

THE POINT

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Get up and Dance!

By Paola Andujar

There's a new addition to Poinciana High School's electives this year and it is one that is well overdue. This 2020–2021 school year, Dance class has joined our curriculum! Now students can choose to take dance as an elective where you can learn ballet, jazz, hip hop, and even more along the way.

Ms. Tabb, a young and cheerful dance instructor is more than ready to teach every student at PHS to point their toes and chaîné their way across the dance floor!



Dance teaches the importance of movement and it strengthens- as well as coordinates-- your muscles. It provides a new perspective of creativity and freedom of expression. Dancing allows you to express yourself and free yourself from daily stress and struggles, providing a safe space where everyone and anyone can be their true self without being judged.

Don't just take *my* word for it, here are the opinions of students who are currently taking Dance!

"I like the exercises and it's just really fun with all the people," says Caleb Mallia, a senior.

When asked if he thought the course was beneficial, Mallia replied with, "[Dance class] keeps you healthy and sane."

Scott Carrasquillo, another senior, was asked of what he liked most about Dance, he responded with, "It's really fun and you can make new friends!"

From these two new perspectives we see that dance is not only helpful for exercising and keeping your body healthy but is also an outlet for making new friends. Dance class is like a community, the students must collaborate in order to make a piece work. As I have seen while observing the class, students are very supportive of one another and help each other when someone is struggling to understand a certain dance move.

It was a very positive environment, everyone supported their peers and clapped after each performance. Dance does not just teach you how to dance, it also teaches you about teamwork and how to work together. That is something you'll carry with you long after high school!

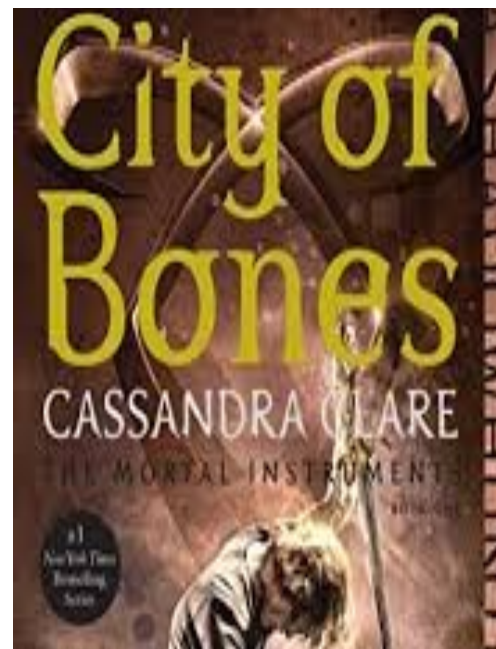
ENTERTAINMENT

Book Review: City of Bones

By Amir Cherrou

“When Clary Fray head out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she hardly expects to witness a murder—much less a murder committed by three teenagers covered with odd marking. This is Clary’s first meeting with the Shadowhunters, warriors dedicated to ridding the earth of demons and keeping the odd werewolves and vampires in line.”

Cassandra Clare captivates the audience through her writing by building the beautiful world of Nephilim, Shadowhunters, and Demons. This is a fast-paced fantasy novel with an urban city life setting. It includes a cast of witty enjoyable characters that seek to drag you into this fantastic paranormal show.



Our main character Clary Fray is a 15-year-old misfit just trying to find her way in life, but then realizes she has the Sight. Sight allows her to see the other side of the urban city that she calls home and draws her into the world of the Nephilim, much like the way you become drawn into this book. Realizing that all the myths and stories that her mother had stressed were not real, truly were, well, it’s quite surprising she didn’t freak out. Clary must team up with the New York Institute of Shadowhunter to stop our villain, Valentine, from cleansing the world.

“Love is to destroy, and that to be loved is to be the one destroyed.” Jace Fairchild is our roguishly handsome supporting character and love interest of Clary. He’s a quite annoying, angsty teenager that insults everyone and generally finds everything funny. But I promise you you’ll be falling in love with him and all the other supporting characters, such as our favorite sparkly warlock, werewolf, vampire, and nerd.

This all continues into the 2nd book where the beloved Jace awes us with quotes such as *“I don't want to be a man, I want to be an angst-ridden teenager who can't confront his own inner demons and takes it out verbally on other people instead.”*

Of course, as with any story, there are a few things to watch out for. *Shadowhunter* is a fantasy series, therefore, if you’re not interested in the type of writing including demons and angels, it’s likely not something to you will be captivated by. But if you find the witty banter of angel teenagers thrilling, then this 15-book series will be a read for you!

Movie Review: Back to the Future

By Lauren Bacchiocchi

Convinced you were born in the wrong era? Looking for a good laugh? *Back to the Future* (directed by Robert Zemeckis) has got you covered!

This movie sends you straight to the year 1985. It features a wacky scientist, a time-traveling dog, Libyan terrorists, warps in time - oh, and Marty McFly. The McFly family has your typical 9-5 pushover father and alcoholic mom. It is safe to say that any teenager with a less than perfect upbringing wishes they could change it.

The day starts out the same for our youngest McFly, until suddenly, it isn't any longer. What you can expect watching this family film is a DeLorean with more bells and whistles than a spaceship, heartwarming dialogue, and the convoluted mix of events that happen before they were the McFly family, while still behaving as if they were already related. This movie takes place 30 years into the future, though also set in the present reality.

Watch this movie to wrap your head around that whole concept. Despite all the shifts in time, a risk of damaging the past so much that McFly zaps himself out of existence, a big bully to deal with, witnessing earth-shattering discoveries alongside scientist Emmett Brown, and a race against a thunderstorm, Marty's biggest dilemma is whether he will be able to take his girlfriend Jennifer out.

Back to the Future is a beautifully constructed, lighthearted movie that will always provide a sense of home. It is perfect for old souls and new-age hipsters alike, as it throws us from the 80s back to the 50s in a series of colorful events.



Netflix Sued For Their Newest Movie, *Enola Holmes*

By Shaneece Griffiths



Last week, Netflix’s latest movie “*Enola Holmes*” was released. It takes place in 19th century England and is focused on Sherlock Holmes’ teenage sister, Enola, who is searching for her missing mother. Using her detective skills, Enola outsmarts her brothers in trying to find her mother and helps a runaway lord along the way.

Back in June, Netflix’s *Enola Holmes* was sued by the Conan Doyle Estate (the estate of the author of *Sherlock Holmes*) for copyright and trademark infringement. The estate owned copyright for the final ten stories in the *Sherlock Holmes* series where Sherlock becomes warmer and friendlier. It was an infringement of copyright to have Sherlock portrayed the way he

was in the *Enola Holmes* film.

According to the complaint made by the Conon Doyle Estate, "After the stories that are now in the public domain, and before the copyrighted stories, the Great War happened. In World War I Conan Doyle lost his eldest son. Four months later, he lost his brother. When Conan Doyle came back to Holmes in the copyrighted stories between 1923 and 1927, it was no longer enough that the Holmes character was the most brilliant, rational, and analytical mind. Holmes needed to be human. The character needed to develop human connection and empathy."

Henry Cavill, the actor who played Sherlock Holmes was asked by GQ magazine what he thinks about the lawsuit. He says, “I mean honestly, I don’t have a take on it. It’s a character from a page which we worked out from the screenplay. The legal stuff is above my pay grade.”

Although *Enola Holmes* is in hot water, it is still popular on Netflix, being in the *Top 10 in the U.S. Today* list.

NASA Spots Huge Star Disappearing Into a Void

By Doel Montes

Call it a disappearing act or a UFO, but NASA has been monitoring this star for a long time now. Seventy-million light-years away in the scenic spiral galaxy, NGC 2525, a white dwarf exploded, and the Hubble Space Telescope has seen its last days.

NASA has made a time lapse on how the white dwarf became a powerful supernova. Their telescope has been watching the super nova since February of 2018. The supernova initially outshone the other stars in its host galaxy.

"When a star unleashes as much energy in a matter of days as our sun does in several billion years, you know it's not going to remain visible for long," NASA said in a statement on Thursday.

Hubble observed the supernova while scientists were working to better understand the expansion rate of the universe. "More than just providing celestial fireworks, supernovae can be used as milepost markers to measure distances to galaxies," NASA said. "This yardstick is needed to calculate how quickly galaxies appear to be flying apart from one another, which in turn provides an age estimate for the universe."

While supernovae are relatively common across the span of the universe, Hubble's time-lapse gives us a rare peek at the dramatic process along with a poignant reminder that even stars aren't permanent.



POINCLANA ATHLETICS

One Last Ride to the Final Fight

By Johvan Merilus

This is a year that's been anything but normal, from a worldwide pandemic to society not functioning in the way it used to. The routine on how we maneuver through life may be new, but one thing still applies: love remains intact.

The class of 2021 is a class different from its previous predecessors due to the conditions challenging the entire year's plans for the soon to be graduated class. One thing seniors at PHS can say is that they are doing whatever it takes to commit to making the best of the difficult situation we're facing.

The Poinciana High School Football team is one of the PRIME examples of this case. As the country was on lockdown and conversations about how schools would function if reopened were being held, the topic of sports was a concern on whether the season would even be able to take place. This year, the Eagles themselves couldn't have been more focused coming into the season. Coach Beacon has what is told to be one of the best senior groups leading the squad this year to a possible winning season which hasn't been accomplished in nearly two decades. These young men aren't just Seniors walking onto the field to say farewell, but rather stepping onto it ready to go to war by leading the charge. Let's meet some of headhunters and field generals themselves.



EMARION HAMPTON: New Kid on the Block

“I want to give my all this season and leave everything out on the field with no regrets. My hopes are to make memories which will reinvent the culture and produce a winning season to where we hopefully make playoffs. This isn't just a simple game, but a way to practice how in life committing to your craft can build upon your skillsets to where you are more capable of being successful.”

IBRAHIM GHOUMARY: The Heart

“Going into the season, it was nothing but pure anxiousness to get on the field and ball out. During the game I couldn't stop thinking how after four years of high school, it's now the beginning of the end. Everything's changed and now we're at the front line as leaders. The best part of it all was forging friendships with interesting people and a supportive coaching staff, who mentored me to be as good if not a better human being on and off the field.”

JOHN RAMOS: DBU Valedictorian

“It’s crazy to think it’s my senior season, all I can do is reminisce on the previous years before and how that journey for me started. One thing the field has shown me is how to deal with adversity head on and push through it all, especially when you really want it. To be honest the memories I want to remember forever is just playing with my brothers.”

DARION PIETRZAK: The Main Hitter

“If this season has made me realize anything, it’s how everything I’ve worked on to help my game, from lifting weights to studying film, is coming to an end this season. Each game from starting kickoff to final seconds run down to 0 is me coming towards a new chapter of my life, so my mentality is “it’s do or die” in every game. That starts with fulfilling expectations, such as being the first team to BEAT Liberty and that’s the biggest so one day I can tell people when I was captain, we were the first to capture” Battle of the Boulevard” and bring it back home to where it belongs. I learned a lot from playing the game and that just comes with lessons of leadership, where yelling isn't going to get anything done to win respect you have to communicate and show you want the same thing at the end of the day. I tell my all my brothers this: if the teams wins, I win, just like how if the team loses, I lose too, because we started together so we might as well end it with a bang.”

ALEX QUINONES: Mr. Burn Them Off The Line

“This season means a lot because It’s been nothing but an honor to play here, and the grind itself has changed me into a better person to where I appreciate sweat and tears, not just from the game, but from that level of commit in life in general. My favorite memory from playing is last year's Liberty game, where I was making crazy double coverage catches thrown by last year's Quarterback Justin Carpenter himself, who is one of the main reasons I got into the game. He wasn't just my leader on the field, but my best friend off of it, who pushes me to up my game in football. One thing I’m for sure going to remember from the game of football is to just listen overall and do YOUR job and not worry on the mistakes of others, because it only messes up your game plan, which makes you lose pace in your pathway.”

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

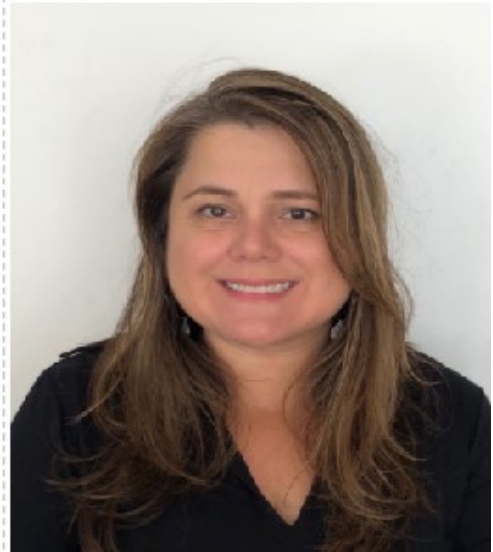
Ms. De Codes

By Jalise Martinez

Every new school year brings new experiences and new people. Meet Ms. Maria de Codes, a first time Poinciana High teacher who is no rookie to the task!

De Codes has been teaching for approximately twenty years part time, with the last four years of her teaching career being full time. She completed many of these years in Brazil, as she is not only new to Poinciana, but Florida altogether.

De Codes first began her educational journey by pursuing a bachelor's degree in Law. She then moved onto obtaining a master's degree in applied Linguistics, also known as a MATESOL. She finished off her own personal educational journey by also acquiring a degree in social studies, a subject that she is the most passionate about.



When asked what influenced her to pursue a position at Poinciana High, she stated “I had been thinking of moving to the Orlando area for a while, and I wanted to teach high school Social Studies -- the opening at Poinciana fit everything that I was looking for, and so I was very happy to come and join the community as a teacher.” For Ms. De Codes, teaching started off as a way to survive, but grew into a profession she would learn to love.

Teaching makes her happy and she portrays this in the way she feels about her students and the school overall, stating “I am happy teaching here. My students at Poinciana are warm and welcoming, curious and friendly. They work hard, and they try their best. As a teacher, I expect them to always try their best, and I am very happy to be able to meet and have positive relationships with all my students here. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every one of my students better this year, and to make our time together meaningful. I do miss my students in my previous school because we had a special connection that we worked on for four years, but I already see that I can make those connections here at Poinciana as well, and I am thrilled for it.”

While still early in the school year, De Codes has been enjoying her time teaching at PHS. She looks forward to the moment that she can see the full faces of her students whilst teaching and walking through the halls.

Though being a teacher is a big part of her life, she enjoys many aspects of life outside of school. Ms. De Codes is very social and loves to spark laughter and joy in others' lives. She is big on reading and can read an entire novel in the span of three hours. She can also sit and enjoy movies and tv series for hours as well, as these are some of her favorite activities. De Codes is a mother to two children and one newly adopted puppy, who she is very fond of.

All in all, Maria de Codes is an amazing addition to the Poinciana High community, and we welcome her with open arms!

Mrs. Williams

By Haley Dornberger

We are all aware of the issues at hand in today's world, and that's a great reason to show appreciation to our teachers. Though we have many great teachers at Poinciana High School, we have not met them all.

Today's appreciation goes to Mrs. Williams, our amazing World History teacher! There are different aspects of teaching that can be favored by educators, but Mrs. Williams particularly "loves seeing the kids smile when they know something and allowing them to come to conclusions on their own."



Mrs. Williams wasn't always a teacher, however. Accordingly, she worked for the Federal Government prior to becoming an educator. Williams decided when she moved to Florida that she would "put her degrees to good use", and History was her utmost favorite subject.

PHS appealed to Williams in many ways. She states, "I admire the culture of the school, the amazing administration staff, who all have a good head on their shoulders, and the kids seem to really have needed me." She loves her job so much that there's not a thing she would change, except for "starting earlier".

Mrs. Williams is a very interesting teacher who cosplays Disney characters and reads 3-4 books at a time, which is impressive to most people.

A little message from Mrs. Williams to all her future students: "History is a game of telephone, so make sure you're listening properly."

Thank you, Mrs. Williams, for all you do and for joining us at Poinciana High School even in these hard times, you are greatly appreciated!

The Media Center

By Michael Colon

What does the Media Center do for you? Here at Poinciana High School, it provides a multitude of things to read and use, and serves as a staple for collecting information and resources.

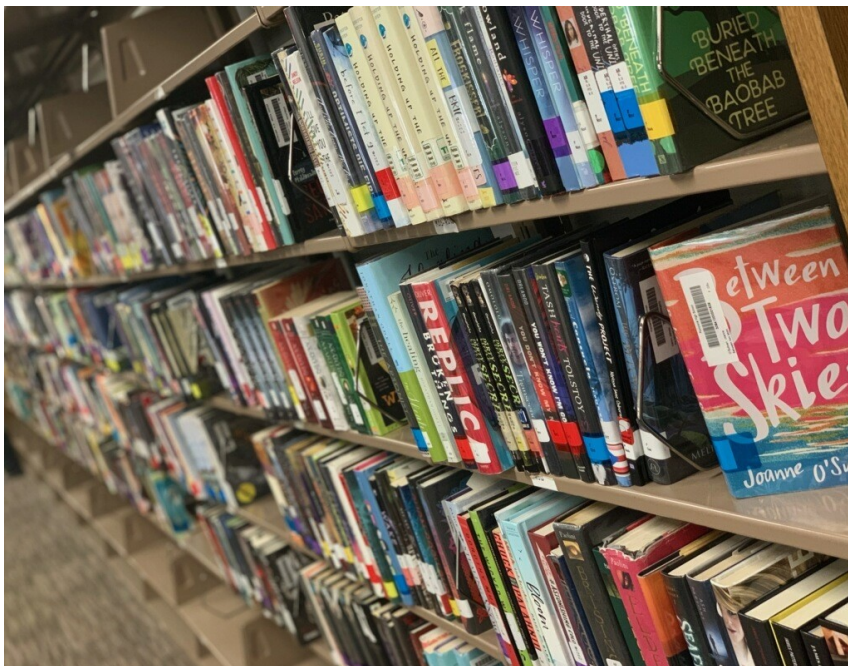
Ms. Malloy is one of the staff at the media center. She loves a welcoming environment and

always greets students with a nice, “Hi! How can I help you?” She loves a good book, and a recommendation is something she’d gratefully accept. New books come out often, and you can never read too much!

With over 6,000 titles, some having multiple copies, the total amount of books in the PHS library is 8,600. They have all kinds of fiction, stickers on the spines to differentiate the genres, signs throughout to help you locate your desired preference, and more things than you could imagine! Malloy always tries to help the students to the best of her ability, and is taking enhanced safety protocols along with the rest of the school. Some of the steps she’s taking to provide safety while being helpful to students is placing library books on hold for pick-up in the office. She’s creating how-to videos for students which highlight digital sources, such as email etiquette, learning to put books on hold, and how to use the card catalog system.

Malloy assists staff with things that pertain to their curriculum, builds a diverse library book collection, distributes textbooks, and does so much more! One of her favorite things is getting to know students! She wants all of us to know that the library is always welcome to students.

Don’t be afraid to say hi and to get a book on your way out!



Battle of the Grades

By Arelise Vasquez

As Poinciana High School students jump into their second month of school, report cards are creeping in right around the corner of October. Digital learners are unsure of how to feel as quarter one is soon to end.

September Recap

It has been expressed that Digital Learning is not a walk in the park, but a climb up a mountain. Last month felt like a scavenge. All we had, still have, are each other and the little accessible resources to us from home in order to overcome and survive *the battle of the grades*.

The System (AP and Honors Courses)

Digital students are left with confusion as they try to adjust to the grading standards of their new teachers. The process for turning in assignments, due dates, and work are all draining. It is no longer having the motive to understand the concept of what was given out that week or day, for students are more worried about getting the assignment in by 11:59pm, whether it is correct or not.

9th–11th graders were interviewed based on their views regarding the grading situation.

Anubis Diaz, 10th grade, states, “I learn more when the concept is spread out throughout the week, it makes it easier for me to ask questions about something before the teacher moves on.”

Former Digital Learner Karla Ramos started off her first semester of freshman year online. Once sign ups began to fly around, she immediately switched. She exclaimed one main reason for her switch back was the “Lack of comprehension towards teachers grading methods and the roughness of maintaining an above average or even average grade.” Karla claims that her face to face AP and Honors courses are given enough time to fully grasp the concepts learned in the classroom. “It’s way easier being at school.” What we all know as common sense.

Maritza Marrero, 11th grade, expresses what she has and still is experiencing, “I definitely feel stuck, my grade will drop harshly. It's not easy to escape school. Honestly, it’s hard to think about other things besides school. I don’t have time for anything else.”

Battlefield of Emotions

Actions speak louder than words. Us students understand that most of our teachers are doing the best they can despite the craziness of this school year. But we do feel the other half of our teachers could also put in a little more works aside from their job and remember were all human. We're maturing adults, yearning to learn and prepare for life after High School, not to become robots.

To the Digital Learner,

This season may be long, but you are not alone. We will all persevere and accomplish what we thought was impossible together.