

The Panther's Eye



THE VOICE OF PINE HILL MIDDLE'S STUDENTS

JANUARY 2020 ISSUE

Happy New Year Panthers! The Whole World is Celebrating the Joy of a New Year, are You?

by Jasmine Joubert

Have you ever wondered what New Year's celebrations are like in other countries? New Year's Eve is a practically universal holiday that's often celebrated with fireworks, parties, and a toast to a happy and healthy year to come. But different countries around the world ring in the New Year with unique cultural traditions.

The most famous of Scotland's many New Year's celebrations are the Hogmanay fire festivals. The most beloved is the one in Stonehaven, where right before midnight a parade of trained professionals swing balls of fire over their head and then toss them into the sea.

At midnight, practically every Spaniard will stuff their mouths with 12 grapes – one for each second after midnight – for good

luck in the new year. Every grape represents one month of the year, and must be eaten right at the stroke of midnight. If you don't manage to eat all 12 grapes, it's considered bad luck.

Have you thought about how you are going to spend the precious moments you have been blessed with this year?

In Brazil, many locals believe in wearing white and throwing white flowers and candles into the ocean as an offering to Lemanja, the pagan Afro-Brazilian Goddess of the Sea, on New Year's Eve. If the ocean returns your offerings, then the goddess did not accept them. These are just some of the

different traditions celebrated around the world. Yet, no

matter where you are or where you go, one thing will always remain the same. New Year's eve festivities are a celebration of the gift of life. It is a great time to think about the value of our lives and making use of all the opportunities that life brings our way. Have you thought about how you are going to spend the precious moments you have been blessed with this year?



Decking the Halls at Pine Hill Middle Got Students and Teachers into Holiday Spirit!

by Andrew Seago



The presents, the trees, the family gatherings, yes, we all know and love it: Christmas. Even though it has come and gone, like the passing of a shooting star it leaves us with the glimmer of all the love, joy, and wonder it represents.

To celebrate this most beloved time of year we all have traditions, the Panther's Eye did some digging and unearthed some of the traditions we have here at Pine Hill. We usually have a big Christmas tree and a winter dance along with some Christmas contests such as the Panther's Eye Christmas story writing contest.

This year the most exciting Christmas activity was our door decorating contest. Our Student council challenged all the grade level halls to create a magnificent holiday inspired door display. Teachers and students came together in the spirit of Christmas to deck the halls of Pine Hill.

For the days and weeks leading up to the big judging, students and teachers could be seen taping, painting, drawing, and hot gluing their door decorations.

The contest got students and teachers working together to create a decoration that represented both the teacher and the students.

"It really got us in the Christmas spirit!" said some jolly eighth graders putting up door decorations.

"It really made it feel like Christmas around the school" said another group of seventh grade students.

Special shout out and congratulations go out to Ms. Albert (6th grade winner), Mrs. Majors (7th grade winner), and Mrs. Myles (8th grade winner)

classes for their award winning doors. Good job teachers and students for your hard work and creativity! The Panther's Eye really hopes you enjoyed your pizza parties!

No matter whether a class won or not the real prize seemed to be all the fun and excitement of students and teachers working together to create a decoration that represented both the teacher and the students.

The Panthers Eye would like to give another big shout out to the student council for hosting this fun and festive activity that got everyone into the holiday spirit. Keep up the good work student council!

The door decorating contest was a big success but we are hoping that next year we can feature the different beliefs held by some of our students such as Hanukkah or Cuanza. Yes, some people have different beliefs but that doesn't mean we can't show them too. Hopefully next year, we can also include these diverse beliefs as here at Pine Hill we pride ourselves in diversity.



7th Grade Students Decorate Mr. Dukes Door. Students Said They Tried to Create A Door That Would Represent Not Only the Homeroom but Mr. Dukes as Well.



Mr. Dukes Finished Door Said "Happy Birthday" as Mr. Dukes' Birthday falls on Christmas. Happy Birthday from the Panthers Eye Mr. Dukes!





Ms. Albert Won the Sixth Grade Door Decorating Contest with Her Snoopy Door. The Snoopy Door Was Part of a Peanuts Themed Hall and Featured a Christmas Lights Display.



It Was the Winter Wonder Land Creation "Frosty's Flurry of Learning" That Gave Mrs. Majors the Win in the Seventh Grade. Frosty was Made Entirely Out of Styrofoam Cups and Had More Bling than Anyone Could Count!



It Was the Christmas Shout Out Heard Not Only Around Pine Hill but Around the World! The Eighth Grade First Place Prize Went to Mrs. Myles and Her International Christmas Around the Globe Door.



Congratulations to All the Winners: Ms. Alberts, Mrs. Majors, & Mrs. Myles!!!!



Danganronpa: the Cultural Influences of Media Violence

by Khloe Doyle

People today, especially kids, are believed to be more violent than in past generations. If you don't believe this, consider the amount of fighting that goes on in schools or even the amount of school shootings that seem to increase with every year.

Some people believe that one of the reasons children are becoming more violent is that they are playing too many violent games and watching too much violent media.

Violent games expose children to cruel and vicious behavior that does not seem to have any real consequences.

After hours, days, months and even years of exposure they lose their ability to empathize with others pain or understand the consequences of this kind of behavior on themselves and others. This can have the result of kids enjoying causing harm to animals and other people.

One such game that features a lot of violence is the popular Danganronpa. For those who have not heard of this game and don't know what Danganronpa is, Danganronpa takes place at an elite high school named Hope's Peak Academy, which accepts

talented "Ultimate" students in various fields each year.

Makoto Naegi, an average student, is selected in a raffle and chosen to enroll into the academy as the "Ultimate Lucky Student". What seems like a really happy and lucky event turns out to be very unfortunate for Makoto.

He arrives at the Academy, only to wake up locked inside the school, where he meets fourteen other newly picked Ultimate students who are in the same situation as him.

An evil robotic bear named

Monokuma shows up telling them they will be imprisoned in the academy for the rest of their lives, and that they will be put to death if they violate any of the school's rules. This crazy bear threatens that the only way the students can leave the academy is to murder another student and avoid being identified as the killer.

Yes! You read right! The player actually has to kill someone and try to get away with it. The whole thing is a chilling violent journey that encourages the player to commit violence and be sneaky and good at covering their tracks.

If you think about a game that gives you practice at engaging in violence and then covering up that violence it is easy to understand how kids can get the wrong message.

Danganronpa shows a lot about how our society is since we enjoy violent dark games. It



Danganronpa is a video game franchise created by Spike Chunsoft for PlayStation, Phones, and Computers

also helps us understand why our world is becoming progressively more violent. With school shootings becoming more frequent compared to earlier times and how people now find any reason to revolt and get violent.

Part of the reason we might enjoy violence today more as a society is the exposure we have to violence and violent games. To prevent us from continuing on this spiraling descent into violence we should limit our kids exposure to violence, talk to them about the real consequences of violence, and teaching them the right way to treat someone.

Kids should also make better choices on their own about what they play and watch. If our society is going to change it is going to take an effort from everyone.



Pine Hill Middle Sports



Saying Goodbye to an Excellent Basket Season, and Hello to a Victorious Championship in the New Year!

By Andrew Seago

This year the boys' and girls' basketball teams got far into the season with lots of success. The girls made it to the championships and the boys got to the play offs. It has been a great year and we are really proud of both the boys' and girls' teams!

We asked the boys how they felt, and one of the boy's team captains shared that "everyone was working

real hard to achieve the goal of making it to the championships." For this the whole of Pine Hill is very proud.

In spite of the team being very talented and hardworking, as Coach Beard stated, "the team lost focus" and could have easily had 9 wins instead of 7 if they were focused throughout the game and

made it the championships as well.

Don't worry boys the Panther's Eye knows that with all that talent all you need is a little more focus and you will bring home that championship next year!

The girls team felt that they had a very good year. They are hoping to continue the success by winning the

championship this year. We know of course that will win!

We have every confidence in our girls' team and know that they have what it takes to bring home another championship win!

Our girls have played in a whopping seven championships and won an impressive five soon to be six championships. Go Lady Panthers!

The Panther's Eye would like to thank all the coaches for their hard work and dedication to their teams as both the boys and girls' basketball teams mentioned, they would "not be able to even play without their coaches."

We are proud of both our student athletes and coaches. Thank you for giving us such a great basketball season!



Are boys' and girls' basketball teams pictured here warming up before a game, with Lady Panthers coach, Coach Mullis, are the pride of Pine Hill Sports.



Dear Abby Advice Column

The Problem:

Dear Abby, I am so sad please help! I really really liked this boy and the best thing was he liked me back! But then he got expelled. Now I am so depressed and miss him so much. I don't know what to do. I like him so much and don't want to lose the relationship. What can I do?

Abby's Answer:

First of all, I think you need to stop and read what you yourself wrote. Especially the part about him being EXPELLED!

If he got expelled maybe he's not the person for you. You want someone who makes good choices and good decisions. If he couldn't control himself and make the right decisions what makes you think, he will do that in your relationship?

Time heals all wounds and time will heal this. If you still can communicate with him then consider keeping this relationship of one of friendship.

If you care about him, I can understand why you would want to give him support if he is going

through a tough time but do it from a distance.

Just remember you want someone that will compliment you not bring you down.

I know this might seem harsh but you can't expect very many good things from a person who already at this point in his life, is setting himself up for hard times and difficult situations.

I would think you would want a person who will bring positivity into your life. You are at a place in your life where many of the

choices you are making today can have consequences that can last for the rest of your life.

He may seem cute now, but think about you would feel if he was as irresponsible with your heart, life, and relationship as he has been with his education and future.

The Problem:

Dear Abby, I have a really bad problem. I have this person I think I am starting to like. He is so amazing and special. The only thing is that he goes out with my friend. I really don't want to hurt

my friend but I don't want to hurt either. What do you think I should do?

Abby's Answer:

Remember friendships can last forever and relationships can be temporary. Don't ruin a friendship over a something that may last a week. If he is willing to go out with you knowing that you two are friends that's a problem right there.

Leave that alone and find someone for yourself. Trust me, if he is willing to do your friend like this

then red flags should be going up in your mind right now because he will most likely do it to you as well.

There is an old saying that goes like this: What comes around goes around. Don't let yourself be caught up in something ugly like this. Think about how you will feel if a friend betrayed you over a boy.

Special Farewell to Dear Abby



The Panthers Eye would like bid farewell to quite possibly our best Abby yet our beloved counselor Mr. Edwards. He provided us with amazingly sound and wise advice and for that Pine Hill is truly grateful. We love you Mr. Edwards and miss you so much!!! If you are an adult in the building that feels like you would like to provide our Dear Abby counsel, please stop by room 618 and speak to Mrs. Majors. Of course you will remain anonymous unless you give us the ok to reveal your identity.

Dear Abby Drop Box



Students do you have a problem you need help with but don't want everyone to know about your business? Then write Dear Abby and put your problem in the yellow Dear Abby box in the Library kept under lock. Abby will write back and no one will know it is you!

The Panther's Eye Needs A New Abby

We are looking for an adult in the building who would like to help guide and counsel the students who write in for advice. Your identity can be kept secret if you so desire.

Please see Ms. Majors over in the 7th grade hall in room 618.



New Years Know How



The History of New Year's Day Fun Facts

- Around 2000 B.C., Mesopotamians were known to first celebrate New Year. In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar accepted January 1st as the date for New Year. Caesar gave the month January its name from the god Janus because he represents new beginnings.
- In 1752, England and its American colonies officially adopted January 1st as New Year. Some cultures, like the Romans, initially celebrated New Year every March 1st, while some went for the winter solstice or summer equinox.
- Ancient Persians used to gift eggs symbolizing productivity. Persian New Year is called Norouz (Nowruz) and sometimes Baha'i New Year. It marks the beginning of spring and was partly rooted from Zoroastrian belief. In modern Iran, the celebration lasts for 13 days, starting with Tahvil that coincides with the vernal equinox.
- In ancient Egypt, New Year was celebrated after the flooding of the Nile River. Egyptians were guided by the visibility of the brightest star Sirius. This phenomenon is also known as the heliacal rising that usually occurs mid-July. They celebrated the festival of Wepet Renpet, which means opening of the year. Religious rituals were practiced to celebrate rebirth, rejuvenation, and fertility of the farmlands near the Nile River.
- Over 3,000 years ago, during the reign of the Shang Dynasty, New Year was celebrated by the Chinese to mark the beginning of the spring planting season. According to legends, Nian, the mythical monster, preyed on villagers during this time of the year.
- In order to frighten the monster, villagers started to decorate their homes with red paper trimmings and lights. During the 10th century, the 15-day festivities were celebrated with fireworks to eliminate bad spirits. Chinese New Year usually falls from late-January to early-February on the second new moon.

Celebrations & Traditions Around the World



- Greeks usually hang onions on doorsteps for their children's goodwill.
- In Belgium, Sint Sylvester Vooravond is celebrated with champagne toasting while children write letters to their parents and godparents.
- In Ireland, Germany, Italy, and parts of southern U.S., legumes and leafy greens are a standard dish during New Year, signifying financial fortune.
- Ring-shaped pastries and cakes are consumed in Greece, Mexico, and the Netherlands during New Year, while in America, millions of glasses of sparkling wine accompany the celebration.
- In 1796, Scottish poet Robert Burns published the Scots Musical Museum containing the song "Auld Lang Syne", a traditional New Year's song for English speakers.
- New Year's resolutions are set, wishing to eliminate bad habits and develop good practices in the coming year.
- In the United States, the most popular New Year's tradition is the dropping of the New Year Ball in New York City's Times Square. The ball goes down from the building for about one minute and it strikes the ground at exactly 12 midnight.
- In 1890, the Rose Parade was held in California's Pasadena. The Rose Bowl features 18 million flowers designed in floats.
- Every New Year, the Sydney Harbor in Australia is filled with fireworks and spectators.
- In the Philippines, New Year's Eve is celebrated with 12 dishes comprising the Media Noche or midnight feast. Filipinos traditionally wear clothes in polka dots design symbolizing prosperity. Children will jump many times at exactly 12 midnight, believing that they will grow taller.

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

Reigning PHMS Math Whiz



8th Grader Khloe Doyle was the first to turn in the right answer and is the current reigning PHMS Math Whiz . All hail Khloe!



Be the first to figure this Math Challenge out and you will be crowned the new Math Whiz and be featured in the next Panther's Eye!

I Love Math!

Can you find the area and perimeter of the ?



$A = \square$ $P = \square$

Panther Fun!

1. Paw Challenge: How many paws are featured in this issue of the paper? See how many you can find! Check you answer in the answers section below.

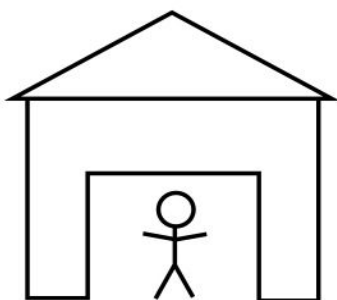
Creative Thinking Challenge: Can you figure out the riddles below? Test your knowledge and then check to see if your answer was right in the answer box.



2. Brain Teaser Challenge: It's as light as a feather but the strongest person can't hold it for more than five minutes. What is it?

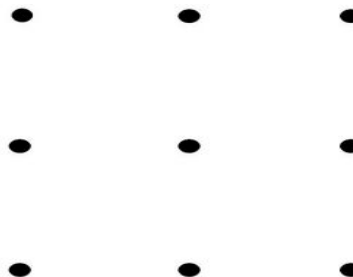
3. Stories with holes Challenge: A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed in town for three days and rode back out on Friday. How is it this possible?

Can you copy the image below without ever lifting your pen from the paper? (it is possible!)



BRAINTEASER

DIRECTIONS: *WITHOUT* taking your pencil off the paper, draw 4 straight lines through each dot! You can only go through each dot ONCE! Remember that each line has to be a straight line, and you can only draw 4 lines! Draw more boards if you need to!



Answer Key:

1. 15 Paws
2. Breath
3. His horse's name is Friday

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



W I H V V A X R N R Z G O A L S A Z Y F
 G R B K G Z T Y Z I Z Z J Q C O M P X B
 M D M B T B K T P X N S L T K C X X W T
 M I Q C R A E Y W E N O Z J K S K R N H
 L P D M V X P N Z J L O V Z V Y D Z Q G
 G P E X A X K O Q N C O U N T D O W N I
 F V Z N D S S M B P C Y W V F T W F B N
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 R M Q G Q X Y B N O I S E M A K E R G F
 N A E N K V K T Y F H R R A Y R Y I A V

Countdown
 Confetti
 Midnight
 Balloons

Celebration
 Fireworks
 January
 Happy

New Year
 Clock
 Cheers
 Goals

Party Poppers
 Noisemaker
 Resolution
 Sparklers

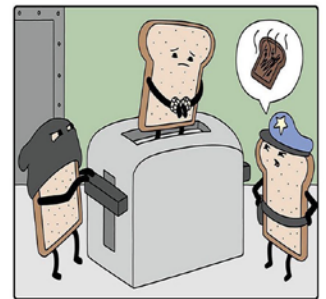
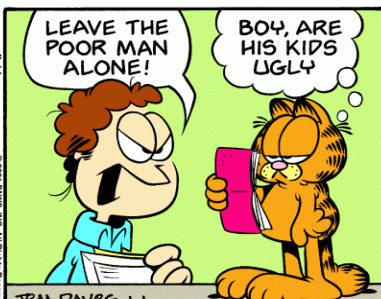
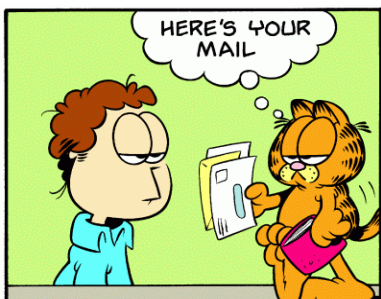


Color Me



Can You Spot the 5 Differences?

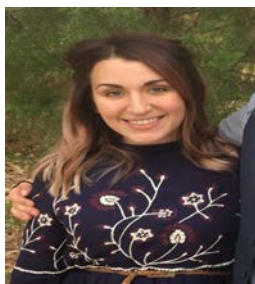
January Funnies



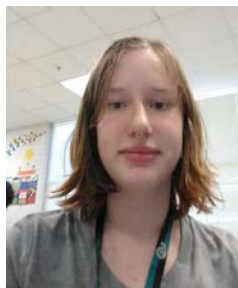
Meet The Panther's Eye News Staff



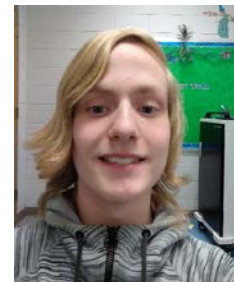
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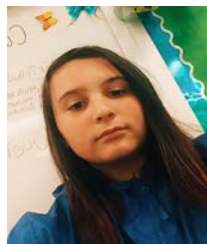
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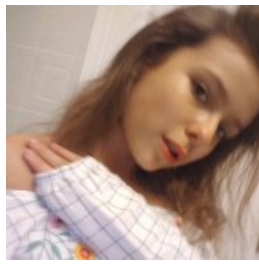
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