

The Match

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PHOTO BY FELIX RATNER

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'The Book Crook' steals the spotlight!

by Sanya Patel

As the school year nears an end, the Pine View high-school theater class has been preparing for its spring performance catered to Pine View's elementary students. But the shows are unlike typical Drama Club performances for a variety of reasons, beginning with the students creating the idea. Class advisor Haley Brown has helped organize the theater class shows for three years.

"So every year, when semester two starts, we have our [final project], which is where we all break off into individual groups and come up with ideas where we create our own original stories... and we present them to the class, and we have a bracket vote system," Brown said.

Once an idea

is chosen, students split off into smaller groups to discuss more specific parts of the show, including prop ideas, sound cues, lighting cues, sets, scriptwriting, etc.

When the directors were asked what made them want to apply for this leadership role, they all had varying answers. Twelfth-grader Allison Layendecker talked about her experience from other shows and how those positions came together to help her as a senior.

"I felt like I got pretty much a full view of what the other positions are supposed to feel like, so I felt like being a director. I would be more well-rounded, knowing what each position already looks like," she said.

Eleventh-grader Alexandra Kahl handles the costumes, sets, and props

backstage.



Twelfth-graders Lynx Florand (bottom left), Addison Stewart (top left), Leo Lenerz (bottom right), and Shannon Hickey (top right) practice their acting during theater class. They will be performing in "The Book Crook" March 22 for the elementary students. PHOTOS BY SANAYA PATEL

Kahl has been involved in other shows at Pine View for a couple of years and has a well-organized system to make sure everything runs smoothly.

"I like backstage. I live backstage. It's just basically all the stuff I have done backstage," Kahl said.

Eleventh-grader Lola Delbridge, the current Technical Director, has also worked on many productions alongside Kahl.

"I wanted to be a technical director because I directed Miss Pine View, and I have also been really into the directing aspect of the film," Delbridge said.

When asked about the show's plot, Layendecker was very enthusiastic.

"It will be about these two librarians; they are the same age as the second graders in the story," Layendecker said. "They will be traveling, following around the Book Crook, who steals books from all the libraries on this island, trying to get back their super special stories."

Twelfth-grader Shannon Hickey plays the Book Crook, the average old-timey villain with a hint of Irish flair.

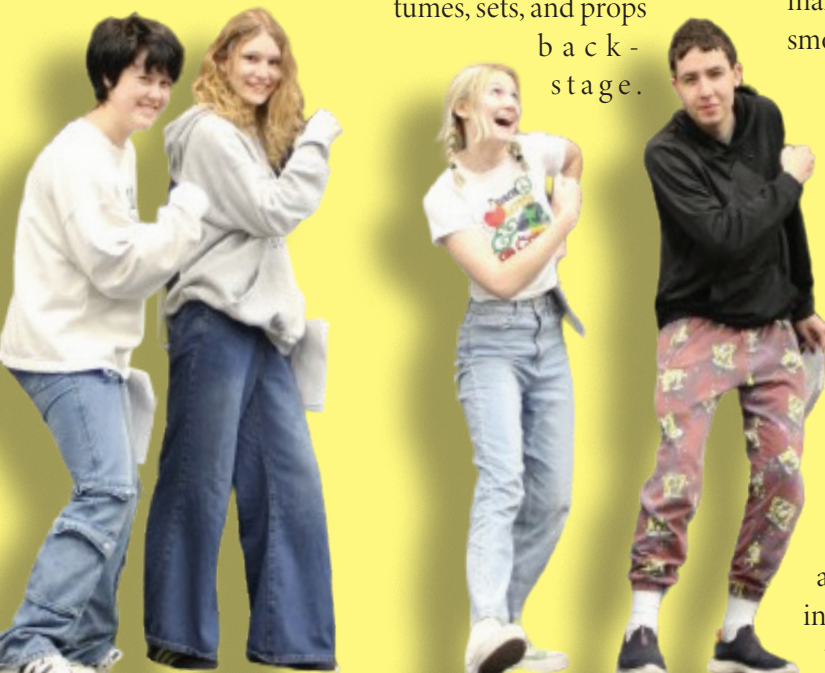
"If I could describe my character in three words, it would be devious, pirate-y, and a thief," Hickey said.

Henchie the Henchman,

played by twelfth-grader Leo Lenerz, claimed that his character was "bumbling, loyal, and a pirate." He is the perfect sidekick for any villain in the making.

Along with the Book Crook and Henchie, there are two librarians Emma and Henry, played by twelfth-graders Addison Stewart and Lynx Florand. The two characters are an adorable duo that, with the help of the audience, works to catch the Book Crook and reverse his wrong-doings.

"The Book Crook" will be performed March 22. The cast and crew involved can't wait to show it off to the elementary students.



Behind the Scenes: Pine View News

by Kai Sprunger

Tucked in a small room in the Media Center, the fifth-graders hurry to take their positions, brimming with anticipation to record the latest Pine View News (PVN) broadcast. With a nod from their faculty sponsor, fifth-grade

fifth-graders on PVN — broadcasters and stagehands alike — arrive at the Media Center around 8:15 a.m. ready to record.

“To prepare, we run about two practice runs and we go through all the scripts and make sure all the tele-

lunch menu for that day. Unlike the rest of the broadcast, which is designed by Wynne, Chef Python writes his own scripts and comes up with his own original skits.

“Well, there’s a lot of pressure having to do a funny skit every day,” fifth-grader Sawyer Haenel, who plays Chef Python, said. “[Friday, January 26], I had ChatGPT come up with a chef Python song and it was amazing.”

While the camera may be fixated on the pledges, broadcasters, advertisers, and Chef Python, much goes on behind the scenes as well. Students operating the TriCaster control everything from the camera views displayed to visual effects to transitions while students monitoring the sound system are in charge of the sound effects. The Canva slides shown on the broadcast and the teleprompter are likewise run by the students.

“It’s fun,” fifth-grader Lyla Ochsen-dorf, who is in charge of the TriCaster, said. “You have to always be paying attention or know when to switch to [different scenes].”

This entire process comes to an end around 8:50 a.m. with the official broadcast being

transmitted to the whole student body at around 9:15 a.m. Several students have much to say about PVN.

“It tells a lot about what’s going on in Pine View,” fifth-grader Jimmy Mick-innes, who watches the announcements each morning, said. “I really like it.”

“I believe [PVN] brings a more cheerful and bright tone to the campus than the [old] announcements because the announcements are so monotone, so dull, so dreary, and no kids will listen to them,” said fifth-grader Samira Addae, who switches between doing advertisements, saying the pledge, and broadcasting.

From this positive feedback, it is clear that the shift from announcements on the intercom to official broadcasts has clearly transformed Pine View and its students. Across these past six months, PVN has grown considerably and will continue to do so in the future.

“It’s been amazing to see it evolve from the first day until now. So I’m really excited for these kids. And I think they’ll remember that forever,” Wynne said.



Fifth-grade teacher Shannon Wynne counts down until fifth-graders anchors Eliana Wasserman (left) and Tori O’Donnell (right) may begin speaking again. The anchors cannot see the time, and have to be guided by Wynne for their cue. PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

teacher Shannon Wynne, the entirety of the room falls silent and the camera begins to roll.

What began with an idea suggested by Wynne in November of 2022 has formed into a thriving network of broadcasters, stagehands, sound systems, and professional video cameras. Although their final products each morning may seem effortless, behind every broadcast are hours of work put in by faculty and students. This process starts with the evening prior to the broadcast — Wynne at her computer.

“Every night, I write the script and I write the commercials for the next day,” Wynne said.

Upon being finished, the broadcast’s script can fully be appreciated the next day. Then, Wynne and the

prompters and Telecaster are working,” fifth-grade broadcaster Tori O’Donnell said. “Then, we make sure everybody has their scripts ready because some people have paper scripts and some people have the online stuff.”

After a few practice rounds, the official broadcast is recorded in one take with no editing. These broadcasts start with the pledge and advertisements for upcoming events and then lead into the daily announcements.

“I just like the responsibility of being able to come here and do this and how fun it is,” said fifth-grader Benjamin Brooks, who has done everything from advertisements to saying the pledge.

After the announcements, Chef Python comes on to introduce the



PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

Birthdays

February and March Events and Birthdays

Mar. 23

Alyssa Adamson's birthday



Excitedly sorting through envelopes of mail, third-grade students work together during the Valentine's Day Post Office Feb. 14. The day-long collaborative event is an annual sensation amongst students. PHOTO BY JAXSON HEID

Apr. 3

Misty Tucak's birthday



As they learn the ropes of various musical instruments, fifth-grade students participate in Wheel Day Feb. 23. Students were able to learn about different middle school electives such as band and choir. PHOTO BY DIYA PANTHULU

IN BRIEF

Elementary STEM Fair

by Jiayi Zhu

Winners were recognized in round 2 of the annual Sarasota County Schools STEM Fair Feb. 22. There were a total of 60 Pine View participants from grades 3 – 5.

STEM Fair Coordinators Ivonne Chaustre and Mackenzie Fox helped coordinate the event. Having the choice between an experiment or engineering project aimed at solving real-life problems, students started working on their original projects in October.

“What I like about the STEM Fair is that not only does it give the kids an opportunity to think beyond what

they're doing in the classroom and to be creative and find different ways to solve the problems, but it also inspires everybody who sees their project...,” Chaustre said.

The district winners included Bennett Lahey (3), Chloe Sparrow (3), Aisha Asif (4), Charlie Van Vliet (5), Max Oboroc (5), Paulina Nensanelis (5), Connor Craig (5), and Paula Cuellar (5).

“The STEM Fair is an amazing project that every single elementary student should consider... it's an amazing way for gifted students to explore the things that they're really interested in,” Chaustre said.

Pine View wins 2023 National Blue-Ribbon Award

by Allie Chung

Pine View School was officially appointed by the US Department of Education as one of the 353 schools to receive the title as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School Nov. 16 – 17.

With Pine View celebrating its 55th anniversary this year, Dr. Covert viewed a 2023 National Blue-Ribbon award as a necessary celebration.

While previous Assistant Principal of Curriculum Tricia Allen was still apart of the Pine View staff, she began the application process and eventually

led Pine View to become a National Blue Ribbon School.

As representatives for Pine View School, Dr. Covert and Assistant Principal Lana Marcotte traveled to D.C. to receive a plaque and a flag which symbolizes the hard work of Pine View students, staff and families.

“Really the award belongs not to me, it belongs to the students, the faculty, the staff, the parents, the whole community of Pine View that went into creating those conditions for success, so congratulations,” Covert said.

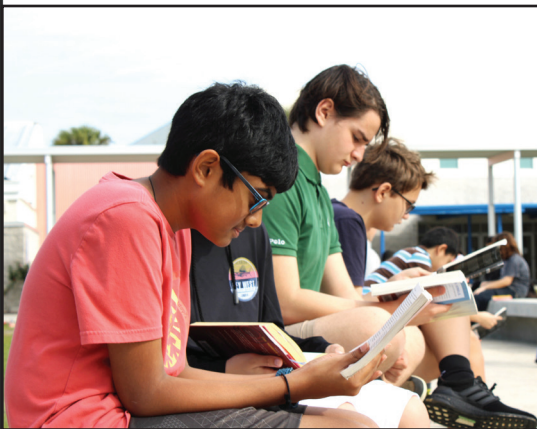
Take a look in a book

by Robyn Schoenberg

This year was the sixteenth annual “Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!” event. For this reason, throughout the week of Jan. 22 to 26, there was a focus on promoting literacy and encouraging Pine View students and families to make reading a daily habit.

This is Pine View’s second year participating in the event. Shannon Wynne, a fifth-grade teacher and Pine View’s Literacy Leadership Chair, shared why she thinks participation is critical.

“Literacy Week is just to make



Elementary school students enjoy a good book in the quad. On January 24, students spent 30-45 minutes in the quad reading. PHOTO BY FELIX RATNER

sure we put a spotlight on how important it is, no matter what age you are, to continue to read, and to continue to read for enjoyment. Not just to learn, learning is wonderful, and we do still read to learn, but we also should continue to read just for fun,” Wynne said.

This year’s theme was “Believe in Your ‘Shelf.” Each day, students did a different activity related to reading and writing.

“We kind of did a lot of the same things we did last year because it went over so well,” Wynne said. “The reading in the quad was one of everybody’s favorite things to do, so we definitely decided that will be a yearly tradition.”

On one day of the week, students gathered out on the quad with a book and read individually. Fifth-grader Zella Snitowsky, for one, participated in the activity.

“It was a nice day out and then we all sat together, it was for about 30 – 45 minutes,” Snitowsky said. “People went over and got in a little group and put a bunch of towels out for friends.”

On other days, students did different activities such as bringing in a photo of them reading by their bookshelf, creating and exchanging bookmarks, and book buddies.

What’s more, fifth-grade students paired up with students in younger classes and read together.

“So, they read us a little fiction book and then they talked to us about the books they were reading in class,” Snitowsky said. “That was really fun because we got to meet a lot of new younger kids.”

Wynne highlighted the fact that Pine View is unique because it contains grades 2 – 12, and that they could all come together.

“I think it’s important for our younger kids to have role models, and what better way than at a school like this?” Wynne said.

Within class lessons, there was also a focus on writing. Students practiced writing skills such as transitions and the different kinds of writing, such as expository and persuasive.



Students continue reading in the library throughout the year. During Literacy week, students were encouraged to read often. PHOTO BY ROBYN SCHOENBERG

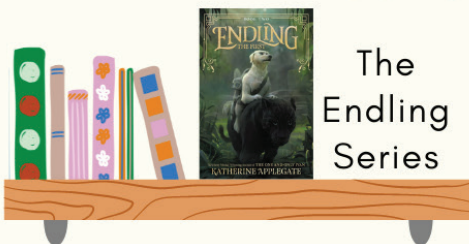
“We were able to write a play. I really enjoyed making mine because it gave me a lot of freedom,” fifth-grader Zara Bermudez said. “My favorite part was just really being able to be creative.”

Wynne detailed how literacy week brought together students across grade levels to enjoy reading.

“Mostly people feel a camaraderie and they feel a sense of community. It’s just a joyous occasion and it’s relaxing, and what better thing to do than read?” she said.

GRAPHIC BY ROBYN SCHOENBERG

Books Students are Loving Right Now



Gordon Korman Books

Flinging in the ring



On the edge of their seats, a full audience watches as Zoe Solovieva performs her jump rope circus act at the Sailor Circus. PHOTO PROVIDED BY INA ASTREIKA

by Alex Lieberman

Flips, tricks, jumps — fourth-grader Zoe Solovieva is a circus performer of two years. She practices at Sailor Circus three times a week.

Solovieva is no stranger to the spotlight. At a typical show, participants have their

makeup and hair done before putting on costumes and performing. Solovieva's favorite circus tricks are performing on the flying trapeze and trampoline. Solovieva particularly enjoys the trapeze.

"It's fun, and it just feels right to do," Solovieva said.

A Rising Musical Star

by Elena Herman

Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodrigo, Harry Styles—certainly, musicians are some of the most influential artists right now. Once upon a time, these celebrities were students just starting their pursuits, much like fifth-grader Paula Cuellar.

Cuellar has been cultivating her music skills since she joined a junior band at six years old. She began studying instruments at different music academies while learning the basics of classical music. In 2020, she started studying the guitar and working to write original music.

"When I first started guitar, and I was trying to figure

out how the strings' sounds collaborated, I found this tune... I took off of it and made my own song," Cuellar said.

Later, Cuellar started taking lessons at the Music Compound and matched with the songwriter and guitar teacher Iain Harris. One of Harris' longest-running students, Cuellar finds that she prefers Harris' unique teaching style to those of her prior teachers.

"We found this teacher, and he provides more freedom for the students... [Harris] is amazing and his teaching is really, really good, and he's fun, and when you learn something in a fun way you can do really beautiful and great

The trapeze is a bar hung with ropes or chains that performers hold onto or dangle from during an act. Indeed, Solovieva is "next to the roof" when she practices on the flying trapeze. Additionally, Solovieva is currently focused on learning a new skill.

"It's a full twist in the air while you're doing a backflip... I've gotten almost to [do] it," she said.

Ryan Weston is Solovieva's circus coach; he has been working with her privately and as part of a group for a little over a year. Specifically, Weston teaches Solovieva on

the trampoline and in acrobatics. Solovieva performs at Gold Troupe Sailor Circus Shows with Weston.

"[Solovieva] is a very talented kid. She's very athletic," Weston said.

For Solovieva, circus is more than a casual hobby or weeknight activity.

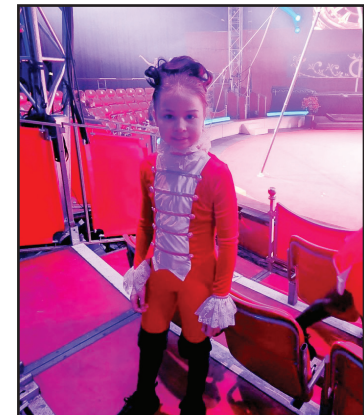
"[It's] encouraged me to try new things and really put me out there," Solovieva said.

Ina Astreika, Solovieva's mother, reflected on what circus has taught Solovieva about not only performing, but also skills to use in the future.

"Circus is truly a unique

sport without medals and competition but rather about compassion and self-growth," Astreika said.

Before a performance, Zoe Solovieva poses in her costume. PHOTO PROVIDED BY INA ASTREIKA



things," Diana Cuellar, Cuellar's mother, said.

In their time together, Cuellar has written one original song and further developed her guitar skills. Harris thinks highly of Cuellar's musical ability.

"The first time I met her... she'd written kind of instrumental guitar pieces at eight years old, which I think is brilliant," Harris said.

Indeed, for the past three years, Cuellar has blossomed her talent, and frequently plays in the Music Compound's monthly concerts. She even played her original

song, "Never Ending Abyss," in a concert last year. She described how playing her own music feels.

"It definitely feels like you are original and

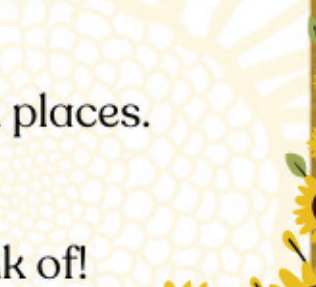
me," Cuellar said.

While Iain Harris watches with a smile, Paula Cuellar performs at the Music Compound. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DIANA CUELLAR





Blossoming Kindness

- Holding the door open for someone
 - Asking your teacher if they need any help
 - Checking in on someone having a rough day
 - Giving someone a compliment
 - Delivering treats to firemen
 - Offering food to the homeless
 - Including someone that's left out
 - Paying for the person behind you/starting a pay-it-forward line.
 - Smiling at people
 - Leaving pennies face up in places.
 - Donating old clothes
 - Anything else you can think of!
- 

Random Act



Be K

All it takes is one random act of kindness
can be as easy as opening the door
and complete one random act of kindness
impact you

Match tries four square

by Terry Shen

Four square: an unforgettable game at recess. Four square is an activity with a blend of quick thinking, alliances, trickery, and more. The Match staff decided to revisit this childhood game – but with a twist. The regular version of four square offers an exciting game, but variations can make the game more fun.

First, to get warmed up, the Match staff, comprised of Editor-in-Chief Jiayi Zhu, Asst. Editor-in-Chief Elena Herman, Asst. Editor-in-Chief Ava Lenerz, and Layout Artist Ana Easter, started out with standard four-square rules. We referred to the squares in order of power by King, Queen, Rich, and Poor. It had been a long time since we had played, and we spent a good amount of time readjusting to the standard version.

Without further ado, let's take a look at the different variations and our experiences!

Cherry Bomb:

In this variation, a player slams the ball

into another player's square. The "victim" has 10 seconds to retrieve the ball and return to the square or else they are out. First up was Lenerz, who cherry bombed Easter. The ball flew over the fence, forcing Easter to run. Unfortunately for her, she did not return before the clock hit zero.

"I think some regulations should be in place... In Cherry Bomb, the ball can't go over the fence," Easter said.

Easter was not the only one who felt this way, as the Match collectively decided that Cherry Bomb, out of all the variations we played, was one of the least enjoyable

Spinball:

After Cherry Bomb, we moved onto Spinball, in which each player must spin in a circle after throwing the ball.

Overall, this one led to some dizziness. It also led to new tactics, such as hitting the ball in the square of a player who was still in the midst of spinning.

Flamingo:

Another variation we tried was Flamingo, where the King chooses a leg for everyone

"I wasn't a fan of Flamingo," Easter said. "I'm not very coordinated."

Snake Eyes:

Players must be sly as a snake, looking at one player while throwing the ball in a completely different player's direction. This one led to a lot of surprised reactions since many players weren't anticipating the ball.

Story Time:

Players sit in the middle of the square while the King designates a code word. The King then tells a story with the code word embedded somewhere within the story. All players must put their hand on the ball once the King says the code word, and the last player to do so moves to poor.

This one was well received since it involved sitting down.

"Story time was definitely a break from the monotony of playing sports," Herman said.

Bubbles:

In this variation, players are allowed to hit the ball up as many times

square. Herman, after tossing the ball up a few times, got hit in the face by the ball.

"Bubbles was a bit of a dangerous one," Lenerz said.

With all the variations tried, the Match staffers reflected on the experience.

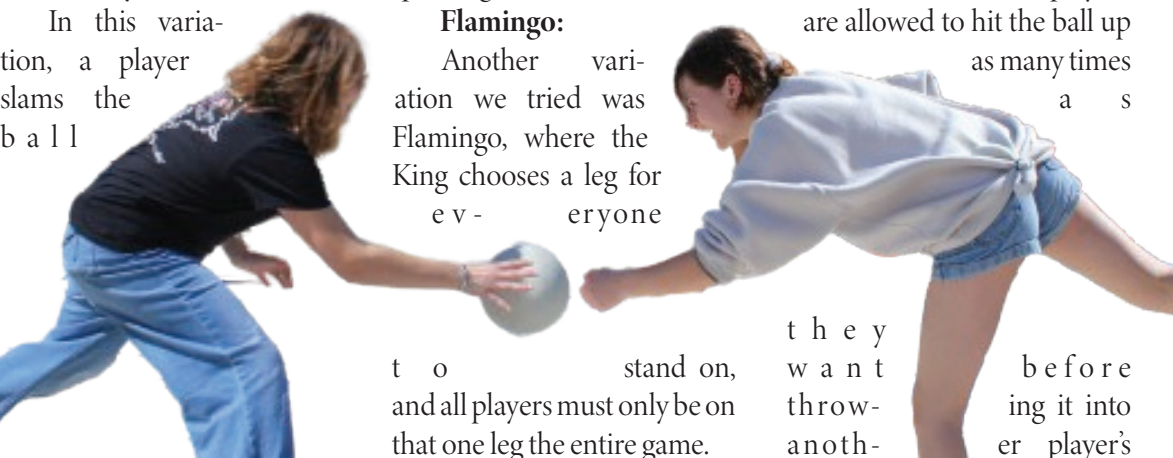
"It was really nice to do something I haven't done in a while," Zhu said. "But I think my rustiness really

showed."

Four square is a fun game, and variations can add to the experience. Remember, there are many different versions that go beyond the ones that we played. Creating your own variations can lead to a fun and new way to enjoy time with your friends.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHIC BY TERRY SHEN

Four-Square Variation Ratings			
These were an average of 4 Match staffers' thoughts with 1 "Match" being the least enjoyable to 5 "Matches" being the most enjoyable.			
Original	3.75		
Snake Eyes	2.5		
Flamingo	2		
Spinball	4.25		
Bubbles	3		
Cherry Bomb	2		
Story Time	3.75		



to stand on, and all players must only be on that one leg the entire game.

they want to throw it into another player's

Intense Defense

by **Melissa White**

Some enjoy playing piano, some like doing ballet, but as for fifth-grader Aleksandra Tsetsulin, her passion is Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ). Labeled by those who have done the sport as one of “the hardest martial arts ever,” Tsetsulin seems to have breezed through it. She began when she was around five and a half.

“Kids were bullying me sometimes,” Tsetsulin said. “People kind of steal your stuff sometimes when you’re five.”

When she told her parents about it, they started taking her to jiu jitsu classes to learn how to defend herself.

“My husband recom-

mended introducing her to this martial art. [She] ended up really enjoying it. She actually excelled at it—grasping new concepts, following it through, being agile,” Katrina Tsetsulin, Tsetsulin’s mother, said.

BJJ is a grappling martial art made for control of others, no matter your size, strength, and aggression. Most moves are done closer to the ground. Unlike karate or other common martial arts, it doesn’t involve kicking, so it is much safer.

Kids under 16 have a different ranking than those 16 and up. They start with a white belt and progress to a

gray-white belt. Next, the belt becomes a solid color, and then gains a black stripe. The process then repeats as they move up into yellow, orange, and then finally, green belt.

Currently, Tsetsulin is a yellow-white belt, as she practices BJJ at Fellowship Jiu-Jitsu Sarasota. She goes Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays after school.

“I’m at the top of the class, so I beat everyone,” Tsetsulin said. “[I only faced difficulties] when I was a gray-white belt and I was battling a gray belt. That’s one belt higher.”

She won silver in her first tournament at COPA America, a grappling championship,



Hugging her dog, Aleksandra Tsetsulin smiles for a photo in her BJJ uniform. PHOTO PROVIDED BY KATRINA TSETSULIN

Tsetsulin’s hard work doesn’t go to waste; Katrina Tsetsulin believes martial arts has been a positive force in her daughter’s life.

“[I] strongly believe that BJJ helped her feel better about herself, becoming physically stronger, and [helped her] learn how to set goals,” Katrina Tsetsulin said. “BJJ [created] a sense of community for her, [and] allowed her to form friendships with like-minded kids.”

in 2020. Then, at Newbreed and Freestyle Grapplerz competitions, she won gold and silver on several occasions. “It’s fun, it’s my hobby,” said Tsetsulin, “[but] I really don’t like waking up at six o’ clock, I usually fall asleep when I’m battling someone.”

Cool Under Pressure

by **Sivan Levy**

Ice hockey isn’t the first sport that comes to mind when thinking of a state known for its tropical weather and beaches. However, fourth-grader Weijun Xu shows that it’s not just for Florida’s northern neighbors.

Xu started playing hockey after seeing some of his classmates playing, and began his journey two years ago.

“I can shoot, which is fun, and skating, which feels good,” Xu said.

Xu has traveled to Fargo, North Dakota and Nashville, Tennessee for tournaments.



Holding his puck, Weijun Xu poses for a photo. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BAOKE XU

Xu mentioned that he has had to make sacrifices in order to continue playing competitive hockey. He tries to prac-

tice every morning as well as Monday and Thursday evenings, which takes up a lot of his time.

Baoke Xu, Weijun’s father, mentioned that Xu was the first in his family to participate in this sport.

“We come from China. We brought Weijun to the USA when he was two years old. So, I had no idea [about hockey]...we started looking at [hockey and thought], ‘Oh this is really good.’ I mean, it was a really good game, you know. I really liked it,” Baoke Xu said.

Baoke Xu also spoke about the sacrifices made for

Xu to continue his passion.

“It’s a lot... We almost have no weekend. So, Saturday, 100% we are on the ice rink. And Sunday, right now, I’m trying to let them [Weijun and his brother, who is also a competitive sports player] rest.”

He hopes to continue this journey throughout high school and college after pouring in hours and traveling across the country in order to pursue his passion. His journey shows just

where hard work, dedication, and commitment can get somebody.



Why does the Earth rotate?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by Jack Burville



PHOTO BY AVA LENERZ

by Ava Lenerz

In the brisk summer breeze off the coast of Maine, I looked out the window and saw a dock. The dock was filled with the laughter of children and adults as they splashed around during all hours of the day.

I saw the drop from the dock into the water was only three feet, which is manageable for my fear of heights.

However, by the time I had the courage to leap into the frigid water, it had become a drop

of 10 feet.

Alas, that was my limit. I guess I would have to try again later.

Why did the water level continuously change throughout the day? Well, the short answer is tides, but what causes tides? In short, it's all due to the Earth's rotation, the moon, and gravity.

Tides exist due to the gravitational pull of the Earth by the moon. They change from high to low because, as stated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "As the Earth spins, different areas of the planet face the moon, and this rotation causes the tides to cycle around the planet."

One could go into much more detail about the tides, but now we've come to our main question: Why does the Earth rotate?

The rotation of planets began when the solar system was formed. According to Cool Cosmos, a site run by the California Institute of Technology, "a huge cloud of gas and dust started to collapse under its own gravity. As the cloud collapsed, it

started to spin." Then, some material in the cloud began to spin on its own, which formed planets that continued to rotate (spin) since there was no force to stop them.

The rotation of the Earth occurs around an axis, which is an invisible line. Essentially, it's as if a line went through the center of a merry-go-round in which the horses are spinning around. Earth's axis is tilted at an angle of 23.4 degrees.

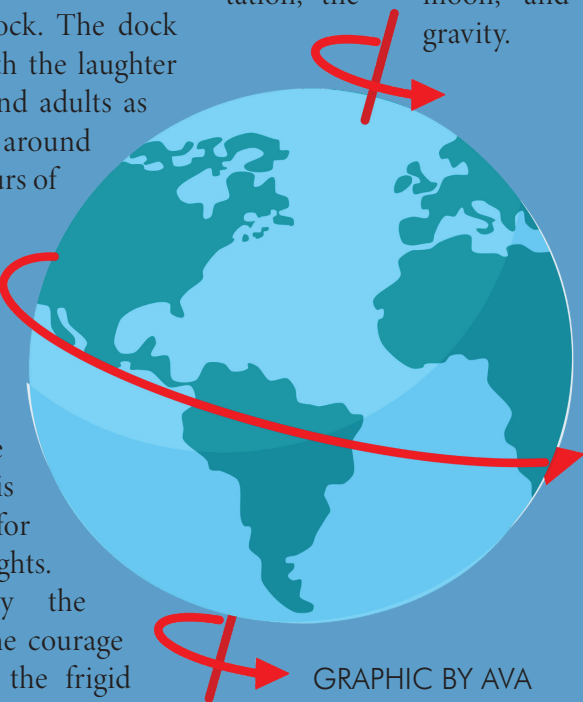
Earth's rotation around its axis causes processes such as day and night and, as previously stated, the tides. Day and night occur because as the Earth rotates, it faces us toward the Sun for about 12 hours and away from the Sun for about 12 hours.

Be careful not to confuse the Earth's rotation with its revolution. While rotation

involves spinning around an axis, a revolution involves the Earth going around the Sun on an orbit (but that's a discussion for another time).

For the most part, it is hard to tell that we are rotating because everything moves at a constant speed. However, one way to physically see Earth's rotation is to watch a time lapse video of the stars at night. It appears they are moving around Earth, and this is due to Earth's rotation.

Maybe next summer, when the Earth's rotation causes us to face the moon (high tide), I'll go for the jump.



GRAPHIC BY AVA LENERZ



What age should you get a cell phone?

Delving into the pros and cons of cell phone usage

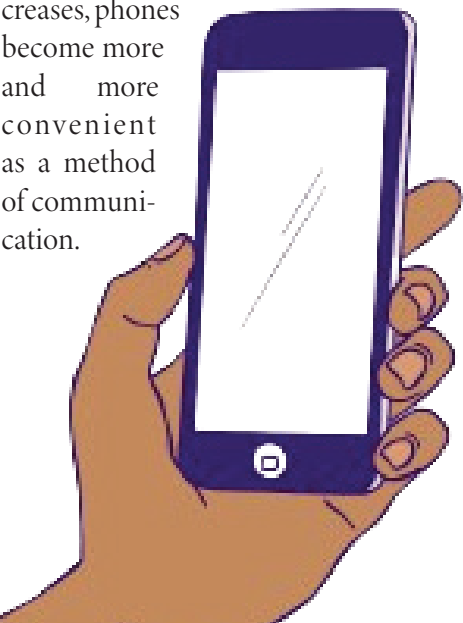
by Ana Easter

Looking around Pine View campus after school, it is buzzing with technology. It seems like everyone has a phone. There are kids younger than you, using their phones to play games, call their parents and text with friends. But when is the right age to get a cell phone?

In this digital age, cell phones have become a normal feature in the daily lives of kids everywhere. There are many advantages that come with having a cell phone. Phones provide the means to communicate with almost anyone, provide a source of entertainment, and can improve responsibility.

According to Common Sense Media, about 42 percent of kids have a phone at the age of 10; this number only increases with age, with 71 percent of children having a phone at the age of 12. As age in-

creases, phones become more and more convenient as a method of communication.



“I think a kid should get a phone at age 10 because it’s right before they get into middle school. In middle school, their school may be far from their house, and they might be joining clubs, so they need a way to contact their parents,” fifth-grader Lexi Backo said.

The time at which children should get phones should not be solely based on age. A person’s level of responsibility also plays a big role in this decision. Phones grant children a lot of freedom, but there is the possibility of this being overused. Phones have proven to be a large distraction for children, and there are also risks of cheating and privacy concerns that come with cell phone use.

“I think kids should get a phone around the age of 13 because kids can do inappropriate stuff on their phones and cheat on tests, and they can do secret stuff behind their parents’ backs. If someone is really responsible they can get a phone earlier at age 10 or 11, but if they’re not as responsible they should get one later when they’re older,” fifth-grader Adel Pekker said.

Although it may seem like everybody has a phone, it is important to consider the risks and benefits associated with phone usage amongst kids. While phones provide more freedom, cell phones should also be used responsibly and in moderation.

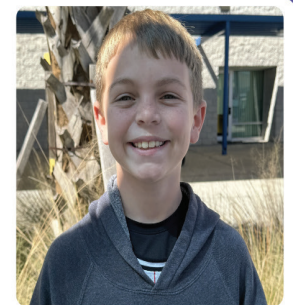
GRAPHICS BY ANA EASTER AND
JIAYI ZHU

Student Voices

What age is appropriate to get a phone?

“I think a kid should get a phone when they start school because they have to know how they’re getting home and if they [take] bus or car and they can’t always call the office.”

6



Lincoln Guy, fifth-grade

“I think a kid should get a phone between fifth grade and sixth grade because at that age, a lot of classes start using phones, and you don’t want to feel left out.”

11



Rani Grewal, fifth-grade

“I think 9 or 10 is the appropriate age because that’s when you start being left alone more, and sent off to places like the store, and if you get lost you need a way to call your parents.”

9



Ian Chambers, fifth-grade

Teaching Swiftly

by Ava Lenerz and Sora Fancher

In a classroom that looked like it was straight out of the Eras tour, Melody Elliott's fourth-grade class was getting ready for another typical day of learning...or, at least, attempting to.

Elliott is not just a teacher, but also a proud Swiftie, and her classroom is a true testament to her undying admiration for Taylor Swift.

As Elliott went to bed the previous night, she wished that she could go see Taylor in

concert. The next morning when she awoke, she wasn't in her house anymore. She was startled, but immedi-

ately recognized where she was—in none other than Taylor Swift's house. She was shocked and had no idea how it happened. Still, she was excited to meet Taylor.

She looked around the house but couldn't find Taylor anywhere! Suddenly, when Taylor's phone began to ring, Elliott picked it up right away.

Through the speaker, a beautiful voice said "Hi, this is Taylor Swift, I'm not sure where I

am, but I need to get back to my house. This is wilder than my "Wildest Dreams!"

View School, could you go teach my class today?" Elliott replied.

"I'll be there, and good luck tonight!" Swift wished.

When Taylor arrived at Pine View, the students were in awe of her presence. That day, students may not have learned much, but they sang a lot and had

a good time. And that night, Elliott sung her heart out on stage for an adoring audience.

The next day when Elliott and Swift switched back, Swift thanked Elliott for her great performance and commented on her Swift-themed classroom decorations. Once they shook off the events of the day, they said their goodbyes.

Elliott was so thankful for this opportunity, then suddenly she woke up. Turns out it was all a dream!

"Hi, it's me, to start! It is such an honor to talk to you. I'm not sure what happened either, all I know is that I woke up here," Elliott said.

"I already called my manager, and they said they can't swap us back until tomorrow, but I have a concert tonight!" Swift exclaimed. "What's your singing ability like?"

"You want me to perform in place of you!?" Elliott said.

"I don't see any other way, is there anything you need me to do here?" Swift asked.

"I'm a teacher at Pine



GRAPHIC BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS



GRAPHIC BY SORA FANCHER



GRAPHIC BY ALEX LIEBERMAN

'Leap'ing into disaster

by Lindsay Luberecki

6:30 AM
Ah, another beautiful day. The first day of my favorite month: March! I headed downstairs for breakfast, and my mom said, "Happy leap day!" I rolled my eyes, gave her a halfhearted jump, and sat down. It wasn't worth questioning.

8:00 AM
Before I left for school, I glanced at my computer, and I saw something strange: 2/29/24. I panicked before realizing that it was definitely my sister playing a trick on me by changing my clock. I mean, we all know there's no such thing as February 29.

You see, I am a very busy fourth-grader. It seems like every day, new tasks appear. When your schedule is as demanding as mine, you've got to do something. My solution? Schedule everything for February 29. It doesn't exist, so what's the harm? And everyone else seems so gullible that they believe it, somehow.

10:00 AM
I got to school, ready for another normal day, when suddenly six different people came up to me. "You're coming to my house today, right?" "Did you buy the tickets for our movie?" "You ready to work on our book reports?" I stared at everyone, waiting

for them to realize that I had played them all along. Today was March 1! Until it wasn't.

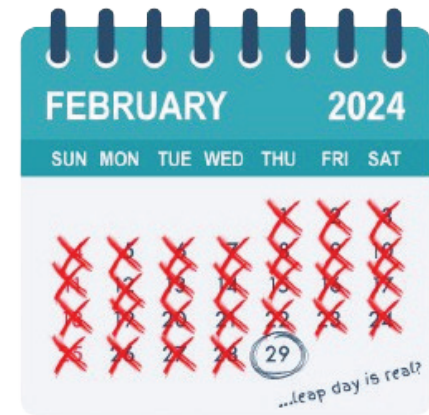
I walked into class and froze as I looked at the board. "Happy Leap Day! Feb. 29, 2024." I realized that the answer wasn't that everyone was wrong. It was that I was.

12:00 PM
This entire day has been a nightmare. People keep asking me things, and I knew I would need a 50-hour day to finish everything I had said I would do today.

4:00 PM
I ran out of school as quickly as possible when the day was over, hoping to avoid every responsibility. But as

soon as I got home, I was met with another problem.

4:30 PM
"Welcome home!" my mom said. There she stood, with 3 laundry baskets, a broom, and the vacuum. I spun around and ran out the door, but I saw my dad, smiling, holding the lawnmower. I stood with my head hung, and had no choice but to get started on chores. As I began sweeping, my mom said, "Don't forget! Doctor's appointment



and dentist appointment in 5 minutes!" Wait...how is that going to work?

10:00 PM
Even though I didn't come anywhere close to finishing everything I said I would do today, I made some progress. More importantly, I learned a lesson: Leap Day does exist, so don't use it as an excuse to avoid responsibilities. Please

Yours truly, *Lee P. Dayz*

GRAPHIC BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI

WHICH PINE VIEW TEACHER ARE YOU?

FAVORITE RAINY DAY ACTIVITY?

- A) SNUGGLE UNDER A BLANKET
- B) GO HIKING
- C) GO TO THE MOVIES

FAVORITE COLOR COMBINATION?

- A) PINK AND BLUE
- B) BLUE AND GREEN
- C) GLITTER AND MORE GLITTER

FAVORITE SPORT?

- A) ROWING
- B) HIKING
- C) BASKETBALL

IF YOU PICKED MOSTLY...

- A - MRS. DELANEY
- B - MR. MARON
- C - MRS. LENERZ



GRAPHIC BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS

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[a column]

Unleashing creativity



Jiayi Zhu,
Match Editor-in-Chief

Flying broomsticks. Impossible technology. Unimaginable creatures.

For as long as I can remember, creativity has always encircled my life and identity. Whether it was making up silly stories with my vocabulary words or doodling on my assignments, tapping into my imagination was like traveling to another world, just for a second.

The truth is, there's creativity in everyone. Sometimes, creativity is as simple as taking a single step in a different direction, or making the leap without fully knowing your destination yet. Finding the courage to unleash your creativity leads to a widened viewpoint of the world and experiences gained.

Creativity brings people together, like in the Variety Show, Valentine's Day Post Office, or the Hovercraft Project. It creates opportuni-

ties, such as submitting your writing or artwork to a local contest. Creativity is also linear to productivity — it helps us solve problems and work smarter, not harder (and who doesn't love doing that?).

You're not always going to want to put yourself out there. One thing I try to remember, though, is this: What is there to lose, and isn't there so much more to gain?

Being creative has helped me in countless ways throughout my life. Finding creative outlets has allowed me to express myself and find confidence in what I do. This column, for one, is a creative outlet that I'm grateful for. Plus, thinking creatively helps me overcome obstacles and allows me to learn skills that were once completely unknown to me.

Life without creativity is stagnation. What would life be like if the Wright brothers had never invented the airplane? Or if Van Gogh gave up painting before he created the "Starry Night"? More importantly, what would life be like if you never took a creative leap?

If there's one thing you take away from this column, keep this in mind: if you open up your mind through creativity, possibilities can become beautifully endless.