

THE GRANDVIEW

# Connection

April 2021

## Nature's Way

The case for tending to our own garden

## Celebrating Student Success

Juniors, Thea D., Megan E., and Andrew C., share their student success

## Thank You for Your Feedback!

Results from the February parent survey

## Homecoming!

## Workshop Series

Developing 21st century skills

## Everglades Literacy Week

Cover photo: Junior, Thea D.P. sharing her wearable art.







The class of 2021 gathering for Senior  
Movie Night on the campus lawn





# Nature's Way - The case for tending to our own garden

Jackie Westerfield  
Head of school

and needed struggles of growing up. In a misguided attempt to help our children be better than ourselves, many parents today have attempted to clear the path so that our modern youth can travel faster and further. What we didn't see coming, was that the absence of struggle at key points in life actually causes harm. A great story from nature to illustrate this point is that of the boy and the butterfly.

Of course the moral of that story is that some challenges are necessary to enable growth. This is most difficult to do when someone you love is the one who is struggling. Much of the anxiety our children feel today from our success-driven culture stems from the 'head-start' we had hoped to give them. However, hard work yields large rewards. As research, including a well-known [Harvard study](#), shows, children must have

## The boy and the butterfly

*A young boy watched a caterpillar make its cocoon. After much anticipation, the caterpillar started to struggle to get out of its cocoon. The boy was worried that the poor caterpillar would not make it out, so he decided to help it. He ran and grabbed some scissors to cut the cocoon so that the butterfly could emerge easily. After he did so, he watched the poor butterfly with a swollen body and shriveled wings just lie there, unable to fly. Sadly, the butterfly was never able to fly because the boy's good intentions denied the butterfly its natural process of squeezing the fluid out to its wings as it emerges from the cocoon.*

Spring is in the air here at Grandview and we couldn't be more excited to welcome all that the season represents. As with most cycles in nature, there are lessons to be applied to our own lives from observing these successful, regenerative systems. In this great time of change, there are three critical processes from nature we mirror to illuminate the path forward from a dark and cold time. These processes are; the process of planting, the process of pruning, and the process of blooming. None of these processes should be done by another when it comes to our own personal garden.

## PLANTING The struggle

To be direct, I worry about young people who have been denied the natural

responsibilities to care for themselves and their environment as soon as they are able to do so. Parents, no matter how tempted we are to 'do for' them, we must believe in their abilities and honor their process.

At school, this translates to responsibilities for their work, for the actual grades earned (even if those grades aren't the grades we like), for their own thinking, and for their own behavior. Children will have triumphs and defeats, friendships, and even some temporarily broken hearts. YOU made it through, so will they. Trust that they will be stronger for it. Our job is to empathize with them, encourage them, and make suggestions, but not to 'handle' what they can learn to handle on their own.

## PRUNING The choice

Our school creed asks us to 'choose wisely'. Choice is a process that, like a muscle, gets stronger from use. In order to grow in the right ways, children need to be trusted to make small choices so that they are sturdy enough to face big ones down the

road. Childhood freedoms to play and choose do not come without some risk, but [experts agree](#) that this

*"we must believe in their abilities and honor their process"*

slight risk is necessary for long-term well-being. Some of us are old enough to remember being out all day long in the summer when our parents had no idea what we were actually doing. We've climbed our share of trees, gotten lost, arranged our own social activities, and even gotten into some small troubles. These extended opportunities to choose our own path and conquer our own dragons, remain with us as we more confidently face decisions as adults today.

Similarly, while we cannot as easily let our children have all of the freedoms of a less complex era, we can offer as many opportunities for children to be in charge of their own path as possible. These choices help them identify who they are, how to successfully interact with others, and what brings them joy. The confidence and peace that stems from this 'freedom to fail' brings far more success when the stakes are higher.

*"The confidence and peace that stems from this 'freedom to fail' brings far more success when the stakes are higher."*

## BLOOMING The treasure

Finally, our Grandview community embraces the ongoing cycle of growth. The Latin phrase in our creed, 'Excelsior ad Augusta' translates to 'ever upward to honor'. Long-term self-responsibility and wise decision-making are processes that serve to better our community and our collective future. Our individual gifts are meant to be shared. As we breathe in the fresh air of spring, and we observe nature's bounty, we can see the beauty in the entirety of the process. The blooms, like each of our moments, were a long-time in the making. While the flowers get most of our attention, as the caretakers of our own respective gardens, we can embrace it all and feel grateful for the hard work, for the lessons learned from failure, and the peace that comes from knowing we harvest exactly what we have planted and cared for along the way. ■



# Everglades Literacy Week

Did you know there is only one unique Everglades, "the River of grass" in the world and that over 9 million people in South Florida depend on the Everglades for their daily water supply?

Our Lower School students know!

The Lower School took a deep dive into the Everglades and learned how important it is to South Florida. One of the most memorable facts our students learned was that the alligator is the keystone species of the Everglades! Additionally, the students learned there are thousands of animal and plant species that call the Everglades home, many of which are threatened or endangered.

Now that we know how important the Everglades is to our survival, we need to do our part to restore the Everglades to their natural state. Everglades Literacy Week is a time for us to engage and empower our school's community to become stewards for the Everglades. We can all help protect and conserve the Everglades for future generations.

Lower School student, Avery R.  
presenting her "alligator hole"





# Preparing students for college and life beyond

Interviewing: The Art of Conversation is led and facilitated by the Director of Admission, Stephanie Wood. Through the seminar, students will understand fundamental skills needed to engage in a successful interview as an interviewer and an interviewee. 21st century skills will be practiced and modeled throughout the workshop with an emphasis on understanding the importance of body language, exuding confidence, preparation, and strategically asking/answering questions to create a fluid conversation.

All Middle and Upper School students will have participated in each workshop session by the end of March.

## Semester II: Workshop Series

Middle and Upper School workshop seminars are intentionally designed to focus on the development of specific 21st century skills needed to be successful in college and life beyond.

**Creating Your Personal Brand NOW**  
Michelle Olson-Rogers

**Finding Your Voice: Fearless Public Speaking**  
Jackie Westerfield

**Interviewing: The Art of Conversation**  
Stephanie Wood

**Lights, Camera, Action!**  
**How you can use lighting, music and your phone to film**  
Carrie Furman

**Mindfulness: Focused Awareness in the Present Moment**  
Emma DeStefano

**Visual Creations Bootcamp**  
Stephanie Held



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**Thea D.P. '22**

Thea started her own business over a year ago with the intention of incorporating her passion for art with fashion. She began creating custom denim jackets featuring mystical creatures, animals with accent pieces (crowns, necklaces, etc.). Thea identified a branch of fashion that was evolving and she began researching it and mixed acrylic and fabric paint to create the designs (as seen on the cover of this issue of The Connection). She sells them through Instagram, takes custom orders and creates all original designs. Her brand is focused on selling one-of-a-kind items.

## **Advice to younger students?**

No matter how hard or how much you want to accomplish, all you have to focus on is moving forward. Don't let perfection get in the way of progress.



 **Andrew**

**Andrew C. '22**

Andrew and his dad are the founders of Sole Relief, a non-profit started in 2015 with the mission of collecting gently used sneakers and distributing them to third-world countries around the world. Over the last year, they collected and distributed over 10,000 sneakers.

## **The most important thing you've learned at Grandview?**

"The most important thing I have learned at Grandview is to be a respectful person, to treat everyone equally and to be kind. These are definitely things I can take with me moving forward.



 **Megan**

**Megan E. '22**

Megan is the president and founder of the Boca Raton chapter of PERIOD. Megan is committed to ending period poverty through service, education and advocacy. Megan and the Boca Raton chapter have distributed over 50,000 pads and tampons to over a dozen local non-profits.

## **How has Grandview helped you explore your passions?**

"The summer before my freshman year I had the opportunity to join the First Robotics competition team, The Dirty Mechanics. As a Junior, I am now co-captain and love competing with other teams across the world. Grandview has really encouraged me to pursue my passions for both STEM and advocacy."



# HOME COMING 20-21

GRANDVIEW



PREP



## Parade awards

Best Float  
9th Grade

Best Walking Group  
6th Grade

Best Vehicle  
2nd Grade

## Homecoming Court

**Jade B., '21**  
Homecoming Queen

**Pedro B., '21**  
Homecoming King

Natalia I., '21  
Homecoming Princess

Carter D., '21  
Homecoming Prince

Tori K.	Junior Court
Jenny G.	Junior Court
Zach D.	Junior Court
Steven B.	Junior Court
Sloane K.	Sophomore Court
Alli K.	Sophomore Court
Nate C.	Sophomore Court
Colin R.	Sophomore Court
Madison W.	Freshman Court
Shayne D.	Freshman Court
Javier N.	Freshman Court
Charles B.	Freshman Court



# Cultivating creativity through art

**Iren K., 12th Grade**

## "Psychological Effects of Slavery"



Acrylic Mural on canvas, 2020  
Senior Project: Innovation Program (IP)

I want to create something that will depict the psychological damages that slaves endured, similar to the book *Beloved*. *Beloved* is able to capture the pain of slavery and translate it into literature. I want to translate the pain into a piece of art. There is so much more to slavery than simply physical abuse. Within the quotes from the slaves in my project lie their emotional trauma, and that trauma will be analyzed. The goal of this project is to show the world what is hidden. People tend to believe that because it happened a long time ago, it no longer matters. It matters. Those stories must be told and the agony of their experiences must not be minimized.



**Nikita G., 8th Grade**

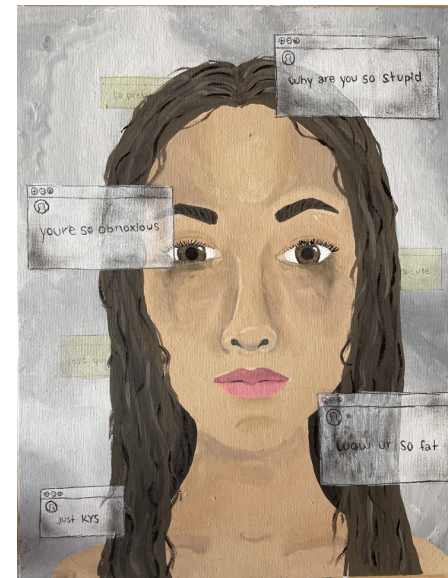
Project theme: "Memories,"  
The artist decided to draw and paint significant images to represent the many places he's lived and visited.



Ilesha R., 11th Grade

## 2D Design & Studio Art Class

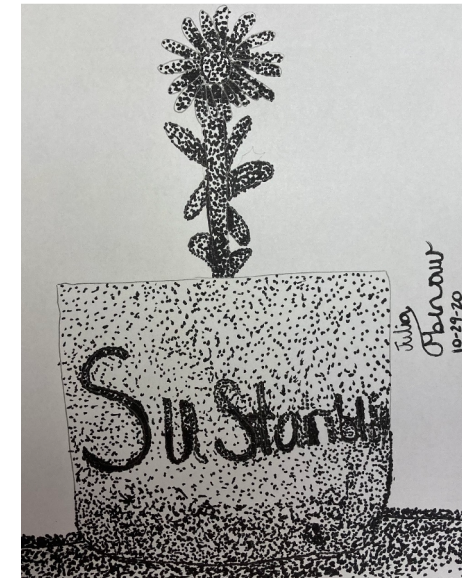
### Project theme: Consumption



**Nicole V., 11th Grade**

## 2D Design & Studio Art Class

### Project theme: Consumption



**Julia O., 5th Grade**





Lower School student, Bryce D. buiding a rocket ship with cardboard boxes during tinkler time

# Summer Sessions

Registration for Grandview Summer Sessions is now available for students ages 3-10. Register for just the academic morning or stay through the afternoon for lunch and summer fun!

- Session 1: June 14-25
- Session 2: June 28-July 9
- Session 3: July 12-23

**8:00-11:00 academics** .....  
\$450 per 2-week session

Fun and interactive classes taught by Grandview teachers with academic focus in the areas of foundational reading (PLA), writing,, and math.

**11:00-3:00 afternoon camp** .....  
\$300 per 2-week session

Lunch will be catered by SAGE Dining with camp activities in the afternoon. Swimming (ages 5+), arts and crafts, creative play, and more!

**3:00-5:00 extended day** .....  
\$20 per day

 **Register today!**

Questions: Desiree Tobin  
dtobin@grandviewprep.net



# Grandview @Evert

When Alexandra M. '22 headed to world-renowned Evert Tennis Academy last August, she was not only continuing her training and conditioning with leading coaches and mentors, she was becoming part of a new educational partnership with Grandview Preparatory School.

Alexandra, along with 25 fellow Evert athletes, are part of the inaugural class of Grandview Prep, our second campus located at Evert Tennis Academy in west Boca Raton. Alan Stob, Head of Grandview at Evert, expects to have 55 students in the 2021-2022 school year, and max-out at 80 to 85 students by the end of 2023.

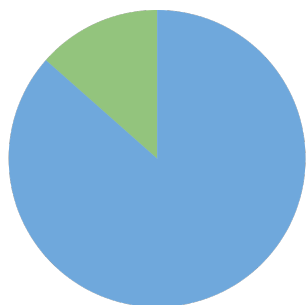
Alexandra's father, John M., says the partnership creates a balance needed for his daughter. "[Alex] is really enjoying school for the first time in a while."



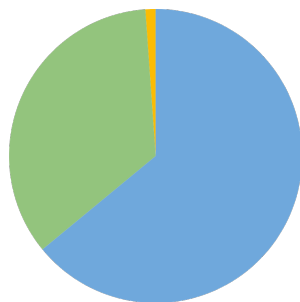
Alexandra M. '22  
Grandview at Evert



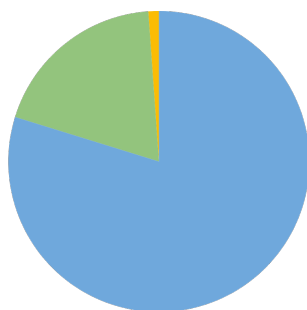




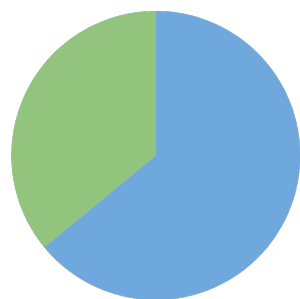
safety protocols



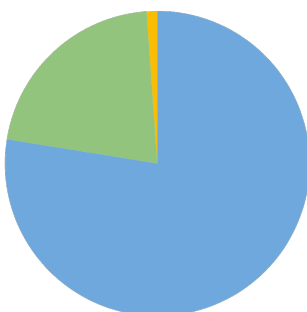
social-emotional experience



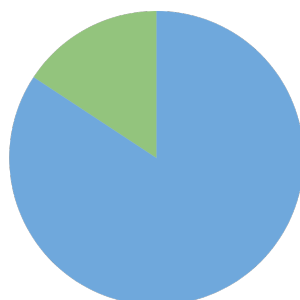
frequency of communication



academic experience



progression through re-entry phases



learning preference options (remote/on-campus)

The pandemic has accelerated societal changes both in education and in the professional arena. With these changes in mind, we asked several questions regarding how families foresee the delivering of education in years to come.

**92**  
PERCENT

agreed on-campus learning was the most ideal structure for their family

**48**  
PERCENT

agreed their family was interested in the flexibility blended learning offers

**48**  
PERCENT

agreed their family was interested in summer learning programs

**37**  
PERCENT

agreed their family was interested in year-round school

# Thank you for sharing!

Thank you for completing the family survey sent to the community on February 5th. This data is compiled from responses from 89 Grandview families representing all grade levels.

## Interested in participating in a parent focus group?

Let us know your interested by completing this 3 question form

[➔ 2 seconds](#)

VERY SATISFIED

SATISFIED

UNSATISFIED

VERY UNSATISFIED

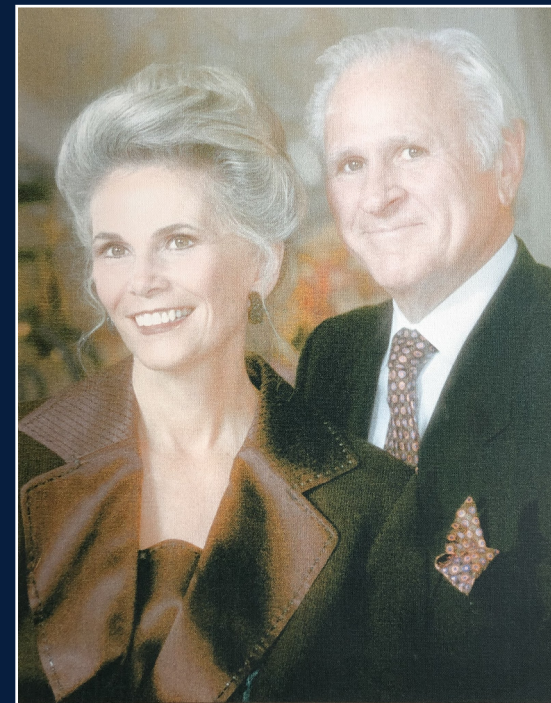




# Looking ahead

APR 13	GAP Meeting
APR 30	All School Dress Down Day
MAY 6	Spring Concert Broadcast
MAY 7	Prom
MAY 18	Candle Lighting (Juniors & Seniors)
MAY 18	5th Grade Moving Up
MAY 19	Senior Commencement
MAY 20	2020 & 2021 Kindergarten Graduations
MAY 20	8th Grade Graduation

## Celebrating Founders Day



### Fast Facts

Grandview was founded 24 years ago by Gene and Carolyn Ehlers.

The City approved the proposal for the school in 1996 with the first day of school occurring in the fall of 1997.

The first graduating class matriculated in 2001 with 6 seniors.

Fun Fact: Mr. & Mrs. Ehlers are Ms. Westerfield's parents!



Founders Day



A photograph of a school courtyard. In the foreground, a large, leafy tree with a thick trunk stands on the left. To its right, a white building with windows and a black fan mounted on the wall is visible. Several red picnic tables are arranged in the courtyard. Two young boys are sitting at a table in the foreground, facing each other. They are wearing dark blue shirts. There are white containers and orange cups on the table. In the background, other students are visible sitting at tables. The ground is paved with light-colored bricks. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# Excelsior Ad Augusta

"Ever Upward to Honor"

Together we build our future  
one thought,  
one act,  
one moment at a time.

We believe knowledge is freedom,  
freedom is choice, and  
choice is responsibility.  
We understand we must choose wisely.

We must choose  
compassion over apathy,  
wisdom above ignorance,  
sacrifice over selfishness, and  
dedication above indifference.

For we know our future rests in this moment,  
this place,  
this act,  
this thought.

It is our choice to give to one another this moment.  
In this gift,  
there is honor  
now and forever.

Carpe Diem!