



Pine Views

SEPTEMBER 2023

Published by the PINE VIEW ASSOCIATION

About Pine Views

Pine Views is the official newsletter of the Pine View Association. Five issues will be published each school year. The issues will be mailed to our current families and be available in the Pine View front office. The issues are also available online at www.yourpva.org under the Pine Views tab. To become a PVA Member, which is free and open to all Pine View parents and guardians, go to www.yourpva.org and click on “Join Today.”

Publication Schedule 2023-24

First Quarter: September 22

Second Quarter: November 10

Third Quarter: February 9

Fourth Quarter: April 12

Year-End: June 14

Students, faculty, staff and parents are encouraged to submit articles and photos. **Photos must be high resolution JPEGs or PDFs. Flyers and all other submissions should be high resolution PDFs and all names and grades of students must be submitted with photographs. All submissions are due one month before publication.**

Please submit articles/photos to
[**pineviews@yourpva.org**](mailto:pineviews@yourpva.org)

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In This Issue

Parent to Parent	3
Principal’s Perspective	5
Editor’s Note.....	7
About PVA.....	8
Meet Your PVA Board Members.....	9
Get Involved With Your PVA.....	19
News from the Board Room.....	23
PVA Donor Spotlight	26
Pine View’s Alumni Teachers.....	27
Student Assistance Program.....	38
Pine View Information.....	41
If You Need.....	43

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Dr. Manav Malik

Ben Turoff

Paige Sampson Wyant



Welcome back to school! We hope that the first few weeks of school were magical for all of your children!

For those of you who are new to Pine View family, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Puja Dhanraj and I am a proud Pine View parent and alumna (Class of 1998). My husband Chris and I have two children, Alexander and Annabelle, who are both students at Pine View in 8th grade and 5th grade, respectively.

Over the past number of weeks at the back to school events, many of you have heard about PVA's mission as a 501(c)(3) non-profit to enhance and enrich Pine View students' school experience by supporting the school's academic, social, fine arts and technology objectives. We categorize the way we support school initiatives into three different buckets: Academic Support & Partnerships, College & Career Counseling and Community & Culture Building.

During this 2023 - 2024 school year, we have already provided faculty and staff with meals before the Open Houses, partnered with an anonymous donor to bring speakers to Pine View to discuss the "Truth About College Admission" and hosted a number of new parent coffees. While PVA plans to continue to support all three of the aforementioned buckets, we are excited to further expand our focus on Community & Culture Building in this school year.

Pine View is truly a family. When I first came back to campus in 2020, it was like coming home. This year at PVA, our theme will be connections: connecting students with students, connecting parents with parents and reconnecting with Alumni and the community. We've listened to parents' feedback and already have some incredible parent volunteers that have started efforts to bring the various grades and the Pine View family together. PVA wants to help you continue these efforts to build upon those connections. We have a number of ways we are planning to do this by creating "grade-specific" parent email groups to help you organize get-togethers specific to your child's grade outside of school hours. We are going to be organizing casual parent and Alumni meet-ups, the first of which will be held on September 23, so please join us! We also have plans to create a "Community Service" committee under PVA, so that we are all able to give back to our amazing community.

In the spirit of connection, please take a look at pages 9-18 of this magazine to get to know a little more about the people on your PVA Board. Additionally, if you are interested in volunteering for one of our committees, please take a look at pages 19-22 to see descriptions of all of the PVA committees - feel free to reach out to the respective Chairs directly if you are interested in volunteering!

We hope you are as excited as all of us are for the 2023 - 2024 school year and we look forward to connecting with many of you this year to continue Pine View's tradition of excellence!

Warmest regards,
Puja Dhanraj



Dr. Elena



Dr. M&M

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Principal's Perspective

September 2023



Dear Pine View School Parents, Students, and Friends:

Happy 2023-2024! We had an amazing opening of the school year, and the first weeks were fantastic! We hosted our new-to-Pine View Parent “coffees” sponsored by PVA, and we are so excited to have welcomed our new families to the Pine View *tradition of excellence*. Thank you to all the parents who attended our Meet the Teacher events, the Open House Night, as well as the PVA-sponsored College Night! We were excited to welcome nationally recognized speakers and authors, Brennan Barnard and Rick Clark (*The Truth about College Admission: A Family Guide to Getting In and Staying Together*) for an information night for parents of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. They also shared insights and wisdom with our high school students during the day. Thank you to PVA and an anonymous donor for sponsoring this event- *another example of our parents and community going the extra degree for our students!*

Also at the start of the year, I met with each class in the Ken Bowermeister Auditorium to share with all students a positive message about the 212 degree philosophy, our ethos that gifts are for sharing, and a brief motivational video. It was such a wonderful opportunity to have each of our amazing classes together in the Auditorium, and our students continue to impress us with their attentiveness and deportment. Teachers also have been reviewing positive expectations in classes, and each grade level assistant principal has reviewed the overall Student Code of Conduct with classes- please, review it with your son/daughter and reinforce those positive behavioral expectations at home. Of particular importance this year are the sections on social media, Tik Tok, use of cellular devices, zero tolerance infractions, and the section on the appropriate use of Large Language Models (LLM) and artificial intelligence (AI) which was added this year. Our School Resource Officer, Officer Eugene Williams, also wants to remind student and parent drivers that we need to follow the 15-mph speed limit during the drop-off/pick-up times on Old Venice Road, and as always, the speed limit is 5-mph on campus at all times. Please, allow for a few extra minutes if you need to visit campus as it takes time to sign-in and go through the safety Raptor System. We take the safety and security of everyone on campus seriously, and are beginning our required drills of all types, and will communicate with families as we conduct those.

Congratulations to the entire Pine View School community for recently being ranked as the #6 Magnet School in the entire United States, and the #13 high school overall! These incredible achievements only serve to reinforce the high-quality instruction our students receive by our amazing faculty, and the support they receive from our parents and PVA! Our students’ achievements in this qualitatively different learning environment for gifted students is part of the uniqueness of Pine View, and we thank our entire community for their support in making this possible. Rankings do go up and they go down, and there are multiple outside organizations, in addition to the Florida Department of Education, who issue state and national rankings- all using different metrics which change year-to-year. Nonetheless, it is a public affirmation of the amazing work done in each of our classrooms and we appreciate our special community of learners! We look forward to a special announcement in September, as well... *we are not supposed to make any official announcements yet, but I promise it will be very special, and another recognition of the hard work by our students, teachers, and parents in continuing our tradition of excellence!*

After a few delays, in the coming months, we will also be working toward putting AstroTurf on the elementary playground! This is a significant investment by parents and PVA into the infrastructure of our campus for our students and we are excited to see our elementary students play on a new and wonderful surface. We also were able to open a brand-new elementary playground this fall, two new computer labs, a TV studio, a renovated engineering space, and new carpet and paint for Building 16!

We appreciate all the positive support from the Pine View School parents and our community, and look forward to another great year! *Go, Pythons!*

Stephen P. Covert, Ph.D.
Principal

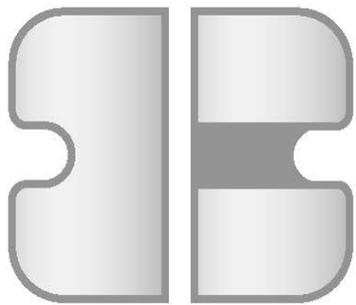
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Editor's Note

If you're reading this, thank you, and congratulations. *Pine Views* is our quarterly magazine, and you're about to learn more about the amazing school that our kids attend. Here, we'll give you a quick rundown of the magazine's regular features and how they can be useful to you.

Parent to Parent is a column – more a letter, really - written by PVA's president (currently Puja Dhanraj, also an alumna!). The article will tell you about happenings at school and PVA's plans – like the Community Building program, intended to build bonds and camaraderie at the class level.

Principal's Perspective is Dr. Covert's rundown of Pine View's achievements and what's going both in and beyond the classrooms, everything from testing news to policy changes to renovation and construction plans, and more – and always with his trademark positivity.

SAP Corner is a recurring article from Pine View's Student Assistance Program counselor, Sarah Workman, telling you about services available to help your student deal with academic and social stresses and providing tips and techniques you can use at home.

From the Board Room is a rundown of what PVA did at its most recent meeting(s), just our way of being transparent and keeping you informed.

Pine View Info and **If You Need..** are listings of who does what at Pine View and how to reach the person who handles whatever you're trying to accomplish.

As this is the first issue of the year, our PVA Teacher Representatives haven't yet had time to compile what's been happening, but usually the magazine will include the **Elementary, Middle** and **High School Reports**. They're a great way to see what sorts of innovative lessons our teachers create for the kids – and see what you have to look forward to. And you may even see your student in a photo.

But the first issue is a great time to introduce you to your PVA representatives, and so in this issue you'll find brief **Board Bios** of the reps for each school division. They're people you can contact with ideas, questions and (what we like best) offers to jump in and volunteer.

We've also included a list of all the **PVA Committees** and what they do, which shows you all the ways PVA contributes to Pine View. Read through the listing, and you may find the volunteer opportunity that speaks to you! (Including helping write and edit this very magazine...)

As the year goes on, expect stories and photos that give you the full picture of Pine View, from club activities to award-winning students to our annual rundown on college admissions. Enjoy!

Dave Gulliver
Pine Views Editor



About PVA

Pine View Association (PVA) Mission Statement

The Pine View Association is Pine View's own organization of parents, teachers, staff and friends.

The Pine View Association, working with the Pine View community, supports and advances the excellence of Pine View School.

The PVA encourages volunteerism, raises and disburses funds, promotes communication and cooperation with the school, provides input to the school on issues of concern to parents and supports gifted advocacy issues on a local and statewide basis.

PVA Committees & Chairs

Annual Sponsors:

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jaimeh@yourpva.org



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!



Puja Dhanraj
Board Member - Elementary School
PVA President
pujadhanraj@yourpva.org

What is your connection to PV?

As I mentioned, I am a PV alumna and started in 4th grade at the old campus - we moved to the current campus when I was in 8th grade. My husband Chris and I have two children, Alexander and Annabelle, who are both students at Pine View in 8th grade and 5th grade, respectively. Since Pine View has given me so many wonderful memories, I am absolutely thrilled that our kids now have the opportunity to experience the magic of Pine View for themselves!

How did you end up in Sarasota?

I was born in Sarasota and my parents have lived here for 40+ years, so I am a native Floridian! I graduated from Pine View (Class of 1998) and headed to the Northeast for college and graduate school. After many years of studying, working and living in Philadelphia, New York and Westport, CT, my family and I moved back to Sarasota in 2020.

Why did you get involved with PVA and what is your role?

I have always been very involved in my kids' schools and currently serve as President of the PVA Board. My nine years at Pine View were some of the best years of my life and the school is incredibly special to me. I know that many of the opportunities I have had, I owe in large part to my Pine View education. Ultimately, I got involved with the PVA to help give back to the school that I feel has given so much to me.



Silke Cuff
Board Member - Elementary School
PVA VP of Sponsorship
silkec@yourpva.org

What's your connection to Pine View?

I have a daughter in 4th grade and a son in 6th grade. They both started at Pine View as second graders and we have loved our elementary school experience. The teachers go above and beyond to help the students find their passions and to make them look at learning in a different light.

How did you end up in Sarasota?

I met my husband just before he moved to Sarasota in 2007. I moved here in 2010, and our kids were born here. We couldn't imagine raising them anywhere else.

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

I became involved with my kids' schools when they were in preschool and had different levels of involvement. I started volunteering in the office two years ago, and it made me feel more connected to the school. I was asked to chair Peramathon 2022, and that's how my journey to the PVA Board began.



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!

What do you like most about Pine View?

I like seeing the kids become independent in the first weeks of second grade. They take ownership of finding their way around campus, ownership in the classroom, and then it begins to translate into their schoolwork. I think each student gets there at their own pace, but the teachers are so encouraging. With time, the kids become exactly who they are meant to be as students and people. Jumping over challenging hurdles to get there is part of the experience and makes each student stronger.



Debbi Wolfinger
Board Member - High School
PVA VP of Communications
Membership Committee Chair
debbiw@yourpva.org

What's your connection to Pine View?

I have an 11th grader, Brooke, and an 8th grader, Tyler, attending Pine View. My introduction to Pine View was 27 years ago when my husband Scott started teaching here. So before even having my kids enrolled, I was able to understand the Pine View culture where I have met so many wonderful students and families.

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

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Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!

I was approached to join the PVA. I have been on the board for five years now. I am on the executive board as VP of Communications. My goal is to help keep families informed and connected. I am proud to serve as a PVA member.

What do you like most about Pine View?

Pine View School is truly unique and the fact that it is the right fit for both of my children and my husband is so special. All the Wolfingers bleed Blue and Gold– Go Pythons!



Gretchen Lovewell
Board Member - Middle School
PVA Treasurer
Finance Committee Chair
gretchenl@yourpva.org

What’s your connection to Pine View?

Our eighth grader, Raleigh started PV in third grade. We were previously at Bay Haven Elementary. Raleigh’s first and second grade teachers were Pine View parents and encouraged us to make the move. We’re so happy we listened and are grateful to be part of the Pine View community!

How did you end up in Sarasota?

As a child in Michigan, we used to vacation to the area and began coming here for various field projects in 2002. We moved to Sarasota in 2009 when I took a job at Mote Marine Laboratory as a staff scientist to run their Stranding Investigations Program.

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

I came onto the board when Raleigh was in 5th grade. With middle school approaching, I wanted a way to stay more involved with the school and have been serving as the funding request chair since May 2020 and treasurer since February 2023.

What do you like most about Pine View?

I love the sense of community. Having a public resource like Pine View available that meets the needs of these exceptional learners and celebrates them is amazing.



Dave Gulliver
Board Member - High School
PVA Secretary
Governance Committee Chair
***Pine Views* Editor**
daveg@yourpva.org

What’s your connection to Pine View?

Our twin sons Quinn and Devin are high school seniors and came here in middle school. They love being around other kids who love to learn and have the same quirky interests– Model UN, coding, drama, History Bowl, music. And we love the teachers, who get them to go the extra mile– or extra degree, as we say here at PV.



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!

How did you end up in Sarasota?

My wife Darla (president of Pine View Band Boosters, btw) and I were living in Virginia, where I was an investigative reporter, when we learned we'd soon be the parents of twins. We figured we needed all the help we could get, so we packed up and headed south to where all our family lived.

What do you like most about Pine View?

Here's when we knew Pine View was the right place. At the awards ceremony for sixth grade, Quinn received the "Herodotus Award" for history. (Thanks, Jenna Molinaro!) At any other school, students might have mocked a kid getting an award with such a funny name. But at Pine View, the kids cheered for him, as they did for everyone. Pine View is a school where hard work and smarts are celebrated, and the students really want to see each other succeed.



Andrea Berke

Board Member - Middle School

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Committee Co-Chair

andreab@yourpva.org

What's your connection to Pine View?

Our son and daughter, now in 10th and 8th grades, started at Pine View in 6th and 4th grades when we relocated to Sarasota. Pine View has been a wonderful experience for both of our kids, who really enjoy the environment, classmates, teachers, and especially the band at Pine View.

How did you end up in Sarasota?

We're originally Chicagoans, but moved to Florida for a work relocation in 2009. We spent 10 years in Hillsborough County. We have always loved Sarasota and when our oldest was moving to middle school we jumped at the chance to move a little further south and have the kids attend Pine View.

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

I've always wanted to be more involved with the kids' school, but in the past that wasn't possible due to my work schedule. This will be my third year on the PVA Board. When the opportunity presented itself to co-chair Staff Appreciation, I jumped at the chance because I think it is so important to support the staff in any way that we can. Staff Appreciation includes organizing staff appreciation week, staff holiday party as well as a few other events that PVA sponsors for the staff.



Robert (Rob) Dam

Board Member - Middle School

Shared Decision-Making Team Representative

rob.dam@yourpva.org

How did you end up in Sarasota?

As Covid began we were living and working in Colorado, and decided we were ready for a new adventure. My parents are typical Midwesterners, having spent winters in Sarasota for the last fifteen years. We began looking in the area, and found a house in southern Sarasota County (Englewood) that we loved. We've been here for just over two years now.



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!

What is your connection to PV?

We have two boys at Pine View: Case (Class of 2029, 7th grade) and Reef (Class of 2030, 6th grade). When we moved to the area we were aware of Pine View and its reputation, and began the testing and admissions processes. Case joined Pine View a year ago. Reef opted to complete 5th grade at his local school, and just started at Pine View this year.

Why did you get involved with PVA and what is your role?

My wife Christa and I have always been active in our local community and the boys' school(s). We feel very fortunate to have a public school like Pine View available to us. That said, we also know that a public school district will simply never provide all of the funds and manpower necessary to provide our kids with that extra degree of excellence we desire in their schooling. I joined the board this year to do my part in supporting the amazing faculty and staff in making Pine View one of the best schools—public or private—in the nation.



Jill Izydor

Board Member - Middle School

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Committee Co-Chair

jilli@yourpva.org

What's your connection to Pine View?

Our son is in 9th grade. He started at Pine View in 7th grade.

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

We moved to Florida in 2021, we didn't know anyone in Sarasota and we don't have family here. As a new parent to the school and to the community, I was seeking more opportunities to connect with other Pine View parents, so I started a Facebook group for middle school parents to connect and share information with one another. This has now expanded to elementary school, high school and multiple classes. I have learned that there are a lot of families that are new to the area and to the school who are looking for connection with the school community. After starting the Facebook page, I was asked if I would like to apply to be on the board, so I did. I am very interested in continuing to build community, support teachers and staff, and help facilitate communication between school, PVA and parents. I am currently serving as co chair for faculty and staff appreciation and I provide assistance to the VP of communications.

How did you end up in Sarasota?

My husband and I both work remotely. We had both lived in Wisconsin the majority of our lives. After many bitter cold winters we decided it was time to move someplace warm and sunny that also has excellent schools. Sarasota and Pine View School seemed like the perfect match.

What do you like most about Pine View?

I love the dedicated staff and faculty at Pine View, the opportunities for clubs, the challenging course work, and the many parents and volunteers. It's a great community!



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!



Cindy Jaramillo
Board Member - Middle School
Pinnacle Gala Chair
cindyj@yourpva.org

What's your connection to Pine View?

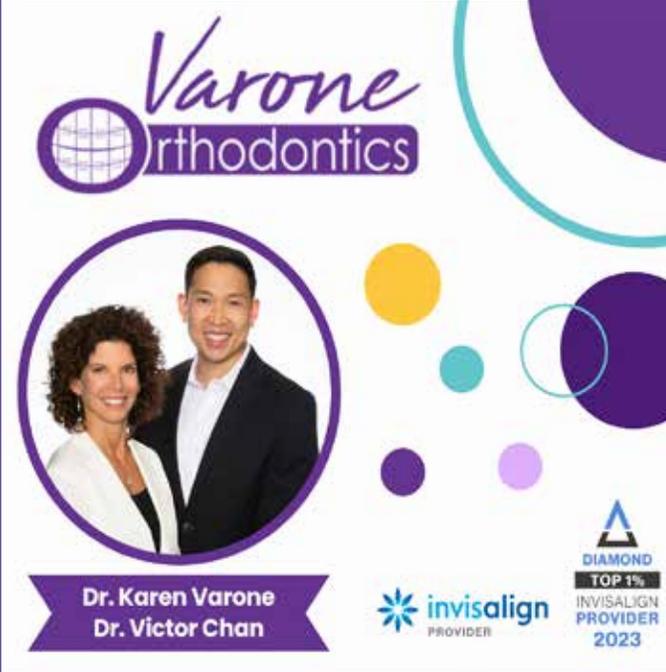
My daughter Victoria is 12 going into seventh grade and my son Nicolai is 11 going into sixth grade. They attended Phillippi Shores Elementary the first few years and we absolutely loved it, but they both needed a little more to be challenged. They are both so happy here and are always excited to go to school!

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

I was on the board at Phillippi and I have always tried to be involved in my kids' school and in the community. Mr. Vitkus gave my name to a mom on the board and here I am! I am currently serving as Chair for Pinnacle.

How did you end up in Sarasota?

I am a native New Yorker and was ready for a change. I had been coming here on vacation for years, I have a lot of family in Sarasota and all over SWFL. I loved it and having access to a school like Pine View was very important to us. I was given the opportunity to start a new career in the mortgage business and here I am eight years later. I wouldn't change a single thing!



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Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!



Dana Moretta
Board Member- Middle School
PV Pride Co-Chair
Shared Decision-Making Team Representative
dana.moretta@yourpva.org

What's your connection to Pine View?

When we moved to Sarasota our children attended Southside Elementary. We owe a huge thank you to our son's second grade teacher who acted incredibly fast to have our son, Giovanni, tested, which led to the school's recommendation and strong encouragement to attend Pine View. Giovanni started Pine View the following year as a third grader and has had incredible academic opportunities ever since.

How did you end up in Sarasota?

Our family is from New York. We moved to Sarasota in 2019 for a fabulous job opportunity my husband could not pass up! We feel so fortunate to raise our children in this amazing community.

Why did you get involved with PVA and what is your role?

I was an elementary school teacher in NY for 17 years and have always been involved with parent committees, either as the teacher representative, or as the parent within my own children's schools. I believe a strong connection between home and school is important for a child's success. I was eager to get involved at Pine View and was always looking for volunteer opportunities. Currently I am the PV Pride co-chair and have been in this role for the last two years. Last year, an opportunity to join the PVA board was announced, so I decided to run for the position. Pine View is an incredibly special school, and I am so honored to be part of the PVA and assist the teachers and staff in any way I can!

What do you like most about Pine View?

I love the teachers and staff and all the "extra" they put into creating a community of learners that feel safe and happy at school. Teachers create classroom environments where students are not afraid to take risks, challenges are set and met with excitement, and academic achievements are celebrated.



Tatyana Shaitanoff
Board Member - High School
Community-Building Committee
Tatyana.Shaitanoff@yourpva.org

What's your connection to Pine View?

Our family has been on a decade-long journey looking for an academically rigorous and nurturing educational program for our children. Recently discovered opportunities to work remotely allowed us to widen that search to a national level, and Pine View School stood out right away in many regards. This is our second year in Florida and at this amazing school with our four children: Alexander, Nicholas, Anastasia, and Timothy, in the 9th, 7th, 4th, & 2nd grade respectively. We are excited and profoundly grateful to be a part of the Pine View Family.

How did you end up in Sarasota?

Our family moved to Sarasota, FL, from Long Island, NY, two years ago specifically for Pine View. We are very grateful to Pine View teachers and families, as well as the Sarasota community in general, for a warm welcome. Best decision ever made.



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

There is no reason not to get involved in the PVA. The organization's goal is to provide support to all Pine View students in a variety of ways. It is inspiring to see how many Pine View parents volunteer, contribute, and share their expertise and passion through PVA initiatives. It is an honor to be involved and learn so much about the school and its amazing community along the way.

What do you like most about Pine View?

Our family went through several gifted schools and programs, public and private, before we finally landed at Pine View, which allows us to appreciate how exceptionally unique this school is. A beautiful campus, amazing administration, highly qualified and caring faculty members, an abundance of talented classmates, and deeply involved parents make Pine View a place to thrive for so many gifted children.



Jeffrey Steinwachs
Board Member - High School
jeff.steinwachs@yourpva.org

How did you end up in Sarasota?

My wife, Ellen, and I moved to the Sarasota area in 1997 from San Francisco for a family business. We sold the business a few years later but ended up staying because we had family in the area.

What is your connection to PV?

We have twins, Will and Caroline, who started in 3rd grade at Pine View and are now in 11th grade. Their older sister, Abby, attended Pine View from 2nd grade and graduated in 2021.

Why did you get involved with PVA and what is your role?

While this is my first year as a general PVA board member, my wife and I have been involved with Pine View in many ways over the years. As we look towards the end of our time at Pine View, we wanted to help the teachers and administrators that make Pine View special and strengthen the PVA and the school for the future.



Wendy Teague
Board Member - High School
PACE Co-Chair
wendy.teague@yourpva.org

How did you end up in Sarasota? I was born and raised in Sarasota but moved away after graduating high school. We moved back last summer so that our girls could attend Pine View School and be closer to family.

What is your connection to PV?

I have two daughters, Lilly in 7th grade and Taylor in 9th grade. Having grown up in Sarasota I always knew about Pine View and had many friends that attended here. When a job became available for my husband in Florida we were thrilled that our daughters would have the opportunity to attend such a phenomenal school.

Why did you get involved with PVA and what is your role?

I have had the great privilege of being involved in my children's education and the schools they've attended. I



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!

have always found that the more involved you are the more connected you feel to the school and the leadership. I chose to get involved with the PVA to represent the families as we raise and distribute funds to enhance what Pine View can offer our children and to help support the teachers and administration.



Lilly Thomas
Board Member - Elementary School
PV Fair Committee Chair
Shared Decision-Making Team Representative
lilly.thomas@yourpva.org

What is your connection to Pine View?

We have two children that currently attend Pine View School. Noah who is starting his 6th grade year and Riley who is starting her 4th grade year, have thrived at Pine View with the support from the amazing teachers and staff. Pine View has been the perfect fit for my kids and family, and we cannot wait to continue our journey for many years to come.

How did you end up in Sarasota?

I was born and raised in Sarasota. I left Sarasota to attend college at Auburn University, and later moved to St. Louis, MO where I met my husband, Stephen. In 2016, we decided to move back to Florida to raise our children close to family and friends.

Why did you get involved with PVA and what is your role?

I come from a family of teachers and have always enjoyed helping around the school, either in the classrooms, on field trips or through parent organizations. When son Noah started attending Pine View, I began volunteering around campus and in the office. I joined the PVA to learn more ways to get involved in supporting our students and have truly enjoyed every minute. Last year, to expand my involvement, I volunteered to lead the PV Fair Committee. It seemed to be a natural progression to join the Board and continue to be involved with the many things PVA does to support the school, staff, and its students.



Dr. Manav Malik
Board Member – Alumni Representative
mmailikdmd@gmail.com

What's your connection to Pine View?

My connection with Pine View spans 34 years. I had the good fortune of attending Pine View on both the original and current campuses from 1989-1999 (grades 2-12). Ten years as a PV student were some of the most enriching and memorable years of my life. I knew that I wanted to give back to our school from the moment I left. After returning to Sarasota in 2011 to open SmileWorks, my pediatric dental practice, I reconnected with Pine View through a business partnership. Since then, I've enjoyed being involved in as many ways as possible: volunteering regularly at school events, speaking at Career Day, helping found the Python Run in 2014, presenting alumni awards to graduating Seniors and representing the school at community events. One of my former SmileWorks team members is even a current 2nd grade PV teacher (Ms. Lengyel). Pine View holds a special place in my heart. Above all, the most endearing connection is being a PV parent of 2nd generation Pine View students - my son is in 6th grade and daughter is in 3rd grade.



Get to Know Your PVA Board Members!

What do you like most about Pine View?

The people and the environment. The students, teachers, and administrators are incredibly dedicated, motivated, and talented. The environment is supportive, non-judgmental, and enriching. The synergy of the community and the environment creates the “magic” that many of us Pine View alums feel. I am so incredibly grateful for the enduring friendships with so many of my teachers and classmates. Pine View teachers and classmates become family.



Ben Turoff

Board Member - Alumni Representative

benturoff@gmail.com

What’s your connection to Pine View?

I started at Pine View as a third grade student in 1970, Pine View’s second year. I graduated in 1980 as part of Pine View’s biggest graduating class to date - 39. Pine View looked and felt very different then, but it was still a wonderful education that helped guide and nurture gifted students in a way that hadn’t been done before. Fast forward 20 years and my daughter started at Pine View in 2001 -starting in the third grade, just like me. My son soon followed. My daughter graduated in 2013, my son in 2019.

Why did you get involved in PVA and what is your role?

I got involved with the Pine View Fair my first year as a parent volunteer and then chaired the Fair the next year and the 5 years following. I was then elected as president of PVA for 2 years. I stayed on the board after finding someone to replace me as president, and served on the board until I was elected President again in 2018-2019. After my son graduated, I stayed on the PVA Board as an Alumni Rep. I enjoy working with people who give generously of their time and talent to benefit the entire Pine View Community.

What do you like most about Pine View?

I really like the people. The faculty is top-notch and they really care about teaching PV kids everything they know about a particular subject. The staff and administration is so dedicated to providing a special environment where learning can flourish. They sponsor an amazing amount of clubs and organizations, especially ones that feed a desire for exploration.. They get involved in campus-wide activities. They move mountains to improve anything they can to make Pine View Better. And the students are open and keenly interested in learning. They also volunteer their time for the Pine View Community.





**Get Involved ...
With Your**

PVA!

Every Day, PVA's Committees Bring Something Special

From one-day events to everyday services, PVA manages many initiatives to enhance education, boost spirits and raise funds for school projects. We invite you to read through this list of PVA's committees, find one (or many!) that interests you, and reach out to the committee chairs and join us in helping Pine View continue to be a special place.

Event Committees

Read-A-Thon

Christi Sparrow

readathon@yourpva.org

Get ready for Pine View School's Read-A-Thon 2023! Readathon is a student-driven literacy fundraising event that helps kids get excited about reading while raising funds for Pine View. This year's Read-A-Thon will be held September 22 - October 6.

P.A.C.E. (Partners to Achieve Classroom Excellence)

Lisa Stern, Wendy Teague

PACE@yourpva.org

The PVA P.A.C.E. committee generates valuable donations for our teachers and instructional staff to purchase additional classroom items such as: software, classroom books, visual aids, enrichment materials and many other items. Unlimited P.A.C.E. donations may be made per classroom. It is not necessary for your child to be in the classroom(s) that you choose to sponsor. All P.A.C.E. donations must be made by September 30, 2023.

Pine View Fair

Lilly Thomas

PVFair@yourpva.org

The annual Pine View Fair will be held October 21, 2023. Join us for Pine View's biggest and most fun event that PV students look forward to each and every year! The fair is a chance to explore club & teacher booths, eat lunch and even a chance to see some special guests in the dunk tank! The proceeds go directly to our clubs, teachers and graduation. If you're looking for a great opportunity to support your child's school and enjoy the day, please consider contributing. We will be needing committee members, sponsors, donations and volunteers for the day.



Get Involved ... With Your PVA!

Peramathon

Silke Cuff and Katie Padgett

peramathon@yourpva.org

This student-led fundraising event is an annual Pine View tradition that supports our incredible school. Students are encouraged to collect pledges from family and friends to earn prizes in the weeks leading up to the Peramathon. On Peramathon day, November 17, 2023, elementary and middle school students will walk, jog or run around the track for an hour while a DJ plays their favorite music. Parents are encouraged to come cheer on the kids as they spend an hour on the track. The top three girls and boys in each grade are recognized for their effort in an awards ceremony after the event.

Pinnacle

Cindy Jaramillo

pinnaclechair@yourpva.org, pinnacledonations@yourpva.org

Pinnacle is our annual dinner gala and auction fundraiser event for Pine View. This year's event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at the Westin Sarasota. Volunteers are needed for event production, decorations, fashion & art entertainment and donations.

Python Run 5K

Race Directors: Silke Cuff, Kristy Ochsendorf

silkec@yourpva.org or kbooth9@gmail.com

The Python 5K is a community wide 5K race and 1-mile fun run. This is a wonderful event for families as well as competitive runners to enjoy a safe race course with a fast finish on the Pine View track. This event is sanctioned by the Manasota Track Club and supports health initiatives at Pine View. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024.

Year-Round Activities

Faculty & Staff Appreciation

Andrea Berke and Jill Izydor

andreab@yourpva.org, jilli@yourpva.org

This is the group that provides meals and gifts to faculty and staff to share our appreciation for all that they do. We provide catered meals during the open houses and the beginning of the school year staff meeting (August). During Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week this group provides meals, treats, and gifts every day for a week (April). Volunteers are requested for serving meals, clean up, delivery and donations.



**Get Involved ...
With Your**

PVA!

Garden Committee

Lesley Sachs

lesleybowlingsachs@gmail.com

The PV Garden is a student-powered microfarm where students plant, maintain, harvest and eat the fruits of their labor. The Garden features a composting program, pollinator gardens, succulent garden, food forest, and annual crops grown with organic and permaculture methods. There is even more to come in 2023-24!

The Garden is accessible for all students during elementary and middle school student recess periods, for high school Garden Club, and for teachers to use as on-campus field trip and as an extension of teachers' classroom curriculum. The year-end garden party features chef-made foods harvested from the garden while students prepare the garden for summer recess and another cycle of productive growing.

If you like spending time outdoors and engaging with students, please consider joining the Garden Committee. Volunteers do not need any garden experience or even a "green thumb" to participate. There are volunteer opportunities to fit most schedules. We also accept donations of used garden equipment, building supplies, plants and seeds.

Pine View Pride

Renata Gaertner and Dana Moretta

renatagaertner@gmail.com, dana.moretta@yourpva.org

Pine View Pride is the student recognition program for school students from 2nd to 12th grade. After each quarter, those students who earn all A's or A's and B's for Elementary School and 3.5 or 4.0 GPA for Middle and High School are eligible to enjoy a special prize. Elementary School students receive fruit bars or a smoothie, Middle School students receive a smoothie or lunch and High School students receive breakfast or lunch. Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the event to check kids in and to serve the prizes, on the chosen dates. The event runs on a Friday in November, February and April.

Proud Python

Lauren Fineman and Elena Reuter

laurenfineman@hotmail.com, ereuter11@gmail.com

Proud Python is one of Pine View's many ways of acknowledging students for their accomplishments. Each month, teachers may submit a recommendation for one student (per subject taught) whom they feel has in some way made an extra effort or progress in their classwork or attitude. The award may be for excellent work, positive attitude, effort or creative effort, kindness to others, always being on task, always being prepared, (excellent) work habits, leadership, honesty & integrity, being dependable, etc.

Elementary students receive a Proud Python button, a personal letter from Dr. Covert and an invitation to meet with Dr. Covert and Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle in the Student Union for another treat: a frozen fruit bar or a Proud Python bookmark/ruler. High school students are given an honor roll car magnet. Dr. Covert speaks with the children, then draws 5 names for additional prizes of \$3 gift vouchers for the school store.



Get Involved ... With Your

PVA!

Pine Views

Dave Gulliver

pineviews@yourpva.org, daveg@yourpva.org

Pine Views is PVA's magazine. Every issue is full of "news you can use" – contact information for Pine View School staff, forms, notices, calendars and more. It's also a place where we celebrate the accomplishments of students, faculty and staff, with photos and stories. And the best part is, you can help with *Pine Views* just by sending in photos or news. If you'd like to do more – like proofread, or even "cover" something happening on campus, you're invited to do that, too.

School Store

Diane Thompson, Nikki Pietryka

pvstore@yourpva.org

Our amazing Pine View School Store provides a convenient place for students to shop within a school setting. We are open Monday - Friday during lunch periods for all grades. We offer a variety of reasonably priced items - school supplies, educational, practical and novelty - that students can enjoy themselves or share with a friend. The store is a service fully funded by PVA and operated by PVA volunteers.



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News from the Board Room

The PVA Board of Directors met on Tuesday, August 15, in the Pine View Student Union to review the annual budget, hear reports from the administration and committee chairs, and review funding requests.

The board heard a report from Principal Dr. Stephen Covert reviewing Pine View’s outstanding performance on Florida standardized testing, and on the school’s performance in two highly regarded school ranking reports. U.S. News and World Report ranked Pine View as the 36 magnet school and #13 high school in the United States, and the education research site Niche ranked Pine View as the #1 public school in Florida.

The board also reviewed and unanimously approved the proposed PVA budget for the 2023-24 school year. Among the highlights: PVA allocated \$225,000 to support funding requests from students, faculty, administration and staff; \$22,150 for various student achievement recognition programs like Pine View Pride and Proud Pythons; \$15,000 to purchase and provide agenda books for elementary and middle school students; and \$15,000 for Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week.

The board also heard several requests for funding, and approved grants including \$2,000 to bring Florida Studio Theater to campus for instruction and performances for grades 2 through 6, and up to \$6,000 in “kickstarter” grants for approved student clubs.



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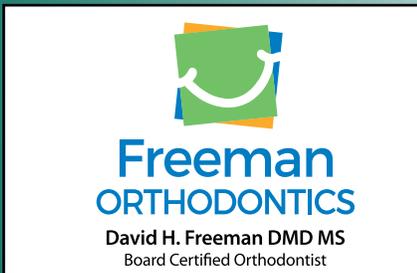
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PV Parent Dr. Nilofer Khatri Brings 'Magic and Whimsy' to Kids' Dentistry



We'd like to introduce you to the Pine View community! Please tell us a bit about yourself and what you do.

I was born to Indian immigrants in Detroit, and raised in Tallahassee (go Noles!), and when I was growing up, I was totally set on studying something artsy. But I found my way to the University of Florida (go Gators!) where I studied something sciencey instead. I got my B.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition and went on to complete my Doctorate in Dental Medicine there as well. I grew up as a protector to my baby sis, Yasmin, and have always felt deeply connected to other kids with Downs Syndrome. I decided to pursue pediatric specialty training at New York University in hopes of making special kids' lives just a wee bit funner and brighter.

What brought you to the Sarasota area?

After a short stint in Tampa, I had a chance meeting with Dr. Jeff Janoff (a PV parent and whose wife Linda was a beloved English teacher at Pine View) in 2007. Bread was broken, and a life-long friendship and mentorship was forged.

Dr. Janoff graced me with the keys to his kingdom in 2008, and what would eventually become Kids Choose Us Pediatric Dentistry was born.

What do you enjoy most about what you do?

The best part of my job is crafting and leading a business that fosters female entrepreneurship, mentorship, and leadership. I enjoy being a ringmaster in a workplace and guest place where elite dental care is paired with magic and whimsy. I'm always thinking, "How can I make my little slice of pie in Venice weirder, funner, or awesomer?"

Why do you support Pine View and PVA?

I have admired PVA and the school for my entire 16 year tenure in Sarasota County, way before I became a PV parent. I am so proud to have two of my littles attending this great institution, and am eager to watch them flourish and grow over time. I am proud to be involved with the school and support its efforts to deliver an extraordinary educational experience for our community, as well as support our kids to become change makers in our world.

PV Alumni Teachers Share Memories, Wisdom

One of the many ways you can tell Pine View is a special place is that many graduates return to teach here. Pine Views contacted every alumni teacher we could find, and several agreed to field questions from magazine editor Dave Gulliver and his sons. The teachers and their backgrounds are:

Elizabeth Loyer

Attended grades 7 through 12, graduated 2011.

Began teaching at PV in 2017, now teaching AP Research and AP Seminar

Jacquelyn Cetola

attended grades 2-12, graduated 2017.

Began teaching at PV in spring 2022, now teaching AP Calculus BC.

Melody Elliott

attended grades 2 through 12, graduated 2013.

began teaching at PV in 2021, now teaching 4th grade ELA and Science.

Alyssa Adamson

Attended grades 6-12, graduated in 2009.

Began teaching in 2017; began teaching at PV in 2022, teaches Elementary Music and co-teaches 7th and 8th grade choir with Mr. Gardner.

Jenna Molinaro

Attended grades 4-12, graduated 1992 (65 students in the graduating class!).

Began teaching in 1996; began teaching at PV in 2003, teaches 6th grade World History.

Question Responses:

Why on earth did you come back? (Can you hear two teenage boys laughing? That was theirs.) Or, to put it more gently, what brought you back to PV?

Loyer:

I love how they phrased this question. :) I first thought about becoming a teacher in 5th grade. I had wonderful teachers and I always loved both learning new things and helping others to understand the material. Right away, I realized that I felt comfortable and challenged here. Part of my learning process involved thinking about how I would introduce or teach topics to imaginary other people. I wanted to return to PV to teach because of the academic environment, and while the path here was wigglier than anticipated, the end destination stayed constant.

Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

Cetola:

I went to the University of Florida to study Materials Science and Engineering (graduated May 2021). While working on my degree, I did a lot of teaching-related extracurriculars (teaching assistant, classroom volunteering, outreach coordinator, etc.). I realized I was a lot more passionate about my extracurriculars than I was about engineering, so I decided to pursue a career in teaching. I started working as a substitute teacher in SCS, and now I'm here! Pine View always felt like a second home to me, so it's cool to be back.

Elliott:

I always wanted to be a teacher. I spent my high school years volunteering in 3rd grade classrooms at Pine View. When I went to college, I strayed and ended up getting my degree in Hospitality Management. After realizing a bit too late that hospitality wasn't for me, I took a year off. My husband (also a PV '13 grad) suggested I go back to school for what I had always loved - teaching. I earned my Masters at UCF in Elementary Education. I always knew I wanted to be at Pine View. I wanted to create the same experience for kids that I had. After a year of teaching in Orlando, we moved back to Sarasota to be near family. I ended up at Philippi Shores but was surplusd after three weeks, as they had too many teachers for the amount of students. I was distraught. Several days later, I found out that I would be moving to Pine View and I knew it was meant to be.

Adamson:

Pine View, for me, was a place that truly grew on me. Yes, when I was here, it was really, really tough. I remember when I was going into high school, I begged my parents to let me possibly look into a different high school because I was doing four community theatre shows a year and the curriculum here was rigorous. They let me go preview a different school and I immediately knew I wouldn't be happy there. It wasn't going to provide me with the academic challenges I needed. I stayed here happily and challenged myself. When I went to college, I knew Pine View was a blessing and all throughout my career I know my PV education is what has gotten me through. It's helped me with time management, staying on task, resume writing, job interviews- you name it! I think and operate differently because I went here. I knew I wanted to work here because I knew I'd be able to meet the students' academic needs. I knew I could offer them a unique perspective on music while meeting them each at their own individual levels. We have so much fun in the music classroom. I love that I get to be here every day, learning from Mr. Gardner, learning with the kids, and learning from my colleagues. I'm a true PV Python!! I'm really "living the dream"!

Molinaro:

I received a phone call from my Pine View history teacher, the iconic Mrs. Pat Johnston. I was surprised to hear from her as we had not really been in touch. She shared that there was a position open in her department and she wanted me to apply. I said, "Pat, I don't teach history," to which she retorted, "You can learn the history, I want you to teach in my department." Which was an unbelievable honor to get that phone call. Needless to say, I have been here ever since and SO SO grateful for that timely phone call.

What were your favorite classes and/or teachers when you were a student?

Loyer:

I always loved reading and talking about literature so I always enjoyed English. In my last few years of high school, Ms. DeVeau and Ms. Hankinson really inspired me to major in math as well.

Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

Cetola:

I always loved math and science, and AP Calculus BC was actually one of my favorite classes! I was also very active with the PV choir—I was a member grades 7-12, and I played the piano accompaniment at our concerts during high school.

Elliott:

In Elementary, Ms. Tucak was a big inspiration to me. She always had so many hands-on learning experiences that made me love being at school. In High School, I was fortunate enough to have so many wonderful teachers who helped shape me. Ms. Shannon was always there for me, even beyond academics. I had Ms. Salzman for three years for several classes and learned so much from her. Madame Black was so full of life and love, and even though I was not the best French student, I was always excited to see her. I loved science (and still do) so Chemistry with Dr. Ors was amazing too!

Adamson:

AP Psychology with Mr. Bergman was a favorite, and I could never forget my French classes. Something about speaking a foreign language is quite empowering (though don't ask me to speak fluently now...I'm no Ms. Higgins).

Molinaro:

In my elementary/middle school years I loved having Virginia Gaskins as my diverse art teacher who was the catalyst for my love of all art mediums. Barbara Vanarsdale, my wildly creative language arts teacher who made you feel special with her personal birthday books and knew that cultivating creativity and seeing things differently was an integral part of being a gifted student. Irene Baryliski who introduced me to the world of languages... Tom Krause, a favorite, who taught me how to diagram a sentence, but was a consistent, safe, mentor that you could trust.. Ginny Tyler, (who's enormous shoes I am trying to continuously fill) was my gifted studies and world cultures teacher. She would dress up in full costume, assign cool projects, and we took memorable field trips to the Medieval Fair at Ringling Museum grounds. ... In high school, Pat Johnston, whose history classes prepared me for university and life in general. I had the unique opportunity for her to be a mentoring colleague as well... Sol Malinsky (Bio and Botany) – a true character! His eccentric ways and love of the world engaged my interest of sciences. Eloise Malinsky, his wife, was a kind, patient Chemistry teacher who guided me through the "mathy" parts of science that did not interest me as much. ... Bijli Myers, my Calculus teacher, another who weathered me through maths. She was quite unconventional... she would feed each of us an almond at the start of every class (because our brain needed food), her classroom was filled with couches, lazy boys and a few desks, she would host calculus beach parties where we would go to Siesta Key Beach to do calculus, then play volleyball, then go back to calculus. She would even host calculus parties at her house where we would cook, swim and calculate! Times were quite different then...

Thinking of yourself and your PV classmates, and looking at the kids you teach today, what's different about students today? What hasn't changed?

Loyer:

I think social media has changed the perceived boundaries between teachers and students. It is easier for students to try to find the personal lives or even houses of their teachers, so students often feel more comfortable asking questions that might commonly be answered on social media. The stress the students deal with is still high and the combination of insight and shenanigans offered by kids today feels very familiar.

Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

Cetola:

The general vibe of PV kids hasn't changed a whole lot since I was a student. The biggest changes I've noticed are more related to changes in the technology available (more online HW platforms, online textbooks, more students bringing personal laptops to school, new social media platforms, etc.) and in the increasing pressure/competition of college admissions. I can see those changes reflected in the way students act and what their priorities are.



Grade 2



Grade 12



Now

Elliott:

They seem so much more connected to the world. They know about politics and world affairs. They're acutely aware of things going on. I don't have any recollection of knowing about the "adult world" at that age. When I was in 4th grade, the second election of George W. Bush happened, but I wouldn't have been able to articulate what was happening. Yet these kids are so connected through media and technology, that they see it happening before their eyes. But at the same time, I see my friends and myself in these kids. Their personalities remind me of the kids I grew up around. They ask amazing questions. They do silly dances. They care about one another so deeply. It makes me smile when I think back on my friends at the same age.

Adamson:

Technology. Seriously, even in the short amount of time since I graduated. We weren't watching TikToks between classes. We didn't get to talk online until we got home and loaded up our desktops to chat on AIM or MySpace (Facebook in later High School years). Now, just look at the kids!

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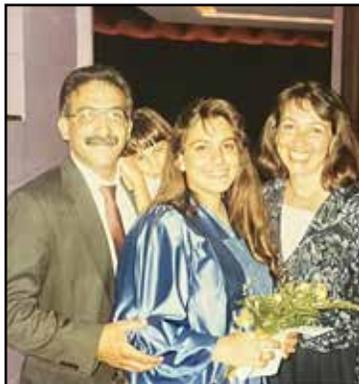
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Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

Molinaro:



Grade 4



Graduation

Aye, technology. Students had to be resourceful, critical thinkers. If we were doing a research paper I would have to go to the library and look through books, microfiche, or periodicals. Things were not so instant. Social Media and AI didn't rule the world (God, I'm sounding old!) BUT I honestly think we also interacted with each other daily in a more authentic way. We were a smaller school that was more of an experiment than an institution, so we weren't so micromanaged and were less "rule-followers." What hasn't changed is that it is still a place where all the unique gifted kids can be among smart, quirky peers.

When you were a student, how heavy was your backpack? (and with what?) :)

Loyer:

So heavy! My parents tried to get an ergonomic backpack but I still have some lingering back issues.

Cetola:

My backpack was SO heavy. I had binders for every class, and at any given moment I was probably carrying around at least 2-3 textbooks (we generally didn't have access to online textbooks).

Elliott:

I'm sure too heavy! We definitely had heavier textbooks back then. (At least in elementary) The science book they have now is paperback and the kids can write in it. I know I had a hardcover book for each subject. I'm sure I had plenty of papers that should have been in a folder but instead got jammed into the bottom of my bag!

Adamson:

Heavy with textbooks! Even though I used my locker...I was too worried about being late to use it enough... and one year they were trying to give us all a laptop but they were huge and heavy laptops...and we still had textbooks in addition to those!

Molinaro: I honestly do not remember this being an issue at all. We had lockers and used them all day long! I carried a heavy Walkman around from class to class?

Memory lane time: What is a favorite memory (clubs, classes, after school events, etc) from your time as a student that might resonate with current students — or surprise them?

Loyer:

My students are often surprised I wasn't in the D&D club since I play now, but I didn't want to stay until 7 pm on Friday. I did enjoy anime club (with our sponsor Mr. Bergman!) because it was fun to hang out with friends, even when watching a mixture of very good and truly terrible shows. I always attended the variety show and I have fond memories of the short-lived Pinestock and the incredible Berlin Wall simulation put on by the history club.

Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

Cetola:

Some of my favorite memories come from just hanging out with friends after school—we practically lived in Mrs. Wilson’s room grades 10-12. I also really loved going on choir trips every year! Disney Candlelight was always one of my favorites.

Elliott:

Wow. There are so many. The first one that comes to mind isn’t anything spectacular. I remember sitting on the Batman Bench with my friends before school. We were probably in 7th or 8th grade, and we were just hanging out and laughing. It was just pure happiness. More specifically I remember working on an end of the year project for Yearbook my sophomore year. It was this HUGE project that my friend and I had procrastinated on, of course. It was due at a specific time (I think noon?) and all we had left was to print it. We had about 15 minutes and every single printer in yearbook was out of ink (because the rest of our class was more timely with their submissions). We ran around campus to several different teachers (probably interrupting well thought out lessons) until we finally found a teacher with a working color printer that let us print our projects. I think it may have been Mr. Schweig. We got our projects printed and went sprinting back to Ms. Shannon to turn them in. At the time it wasn’t very funny, but looking back, it always makes me laugh.

Adamson:

Definitely school dances. I remember going home and getting all ready with friends. Dances were the best. They were always so fun.

What traditions continue from the time you were a student? What traditions have disappeared that you wish were still around?

Loyer:

Many of the major events like Cobalt, the Variety Show, the dances, and most major fundraising events are basically the same. I did feel like the campus felt closer to a college campus when the fence wasn’t up, especially since students had more freedom to move around campus. I miss some of the old benches and trees because it was a lot more common for high school students to hang out on the lawn or by the Batman bench and on the deck.



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Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

Elliott:

Watermelon Day was always a favorite! I love that it's still happening! That, and dodgeball! I don't know if Tie vs. tie-dye is happening or not anymore since Dr. Dean and Mr. Gieseke have both retired, but that was always great too.

Adamson:

Faculty and student dodgeball game, school spirit week, Pine View Fair!!! All beloved memories.

Molinaro:

My favorites that sadly do not continue today are Python Day, Advex, and Pine View Primetime. On Python Day, the entire school took off to play hooky. The entire school walked from the campus to Arlington Park, and we had a giant spirit day. Faculty and students would grill food, play games and hang out together. We would all walk back to the campus at the end of the day and the faculty/senior volleyball game would commence in the center of campus with the rest of the school as spectators on the sidelines rooting for the seniors! Advex was a time where we took a break from the regular academia and staff offered enrichment classes in areas/hobbies that they really enjoyed. It could be anything from knitting to gardening to kitchen chemistry and you would sign up for multiple classes for the day, creating your own schedule. It was exploratory and I loved it. Pine View Primetime was a TV production class done literally out of the back of our English teacher's portable. Students had free rein (mostly) to do on the ground reporting and coverage of things that were happening at school. They were often quirky, silly, clever, smart and satirical. True gifted collaboration. We looked forward to watching them weekly– it was entertainment!

Tangental, but related -- what was your senior prank?

Loyer:

Our senior prank was not particularly interesting – we all had a small bouncy ball we handed to Mr. Largo when we graduated as we went across the stage.

Elliott:



Graduation



Class

I don't think we had one because. Or if we did, it wasn't much, because I remember there being a pretty big issue with one of the classes before us and we were told not to do one.

(Editor's note: Ms. Loyer graduated two years before Mrs. Elliott. Coincidence? Perhaps.)

Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

Adamson:

I honestly don't remember, but I remember a lot of talk about things that probably weren't actually approved, like standing on top of the blue covered walkways and squirting people with water guns and parking cars on the roofs....LOL I don't think those actually happened.

Molinaro:

My memory is foggy and they all blur together at this point, but each teacher had an engraved name plaque above their portable door. The faculty member selected a prominent person in their field and named their room. I believe it was my class, but all the name plaques were removed and missing. (but were later returned) Side note: They should continue this tradition in Building 17!

What do you miss the most from when you were a student?

Loyer:

I miss some of the casual conversations I used to have with classmates – the kind of acquaintances where I quite enjoyed talking with people but didn't keep in contact with them after graduating. Otherwise, I'm quite happy to be on the other side of the classroom :)

Elliot:

I miss seeing my friends every single day. Adulthood doesn't allow for that. I get to see my close friends once a month or so, but there are people I haven't seen since high school that I talked to every day for years.

Adamson:

Just being a kid... When you're a kid you always want to grow up. I wish I'd just enjoyed my childhood and just...been a kid!!! I'm jealous of my students!

Molinaro:

An open campus, being able to "hang" and intermingle with friends and all the grade levels in between and after classes. The deep relationships with faculty and staff.

And finally a couple about teaching....

In what ways does having been a PV student inform how you teach PV students now?

Loyer:

Having been a PV student is quite a gift when it comes to relating to the students and especially some of the stress and expectations placed on them. I try to mitigate some of that stress when I can. I also know some of the shenanigans my classmates would get up to and it left me more prepared for what students may try to pull now. Similarly, I remember how sometimes my actions as a gifted student could be misinterpreted by teachers before I came to PV – often, teachers could assume that gifted students who corrected teacher mistakes were pulling a power play, but in reality most gifted students are just interested in making sure everyone is learning and is learning correct information.

Cetola:

I think that being a former PV student gives me more perspective on the mindset of PV students and the types of pressures/stressors they're exposed to. That definitely informs the decisions that I make about the workload and deadlines for my students.

Get to Know Your Alumni Teachers

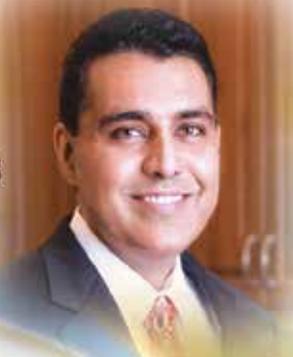
Elliott:

I see things in the same way as the kids do. I'll read through a test question and say to my teammates "they're going to read it like this - it's going to cause confusion" and sure enough, they do. I ask just as many questions as them and I allow them to ask away. I know some teachers have a tough time with that, but I embrace it. If I know the answer, I'll answer it. If I don't, we'll find out the answer together.

Adamson:



Oh, well...I understand the stress and the packed schedules and I can be empathetic. I also understand the desire to constantly be challenged and not be bored. I understand the desire to learn at a higher level and to explore in new and creative ways and I can challenge my students and make learning fun.



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Molinaro:

I think it helped me understand what it means to be gifted at a fundamental level. I understand the pressures and stresses that come with gifted expectations not only externally placed but internally. I think I perceive work a little differently, that I try not to do “busy work” and provide more meaningful learning experiences. I feel that I have not only a tolerance but a love for those eccentric or offbeat kiddos that struggle to be understood let alone embraced and fostered.

Is there anything you do in your classroom or in teaching that you learned or adapted from any of your PV teachers?

Loyer:



Class



Graduation

I have a couple of big boxes of resources from Ms. Hankinson when she retired and several binders of resources on pedagogy left by Dr. Hall!

Elliott:

A lot of projects I have in my class are based off of ones I did as a kid. We do a plant research project where they create a papier-mâché model of their plant after they research it. I did that with an animal as a kid. I’m sure there are so many things I do that are bits and pieces of all the teachers I had, and I don’t even realize it.

Adamson:

Well, I love hearing Mr. Gardner leading Vocal Ensemble in Candlelight and “Fruitcake” rehearsals (traditions all the way back from my years). But for me personally, I think everything I’ve learned at PV has affected who I am as a teacher and a person today in general.

Molinaro:

Absolutely! I used many of Mrs. Van’s creative thinking activities when I taught the gifted resource room in Manatee County. I pull a lot from Pat Johnston and Ginny Tyler. I was honored when Ms. Tyler bequeathed to me all her resources and even her costume collection that she and her mother handmade. The same ones that she wore when I was her student 37 years ago! I have added to the collection, and they are displayed on a mannequin in my classroom to this day. I also have her museum curio that her dad made, and it houses all the artifacts for each unit. These are very precious to me.

You survived and even succeeded at Pine View (or so it seems!) -- from your experience both as a teacher and as a student, what's your advice for students today to make the most out of their Pine View experience?

Loyer:

I think learning the balance of good study habits and skills without letting them consume your life is the lesson that took me years to learn. Find the coping strategies that work for you and keep you sane!

Cetola:

I remember when I took AP Lang with Mr. Rienhoff, he would walk around every Friday to check in with us individually and make sure we had something fun planned for the weekend. Even today, I still hear his voice in my head when I'm overworking myself, "You're 16, it's too early to be dull. You need to factor in some fun!" I think that's the best advice I could give—make leisure time just as much of a priority as "productive" time.

Elliott:

Ask for help. Learn to prioritize and manage time. Use an agenda book!! That was something I didn't learn until college. I would stay up the night before a project was due when I could have done a little every day for two weeks.

Adamson:

RELAX. I know it can seem overwhelming at times but you are making memories and friendships that will last a lifetime! Do your best and really try to absorb and enjoy everything. Every project. Every unit of study. Every dance. Every Pine View Fair. Enjoy your time here. You will have your entire life to be an adult and only ten years total here from second through twelfth grade to just be a kid (or very very young adult).

Molinaro:

Academically... don't cheat or take the shortcut. You will be stronger and more resilient in life. Manage your time wisely and take tech breaks to be with people, real people. Be in the moment. Try to attend all the fun activities that PV has to offer (the Fair, Mr./Mrs. Pine View) immerse yourself in the culture, join clubs, make friends, because PV is a very very special place. My best friends are still the people I met in 1984 as a new 4th grade student.

Any thoughts you'd like to share that we didn't think to ask?

Elliott: Fun Fact: my graduating class was Principal Steve Largo's last class and he retired that year!

Adamson: Just a shout-out to my nephew, Ryan Hunek, who is a PV Grad Class of 2022 attending UF studying Classical Guitar, and to my nephew James Hunek (PV Senior) and niece Anna Hunek (PV 8th Grader). Glad I can share memories with them now. :)

Molinaro: I have experienced all of the principals at PV... from its inception Mr. Jack Woolever to today, Dr. Stephen Covert. My 2 daughters currently attend PV. One is in 6th grade and the other is in 9th grade. I had two younger sisters that were graduates as well (class of '93 and class of '98) I spent all my school years at PV on the original campus (the replica of that campus, which is on the 2nd floor of building 17, was a class gift from my sister's class of '93) I have taught many alumni kids, and I also had Maggie Higgins, Mackenzie Fox, Jackie Cetola, and Melody Elliot's husband, Alex, in my 6th grade class!

Meet PV's Student Assistance Program Specialist



Hello, Pine View families! I'm Sarah Workman, and I am truly delighted to be PV's Student Assistance Program specialist. What a gift to be here among such amazing students, faculty, and staff! I've been at PV

as the SAP since November 2022, and I'm also beginning my seventh year as a PV parent... and this time with a senior!

For those of you who know what an "SAP" does, please read on to learn how I can help a PV 6th-12th grade student have better days, calmer nights, and a healthier, more productive school year.

My Purpose: I am here to help support 6th -12th grade students, their families, and PV faculty however I can. This can range from simple confidential listening and empathic understanding to concrete brainstorming/problem-solving and boosting blood sugar, etc.

Initiating SAP services: A student, parent, or teacher can approach their guidance counselor (either Ms. Halcomb or Mr. Regar) and request "SAP services." The counselor then completes an "SAP referral" form and obtains a District Consent from the parents, and then shares the paperwork with me. Once the District Consent and SAP Referral are received, I contact the student's parents to introduce myself and obtain a Lightshare, Inc. (formerly known as "First Step of Sarasota, Inc."), consent from them. Once the referral and those two consents are received, I call or text the student to set up a time to meet, and we get started!

My Location: I am in Green 208, facing the courtyard, so please stop by and say hello!

My Background: I come to the SAP position at PV from a social work/legal background. I am a Registered Clinical Social Work Intern, though my role at PV is not

a clinical one. However, I have worked as a counselor in private practice and as a family mediator and coach for many years. I have a Master of Social Work (FSU), and a background in law (JD, UMiami) and musical theatre (BFA, Musical Theatre, UMichigan), and am currently in a Post-Grad program in Expressive Arts Therapies and have special training in working with folks with ADHD and various expressions of neurodivergence.

When supporting young people and adults through the change process, I focus our work through the lens of both the Enneagram and Myers-Briggs(R) personality-type assessments to help accelerate the alliance building, identification of strengths and stretches, and clarify values and intentions to guide the growth process. Students usually find this approach galvanizing and comforting because the identification of personality type engenders a feeling of individuality and uniqueness with specific strengths, while conveying a sense of belonging to a group with similar recognized (and validated!) preferences.

This identification of a student's non-academic strengths can be powerful, especially in an environment such as PV where scholarship is the central focus. As a student begins to learn and appreciate their non-academic strengths, they can begin to accept themselves and truly embark upon their change process. To paraphrase the brilliant psychologist and father of Humanism, Carl Rogers, "it is only when [a person] accepts [themselves] are they willing to change."

If you have a question about stress-coping, connecting, time-management, or other high school student-related matters, or if you are wondering if your student could benefit from SAP services, please email me at sarah.workman@sarasotacountyschools.net.

Have an amazing first quarter, Pine View! Please reach out anytime!



Sarasota

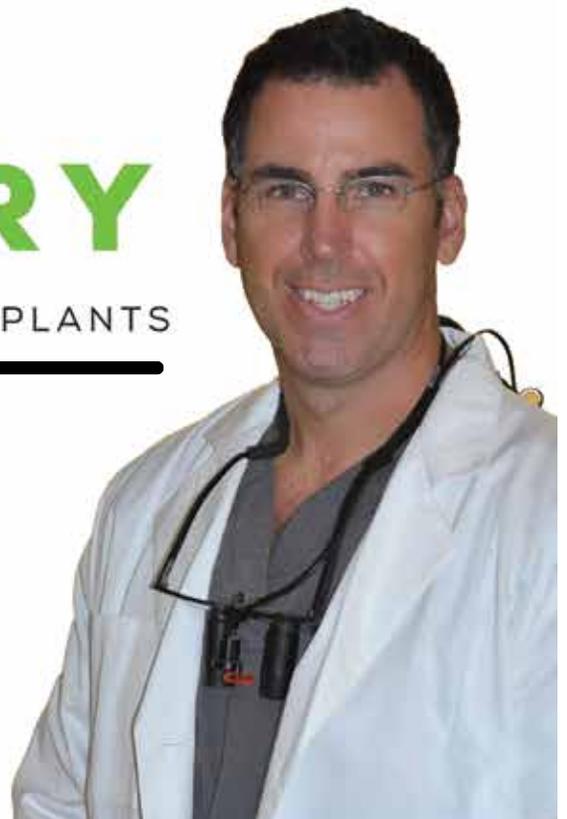
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Asst. Principal, Gr. 6-8

Lana Marcotte
Asst. Principal, Gr. 9-12

Tricia Allen
Asst. Principal of Curriculum

Lance Bergman
College Resource Advisor, Gr. 12

Ashley Byington
Guidance, Gr. 9-10

Dr. Lori Wiley
College & Career Advisor, Gr. 8-11

Lynn Halcomb
Guidance, Gr. 11-12

Kelly Hawking
Guidance, Gr. 2-5

Eileen Cabrera
ESE Liaison/Admissions

TBD
Guidance, Gr. 6-8

Kristin McCombie
ESE Liaison/ESOL, EP

Eugene Williams
School Resource Officer

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Denise Valentine
Admin. Assistant
Principal

Sue Manders
Registrar

Carole McLaughlin
Admissions Secretary

Gena Bufkin
Admin. Assistant
Asst. Principal Gr. 2-8

Deana Sandefur
Registrar Assistant

Gina Verdino
Attendance Secretary

Nadine Feraco
Admin. Assistant
Asst. Principal Gr. 9-12

Teri Fisher
Bookkeeper

Amy Cleveland
HS Guidance Secretary

Laura VanHorne
Admin. Assistant
College & Career Advisors

Faith Kona
Bookkeeper Assistant

Mary King
MS Guidance Secretary

Rebecca Kochenderfer
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Angie Wittstruck
Student Union Manager

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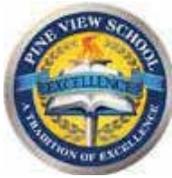


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Faculty and Staff Appreciation lunch
to start the school year!**



If You Need ...

PVA provides this list to help you know whom to call when you need assistance on a specific topic. When in doubt, ask the wonderful staff and volunteers at the front desk. They are always there to help.

Main Phone Number: 941-486-2001
Main Office Hours: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Media Center Hours: 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Activities Calendar	Nadine Feraco
Activity Bus	Gina Verdino
Admissions	Eileen Cabrera
Announcements	Nadine Feraco
Attendance	Gina Verdino
Custodial Assistance	Front Desk
Deposit/Withdrawal of Funds	Teri Fisher
Intramural Information	Joe Digiacomio
Medical Attention	Misty Wells-Wimbush, LPN; Katherine Servidio, DOH RN
Student Parking	Gina Verdino
Student Sign In/Sign Out	Front Desk
Student Activities	Pat Morgerson
Student ID Badges	Guidance Dept.
To Report Theft or Vandalism	Officer Eugene Williams
Bus Transportation	941-486-2141
Transcript Request	Sue Manders
Withdrawal from School	Sue Manders

Regular Class Schedule

Period 1	7:21 AM - 8:13 AM
Period 2	8:18 AM - 9:10 AM
Moment of Silence	9:15 AM
Period 3	9:15 AM - 10:10 AM
Period 4	10:15 AM - 11:07 AM
Period 5	11:12 AM - 12:04 PM
Period 6	12:09 PM - 1:01 PM
Period 7	1:06 PM - 1:58 PM
Period 8	2:03 PM - 2:55 PM
Period 9	3:00 PM - 3:52 PM

Advisory Day Class Schedule

Period 1	7:21 AM - 8:13 AM
Period 2	8:18 AM - 9:10 AM
Moment of Silence	9:15 AM
Advisory	9:15 AM - 10:01 AM
Period 3	10:05 AM - 10:46 AM
Period 4	10:50 AM - 11:31 AM
Period 5	11:35 AM - 12:16 PM
Period 6	12:20 PM - 1:01 PM
Period 7	1:06 PM - 1:58 PM
Period 8	2:03 PM - 2:55 PM
Period 9	3:00 PM - 3:52 PM

Pine View School Mission Statement

The mission of Pine View School is to provide a qualitatively different learning environment that nurtures a passion for intellectual curiosity, encourages risk-taking, independence and innovation, and is committed to a tradition of academic excellence and social responsibility.



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2023/2024

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Out of Field Notification 8/31/23

Guidelines from the Department of Education requires schools to inform parents if any teachers are “Out-of-Field”. For teachers at Pine View, this typically means they are lacking the courses for gifted education endorsement and/or ESOL. The following teachers are listed as “out-of-field”: **Jacquelyn Cetola, Ivonne Chaustre, Marisa Freedman, Ying Guo, David Mannino, Carol Pelletier, and Carmen Lopez.** All of our teachers in this category are currently enrolled in coursework that will address this “out-of-field” status.



PINE VIEW BAND

Fall Events

Open to all!

9/16

Annual Lunch at Carrabba's
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Advance purchase required
Order at pineviewband.com/links

10/19

Wind Ensemble & Jazz Band Fall Concert
Pine View Auditorium | 7 p.m.
Free (donation suggested)

11/25

Jazz Band - Live in Siesta Key Village
Outside Village Café
Performance begins after Holiday Parade

12/9

Jazz Band - Holiday Jazz
Glenridge Performing Arts Center | 7:30 pm
Tickets available through Mr. Mongillo

12/19

Wind Ensemble & Jazz Band Winter Concert
Pine View Auditorium | 7 p.m.
Free (donation suggested)

12/20

**Beginning, Middle School Symphonic,
& Concert Band Winter Concert**
Pine View Auditorium | 7 p.m.
Free (donation suggested)



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Photos courtesy of The Torch photographers Dina Altshul (yellow awning & girls), Isabella Georgieva (sundial), Nairiyat Takenova (Bldg. 17 & trees), Sanya Patel (seniors in T-shirts), Anna Zhang (Media Center).

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