

# THE POINT

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## Winter Traditions

By **Jalise Martinez**

It's been a long year, but the winter season is finally approaching! Winter is a beloved season by many for various reasons.

With Winter comes the holidays, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Three Kings Day, Kwanzaa, and more. Many of these holidays bring friends and family together and are known as traditions for many people. With winter being here, 2019 is close to an end.



New Year's resolutions are starting to come to the surface, and when asked about resolutions, a Poinciana High junior stated, "My resolution for the new decade is to aim to be a positive light for everyone who needs it."

In many places around the world, wintertime signifies the cold and snowfall. Unfortunately, snow lovers in Florida get disappointed every year as we don't have snow. While we don't have snow related activities such as snowboarding and sledding, there are still some pretty fun wintertime activities Floridians can participate in. We have activities such as ice skating, light shows, winter parades, and more.

Specifically, in the area, the Festival of Lights Parade in Kissimmee approached on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December! The parade consists of illuminated floats, a lighting of the monument of the states, a Santa meet and greet, and more. At Poinciana High, winter spirit week kicked off with ugly sweater day on December 9<sup>th</sup>, holiday accessories day on December 10<sup>th</sup>, onesie day on December 11<sup>th</sup>, holiday character day on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and blue and white color day on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Winter dance was on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are being sold for \$15 during lunch periods.

As Winter progresses, it's going to get colder and colder, so bundle up and enjoy the holidays!

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

## Mr. Ndapwauza - Math

By Susan Viera Norford

About eight-thousand miles away from home, in a new country, school system, and overall culture, Zimbabwe native Mr. Ndapwauza migrated from his home country to teach math here at Poinciana High School. His passion for teaching started at a very young age, beginning with his parents who were both educators – his father being a headmaster (principal) and his mother being a schoolteacher. Ndapwauza began his schooling at the age of four years old, and going on to graduate from the University of Zimbabwe with his masters. With a family background of educators, it was no surprise that teaching was his dream job.

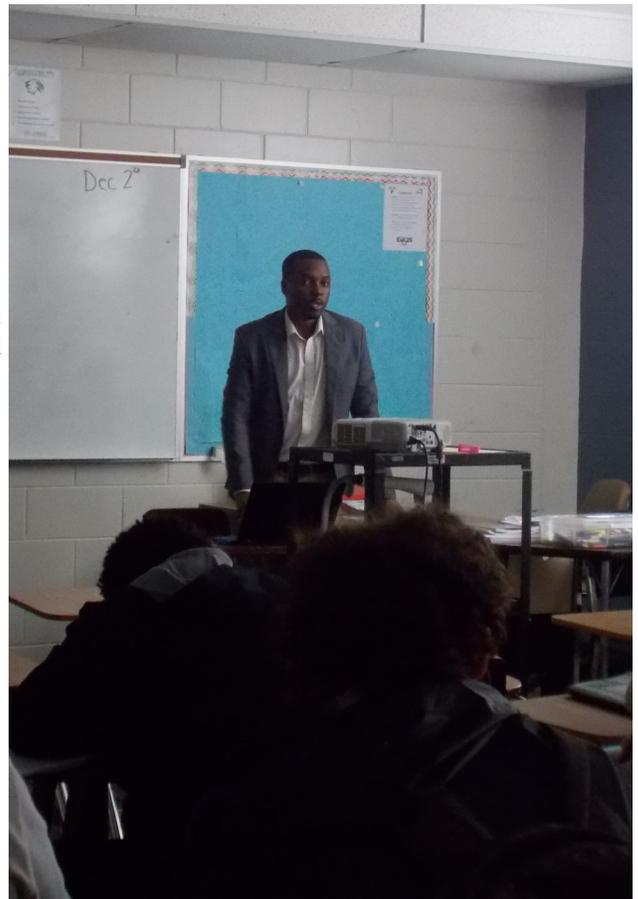
Adapting to this new environment was a bit of a challenge when Ndapwauza realized the contrasts between Poinciana and back home. He noticed that the kids in the U.S. aren't so keen and eager for education as they are back in Zimbabwe. But he enjoys this challenge saying, "It tends to push me further as a teacher, so the exposure is good."

Ndapwauza moved from Zimbabwe in July of this year to specifically teach Liberal Arts Math here at Poinciana. Even if this is his first experience with the American education system and "culture," Ndapwauza thoroughly enjoys his job. "When you have the right kids [teaching] is usually fun. Teaching, it keeps you young, you get to interact with kids, and you learn a lot, you don't get stressed a lot." And with a slight chuckle he added, "Hours are not long, and you get lots of holidays." The distance between Zimbabwe and Florida did not let him be overlooked by our principal Mr. Schwartz. He proudly added its not that he chose Poinciana, but "Poinciana chose me if I'm to say." Ndapwauza further explains how he was interviewed by many principals around Florida and was inevitably chosen by Mr. Schwartz.

But as said before, he values his craft deeply, constantly describing math and his job as "fun". When asked what his favorite math topic to teach was, he paused saying "Well... all the math topics are fun." but to answer the question, he went on to look at it from the perspective of his students. Explaining how they interpret and enjoy certain topics and have a strong dislike for others that tend to demand a lot from them: the distaste for quadratic equations and strong liking the kids have to topics such as simplifying expressions. Like any teacher, Ndapwauza wants his students to succeed. He tries to accomplish this by motivating his students to apply mathematics to real-life situations. He sees that his students don't understand or pass math because it's simply difficult. So, with motivating them, he tries to make it a "real and practical subject" that students understand better. Ndapwauza points out that, "If it makes sense to them, and they believe its applicable in their real life, they will have a positive attitude and it becomes easier."

However, adding his teaching, Mr. Ndapwauza is a man of many passions and accomplishments. In the states, his biggest accomplishments are his adaptation and settling into his new way of living after moving countries and continents away from home. He now understands the ways the American education system works and how it differs from what he's used to. Back home, in his familiarity, his biggest achievements are bigger than that. In his career as an educator, he got to the level of setting the national math exams for the country. Giving him a full understanding of his curriculum; knowing it through and through. Adding to that is his profound love for music. In Zimbabwe, he was part of the choir and worship leader in his church, mentioning that he is singing constantly and loves music.

In summary, Mr. Ndapwauza is an easy-going man we can all learn from. Who takes his passions and uses them to teach and help others.



# Mr. Rambarran –Math

By Jovan Merrillus

Teachers have been known to come into students' lives leaving an imprint of knowledge stamped into their brain to carry out through school. In life every individual will have a collection of teachers who come into their life and leaves an experience in which they take from. Any time a new teacher comes around, the first impression automatically declares how students will feel towards them as a teacher. Robert Rambarran is a teacher many students are speaking of highly.

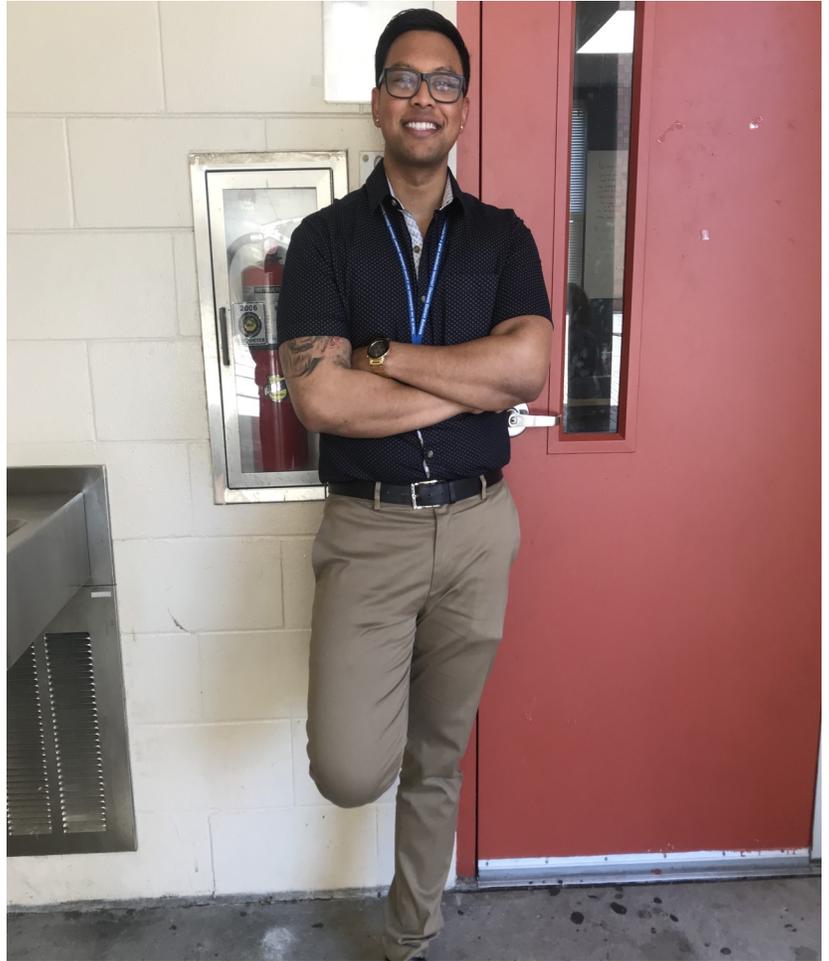
Hailing from the city of Queens, New York, Mr. Rambarran introduced himself in a way that not only made students draw to follow his lead in class, but also enforced a calm atmosphere for students to learn in the best possible conditions. He seeks to make students understand the capability of learning doesn't limit itself to classroom boundaries but to allow these lessons to elevate through life giving a clearer path to success. It wasn't his ideal career choice, but the meaning of the profession is what drew him to it. "The reason why is because I wanted to make a change within the youth for the better".

His arrival to Poinciana High school has been an easy transition into being a teacher into taking over a classroom. "It's been excellent to where it's so welcoming and humbling. I started off substituting and was recommended by Mrs. Paul to take over math classes starting in Pre-calculus and transferred to Algebra 2".

The transition into being an Algebra 2 teacher has gave him a desire to gain full experience with being an educator. It also gives student a man who has seen and been through the trials that come with youth. "I want to teach my students that there is a way for everyone to become successful in the right way and make their life mean more than what they think it does. Also I want to take from them a new outlook on life". This is a relationship of a mentor and his mentees for he desires to give them knowledge and receive other opinions and views from individuals of different backgrounds. His teaching methods do nothing but make the information being thought more receivable to where it grasps our attention and preserves it in the long term. The best thing I do is break it down in its simplest form in a way I can relate to them."

Mr. Rambarran's journey is just beginning and he looks to take it further than what he intended it to be. He himself is a student as well in college. "I see myself moving towards the collegiate level to be a college professor in teaching Religion and cultural studies". Just like everyone else in the world, he takes a step closer in walking towards his goal and aspiration. When asked of how he wants to be remembered when all his students move forward in life, he said in these words simply to be read as meant. "Inspirational because I want to positively affect their lives for the better to its best extent". Teachers like these aren't common much nowadays, which is why when paths are crossed, they are appreciated the most above all.

"Don't try to change the world for better, yet watch how it changes for you. Too many people try to change the world, but when it comes to fixing themselves, it's too late upon self demise".



# ENTERTAINMENT

## ‘In the Shadow of the Moon’ Review

By Doel Montes

This new 2019 movie begins with us in a glimpse of the future in the year 2024 and how the world is in an apocalypse. Going back into the past, 1988 in Philadelphia, several people die and a police officer named Thomas Lockhart (played by Boyd Holbrook) investigates this case further and finds who’s the killer and the reason why she is doing a killing spree every 9 years.

This movie creates a suspenseful and thrilling type of theme that gives us hints and clues on a great mystery pertaining to time travel and plot twists. With the protagonist going through life problems, family issues, and work, it shows a lot of struggles and how he is trying to find the answer to this one problem he feels must be solved.

The movie is directed by Jim Mickle, who also made movies like *“The Stakelanders”* and *“Cold in July”*. Fashion magazines did an interview with Cleopatra Coleman and states, *In the Shadow of the Moon* is actually the second time-travel flick Coleman has starred in this year; earlier in the fall, it was a chronological comedy with Daniel Sterns.” Coleman shows a lot of dedication towards her work and others, as well as trying to show a message out to the world .

“I’m biracial, so I’m the accepted version of what a black actress in America should be, and that has never been OK. I can’t fulfill a character that is meant for a black actress,” she explains in the same interview with Fashion magazines.

The production of the movie has a nice backstory to it and is a wonderful film with hardworking and dedicated actors to enjoy and I suggest you go watch it yourself on Netflix.



# Disney Plus

By Skylynn Deleon

Calling all Disney fans, this one's for you! Disney just launched a brand new streaming service- Disney+- that carries movies and television shows of all different kinds of genres from a series of Disney- owned studios.



For only \$7 a month, or about \$70 for an annual subscription, Disney offers a range of movies and shows from the 1940s all the way up to 2019! The service has a range of genres for anyone's liking. From Marvel movies such as *Iron Man*, to the classics like *Sleeping Beauty* and *Steamboat Willie*, Disney Plus provides all kinds of entertainment like this and more.

Disney Plus also offers a bundle with ESPN+ and Hulu for \$12.99 a month which will include many ESPN+ sporting events and countless amount of television shows and movies from Hulu. This upgrade is priced for the version of Hulu with commercials, but without commercials is an option, as well.

This service also caters to the younger viewers, too! With the "Kids Mode" parents are able to control certain settings that can allow them to limit on what they can and cannot watch. These limits also keep track of their screen time to show how long they are spending their time watching television, as well as what shows they are watching.

The streaming service can stream up to four devices at once and can have seven users! The service is available on many different devices such as iOS (for example, iPhones or iPads), Android, Roku, Sony Playstation 4 consoles, Amazon Fire TV, and many more! To sign up for Disney Plus, go to [www.disneyplus.com](http://www.disneyplus.com) and start your seven day free trial right away!

# Eagles of Excellence Club

By Paola Andujar



The E.O.E club, or the Eagles of Excellence club, was formed around April 2019 by Stephanie Mejia and Olivia Hernandez. The President is Akemah Issac, and the Vice President is Yassine Belfkih.

The purpose of the club is to help the students. They help students gain community service hours and apply for scholarships, as well as start their resumes. The club also has many on-going project throughout the campus. You can spot their educational murals around the halls and their informational bulletin boards. Our Eagles of Excellence are concurrently working on Toys for Tots.

Yassine Belfkih says about the organization, “It’s a club that caters to its members, we see what everybody wants to get done, and we try and prioritize the common goals.”

The Eagles of Excellence have done a lot of good for our school and our students, and they will continue to help out those who seek it. It’s a very positive and refreshing thing to see, having a club that’s meant to help out others. It’s clear this club is not only beneficial for the students but also crucial in some cases.

Mrs. Haderle is a big help to this club, as she assists with coming up with ideas and executing them. She also allows the club to meet in her classroom after school.

The Eagles of Excellence are now also partners with the National Honors Society. Stephanie Mejia says this about the club, “We’ve also reached out beyond helping students , but are going to be working on a new project to help teachers.”

This club aspires to help students and use avid inspired techniques for other subjects.

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# The Travel Industry

By Cheyenne Pero

As we near closer to the end of semester, many students remain searching for a career to pursue, though the field options may seem limited. When the impending pressures of school and secondary school start closing in, many teenagers believe their future will be restricted to the state they live in, although, there are many occupations that can take you out of state and all around the world.

As calculated in November of 2019, there is over 110,000 jobs to fill in the travel industry, which includes travel planners, sales directors and managers, and travel coordinators. Though, jobs that also pertain to traveling include tour guides, flight attendants, backpackers, and cruise ship workers. Even simply knowing the English language could land you a job in foreign countries for teaching!

“I would like to experience different cultures and meet new people, if I am given the chance. I would like to see something I have never seen before and explore the beauty of different regions,” says Jarlenys Matias, a sophomore in Poinciana High School.

As Matias stated, traveling and working outside of the country allows you to experience more enjoyment than a simple day-to-day career, along with introducing you to people all around.

Vaguely touched upon, traveling also serves for a great opportunity to experience other cultures. If you have a love for history, becoming a historian could grant you the chance to walk amongst other cultures and delve deeper into the upbringing of their countries or cities.

“Traveling the world allows you to see how others live in their environment,” adds Jacob Morrison, who confirms that the idea of traveling the world appeals to him. Those who experience other cultures could find a love and appreciation for the differences in the way of life in those areas compared to ours. In this, travelers are concurrently exposed to other religions and philosophies, which could open opportunities to find something you feel strongly about.

Another plus side pertaining to having a job requiring travel includes the fact that all commissions are paid for. This means that these workers go on already-paid leaves to blatantly do their job, which eliminates concern for debt and bankruptcy. In this, you are served the chance to see the entire world, from Paris, to Dubai, and further beyond while also investing your time into a career you admire.

So, to those of you struggling to grasp an idea of what career you wish to dedicate your life to after finishing school, perhaps a job in the travel industry will appeal to you.

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# The Series of Trials Continue

By Johvan Merilus

The times we live in are all surrounded by the attraction of headlines. Headlines draw people's attention to stories that can be either detrimental to those involved, or improve the perception of them being spoken out in public. No story within the country is more focused on then the alleged scandal involving President Donald Trump. In what continues to be tales of what will later be spoken of in the history of our countries, Oval office has taken turns in all direction. Some good and even the ugly coming from both sides on the continuously evolving story of the leader of the free world's actions.

It's been twenty one years since there was an impeachment hearing against a president. The first one that was taken place for Trump began on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Impeachment hearings are when a president is on trial for an alleged misconduct which goes against the oaths he has taken when first being elected into office. The allegations against Trump is allowing foreign countries opportunities to meddle in American affairs. To be more specific, it is told the allegations have risen from President Trump speaking to Volodymyr Zelensky, who is the President of Ukraine, into searching for any information he can use against his main threats to reelection in office Democratic nominee, Joe Biden, and his son, Hunter Biden.

Speculation and attention began to come about when an unknown official had made a complaint of the President's phone call being quite suspicious and disturbing. Many have come to question what the purpose of the call being made was for. Reasoning for this is because the President has withheld \$400 millions of dollars which is to be used in giving military aid. It is said that the money was a way to draw Ukraine into being interested to form some sort of deal between the two nations alleged affair.

But within every story there always need to be acknowledgement of the main individuals called to be truth. In the defense of President Trump, the call was nothing short of simple conversation. Among what was brought up, there was no discussion of money, but he simply wanted stories of corruption involving the Biden's to be looked into. A purpose for this was due to the fact that Joe Biden's son was in business with a Ukrainian company at the time when Joe Biden was US vice-president to Barack Obama.

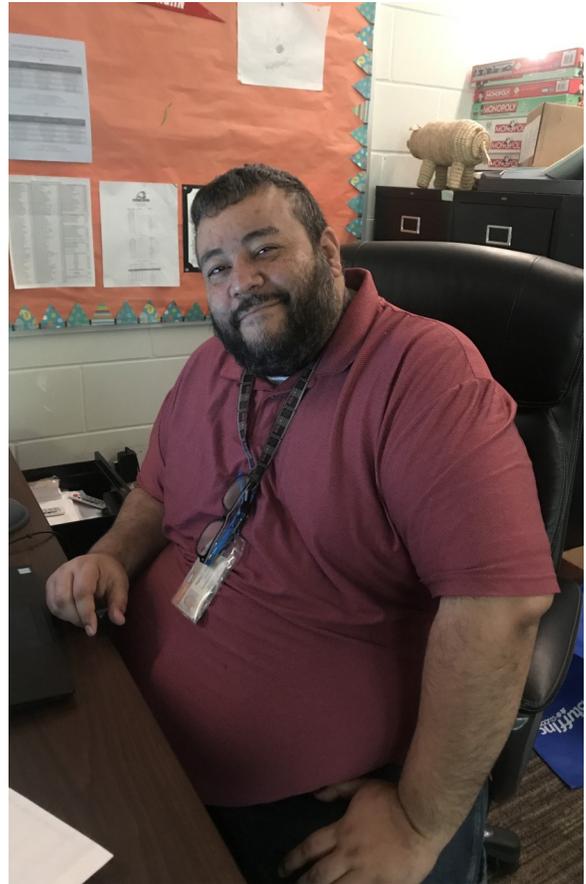
There have been hearings taken place over the past two months. The process is a long yet difficult one, for they are seeking out the truth in whether or not we put the right man in the office. Every story has three sides. That is the accused, with the accuser, and alongside the truth. Within any detailed secret being foreshadowed by either side, in time, light will ray upon it to reveal the truth and come to terms with the future of our nation's seat of power.

# Addition Financial

By Crystal Maldonado

The Addition Financial bank here at Poinciana High School thrives to achieve and give students an opportunity to either get experience at working in a bank, or to simply open your first bank account.

I interviewed Vianna Lee and Miranda Cruz, which they both agreed that it is important to have a bank account because it teaches young adults, like ourselves, how to manage money and to learn how to interact with the work environment. Lee states that it “shows independence as a student in high school and brings out growth in a student.” They want to change the feelings others might get when coming into the bank and trying to make it feel like a ‘family environment’ amongst the staff and students.



It is strongly encouraged that everyone opens a bank account. There is no certain number for the amount of people they are trying to recruit in getting a bank account. Lee doesn't feel like it's a stressful task to work in the bank, but both Lee and Miranda feel like it could be stressful for a beginner. They also strongly agreed that it can be very stressful when there is an overwhelming number of people coming in at once.

To open up a bank account, you need a student ID that you can get by taking an application and taking your picture. You also need your social security number and your mother's maiden name. Working at the bank gives you money opportunities in the future like business and finance and much more.

Miranda Cruz says, “don't be afraid”, this is a part of life you have to go through eventually, it is better to start now.