

**PINE ISLAND
SCHOOLS**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

- Tues Jan 17th,
boys bball @
Triton
- Tues Jan 17th,
Girls bball HOME
vs. Triton
- Thurs Jan 19th,
Gymnastics @
Caledonia
- Thurs Jan 19th
Wrestling @
LaCrescent
- Fri Jan 20th Girls
bball @ Goodhue
- Fri Jan 20th Boys
bball home vs.
Goodhue



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Panther Press

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Mass Communications

By: Joel Torgeson

For the past four months, we, the students of the Mass Communications class, have been providing the news through the announcements and school newspaper. We've also worked diligently on the yearbook and learned a lot about the different forms of media. The class material has also made us more aware of the different aspects and effects of media on our lives.

Sound boring? That's the problem! A simple description of what we cover and work on is not enough to show the fun

and freedom this class provides. The requirements can be tough, but there is also a large amount of latitude with which to work. Take for instance, newspaper articles. Each edition's paper is divided into segments, for which each student can choose. But within that segment, anything is possible! If you would like to write about the latest bowl game in National News, go right ahead. Feel more inclined to report on the tsunami in Japan? World news will accommodate you nicely. Whatever your passion, chances have it you'll be able to report on it!

The same can be said for yearbook work. Each page is assigned to a student, who has control of whatever goes on that page. The editors, Tiffany Peplinski and Katie Thein, answer questions and provide help with all aspects of each page. Taking control of the yearbook and making it look how you'd like it to is one of the best parts of the class.

That's not to say that it's all fun and games. We've had our fair share of tests and projects. Mostly, however, the material has been fun and open, with many opportunities to create and collaborate for everyone.

Talent N Truffles

By: Elizabeth Blakley

Art Scream is an organization in our school that helps out with PTSO and other programs dealing with art. Coming up in March, Art Scream is helping out with Talent N Truffles, a PTSO fundraiser. There will be elementary through high school,

teachers, and community members performing different acts. During admission there will be different organizations including art scream selling different products and treats. Art Scream will be selling ceramic bowls, hand-made necklaces, and other artwork along with treats. Talent N Truffles is on March 23, 2012

at 7:00p.m., in the gym. Doors open at 6. If you order your tickets ahead of time, the prices are as follows: Adult: \$8 Students: \$5 and 3 and under are free. Buying tickets at the door are: Adults: \$10 and Students: \$6. Come and support our organizations and have fun!

Publishers Note:

Due to changes in the Mass Communications class, we will, unfortunately, be taking a hiatus from producing the Panther Press. Look for the Panther Press to continue publication next fall with the 2012-2013 school year. The Mass Communications class wishes to thank everyone who helped provide news tips or article ideas for the paper, or submitted photos. We will be excited to serve the Pine Island District with more news next Fall!

Jacob's Column

If you have liked my column a lot over the year, well, you must be awfully lucky. This is going to be a Ultra-Super-Mega Column, AKA a really darn big column. Huzzah! :-D

So anyway, looking back on all the articles I've made over the course of the semester... The first one being a meme update with the Baby Godfather. Next was "You Wish You could Eat It" with Pop Tart ice cream sandwiches. Darn, I still wanna have one of those someday.

Also, who can forget my article titled "The Christmas before Nightmare," where not only did I talk about Hot Topic, but the weirdness related to The Nightmare before Christmas? Man, those were the days.

So why am I looking back so fondly?

The main reason is that I'm not going to be writing my wonderful columns anymore. It's going to be second semester soon, and I won't be able to supply your much-needed humor from your school newspaper.

...BUT IN LIGHTER NEWS, there are still Atari 2600 games being made. Some of the latest ones include Boulder Dash, The Byte before Christmas, and Seaweed Attack. There are also some upcoming games too, such as Stay Frosty 2, Ballblazer (which has really awesome scrolling graphics), *possibly* Castlevania, *maybe* Marble Madness, and *probably* The Adventures of the 50-foot-tall Stalk of Celery.

"Jacob's Column" is a column based on satire, comedy, or thought-provoking questions done by senior Jacob Vouk.

Do students know the definition of the word "rape?"

By: Elise A. Magnuson

Rape (noun): *the unlawful compelling of a person through physical force or duress to have sexual intercourse.* The word rape is heard all too often in the school hallways. It is used to talk about grades and tests, or to get psyched up about beating another sports team: "We're going to rape them tomorrow." Why is such a vile act being tossed around high school like it is a joke?

To use the word rape so carelessly trivializes its actual meaning. A high school student who thinks rape is something to joke about does not realize the devastation left behind by the act. According to the Rape, Incest, and Abuse Network, one in six Americans will be the victim of attempted rape in their lifetime.

This statistic would likely be higher if the victims were not so often silent about the trauma.

Some academics label our society as a rape culture because it tolerates and seemingly approves of sexual violence against women (and men) as normal. A rape culture is a society that upholds the conditions for sexual violence and treats this violence as an unchangeable norm.

Anyone who claims that a rape joke is just a joke does not understand how rape culture works. Just as racist jokes can only be found funny within a culture of racism, rape jokes could not exist outside of a culture of rape. When our culture is casually tolerant of sexual assault, it inevitably encourages more sexual assault. By creating a culture where such careless usage of the

word is frowned upon, we can make strides towards ensuring that rape is not funny or acceptable.

It is true that words used as slang can lose some of their original meaning. We have become accustomed to hearing "My parents are gonna kill me" and "I'm dying here." To prevent people from becoming indifferent to the word, and therefore indifferent to the prevalence of rape, we should work to raise awareness about the offensiveness of the word. Students should not get used to casually hearing about anyone being raped, nor should they ever feel comfortable using the term in a joking or off-the-cuff manner. Rape is not a joke. It is a serious and traumatizing crime that deserves to be treated as such out of respect for its victims, both past and future.

Senioritis

By: Sami Kaye

Underclassmen and staff of Pine Island High School may have noticed that the seniors are tending to get a tad more laid back and starting to not care as much as they usually do. This disease is known as senioritis.

This disease is said to be very painful, especially to the seniors. There are many symptoms of this terrible disease. They include: laziness, a lack of studying and turning in homework, more absences than normal, and in general a rude attitude. You may also see an in-

crease of wearing sweatpants, sweatshirts, sweatpants, t-shirts, and more sweatpants. The only known cure is graduation.



Fueling athletes

By: Alex Kaye

Feeding young athletes is essential to help performance. Although too much food in the stomach during sports activities can be uncomfortable, some food is needed to fuel muscles for peak performance and to prevent fatigue and lightheadedness from low blood sugar.

Sport nutrition experts recommend eating from two to three hours before competition. For Saturday morning sports, that means

getting up early enough to eat two hours ahead of the activity. For events in the early to mid-afternoon, breakfast and lunch are important. And for late-afternoon sports, adding a light afternoon snack is a good idea. Food for evening sports, means all of these meals plus a light supper.

An equally important part of a before-sports diet is drinking enough fluid. Dehydration is not good, and it hurts performance and can be potentially dangerous. Pre-game meals should

include one or two cups of water. From 20 to 30 minutes before the activity, young athletes should drink one or two cups of water to arrive fully hydrated. Outside of sports time, the ideal beverage to help and prevent thirst is water. Avoid soda, juice and fruit drinks right before the event; their sugar content can cause stomach cramps and nausea during exercise.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18824577/ns/health-diet_and_nutrition/t/fuel-your-young-athlete-peak-performance/

Dubstep

By: Mitchell Fokken

One might pose the question, "What is Dubstep?" From dictionary.com, the definition of dubstep is "a genre of electronic music conveying a dark and brooding atmosphere through prominent bass lines," but, to many people, dubstep is so much more.

The music usually has a fast beat with a heavy bass line. Dubstep is known for having drops. A drop is where the music builds up suspense and then it cuts out of the song all together and then comes back in with a heavy bass. Some common phases among people who listen to dubstep is how

"filthy" or "sick" the song is. This does not mean that the song is horrible, but, rather, the opposite. A heavy bass line with a lot of fluctuation is considered "filthy" or "sick". Dubstep is a great genre of music to go crazy to. This has made it very popular among dances and raves.

Not all dubstep is original; many dubstep artists do a remix of songs that have been popular and trendy. Thus making them into filthy dubstep remixes. Dubstep originally originated in south-east England around 15 years ago. It is considered an underground movement in the United States of

America (This means it does not get mainstream attention). This is slowly changing as more and more people listen to dubstep. Even though dubstep is not considered mainstream, many dubstep artists have aroused attention. If you want to try listening to a dubstep song, I would recommend "A Brief Introduction on Dubstep Production" by Dubba Jonny. This song gives you background on dubstep while playing the music.

Sources:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/dubstep>
<http://dubstepnow.com/>

Car Profile:

Janice Thompson

By: Joel Torgeson

By: Joel Torgeson

What kind of car do you drive?

A 2010 Lincoln MKX
We call it "Tux" because it's tuxedo black!

What are some of its features?

- Internal GPS and Sirius radio
- Voice recognition and Caller ID with pictures
- Heated and cooled, fully adjustable seats
- Dual sun roofs
- Ipod and USB capability
- All Wheel Drive
- Excellent sound system
- Changeable under lighting
- Bluetooth enabled
- Looks awesome!

How many miles does it have?

10,000 or so. I only drive it to school and back usually

Have you had any scary experiences in it?

None yet!



College football: is a playoff really the answer?

By: Marcus Frick

Anybody with even a small interest in college football has heard the cry: we need to get rid of the BCS system and implement a playoff. However, a playoff will only present new problems. Yes, the top teams will be able to compete for a spot in the national championship, but how do those teams get determined? If we have a dispute now as to who should be the top two teams, this will just trickle down in the rankings, turning into a dispute over who are the top eight or sixteen teams.

This dispute about rankings is only the tip of the iceberg. How big would the playoff pool be? If a tournament opens up to sixteen teams, any debate as to whether all the teams that deserve a chance to play for the national title actually get their chance is eliminated. A sixteen-team tournament would mean that the teams that end up playing in the championship game will have to play four additional games. If they end up playing for their conference championship in addition to the playoff games, they may play as many as seventeen games, more than an NFL season. If the season extends this far, player safety will become a very real concern due to the extra wear and tear on their bodies. So now we decide to limit the tournament to eight teams, and

the dispute about deserving teams not getting into the tournament comes back again, and this is only the beginning.

With the current BCS system, every game of the year has a playoff atmosphere. In the NFL, teams can clinch playoff berths and home field advantage before the regular season is over, then they rest their starters for the postseason, which usually creates a less exciting atmosphere. College teams could implement this same strategy and games would become less exciting. Now, teams can ill afford a loss at any point in the year if they feel they are worthy of competing in the national championship game. A rare exception to this statement is Alabama. In the middle of the season, Alabama and LSU squared off in a clash of two titans of college football. LSU won 9-6, and finished the season 13-0 to earn an SEC conference championship and a well-deserved spot in the national championship game. On the other hand, Alabama proceeded to win the rest of their games to finish the year 11-1. After the regular season and conference championship games were completed, the rest was up to the BCS system. Oklahoma State and Alabama both had one loss, and a miniscule difference in the final BCS standings allowed Alabama a chance at redemption.

Although this rematch was not a popular decision among nearly all non-Alabama fans, the BCS made the right decision. Alabama's sole loss on the year came to superpower LSU. Iowa State does not seem to be a college football superpower, but Oklahoma State lost to the 6-6 Cyclones. This is alone was proof enough to me that Alabama was a better team, but the rematch would be the determining factor. Alabama set out to prove themselves, and won decisively, 21-0.

After watching how physical and fast both defenses were, it became apparent that they were a level above anybody else in college football. Oklahoma State's high-flying offense would have crumbled under the pressure of an SEC defense, and SEC discipline and ball control would have prevailed over the up-tempo, riskier Big 12 style. In my opinion, the BCS has done it right, and increasing the risk of injury and diminishing the importance of regular season games would be detrimental to college football. So before we go crying too loud for a playoff, we need to be thankful for the imperfect but best-available system that is currently in place.



Running up the score?

By: Matt Lambert

Here are some statistics: 5.15 points per minute, scores of 148 to 32, 99 to 41, 91 to 41, and the score of the latest victims, 165 to 37, which is now a state record, half of the team averages over double digits, and they average 114.6 points per game. Who is this mystery team? Is it a pro team? What about a college team? No, this team is none other than the Prairie Seeds Academy Lycans from Woodbury, Minnesota.

This team has been tearing up the Metro Lakes Conference this year

going undefeated thus far. The Lycans play against other charter schools and have been making people look foolish, putting up extremely strong offense and a stellar defense to combo it. But are these video game like scores too much? Do the Lycans run up the score too much? Should running up the score be acceptable in sports?

Personally, I believe running up the score is the complete opposite of what children are taught during sports. As kids, we were always taught to have sportsmanship throughout the whole game. What

the Lycans have been doing is wrong; it's kicking the horse while it's down. It just shows how disrespectful and out-of-line the Prairie Seeds Academy basketball team is when they are playing against teams. A reason this team is not that impressive is the combined win total of the teams they've played thus far is 27-39 with one team being 10-1, their only lose coming from the Lycans 84-83. Beating up on the Math and Science Academy and other prep schools does not make you a good team; it just makes a team look like a bunch of jerks beating up on nerds.

Bucket list for the average Joe

By: Hailey Hoffmann

We've all heard the saying, "What do you want to do before you kick the can?" I think I know exactly what I want to do before that happens, here is just a quick top ten, enjoy!

10. Visit Europe! It could be anywhere in Europe and I'd be completely satisfied, but if forced with the choice to pick just one, I'd definitely have to go with the beautiful, crisp blue water on the shores of Greece.

9. Send a message in a bottle! You don't have to be stranded on an island just to send someone a "message in a bottle". I think it would totally make someone's day, and you'd feel pretty great about it afterwards too.

8. Run to the top of the Statue of Liberty! A vast majority of us already visited NYC, but I'd love to go back and make the long trek up to Lady Liberty's crown.

7. Swim under a waterfall! An experience like no other would be to jump down a waterfall and take a nice relaxing swim under it, enough said.

6. Go skydiving! Pretty sure everyone has this on their list, but this would be difficult with the whole scared of heights thing I've got goin' on.

5. Jump off a cliff! Seems really daredevil-like to do, so I'm game, if someone is willing to push me.

4. Do something outside the box! One of the more difficult things on my list, so if anyone's got a suggestion, I'm down with that.

3. Write the novel you know you have inside! Considering I want to be a writer, this should be pretty simple. Wish me luck!

2. Tell someone the story of your life, and leave nothing out! Pretty simple right? Wrong! Telling the story would be easy enough, you've just got to find someone willing enough to listen to you.

1. Be truly, deeply, 100% happy! The hardest thing on my list to achieve, and will probably be attempting this one for the rest of my life!



NFL playoffs are here

By: Josh Gutzmer

This year's Wildcard round of the NFL Playoffs was full of many surprises. Upsets, new overtime rules, and blowouts were all in the mix. The 3rd seeded Houston Texans handed the 6th seeded Cincinnati Bengals a 31 – 10 loss on Saturday afternoon. This was the Texan's very first playoff game ever. Defensive linemen J.J. Watt returned an interception for a touchdown, and Arian Foster and Andre Johnson both had second half scores to seal their first ever playoff victory. Arian Foster ended the game with 153 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Saturday night held the first playoff appearance of the Detroit Lions in this millennium. The 6th seeded Lions traveled to New Orleans to play the 3rd seeded Saints on Saturday night. The Lions were defeated in the game 48-28, while Drew Brees and the Saint's offense racked up 627 yards of total offense. Lion's receiver Calvin Johnson caught 12 passes for 212 yards and two touchdowns in his first ever playoff

game. On Sunday afternoon the 4th seeded New York Giants routed the 5th seeded Atlanta Falcons in New York. The Giants' defense shut out the high powered Falcons' offense. The only points that the Giants gave up were on a safety, with the final score being 24 – 2. Hakeem Nicks lead New York's offense with six catches for 115 yards and two touchdowns. The game later in the day was much more exciting. The 4th seeded Denver Broncos hosted the 5th seeded Pittsburgh Steelers. After a fairly slow first quarter, the Steelers were up by six points. During the second quarter the Broncos scored twenty unanswered points to lead 20 – 6 at the half. At the end of regulation, the score was tied up at 23 points. This was the first time that the NFL's new playoff overtime rules would be in play. Under normal playoff rules, the first team to score wins the game. Under the new rules, the winning team needs to score an offensive or defensive touchdown or kick a field goal and keep the

other team from scoring. These new rules went into play Sunday afternoon, but they were not needed. On the very first play from scrimmage in overtime, Tim Tebow threw an 80 yard touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas. Tebow ended the game with 316 yards and two touchdowns, with one rushing touchdown. Thomas caught 4 passes for 204 yards and two touchdowns.

Next week the Divisional Round of the NFL Playoffs begin. The action begins on Saturday when the San Francisco 49ers host the Saints. Later, the Broncos will play against the New England Patriots. On Sunday, the Baltimore Ravens will host the Texans, and the Giants will travel to Green Bay to play the top seeded Packers.