

THE VOICE OF PINE HILL MIDDLE'S STUDENTS

MARCH ISSUE 2019

### Student Council Does it Again With Awesome Activities for PHMS Students! by Madison Hyman

Pine Hill's student council does it again! They hosted another lit dance and more recently a talent show!

The talent show was actually the first ever real talent show Pine Hill has ever had and gave students the rare opportunity to share with others their talents.

Student council planners along with Mr. Holmes and Ms. Lee came up with the idea of hosting a talent show for kids to enjoy. Our council came up with the dance and the talent show because they believe that students should have extracurricular activities to make school a more enjoyable and positive experience.

Earlier in December, the student council threw our awesome winter dance to give students a taste of fun in school because all work and no play is never any fun, especially around the holidays. The dance was meant to bring joy and holiday

cheer. The talent show, like the dance, was meant to encourage and lift student's spirits.

Keeping the Pine Hill Middle students excited about, and connected to, the school is the main task of the student council.

Like the dance, the talent show was a success. Eighteen students participated in the talent show that included dancers, singers, and a performing artist.

Among the participants where the two overall winners: singer Lauren Cutts and singer/ dancer Tye Jones. These two students had such incredible talent that the judges felt the need to have not one, but two first place prizes.

One of the judges, retired Pine Hill teacher Dr. Jackson, donated a hundred dollars out of her own pocket towards the winners of the talent show so that the hundred-



**Winners of the Talent Contest Lauren Cutts and Tye Jones Hold the Winning Check for a \$100**



dollar prize did not have to be split. She felt that both students were equally talented and both deserved to win first place.

Wow! Thank you Dr. Jackson for believing and investing in our school and our students.

When asked how she felt about sharing the first place prize Lauren answered, "I understand why they decided on a tie because Tyee was really good too. I was just glad I did not have to split the hundred-dollar cash prize!" Thank you Dr. Jackson!

Tyee shared with the Panther's Eye that although he felt that there was a lot of good competition, that he was most surprised by Lauren's performance and that tying for first place was exciting and unexpected.



2018-2019 Talent Show Participants to include Mr. Holmes and Ms. Lee

Tyee might not have been expecting the tie but he expressed that he was not surprised he won, "I felt confident that I could win if I worked hard and put my mind to it."

Hats off to the eighteen amazing students who participated in the talent show because we at The Panther's Eye know that not everyone is brave enough to perform in front of so many people and even judges!

The Eye also wants to acknowledge the Student Council because without them the school would not have as many extracurricular activities like the awesome school dance and the amazing talent show! Thank you student council for all you do!



## Pine Hill Math Team Brings Home Some Victories from County Math Competition

By Samia Evans

Pine Hill's math team participated in the Richmond County Math Competition and came back with some great victories to make our school proud! This awesome competition has four challenges: two Individual testing challenges (which all participants take part in), team games, and problem solving challenges. Our school competed against all the other schools in our county to include the magnet schools.

Pine Hill's very own sixth grader Jarae Hawkins earned first place for sixth grade in the individual testing competitions. Go Jarae! The entire Pine Hill Middle is so proud of you!

Eighth grader Mary Morris also brought home a win. Mary received second place overall for middle school in the individual Challenge 24 game. Way to go Mary! An interesting side fact about Mary is that she is the current Panther's Eye Math Whiz

**"We felt confident we were ready"—PHMS Math Team**



Math Competition Winners Mary (Middle) and Jarae (Far Left) with Math Coach Mrs. Myles

queen and also has won more Math Whiz challenges for the Panther's Eye than anyone else in the school! Go Mary!

Our Pine Hill Panthers came in fierce and ready to fight. Some teams were late so the Panther's adrenaline was pumping but as they shared they felt, "confident they were ready".

To prepare for this competitive event, our Panther's practiced after school to perfect their skills. The students accomplished this goal mainly by themselves. All they needed was adult supervision.

Mrs. Myles who is an eighth-grade math teacher was over the math team. She chose students based on teacher recommendations with special consideration given to those students who truly love math.

In an interview Mrs. Myles, she stated that she became a math teacher because, "I struggled in math as a student myself and this inspired me to help students learn

to love math.”

Math sometimes gets a bad reputation with students. At the mention of math, many students shut down. To these students, the math team says, “you are missing out!”. Math is incredible and can be a lot of fun if you take the time to explore it.

The eye is always watching and we see your hard work math team! Do not think that your greatness has gone unseen. Keep up the good work! Let there be more math competition victories to come!



2018-2019 Math Team



## Pine Hill Middle Partners with Community to Puts on Touching Black History Program

By Christian Ramsey

On February 28, 2019 Pine Hill hosted its second annual Black History program to honor the contributions of Blacks to American society. Under the guidance of Ms. White, Pine Hill partnered with the community to bring together a cultural and spiritual celebration of black history.

The program featured the Mayfield Dance Group, a play carried out by our own students, the honorable judge Kelly McIntyre, and many more!

One of the many highlights of the black history program was a play directed by our very own Mrs. Childs that featured many of our students as actors.

The play “Black History Heroes” was about how a young girl did not appreciate her black history until some of the most well-known figures in black history show up and show her how different life today would be without their influence.

The play was informative, entertaining, and funny! We at the Panther’s Eye want to give our students and Mrs. Childs a special shout out for all their hard work and dedication!

Mrs. Childs shared with the Eye that she felt, “....a lot of pride in the students for all their hard work. Students came every day of rehearsals faithfully ready to practice.”

Trust us Mrs. Childs, all the practice showed. Our students shined the night of the program!

The main entertainment throughout the program was the Mayfield Dance group. The dancers really captured the essence of black history and black culture. Their movements were fluid, spiritual, and moving.

The Mayfield Dance group were not the only ones to dance that night, Pine Hill Middle’s own Joarah Mitchell also performed a beautiful dance. Joarah captivated the audience with an amazing spiritual dance.

Pine Hill Middle was honored to have the Honorable judge Kelly McIntyre as the special guest speaker. Judge McIntyre, which represents black history in the flesh, is one of the few female black judges in the United States. Many people felt a great deal of pride to witness a black woman, who has overcome so many social and racial barriers, inspire others to do

the same.

We at the Panthers Eye would like to give a shout to Mrs. White for putting together the Black History Program and everybody that help out in the program. It is important to see black history for what it is and all the efforts that African Americans did for the world.



Our Student Actors



Soloist Mayfield Dancer

## Pine Hill Pantheretes Dance into School Spirit!

By Mary Morris



Have you ever wondered what work goes into a dance team? Well, The Panther's Eye is here to tell you all about our very own Dance team The Pantheretes!

**“The Pantheretes school Spirit makes us proud to be Panthers!”**



We have all seen them on the dance floor on fire but looking that good takes good leadership. Our dance team has four captains: Hannah Corley, Robieanna Evans, Nakiyah Carpenter, and Meagan Kemp who lead our dancing girls to success. They also have a High Schooler who comes in to assist them.

I interviewed three of the captains, Robieanna, Nakiyah, and Hannah. Many of you might be curious as to why these girls decided to represent our School as a Pantherete. The girls responded by saying that they danced because simply it is, “fun.”

Robieanna said that she, “(liked) to represent the school” as well. Adding that, “The focus of our team this year is to, “Get good grades and be a good team; stay straight, not sloppy; stay prepared.”

The girls let The Eye in on great information as to the secret of their great success as a dance team. The secret for success is, “Captains keeping the team in order and smiling and staying positive through hard times.”



**2018-2019 PHMS Dance Team**

Hannah added, “You will never see us frowning”.

Their team is definitely a family. They shared, “You should be able to rely on members and or your coaches.”

The Eye also asked what their inspiration was for their choreography or dance routines. They replied saying that, “They would watch videos on YouTube or Instagram of other people's competitions.” After this the captains change some of the moves and add some of their own touches to make the dance routine their own.

Their coaches are obviously very important as well. Even though the coaches don't necessarily make the routines. They help keep the team in order and remind them to have respect for everyone. Way to go dance team coaches! You rock!

Now you all now just a little bit more about our AMAZING Pantheretes. Let's go Panthers and our Pantheretes!! Keep up the good work girls! Your school spirit makes us all proud to be Panthers!



These Girls can Dance!





## The True History of St. Patrick's Day: Saints, Shamrocks, and Leprechauns

By Jasmin Joubert

Have you ever wondered how the St. Patrick's day celebrations began? Believe it or not it did not start off with Leprechauns! The March 17 celebration started in 1631 when the Irish church established a Feast Day honoring St. Patrick.

St. Patrick had been the Patron Saint of Ireland who had died around the fifth century—a whopping 12 centuries before the modern version of the holiday was first observed.

Very little is known about who he actually was. According to Marion Casey, a clinical assistant professor of Irish Studies at New York University, "We know that he was a Roman citizen, because Britain was Roman then, and then he was enslaved and taken to Ireland, where he either escaped or was released," Casey says. "And then he became a priest and went back to Ireland, where he had a lot of luck converting the Druid culture into Christians."

Legend says St. Patrick was actually born Maewyn Succat, but that he changed his name to Patricius (or Patrick), which comes from the Latin term "father figure," after he became a priest. That supposed luck he had is the root of all the modern celebrations on St. Patrick's Day.

It wasn't until the early 18th century that many of today's traditions were kicked into high gear.

Around the 1720s, the church found it "got kind of out of control," Casey says. People were out dancing and celebrating much to the church's disappointment. To remind celebrants of what the holiday actually stood for, the church assigned St. Patrick a symbol which was the lucky shamrock.

The shamrock was chosen because According to legend, St. Patrick used the shamrock when converting the Irish to Christianity. The three leaves of the plant were used to explain the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

"Today, St. Patrick's day would not be St. Patrick's day without the Leprechaun regardless of the fact that it really does not have much to do with St. Patrick himself."



St. Patrick Stain Glass Art in Irish Cathedral

Modern-day celebrations and themes continued to take shape during the rest of the 1700s. In 1762, the first New York City parade took place. It wasn't until 1798, the year of the Irish Rebellion, that the color green became officially associated with the day. Up until the rebellion, the color associated with St. Patrick was actually blue, as it was featured both in the royal court and on ancient Irish flags.

Since during the rebellion the British wore red, the Irish chose to wear green and started singing the song "The Wearing of the Green" during the rebellion. This created the importance associated with the color green in Irish history.

As for the leprechaun, that's an even later addition. Eventually, St. Patrick's day came to represent all things Irish. The Leprechaun has been part of Irish folklore and legend for centuries but because of its association with luck it was a perfect fit with the St. Patrick theme.

Today, St. Patrick's day would not be St. Patrick's day without the Leprechaun regardless of the fact that it really does not have much to do with St. Patrick himself. The mischievous magical shoe making elf that hordes all his gold in pots is actually more well-known than St. Patrick himself! This probably so because people love the idea of getting three wishes if you can find and catch him.

## Should Students Have a Say In What Games They Play for Learning?

By Khloe Doyle



Why do we play games? James P. Carle put it this way, "There are at least two kinds of games: One would be called finite, the other infinite. A finite game is played for the purpose of winning, and an infinite game is played for the purpose of continuing to play just for the fun of it. The rules of a finite game may not change; the rules of an infinite game must. The finite game player aims to win eternal life; the infinite player aims for eternal birth (continuation of play)."

Judging from this we play games to win or to get enjoyment from them. If you think about it, we use this love of games to help people learn.

Even animals instinctively play to learn. For example, have you ever seen two lion cubs wrestling in the wild on television or online? They are trying to learn how to fight and hunt through play. The play is practice for real life. Kids play to learn too. We play games to learn how to work the technology important for our education and careers.

Games can be designed with education in mind, but it is important not to limit the educational game by forcing students to play them. Making games mandatory takes the fun out of the game playing. People have a natural desire to play games but forcing them on students will stifle that desire.

Getting kids to learn through game playing requires the freedom of choice. If you force students to play educational games they are not interested in, you hurt the possibility of students actually learning through them. Forcing kids to play games will defeat the purpose of allowing students the opportunity to absorb knowledge through game playing because they will not be engaged in the learning process.

Giving students choice in playing academic games is important because students feel like they are part of the process and this makes the activity more interesting to

them. Part of the reason we love to play is because we choose to do so and this makes us more invested in that play.

Programs like games4ed are looking into how to use games in the classroom in the most engaging way for students. This website offers many educational games for students to choose from and for teachers to use for student learning. Offering choices, allows students to be more in control of their own learning and ensures that the experience is more interesting for students.

Another good way to get students excited about game playing is to have students create some of the games themselves. Students can make games on fun and easy game making websites like Kahoot, Jeopardy, Amino, and Quizizz just to name a few. When students are allowed to make the games they will learn from, the learning experience is made more fun and challenging for students.

Playing cool games, to include student created games, can be a powerful way to learn. It's actually instinctual to learn through play. So the next time you are trying to learn or teach, consider using games, but do not forget to make the games fun by allowing for choice and creativity.



**Game playing is a fun and natural way to learn!**





## Pine Hill Middle Sports



## The Panthers on the Prowl for Victory: Boy's Baseball Team Vow to Regain Championship

By Kaylana Krauss

The spring is here and so is boys baseball! This year the boys have the goal to redeem the baseball championship and there is no stopping them! After last year's upsetting loss, the boys are back and ready to win by working hard and building what player Kaleb Joyner calls a "young team".

The boys are confident that they can achieve their championship goal, but you might be wondering how they plan to do this. The Panther's Eye interviewed Kaleb Joyner, Gavin Teal, and Zachariah Burton to find out how.

The boys stated that team work is really important and that "without team work you have no chance of doing good." Teamwork is everything and without it no team can be successful. A good team supports each member so that everyone is working together towards a goal. Each team member can play better and everyone can shine.

"..the most important goal is to have fun and enjoy playing the game you love."



2018-2019 PHMS Boys Baseball Team

Our boy's secret weapon is hard work. The team plans to practice hard to improve their skills and to learn how to work together so that each player understands their role and becomes the best player they can be. Good leadership and hard work is sure to be the winning combination to bring back the championship victory boys!

Our boys shared with the Panther's Eye that they play because, "It is fun and challenging". Both great reasons to play, if you ask The Eye.

We hope the best for our Panthers and know that they will do their best to bring home the victory. As you work towards your goals, remember that the most important goal is to have fun and enjoy playing the game you love. If you do that, Pine Hill will be very proud.



Arts &amp; Entertainment



## Trending Now Report: This or That

By: Jystice Santiago

### How well Do You Know St. Paddy's Day?

1. St. Patrick's Day is an Irish national holiday with banks, stores, and businesses closing for the day.
2. The real St. Patrick wasn't Irish. He was born in Britain around A.D. 390 to an aristocratic Christian family.
3. The holiday started as a religious celebration of Christianity being brought to Ireland by St. Patrick but over time is now a celebration of all things Irish.
4. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on the day it is believed that St. Patrick died.
5. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the United States was held in Boston (1737).
6. Shamrocks are the national flower/emblem of Ireland.
7. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, Chicago dyes the river green for a few hours
8. Places like New York and Chicago have big parades with over 250,000 people coming to celebrate Irish culture



## Artist Trending

Check these trending artists Out:

- Ariana Grande
- Post Malone
- Queen
- Marshmellow
- Halsey

Can you finish the lyrics for this month?

Now I lay me down to sleep  
I pray the Lord, my soul \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**\*\*If you can finish the lyrics, be the first to turn them in and be featured in the Eve!\*\***



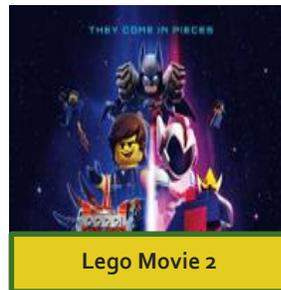
Ariana Grande



## In the Movies

Check these amazing blockbusters currently trending.

1. Captain Marvel
2. Lego Movie 2
3. Alita Battle Angel
4. Dumbo (2019)
5. Madea a Family Funeral
6. Wonder Park
7. Shazam (out Mar. 23)



Lego Movie 2

## Games to Follow

Top 5 trending games this month:

- Jumpforce
- Apex Legends
- Anthem
- Far Cry: New Dawn
- Cuphead: The Last Delicious Course



Play Station's Jump Force

## Dear Abby

Dear Abby,

I am sort of sad and confused. My mom keeps trying to change me. She tries to buy my clothes so I can look like she wants me to look. She forces me to do sports and gets upset about me liking fashion and doing hair. The truth is I am not like regular guys I guess. I try to look and act more like my mom and step dad want me to, but I really feel like I am not being myself. I don't want or need the pressure I am getting to be more like my step brothers who are more "boy like". My step brothers also make me feel bad about the way I am. Do you think there is something wrong me? Do I need to change? They make me feel like there is something wrong with me. In fact, everyone makes me feel like there is something wrong with me except my real friends.

Abby's Response:

Be yourself. Don't conform to their WANTS. They cannot control who you are as an individual, as the unique human being that you are. Stick through it, and no matter what, love yourself for who you are. Do not let anybody change you. Parents can be a bit less understanding, but I have a friend who is going through the same kind of stuff. Everyone criticizes her. Just Be Yourself. You are uniquely created and let no one take that away from you. You have to live for yourself and your happiness. Walk tall in who you are and be proud of that person.

Dear Abby,

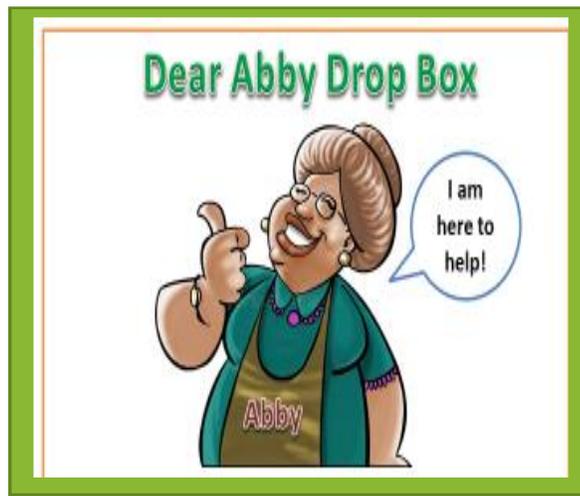
I am sad all the time. Even when I have no reason to be sad. I try to be happy but I just can't. I try to look happy so everyone

thinks I am ok but I have gotten to the point that I can't stand it anymore. I told my mom how I feel but she told me that I am young and do not know what real problems are and that I should be grateful for not having "real problems like her". My grandma thinks I just need to just go to church. I can't explain the pain I am in so I gave up trying to explain it to other people. I don't know what to do or how to get help.

Abby's Response:

It's perfectly OK to have sad feelings at times. As long as they don't happen too often or last too long, sad feelings – like all emotions – are just a natural part of life. But it doesn't feel good to stay sad. It feels much better to be happy. First, think about the last time you felt sad.

(Sorry to make you relive it.) What caused that feeling? Maybe a family member passed away, or a close friend made a remark that cut deep. Whatever it was, you probably felt sad about something. Sadness is a normal human emotion, It's a healthy response to any kind of loss, disappointing outcome, or hurtful comment. We need to find the source of your pain. How about you go to one of your counselors at school, they specialize in this area and will be more than happy to help you find the source and deal with it.

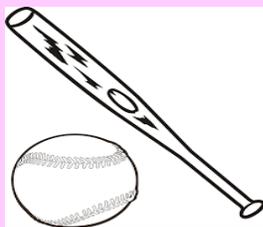


Do you have a problem you need help with but don't want everyone to know about your business? Then write Dear Abby and put your problem in the yellow Dear Abby box. Abby will write back and no one will know it is you!



### Math Challenge

At the end of the Yankees game, the 10 players and 4 coaches each shook hands with one another. Each person shook hands exactly one time with every other person. How many total handshakes were there? Show your thinking using pictures, numbers or symbols.



### Math Challenge!

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!



### Reigning PHMS Math Whiz

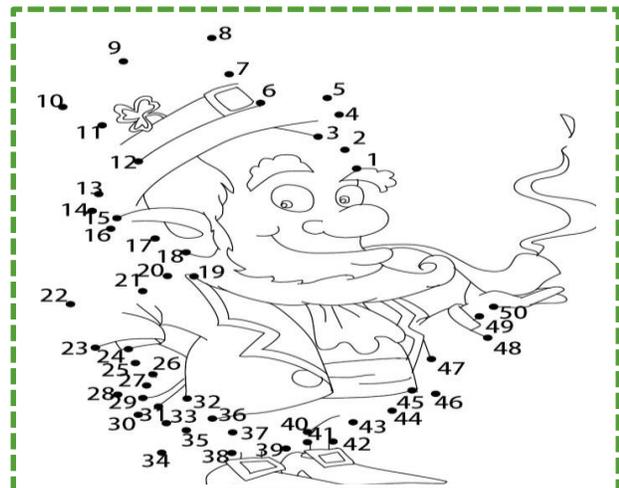


Do you have what it takes to dethrone me?

8<sup>th</sup> Grader Mary Morris was the first to turn in the right answer and is the current reigning PHMS Math Whiz. All hail Mary!



- The Shamrock Clover Hunt Challenge:** How many shamrocks are featured in this issue?
- St. Patrick's Day Riddle:** Why can't you iron a four-leaf clover?
- St. Patrick's Day Riddle:** What do you call a fake stone in Ireland?



Connect the Dots!

Fun with Leprechaun Coloring



Help Lucky the Leprechaun find his way to his missing pot of gold!



Math Soduko Challenge: Try and Figure out the Missing Numbers by Looking for the Patterns in the Numbers.

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|   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   | 4 |
|   | 8 |   |   | 7 |   |   | 2 |
| 8 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 9 |   | 7 |   | 4 |   |   |
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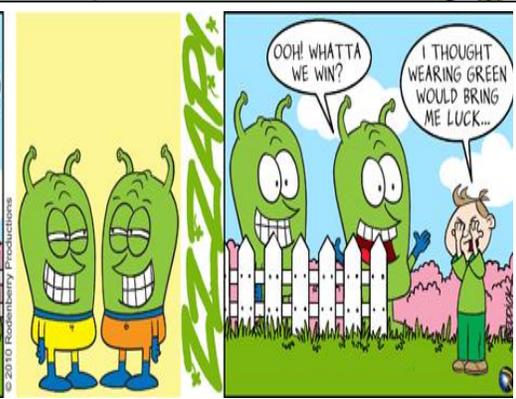
Can You Spot All 6 Differences? 👁️ 👁️



1. 177 clovers or shamrocks
2. Because you shouldn't press your luck!
3. A Sham-Rock (sham means fake)

Answers

March Madness



"The Green Crew"

Math Sudoku Answer is Upside Down

Do you know of someone or something that deserves recognition or that is newsworthy? Don't Keep it to yourself?! Let the Panther's Eye help you get the word out! Contact us Today!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 3 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 |

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