goes out during a hurricane it limits your communication. A battery radio tuned to the National Weather Service will notify you of any warnings and watches.**

**Be aware of local alerts**



**Have supplies on hand**

**Before a hurricane stock up on non-perishables, bottled water, and a generator if you can.**



GRAPHICS BY CAMILLE WRIGHT

# Animals should not be kept in zoos



by Truman Serine

Fifth-grade guest contributor

The zoo might just seem like a fun place for humans to understand and observe different kinds of animals. However, the animals that are held in zoos are put in enclosures that don't provide them enough space and negatively

impact their mental state. Animals deserve better, which is why I believe they should not be kept in zoos any longer.

One concern of holding animals in zoos, that I've witnessed firsthand, is the insufficient amount of land given to them. Zoos are only so big, meaning they can't provide even a fraction of the space an animal would have available to them in their natural habitat.

An elephant, for example, is a huge creature that needs a massive area of land to roam around on. In zoos, though,

elephants are confined to an extremely small, rocky habitat in which they have almost no room to move around.

Additionally, birds are another creature that need a sufficient amount of space in their habitat. Birds need to be able to fly freely and interact with nature.

But in

many zoos, birds are put in relatively small enclosures that only allow them to fly as far as their aviary allows them.

In regard to an animal's mental state, keeping animals in zoos causes them to have a decline in mental health. For example, animals who are put in zoo enclosures usually have no one to interact with, and this causes them to get bored and lonely. These feelings lead animals to exhibit stimulative behaviors such as biting themselves and pacing. Many

animals even experience feelings of depression. Also, conditions such as artificial lighting, being in cages, being in a new environment, and feeling threatened can cause stress in animals.

All in all, in zoos, animals do not get enough space, and they are forced into conditions that negatively impact their mental and physical health. Even with all these struggles, I'm hopeful that one day animals will be able to go back to their natural habitats and finally roam free.

GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU



# With age comes responsibilities

by Isabella Kulawik

You wake up, have your breakfast, drive to school in your car blasting music, and feel a new air of freedom. This is the expected life of a high school student.

High school is a time when you can hang out with your friends unaccompanied, drive a car, and choose your own schedules. However, what many students do not realize are the responsibilities that come along with the freedom of being a teenager.

Once children begin the transition to adolescence, parents begin to

expect more of them. The expectations people have of themselves also increase. Expectations are a natural part of growing up.

Many parents give their children more chores and anticipate them keeping up with school work. While they may seem annoying and tedious to deal with, these expectations can form better habits and lead to better decisions.

A change that many students experience going into middle school is the greater workload that comes from more classes. Depending on the difficulty of your

courses, some nights can leave you exhausted and burnt out.

In these situations,



learning to relax and take a break is important. Keeping up with coursework can be difficult at times, and time management is a useful

skill to combat this. The responsibility of turning your work in promptly can be a great one; however, once you get over procrastination, it gets easier.

An important part of growing up is having to make more decisions.

It can be challenging to make the right ones. In the end, making a decision is about choosing one that carries less regrets; decisions are not always black and white. Choosing to spend five more minutes on the phone instead of doing homework can be tempting, but it is typically a deci-

sion you will regret. There is always a price to taking the easier route and it usually ends with more work.

Sometimes, there are going to be days when it feels like the weight of the world is on your shoulders, but just remember that everything will work out in the end. Even if the way does not go as planned, it will be okay. These new responsibilities can even be enjoyable because the more you gain, the more maturity you will have, preparing you for adulthood.

GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

## Demise at the Depot

by Janice Chi

“We’re here,” Mom announced. Tray TorJoes hopped out of the car gleefully and quickly grasped his mother’s hand to cross the street.

As soon as TorJoes stepped foot inside the store, he freed his little fingers from his mother’s clutch and entered the world of snacks and produce. His mom was too busy reviewing the grocery list to notice her missing child.

TorJoes immediately knew which aisle to aim for — Candy and Sweets. As soon as he marked down his objective site, he

ran towards it full of joy. In fact, he was so excited that he didn’t notice his mom was nowhere to be found.

Dreaming of all the candy he could have, he was fighting the internal struggle of which ones to pile onto his hands. He picked up Twix, Skittles, Reesè’s, and every other candy that anyone could ever think of.

He strolled through the last aisle of candy and spotted his favorite snack, a Nerds Rope. He immediately sped towards it and reached out to grab it, but was suddenly stopped by another hand.

There was a little girl standing right there, glaring at the candy, then at Tray TorJoes, then back at the candy.

“This... is mine, I called it,” she exclaimed.

“I saw it first,” Tray shouted.

They started tugging at the rope and it eventually became a Tug-of-Rope game, the kids going back and forth. TorJoes was so desperate and put all his might into a tug, then BAM! The rope was split in half.

After the mess he had made, he frantically escaped toward the back of the store. Step by step, he eventually ended up in the seafood section and walked up to the display.

“Anybody here?” he asked.

It was silent. TorJoes presumed that nobody was there. Just as he was about to walk away, a monstrous silhouette with ginormous claws and sharp teeth arose from behind the counter. It seemed to be armored with a protective plate and holding a shield.

“Hey little buddy,” proclaimed the beast, deviously licking his lips.

Tray TorJoes, frightened by the towering figure, drew back a few steps and shook his head.

“Hey, where’s your mom?” the clerk questioned.

TorJoes gulped and sped to the fruit section, dropping some of his candy bags, hoping to bump into his mother. After looking around, he wasn’t able to find his mother, but he was able to find an employee handing out apple juice sample cups!



TorJoes thought to himself, “I guess this isn’t too bad!”

He went up to the sampler and asked for a cup.

“Sorry, honey, is your mother around? I need her confirmation that you aren’t allergic,” she stated.

The lips on TorJoes’ face bounced out, realizing that he wasn’t able to gulp down a nice, refreshing drink after his frantic jog. After glaring at the forbidden apple juice, he decided to try and go back to the front of the store where he had first let go of his mom’s hand.

The grocery store had turned into a maze after Tray TorJoes had been lost in it for what seemed to be forever. Confused, he wasn’t sure which path to choose, towards the toy section or the pharmacy. Just then, a loud buzz

echoed throughout the store from the speaker.

“Attention, shoppers! A young boy named Tray TorJoes is lost in the store. If anybody has seen him, please bring him to the customer service desk,” the intercom announced.

TorJoes declared to the entire store that he was indeed the lost, young boy. Shortly after, his mom came to escort him out of the store safely with her hand gripped on his arm.

As they exited the store, TorJoes turned to his mom and said, “Mom, can we come back here tomorrow? I want to try the apple juice!”

His mom just shook her head and laughed, knowing that this wasn’t going to be the last of Tray TorJoes’ adventures.



GRAPHICS BY JANICE CHI

# A Wandering Waterbottle

by Tiffany Yu

Just this morning, I was tucked away in Lucy Forgehtzalott's backpack's side pocket. I had received my morning shower in the home sink, I was filled up at the fridge, and I was ready for another wonderful day of being Mr. Water Bottle.

That is, until fourth period came. Lucy took me out and placed me on her desk so I could have a good view of the board (per usual), but when it became time to leave, she put Miss Pencil Case in her backpack, but not me!

Everyone in the class had left, and to waste time while I was waiting for Lucy, I tried to figure out what the numbers on the board meant. There were too many squiggly

lines, and I remembered I couldn't read, so I gave up. That was when Lucy's math teacher, Mr. Addishin, came over and picked me up. He didn't know I belonged to Lucy, so he walked me over to the cardboard box in the corner of the room. He put me inside, and immediately I was greeted by so

many friendly faces!

There was Book, Ruler, Pencil Sharpener, and Glue Stick!

They were all just talking and laughing and having a good time. What was this magical place?

"Hey guys!" I said.

"Hey Water Bottle!" Ruler said, "We were just talking about how we missed you. It's good to see you! It's been so long," Ruler always talked in great length.

"Stop it, Ruler! She just got here!" Pencil Sharpener said sharply.

We began to chat, and I learned about their experiences in the box that I learned was called the "Lost and Found." Book had more than a few words about his experience. Glue Stick, on the other hand, kept getting stuck on his thoughts.

I was having so much fun hearing about their times in the Lost and Found that I didn't hear the pattering of footsteps or see the lights flicker on.

Suddenly, I was being lifted by a gentle hand.

"Oh, don't go so soon!" Ruler said, extending out

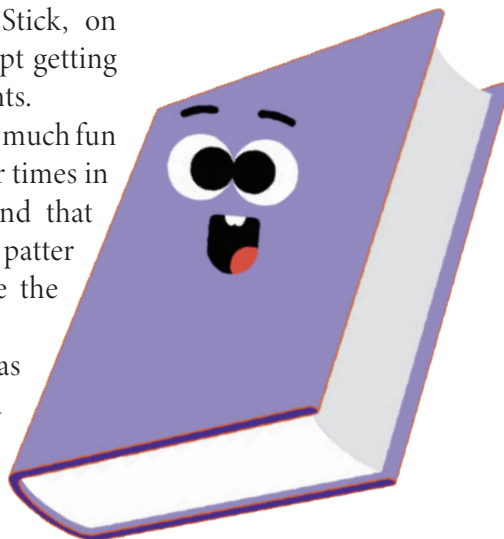
to reach me.

I felt tears begin to form — or maybe I had a leak?

I knew I would miss my friends, but I missed Lucy more! Once I was snuggled up in Lucy's side pocket again, I thought about how maybe tomorrow I would roll off her desk so I could have more adventures in the Lost and Found.



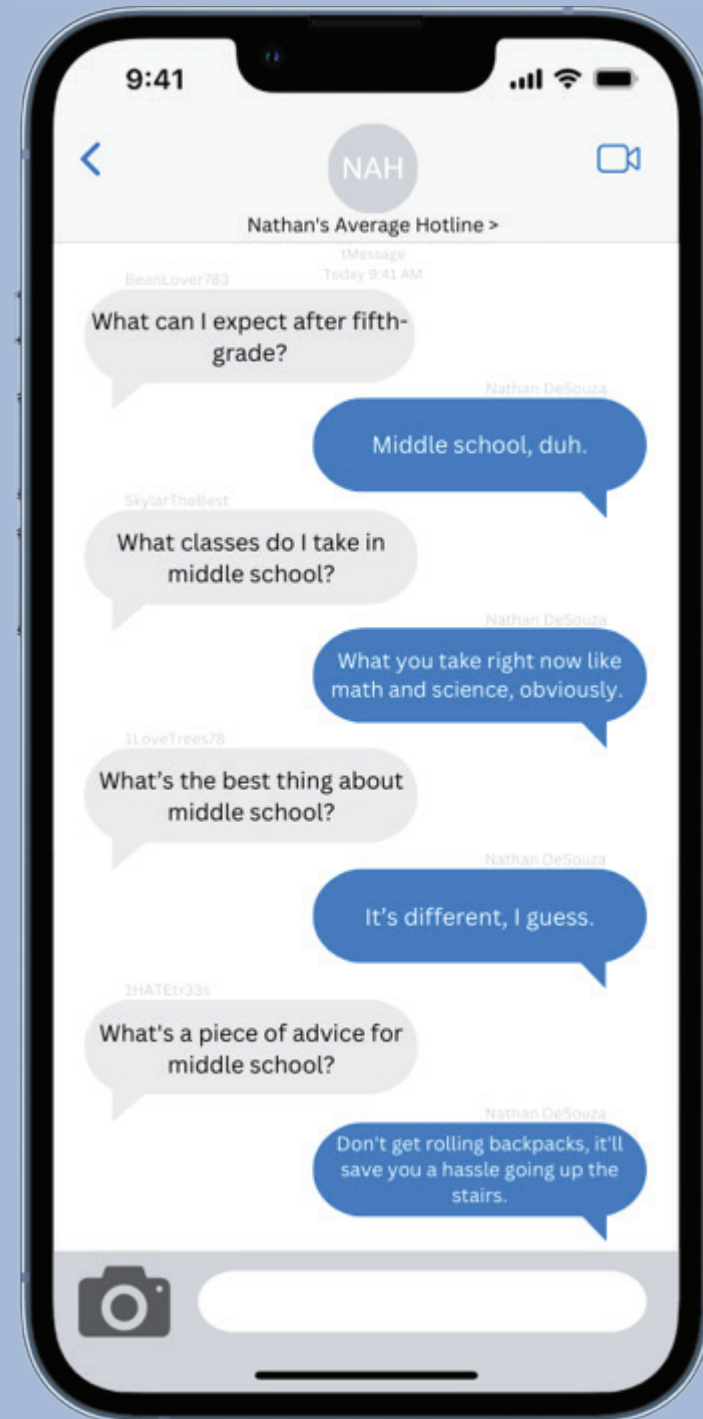
GRAPHICS BY TIFFANY YU AND JIAYI ZHU



GRAPHIC BY NATHAN DESOUZA

## NATHAN'S AVERAGE HOTLINE

Nathan DeSouza gives expert advice to upcoming middle-school students.



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## [a column] Welcoming Change



Kai Sprunger,  
Match Editor-in-Chief

Snails. Crickets. Durian. When I was little, my mother would give me a quarter for every new food item I tried. Beyond the growing pile of quarters in my jewelry box, I had also unknowingly gained the ability to welcome new changes in my life.

With life being a constant cycle of change, there are always new circumstances or novel ideas to adjust to. Next school year, you will face change as well, whether it is by taking new classes or seeing unfamiliar faces.

Change can be terrifying at first; leaving a situation you are comfortable with means that you are losing that sense of security or safety you can confide in. However, think about what would happen if changes weren't to exist – wouldn't it be utterly boring going through the same routine year after year?

Life is exciting because of new changes. With change, you have the power to alter

your circumstances and take whatever path you want. For instance, you don't always have to eat vanilla ice cream, you can also try new flavors like strawberry, chocolate, or peanut butter.

Yes, change may be a risk to welcome, but it is almost a necessity, and without it, you will lose out on so many opportunities. Don't be afraid. Be open to new changes – I promise you, it will be worth it.

For the Match and Match Jr., we have welcomed new changes in the past, too – whether it was when we created Match Jr. or changed the size of our publication. We are also welcoming a new change now: my friend Jiayi Zhu, the sweetest person ever, is taking over the Match and Match Jr. and will be the Editor-in-Chief next year!

No matter what kind of changes happen, I know for sure that Jiayi will be here to navigate them and I know that you will be able to navigate them, too.

