

Ponce Periodical

School News

Invasion of the Fifth Graders by Maxwell Dickinson, Allyson Turiño and Matias Valdivieso

Between the months of October and December, Ponce de Leon Middle School is hosting tours to showcase the school to prospective incoming sixth graders. Thanks to the combined efforts of Mrs. Ramos, Ms. Chang, the Leonettes and the top 45 eighth graders, the students visiting are able to catch a glimpse of the many classes, clubs and other extra-curricular activities here at Ponce.

"The fifth grade tours are an excellent way to show the kids what to expect from the school and all we have to offer," eighth grader August Field said.

Although the organization of the tours can be credited to Ms. Chang and Mrs. Ramos, the Leonettes and the top 45 eighth graders are the ones who bring them to life, seeing that they are responsible for showing the incoming

sixth graders around. It is an incredible experience for both the future students and the tour guides.

"It was great being a part of educating the fifth graders about our amazing school," Leonette Gabriella Rudd said.

The tours start around homeroom and end halfway through middle block. The participating fifth graders get to have a look at the library, cafeteria, classrooms and other wonderful features of Ponce. The teachers whose classrooms are visited by these groups of students take time out of their schedule to further explain what Ponce and its different classes are all about.

"It's a good way to recruit students to the I.B. program. [The tours] allow people to have an experience of what the I.B. program is like," World



One of the most popular stops on the tour is Ms. Bryan's classroom, where the incoming sixth graders experience a preview of a higher level middle school course.

History teacher Mrs. Wilchcombe said.

The fifth grade tours serve to attract students and prove that Ponce isn't just the typical middle school. The visiting students take with them a great experience that will hopefully influence their decision to join the Ponce family next year.

Key Dates:

Dec 7 - Winter Concert

Dec 10 - Early Release

Dec 16 - Eighth Grade Fieldtrip (Hunger Games)

Dec 17 - Sixth Grade Winter Fest Dance/
Seventh Grade Scott Rakow Youth Center

Dec 19 - First Day of Winter Break

Opinion

Inadequate Internet Access by Elizabeth Valdivia

The Internet contains vast amounts of academic content that can help students with their curriculum work and can be used as a tool for sharing information with others. The increasing demand for knowledge has led to the implementation of the internet in classrooms. Although great on paper, internet at school is not being used to its full potential due to strict censorship and consistently slow access.

In theory, the internet allows one to access large amounts of information that isn't accessible through the traditional book use. This idea

however, is challenged by strict censorship. Various useful sites for easy access information are constantly being blocked by the school system, making it a mission to find a good source to help students with their work. Granted, in a school environment censorship is needed to protect students and make sure they stay on task. Censorship should not be eliminated but made less strict in order to establish a balance between internet safety and access to higher quality sources.

Another concern is the slowness of the internet in schools. Through President Obama's ConnectED action, nearly every

single school in America has some form of Internet connectivity, but that alone doesn't mean the aims of the plan are being met. Often times students don't even bother to connect to the internet at school. The strain to load one page while connected to the school Wi-Fi has caused students to view access to the internet as useless.

The internet should play a vital role in students' academic life, but the process of accessing it currently contains too many flaws for it to be considered an adequate source of information. This problem can only be fixed by tackling the issues involved.

Lifestyle

Easy Egnog Pumpkin Pie Recipe by Eowyn Osorio, Mariana Rubinstein and Soleil Santalla



This is a quick and easy pumpkin pie recipe for the holiday season. The ingredients are easy to get and perfect for beginners.

Ingredients:

- * One can of pure pumpkin
- * One and one-fourth of a cup of prepared eggnog
- * Seven-tenths of a cup of sugar

- * One and a half teaspoons of pumpkin pie mix
- * One-fourth of a teaspoon of salt
- * Three large eggs
- * One frozen deep-dish pie crust
- * One cookie sheet
- * Pan
- * Whipped cream (optional)

Steps:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 °F.
2. In a large bowl, mix the pumpkin, eggnog, sugar, spice, salt and eggs

with a whisk and stir until well blended.

3. Place frozen pie crust on a cookie sheet, then pour in pumpkin mixture. (Mixture will come up to almost the top of the pie crust)
4. Bake pie for 60 to 65 minutes or until filling puffs up around edges.
5. When the pie is finished cooking, take it out of the oven and let it cool in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

Recipe from goodhousekeeping.com

Spotlight

Making Music Matter by Catherine Maunder and Melissa Ventura

There's a new face to the music program at Ponce: Mr. Hernandez. Although very young, he has taken the role of bringing the music program to life, not only here, but at Coral Gables High School as well.

Mr. Hernandez chose to teach music as a career because he really enjoyed learning it throughout middle school and high school. When it comes to music, he calls himself a life-long learner, always wanting to learn more and striving to achieve new goals every day. Ponce's new music teacher would like each student that has a class with him to "spark a light within

them so that they could do whatever they want with music."

Working with two different age groups is a very difficult job but Mr. Hernandez still manages to do it. He sees working with students at different developmental stages as a fun task since he gets to introduce music to both groups. Students that work with Mr. Hernandez at Ponce also have the opportunity of continuing under his guidance at CGHS by joining the school's band.

"Whether it be singing, playing an instru-

ment, creating music on the computer or whatever the case may be, my role as a guide is to

introduce music in a way in which students feel free to do whatever they want to do with it," Mr. Hernandez said.

Mr. Hernandez's unique perspective on the role he plays as a teacher will bring refreshing changes to the music program.



Sports

Turkey Bowl 2k15 by Eowyn Osorio and Mariana Rubinstein



On Thursday Nov. 24, Ponce held its annual Turkey Bowl event. The flag football game, played by the eighth graders who tried out earlier that month, consisted of the Grey team and Blue team playing against each other. By the end of the game, the Blue team won 35-21.

In the first half of the game, Kentron Poirier and David Heyward made the first two

touchdowns for the Blue team. On the Grey team's behalf, Marquise Fleming made a touchdown. By halftime, Blue was winning, with the score being 14-7. Once the game resumed for the second half, the Grey team put in all its effort to make a comeback.

"When we tried to make our comeback, it seemed like nothing else was going on - just us and the other team," Grey team player Kaitlyn Cruzata said.

The Grey team made two touchdowns in the second half, with Kenny Ponce making the first and Waquel Jones making the second. When Ponce made his touchdown, the crowd was on their toes be-

cause it looked like he would not make it, but sure enough he ran past all the other players and scored. The Blue team, however, kept up and three of its players made touchdowns, leading the team to victory.

"The game was really intense, and I tried to focus on not letting my team down. When we won, it honestly felt so good and we were all really happy," Blue team player Annie Laroche said.

Both teams showed dedication and put in their maximum effort. The game was very fun and suspenseful, which made the students that played, as well as the students who watched, have a great time.