Delivering high school news...one page at a time!

Pine-Richland Rampage

ISSUE #3 Thursday October 15, 2026

THIRD ISSUE

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WHITE OUT





Seniors Rowan Ribar, Sophie Kessinger, Migena Balanca, Taylor Servagno, Petra Balkovec, and Maddy Neuberger



Sophomores Keenan Parkhill, John Wisse, Matthew Jones, Kendall Hughey, and Scarlett Edgerly



Juniors Allie Woessner and Izzy Richardson



Sophomore Jake Hurwitz, Heath Ramirez, Carter Lennon, Alejandro Olano, and Owen Smith

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: IZZY MONTANI

PR Local

Spirit Week Spotlight

PR Shows School Pride by Dressing Up On Theme

JOSIE CHRISTY STAFF WRITER

As the Homecoming dance approaches, the week prior to the dance is a source of much excitement within the student body at Pine-Richland. Spirit week has come and gone, and the PR spirit was clearly seen through the students who participated. The themes this year were fun and encouraged widespread participation that allowed students to show off their school spirit. Here is a look at each theme from this year's Spirit Week.

Groutfit

Arguably the theme with the most participation, groutfit is a theme day that everyone loves. As students dress up in their all-grey fits, it gives people an excuse to wear an outfit that they may not typically wear. When asked about her favorite theme day, junior Aubrey Franklin stated, "I love groutfit day the best because it allows me to be so comfortable throughout the day." Clearly, groutfit is one of the many beloved theme days.

Teen Beach

Based on the iconic 2013 movie featuring Ross Lynch and Maia Mitchell, Tuesday's theme was inspired by the Bikers vs. Surfers storyline. For those unaware, in this movie, there are two very different groups featured throughout: the Bikers and Surfers. For Bikers, students wore black and red clothing, sometimes featuring a leather jacket. For Surfers, Hawaiian shirts and leis were often seen. This theme was brand new this year, and students as well as teachers had a ton of fun participating.

Adam Sandler

One of the most fun themes of the week, Adam Sandler, day is always enjoyed by students. This theme day gives them an excuse to wear their baggiest shorts, biggest t-shirt, and a backwards hat. People got really creative with this theme, embracing the laid-back style. Students and teachers around the school participated in this theme, and it was easy to spot the Sandler-inspired outfits in the hallways. This theme day brought many laughs into the hallways.

Jersey vs. Jersey

Jersey day has been a popular theme throughout the past few years, but this year, it was applied with a bit of a twist. Rather than solely focusing on wearing a Jersey from your favorite team, you could also wear clothes in the style of the state of New Jersey. Stereotypically, this means wearing clothes inspired by the 2000's like cheetah print and bright colors. This new twist to the normal theme allows for more creative liberties among students.

Green Out

Green Out is a classic theme that students and faculty love. It is an easy theme to participate in, and it is the perfect way to show off your PR Pride. Students have enjoyed dressing in their green, whether that is a PR sweatshirt or a green hat. The halls filled with the school colors created an excited atmosphere as student prepared for the football game that night.

PR Local

Students Showcase School Spirit

JULIA JAKOVAC STAFF WRITER









Juniors Josie Christy and Lucy Arthur, Sophomores Thomas Evanuik and Sidney Brashear, Junior Eve Pelathy and Freshman Annabel Pelathy, Juniors Chidera Okonkwo, Brooklyn Pfaeffle, Juliette Pala, Brynn Centner, and Eve Pellathy Participating in Spirit Week

PR Local

This Year's Homecoming Floats

A Look into the Parade

ABBY HENGELSBERG STAFF WRITER

For the past couple of years, Pine-Richland has put on a Homecoming parade to celebrate the sports and clubs that the school has to offer. In the past, there have been students that collaborated to build floats for the parade, and each year featured a new theme. The themes have included: “Around the world,” “Board Games,” and “Decades”. This year's theme was “Movies."

Each grade picked their float’s movie, going in order from seniors to freshmen. The seniors picked *Alice in Wonderland,* the juniors picked *Toy Story,* the sophomores picked *Star Wars,* and the freshmen picked *Cars.* The student government along with some student volunteers worked from August until the end of September to create big floats to build spirit and represent their class. It was super exciting seeing each float start from scratch and eventually become a huge collage of crafts and DIYS.

Although they eventually look great in the end, there were tons of problems that needed to be worked through. Working on a giant project with little resources, and students with busy schedules can get tricky. Sometimes things didn't go according to plan, causing some rerouting and recollecting. There was also the struggle to find participants who wanted to dedicate time and help out when they can, along with finding people to ride on and drive the floats. Junior Josie Christy said the hardest part of the floats was, “Genuinely everything. Making sure you have good communication to articulate what is going on and the end vision. And getting people to participate, of course.”

All that to say, a lot of time and effort went into the parade this year.



Seniors Float: Alice in Wonderland



Sophomores Float: Star Wars



Freshmen Float: Cars

PR Local

Homecoming Hosted In-House

An Opinion Piece On the Indoor Dance

JULIA JAKOVAC STAFF WRITER

After holding Homecoming outside last year, the dance returned indoors this year. While some students may have preferred the open space and scenery of an outdoor dance, moving inside created a more connected experience.

The location of the dance may seem like a small detail, but it can completely change the experience. Outside, students have more room to spread out, get fresh air, and take pictures with a different backdrop. Inside, however, students are more concentrated in one space, making it easier to dance and socialize.

Senior Ellie DeMann saw both sides of the change. “My thoughts on the indoor Homecoming are mixed,” DeMann said. “I think indoor dances bring everyone together better to talk and socialize, as well as dance. However, outdoors there is better air circulation and scenery for pictures.”

For DeMann, there was not necessarily a clear winner. Both settings have their own advantages, and what makes one better may depend on what a student wants out of the night.

For senior Rowan Ribar, however, the return indoors was something to look forward to. “I was very happy to hear that it would be inside this year,” Ribar said. She believes the indoor setting makes it easier for students from different grades to gather together instead of separating into smaller groups.

Ultimately, Homecoming is about more than just the setting. It is about spending time with friends, meeting people from different grades and creating memories during one of the biggest social events of the school year.



Seniors Taylor Servagno and Carmen Mascarenas
Pictures Provided by: Taylor Servagno



Juniors Jacqueline Jurecko, Leyton Carlson, and Sadie Thomas

Opinion

Loco for Hoco

My Experience Looking for My Homecoming Dress

REAGAN STRAUB STAFF WRITER

Homecoming is always super important. I've seen it before in movies and TV-shows and it seems so cool. As a freshman going to my first Homecoming ever, I could not have felt more excited to go to such an important event. However, one thing I did NOT like was shopping. I hate those tiny, small changing rooms. Now, combine this factor with the fact I get overwhelmed easily, and you have my first Homecoming shopping experience.

I went with my mom to Ross Park Mall first. I do not mind going to the mall and looking around; it's just trying clothes that I hate. We went on a Saturday, which was already a bad idea. We entered the store and started on the first floor. My mom and I walked around a bit and then we got to Windsor. I heard a lot of people get their dresses from there, and I wanted to check it out for myself. We walked in, and we were greeted by the longest line ever. The store is not super big, so I thought it was the checkout line. My mom tapped a lady on the shoulder and asked, "Excuse me? What are you waiting in line for?" The lady said she and her daughter were waiting to use the changing rooms. That super long line that wrapped around the store was just people trying on their dresses. My mom said we were going to leave because she wasn't going to waste time waiting just for a changing room. We then walked around a bit and walked into EPISODE.



Reagan Straub's Homecoming Dress
Picture Provided by Reagan Straub

This store was already small, but there were 20 other people in there. The dresses were pretty, but this place did not have changing rooms. It was a trillion degrees in that store. I left without buying anything and feeling more frustrated than ever. I did not think I would find a dress. Then my mom said we were going downtown to VON MAUR. At this point, I was drained. I walked in and walked down the stairs, and then I saw it. I knew that dress was the one I wanted. Keep in mind that you should keep your options open, because you might just find your dress in the place you least expect it.

PR Local

PR Students Attend the Eradicate Hate Summit

BIANKA ROMAN STAFF WRITER

On September 14th, various PR students attended the Eradicate Hate Student Summit (over 1,600 people attended) at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to discuss preventing *hate-fueled violence*. The organization was founded after a targeted attack at the Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018, resulting in 11 deaths. Since then, their goals have been to prevent hate-fueled attacks such as these. They have also partnered up with other resources such as the Reach Out Resource Hub and the Prevention Practitioners Network to expand their impact and continue to help others.

One specific workshop students attended at the Summit was called the Idea Sprint Project. In a room with 600 students from 43 different districts, groups of students discussed ways to make an impact on their specific high school and ways to make an impact. PR's Black Student Union President Taylor Patterson said, "We must make it a habit to eradicate hate by mentoring close to home objectives like mentoring and growing our BSU membership, sharing culture, and having difficult conversations...". Also in attendance was senior Preet Saini.



Students at ESU event.



Black Student Union at the Activity Fair.

PR Local

Q: In your own words, how would you describe the Eradicate Hate Summit?
A: “It’s an amazing opportunity for students from different schools to come together, share ideas, brainstorm solutions, and listen to survivors and other guest speakers.”

Q: What did you do during your time at the Summit?
A: “I interacted with local and national non profits, organizations, and communities.”

Q: What is something new you learned that impacted you?
A: “We heard from guest speakers that lost family members due to hate- fueled violence and they explained their healing and how they joined organizations like REACH- that really inspired me.”

Q: What is one takeaway you want to share with Pine-Richland?
A: “It’s important to understand the impacts of hate and to stop discrimination towards anyone. And remember, it’s never too late to make an impact in your school. So, I encourage underclassmen to get involved and make a change.”

The Eradicate Hate Summit was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn and experience new things and as Preet said herself, don’t be afraid to put yourself out there for your passions.



Senior Kason Straub and Junior Zoe Furrow



Students and teachers at EHS

PR Local

Best Buddies Adventures

PR's Club Helps Everyone Feel Included

JULIA RIPPOLE STAFF WRITER

If you're thinking about joining a club, I strongly recommend joining Best Buddies. Best Buddies is a student run club that creates one to one friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. It ensures that every student has an opportunity to make a genuine friend. There are many group events like zoo trips during school and friendship walks. Everybody in the group meets once a month to talk about future activities and hang out with their buddies. There are multiple leadership opportunities for students. This year there are 10 officers, ranging from sophomores to seniors. Best Buddies forms friendships that continue outside of club meetings and activities. While organized events give opportunities for students to meet and get to know each other, the connections they build help students create outside of school friendships. To give a perspective from officers and new students who have joined the club, here are some responses from students.



25-26 BB zoo trip Photos Provided by Best Buddies



26-27 first club meeting

Freshman Lorelei Hart

Q: What inspired you to join the club?

A:"A lot of older people who were in Best Buddies have recommended it, and it seems like a good way to create friendships bring together groups of people that may with students who may struggle with finding otherwise be separated."

25-26 Vice President Maya Rippole

Q: Why is Best Buddies important to you?

A: "I love Best Buddies because of its mission to spread kindness, include everyone, and life lessons and I am grateful for all of the new friends I've made through the club."

PR Local

Fall into Fun

Fun Things to do with your Friends for this New Season

LORELEI HART STAFF WRITER

With summer finally coming to an end, students stop thinking about the sunshine and tanning, trading those thoughts for changing leaves and pumpkin spice. As the air begins to cool, fall brings the perfect opportunity to spend time with your most loved people. Between going to Barnes and Noble to aesthetic fall walks, there are endless possibilities to have the best time this season. Haunted mazes and houses are opening with a scare. Pumpkin patches are selling hot apple cider and huge pumpkins waiting to be carved. For students looking to make the most of this season, there are a multitude of plans, adventures, and fun things to do.

Starting with one of the most obvious and seasonal places to go is the pumpkin patch. Picking pumpkins can bring so much joy to anyone and everyone. With so many things packed and tied into the pumpkin patch such as: hayrides, corn mazes, and an appealing backdrop for a photo shoot. After picking your pumpkins, painting or carving is an entertaining tradition to do every year. This is such a classic choice for fall; bringing your family and friends together for fun activities is an unavoidable component of the “ber” months.

One of my favorite things to do during this thrilling season is to go to haunted mazes, houses, and hayrides. Last year, I went to the Cheeseman Fright Farm in Portersville with three of my really good friends. Some of my highlights from that adventure were the workers using fake chainsaws to scare us and running into each other in the pitch dark maze. Going through the maze



My friends and I (second from the left) at Cheeseman's last year. Photo Provided By: Lorelei Hart

was one of the scariest, exciting things I have ever done. It was truly the most perfect Halloween experience.

Now for some more laid back ideas to do: for a more cozy fall, I would definitely take a trip to Starbucks and Barnes and Noble, an autumn statement piece. With the seasonal fall favorites from Starbucks, I certainly recommend the Iced Pecan Crunch Latte. For your Barnes and Noble stop, picking out a book or two is a fall must have. For a more scenic atmosphere, I would encourage you to go out, either by yourself or with some friends, and just walk/hike when the leaves are at their brightest colors. This provides the opportunity to take perfect autumn pictures and to be able to suck in all the fall aroma.

In all, autumn is the perfect time of the year to do any activity in comfortable weather and a beautiful ambiance. I want these months to stretch as long as they want before we begin the Christmas season.

PR Sports

Mixing Football AND Homecoming

An Interview with: Miles Neals

COOPER STISCAK STAFF WRITER

Q: Friday night brings the excitement of Homecoming weekend, so how does the energy at practice different this week compared to a normal game?

A: "The atmosphere across the entire building was definitely noticeable during Homecoming week, but our team was focused. Everyone feels the higher stakes because the student section packs the stands completely full. But we are more than ready to go out and beat NA."

Q: With the dance scheduled for the very next day, how do the players manage the distractions and keep focus locked on the field?

A: "Coaches emphasized all week that Friday night we need to have complete concentration on what we need to do. The other nonsense outside of football, can't even be a thought until the game is over Friday night."

Q: Homecoming games often draw larger crowds, so does that environment change your approach on the field?

A:"The larger audience raises the emotion across the entire sideline, but our game plan is good. For me personally, I feed off the loud support from the fans. It helps me be up and hype all game long no matter what the score or quarter it is."

Q: How has leadership within the upperclassman group guided younger guys through this different game schedule?

A: "Seniors remind the underclassmen that winning creates the best memories of the weekend. The guys lead by setting harsh requirements in film, weight room, and on the field so younger guys knew we all needed to be locked in this week."



Juniors Jackson Reba, Rhett Valenty, Miles Neals, and Cooper Stiscak after the Homecoming game last year

SENIORS CHECK YOUR EMAIL: Order Cap & Gowns by December 1st!!

Opinion

Make a Difference

Volunteer Opportunities at Animal Friends

ANNA JANCY STAFF WRITER

Many high school students need a certain number of volunteer hours for different reasons. Animal Friends is a simple and easy way to get more hours. Animal Friends is an animal shelter in Ohio Township that takes in dogs, cats, and bunnies. According to their website, for more than 80 years, they have been saving animals and impacting people's lives through the pets they have been connected with. Most of their staff are volunteers, so their volunteers are valued. It is very simple to sign up, and there are always plenty of opportunities to volunteer. You have to turn in an application and then attend one of their orientation meetings. Or you can foster a pet if you fill out the correct paperwork and applications. They also have a wishlist of supplies that are needed that you can drop off in the front lobby.

Some of the volunteer opportunities include playing and supervising bunnies during their weekly bun runs, taking out the dogs, training therapy pets, doing laundry, unloading and shelving food, and being involved with big events. Animal Friends also provides affordable vet services, training classes, free pets for veterans, a second-hand store for supplies, free pet food for families that cannot afford it, and training therapy animals. Additionally, they have summer camps for kids that you can also volunteer at.



A bunny named Thumper at a Bun Run
Photo Provided by Anna Jancy

They are open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Saturday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You are able to walk through and look at all of the cats and bunnies; however, you are only allowed to see a few of the dogs. If you are interested in adopting, you would be able to look at all of them. Animal Friends has lots of great opportunities and is an important and beneficial organization.

Opinion

Remembering Dolly Parton:

A Posthumous Look At The Life Of A Pop Star

AARON MANCINI STAFF WRITER

"Dolly Parton" is a name that can evoke many different emotions. It could bring sadness in that she can no longer bring the sparkle she did into so many lives. Awe of her numerous talents, dedication to philanthropy, and journey from a one-room cabin to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Even happiness in continuing to listen to her music and watch her movies knowing she died having lived an extraordinary life. No matter the case, one thing can be easily agreed upon: Dolly Parton had a profound impact on people all across the world. This article will take a closer look at the events of her life.

Parton was born on January 19, 1946 near the Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. She was raised in a single-bedroom cabin with her mother, father, six brothers and five sisters. She had a passion for music at a young age and began writing songs at age five. When she was ten, Dolly began to sing on local radio networks, debuting on the Grand Ole Opry stage at thirteen. She left for Nashville in 1964, where she would meet her future husband of 60 years, Carl Dean. Three years later, she was invited onto *The Porter Wagoner Show,* who had invited her to replace his previous musical partner Norma Jean. It was at this point that stardom seemed to be set in stone for Dolly Parton.

Parton continued to pursue her musical career, releasing hit singles such as "Coat of Many Colors" (1971), "Jolene" (1973), and "I Will Always Love You" (1974). However, it was during this time she also began to expand into acting, business, and later philanthropy. Parton's most famous acting role is in *9 to 5* (1980), but also acted in *Rhinestone* (1984) and *Steel Magnolias* (1989).



Dolly Parton in 9 to 5

Alongside her acting career, Parton also co-founded her theme park Dollywood in 1986 with help from Herschend Family Entertainment. She was an ardent humanitarian and launched her Imagination Library, a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five, in 1995. Parton donated on multiple occasions to philanthropic causes, including $1 million to coronavirus research, $1 million to pediatric infectious disease research, and another $1 million to provide roughly 2.5 million meals to people in need through The Salvation Army.

Dolly Parton undoubtedly had a significant impact on the world. She touched many lives and throughout her life was committed to making people feel seen. No matter how much you knew about Dolly Parton, thank you for taking the time to appreciate the legendary life she lived.

Opinion

Pumpkin Spice, Pay the Price

Is it Worth the Cost?

REAGAN STRAUB STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows it's officially fall when Starbucks launches their fall menu. Whether you drink your coffee hot or cold, Starbucks' fall menu kicks off the start to sweater weather. However, some long term Starbucks customers may feel upset due to the cost of the drinks. Basic drinks such as refreshers, can cost over 6 dollars.

I love Starbucks. I always love to get refreshers in the summer, iced lattes in the fall, and warm mochas in the winter. I enjoy trying different drinks, so I tried the new Iced Banana Bread Latte, and it's been a favorite of mine since the first sip. The average cost of a grande is 3 dollars to 7.25 dollars. I can finish a grande in two sips. Starbucks workers say it's because of the quality of the drink, which I do agree with. They make great coffee, but it's so expensive.

If you were to get a 7 dollar daily coffee everyday it would be 2,000 dollars a year. I love Starbucks and enjoy getting coffee especially from the fall menu, but it really adds up. It makes so much more sense to just make coffee at home and get more use than to pay that much money. So I enjoy the coffee but not the price. Let's see my friends' perspective as well. Here are their answers to the question: **"What do you think of the fall menu and what do you think of the price?"**

"The prices are way too high but I like everything on the fall menu I've tried so far."
-Audrey Camberg

"I think the prices are a bit high but the fall menu is delicious, especially the chai."
-Lidia Thompson



Banana Bread Latte

"I like everything on the menu, I just think it's WAY too expensive."
- Emma Brooks

As you can see, my friends had the same perspective as me when it came to the prices. We all love the fall menu, just not the price tag that comes with it. I do hope that some day Starbucks will lower their prices so it's more affordable.

Opinion

Amazing Musical: The Lion King

Will there be another one just as good?

AUDREY CAMBERG STAFF WRITER

The Lion King played at the Pittsburgh Benedum this year; it was a very realistic show, with people playing the animals. They created fake animals that look very realistic, and the show in general had great actors. There have been plenty of showings at the Benedum, but in my opinion, this is one of the best live shows I have ever seen.

According to “The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust,” the musical played from September 9th to September 27th, and people are saying it's one of the best musicals they’ve ever seen. *The Lion King* was a national tour directed by Tony Winner and Julie Taymor. It is famous for its design concept/set design, where the audience sees both the human actor performance and the animal puppet at the same time.

Throughout the show, there were many musical numbers and incredible scenes. It consists of 2 acts, a 15-minute intermission, and plenty of songs in each. So much time and effort was put into it, with costumes, set design, and choreography. They had so many amazing people, and they really brought the movie to life.

This amazing cast consists of Simba (Gilbert Domally), the main character who is trying to figure out who he's meant to be. Nala (Aja Simone Baitey) is Simba’s best friend as a child, and as they grow up, their relationship grows stronger. Scar (Peter Hargrave) who tries to steal Simba’s spot as king. Finally, Mufusa (David D'Lancy Wilson) is Simba's father and king until a tragic accident. *The Lion King* was an amazing balance of human emotion and artistic design, setting a new bar for live performances at the Benedum. It was an incredible display of talent and creativity that proved why this classic story remains so popular.



Lion King Playbill.

Opinion

Same Show, New Favorites

The Rookie Keeps Giving New Reasons To Love It

ANNA JANCY STAFF WRITER

The recently popular TV show, *The Rookie,* has caused fans to have many opinions, especially in recent seasons. *The Rookie* is centered around a group of Los Angeles cops who take on many different challenges on the job as well as in their personal lives.

According to: "IMDb", the first season premiered in 2018, but its popularity rapidly grew in recent years with the help of social media. The show originally followed the storyline of the oldest rookie who entered the LAPD, but it soon fell away from that. It now focuses more on multiple characters at a time, rather than just one, like it did in the beginning. The show is very fast-paced and incorporates complex storylines that continue throughout the following seasons. According to "The Observer", some people love the show because of the character relationships with lots of action and humor. Some people dislike *The Rookie* because it was originally more realistic and grounded, but it turned into an unrealistic drama with constant life-threatening events that don't actually happen often in the real world. It is also highly exaggerated for entertainment purposes.

Nathan Fillion (John Nolan) was the original reason why the show drew attention. But in recent seasons, Melissa O'Neil (Lucy Chen) and Eric Winter (Tim Bradford) have been the reason for drawing more attention. Fans have loved watching their relationship unfold over the course of 8 seasons,



The Rookie Tv Show Banner

and season 8 left everyone on a cliffhanger. The final season will be released in January of 2027 and will be watchable on Hulu, Disney+, and YouTube TV.

World News

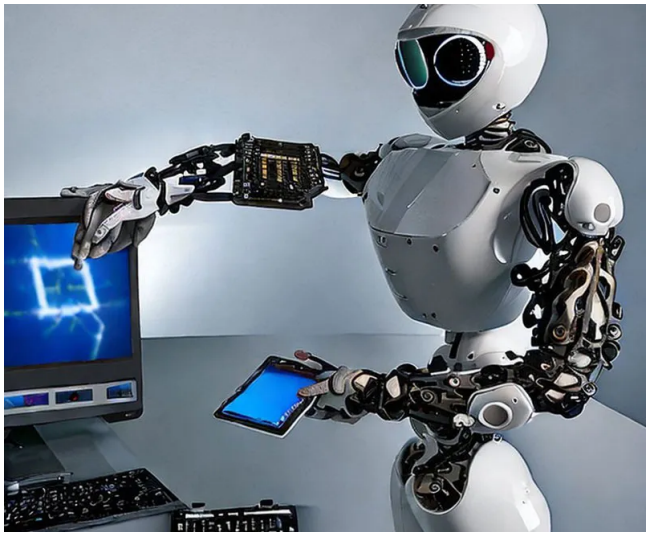
What's Up With AI?

Artificial Intelligence Around the World

ANNA SCHELLHAAS STAFF WRITER

The ethics of AI is a prominent discussion in the media and everywhere. According to the Toloka Team on the *History of LLMs*, Large Language Models were introduced to the public in 2022. Large Language Models (LLM's) are AI message response platforms such as ChatGPT or Google Gemini. Since their release they have taken the world by storm. Should students be allowed to use it on assignments or to study? Should it replace people's jobs? Usually, the response to AI from the general public is no, keep it out of the workplace, out of the classroom, out of the hands of our children. And yet, we seem to still use it everyday. I know people who pay for Chat GPT, or use it for everything from recipes to homework. The truth is, AI is not going away. All around the world, whether you're using it for good or bad- you're still *using* it.

Not only is AI impacting children, but also the global arena. Some countries are competing with the U.S. to create more advanced AI platforms. In China, their AI campaign got a little out of hand. The concept of an AI companion became extremely popular. An AI Chatbot is a companion that can be academic, personal, or otherwise. One of the laws China has put in place surrounding AI is a result of children interacting with chatbots. Some companies, such as DouBao, (sister company to tiktok) created a chatbot that children were talking to.



Provided By: Google

Parents or kids could create AI characters that would interact with the children; what they didn't anticipate, however, was the entitlement and antisocial effects it would have on users, according to New York Times Reporter Yan Zhuang. Over time, people decided that chatbots such as this one and others were having an unhealthy effect on the social habits of children. Now, under Chinese law, companies have to intervene if a chatbot user shows signs of declining mental health in conversations and minors are no longer allowed to use chatbots at all for their social safety and preservation of intellect. These laws prevent Chinese children from becoming antisocial or having their mental health harmed as a result of talking to Chatbots.

World News

Another case of the negatives of AI is the propaganda opportunities it is giving to wartime countries. Right now multiple countries, including Russia, are using AI to mass produce War Songs and/or propaganda according to Steven Lee Myers of the New York Times on *Russia's Latest Propaganda*. They commonly use the program Suno, an AI music generator. These AI songs mirror American fight songs which the AI programs use as a formula because they are well-written and preexisting. The content of Russian AI fight songs glorify the invasion of Ukraine and justify the war as necessary from a Russian perspective. This example is important to know about because it is one of the ways AI is being used outside of a developmental/academic environment. The effect of these songs can be compared to that of cheaply produced drones powered by AI and used by the Russian military. This can be compared to AI propaganda because of the destruction the propaganda could cause in the same way that cheap drones are taking people's lives. The public is aware of AI fight songs mainly due to inconsistent restrictions or recommendation policies regarding AI music on various platforms. AI songs are required to be identified as Artificially created on Youtube and Deezer for those looking to avoid non-human work. All that being said, governments are not the only ones utilizing ai for better or for worse.

However, not all AI usage is detrimental. It is clearly not going away, so it is important to know when to use it and how. In the classroom, Google Gemini is changing the game with its Gem feature. A Google gem can be programmed to answer students' questions using only materials fed to it by the instructor. For example, PR's Mr. Bichler's Academic Business Calculus class has been utilizing a Gem that he programmed specifically to ask insightful questions in a Socratic manner in order to teach the students how math problems should be answered. This is a positive use of AI because it helps students learn material while utilizing AI for assistance, not to think for them. This prevents a situation similar to China's, where the thinking process or behavioral habits of adolescents are impacted negatively by AI. However, not every student views this as positive like I do. For example, senior Zach Schellhaas said, "I think that AI is negative because it gives students the easy way out when critical thinking skills are necessary," he said.

When asked to provide an example to support his opinion, Zach referenced our Business Calculus Gem. Although the Gem was useful for me and other students, it is important to understand that not every student has the same opinion. For that reason, AI remains an important discussion in the classroom.

So the next time you use AI, you can remember these instances and think before you act, or before you ask AI act for you. Is what you're doing affecting your personal growth? Is AI your crutch or your assistant? Let a Rampage Staff Writer know your thoughts.

World News

Tiny Tigers

Scientists Discover the First Feline Species in 100 Years

AARON MANCINI STAFF WRITER

A new species of cat, the tilcayo, has been discovered for the first time since the identification of the pampas cat in 1923. With a striking resemblance to house cats, tilcayos live in the Yungas cloud forest on the eastern slope of the Andes Mountains. They are a type of tiger cat, a genus that lives primarily in Central and South America, and have been given the scientific name *Leopardus tilcayo*. These felines have been hiding in plain sight from science for years, as the "tilcayo" is the name given to it by the Bolivian locals who have lived amongst it for generations.

The ambassador of the species is a 10 year old nicknamed Tigrino, who was spotted by a local man on a road near a forest, mistaken for a domestic kitten and adopted. After a year under the man's wing, he suspected Tigrino was wild and took him to the Santa Verde Wildlife Sanctuary, which identified it as a species of tiger cat previously unknown to science. A Peruvian subspecies of tilcayo was also discovered, named *Leopardus tigrinus antisuyo,* that has shorter fur, a less bushy tail, and different markings on its fur than *Leopardus tilcayo.*

Not only is this discovery fascinating and likely once-in-a-lifetime for most people alive today, but it has powerful implications for conservation. As attention is called to the new species, scientists hope it halts deforestation of Bolivian jungles and raises awareness of current conservation efforts.

Leopardus tilcayo *in the Bolivian Yungas..*



Sources:
National Geographic
ScienceAlert
The New York Times



Tigrino in his enclosure.

Teacher Spotlight

Faculty Spotlight: Mr. McKown

Learn About An English Teacher

KAIA WILSON STAFF WRITER

Q: What inspired you to become an English teacher, and how did you come to teach at our school?

A: “I didn't always want to be an English teacher. I studied English literature in college, but teaching didn't cross my mind until I started coaching high school lacrosse. I realized I could combine my passion for literature with my interest in working with high school students, so I went to graduate school to become a teacher. I got a job here right out of grad school, and I have never left.”

Q: What was your very first impression of our school when you started teaching here?

A: “When I was growing up in the South Hills, Pine-Richland was a much smaller school. My high school didn't play Pine-Richland in sports, so I didn't really know anything about it. My first impression was that it was more rural than my hometown. However, that has changed significantly over the last 20 years.”

Q: What makes 9th-grade English unique, and what do you enjoy most about working with freshmen?

A: “I enjoy working with 9th grade students because they are new to the building and every experience offers them the opportunity to learn something about themselves. 9th grade English, especially Honors 9, is unique because it challenges students to expand their analytical thinking skills.”



Mr. McKown on September 25, 2026, outside his classroom wearing a Rampage newspaper shirt.

Q: What is your core philosophy or main goal when teaching your students?

A: “I want my students to engage in discussions and maintain an open mind. Students should be open to considering the insights and observations of their peers.”

Q: If you could only teach one book or piece of literature for the rest of your career, what would it be and why?

A: “I really enjoy teaching "Romeo and Juliet" to my freshmen classes. The themes are still relevant hundreds of years after the first publication.”

Q: What is the biggest challenge high school freshmen face in writing today?

A: “The biggest challenge is the temptation to use AI rather than put forth the effort to think/write.”

Q: What would surprise your students to learn about you outside of school?

A: “Students would be surprised to learn that I practiced lacrosse every day over the summer. I successfully completed a 40,000-repetition challenge.”

PR People

Sister Spotlight: Annabel Pellathy

Meet a New Freshman at Pine-Richland

KASEY MEYERS STAFF WRITER

Q: Which fictional TV universe or movie world would you want to live in?

A: “A fictional movie universe that I would like to live in, would probably be the Star Wars movie series. I think it would be so cool to travel between planets on my own spaceship and go on different adventures and own a light saber.”

Q: What does your absolute “perfect day” look like?

A: “My absolute perfect day would probably be I would wake up and realize that it was a two hour delay and go back to bed. Then I would have lots of time to get ready and I would go to Starbucks on the way to school. In all my classes we would be doing fun things and we wouldn't have any homework. Then when I got home my mom would make my favorite dinner and I would watch my favorite show with my family.”

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

A: “My favorite hobby is probably sewing. As I said, one of my favorite things is my sewing machine and I love making clothes and bags and things that I can use.”

Q: Do you have a favorite book or author?

A: “I was never really a big reader, but this summer I read All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven and I really enjoyed it and I thought it was a very good book and I would recommend it.”



Eve and Annabel at their house
Photo Provided by Annabel Pellathy

Q: What is something you want people to know about you that you don’t really get the chance to tell them?

A: “Something that I would like people to know that I don't really get a chance to tell them is that I have a passion for making jewelry. I feel like most of the time at school I always talk about homework or clubs and I feel like it never comes up in conversation. But really it's one of my favorite things to do and I make a lot of my own earrings, bracelets and necklaces. I think it's a cool way that I can express myself through art and if I really like a certain piece of jewelry I can just make it.”

Q: What is your favorite thing to do with Annabel/Eve?

A: “One of my favorite things to do with Eve is get ready with her in the mornings. She and I share a room so when we're getting ready for school or other events one of my favorite things to do is to listen to music and talk with her while we do our makeup and hair.”

PR People

Sister Spotlight: Eve Pellathy

Meet a Junior at Pine-Richland

BIANKA ROMAN STAFF WRITER

This week, Kasey Meyers and I decided to interview the Pellathy sisters, exploring their interests, hobbies, and fun facts about themselves. Keep reading to learn more about the two wonderful sisters.

Q: What is a lesson your parents taught that you decided to unlearn?
A: "To never eat food that has fallen on the floor because remember, 5 second rule."

Q: Which fictional TV universe world would you want to live in?
A: "The Spiderman universe, but specifically the animated version with Miles Morales. Everyone in that universe seems really cool and I think it would be a lot of fun."

Q: What is the best gift you have ever received?
A: "When I was a kid, I saw a sick pony toy while window shopping with my grandma. It came with all types of medical equipment to check up on the pony and I *really* wanted it. Turns out, my grandma secretly bought it for me for Christmas."

Q: What does your absolute "perfect day" look like?
A: "I would wake up around 8-8:40 AM, eat a french breakfast (fruits, pastries, etc), go shopping for a new outfit, go out to lunch with friends, take a visit to the beach, have dinner with my family, and watch a movie after dinner."

Q: What activities are you involved in?
A: "I play competitive tennis, am a Student Devotionals officer, American Heart Associations officer, and am also involved in a couple other clubs. I am also involved in different service projects."



Eve Pellathy at the Bruno Mars concert

Q: What is something you want people to know about you that you don't really get the chance to tell them?
A: "My first language was actually Hungarian, but I didn't speak it growing up, so I'm trying to relearn it currently."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do with your sister?
A: "We like to watch certain shows and movies together. Our favorite type of movie is something a little bit cringy, so then we can make fun of the characters while we watch."

PR People

Student Spotlight

Meet Freshman Amelia Yuhaniak

ESHNA PATEL STAFF WRITER

Q: What is something you are really looking forward to?
A: "I am looking forward to the rest of the field hockey season and meeting new people."

Q: What is a goal you have set for yourself?
A: "I hope to get good grades in all my classes throughout the year."

Q: Who is someone you look up to?
A: "My mom because she is a lot like me and a good person to look up to."

Q: If you could describe yourself using three words, what would they be?
A: "Nice, funny, and athletic."

Q: What is a memory that has stuck with you?
A: "Going to Summer's Best Two Weeks and hanging out with my friends."

Q: What is your favorite subject?
A: "My favorite subject is English since I like writing."

Q: If you could change one rule at school, what would it be?
A: "I would want to be able to keep your phone in class."

Q: If you could have any creature as a pet, which one would you choose?
A: "A tiger since it's tough."

Q: Who is your favorite superhero?
A: "My favorite superhero is Spiderman; I've watched many of the movies."

Q: What is your most nostalgic childhood show?
A: "Paw Patrol."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do on the weekends?
A: "I like to hang out with my friends and play field hockey."



Freshman Amelia Yuhaniak at the beach.

Q: If you could build a house anywhere in the world, where would it be?
A: "I would build the house in either Florida or in the country, but never in the city."

Q: What is a strong lesson that really shaped how you are now?
A: "Compete only with yourself."

Q: What is the best trip you have ever been on?
A: "When I went to Surfside and surfed and hung out with my family"

Thanks For Reading!

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The RAMPAGE is available online every other Thursday under the high school Resources Tab. It is written by students, for students, and we make every attempt to report all school-related news. We welcome freelance submissions, suggestions, comments, and story ideas from students and staff. Since this is a student-publication, we realize we make mistakes: we encourage readers to report mistakes to the staff writers; you may win a prize if you locate any/all mistakes.

Thank you for stopping by and we hope to see you soon!



WHITE OUT CONTINUED....



