

# The



# Signal

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## DuPage County Elections Held April 6th, Importance of Local Voting

By Jenny Aguilar

While the presidential election was held this past November, citizens living in DuPage county are encouraged to participate in the consolidated general election on April 6, 2021. Among the plethora of open positions, four spots on Fenton's board of education are open.

Going into this election, the state of Illinois began offering a variety of mailing methods in order to reduce the number of people at polling places on the general election date. However, a lack of funds in comparison to the November election caused officials to be unable to send out mail-in ballot applications to all registered voters. Instead, information on mail-in and early voting has been advertised via social media, ads, and other cost-efficient methods. Vote by mail ballots can be requested on the DuPage County website but need to be postmarked by April 5th in order

to be eligible for the election.

Early voting began at the DuPage County Fairgrounds on February 25 for "In-Person Absentees," according to the DuPage County website. On Monday, March 22, the remaining 14 early voting locations opened to the public, although all except one are touchscreen voting only. All local polling places will be open on April 6.

Of the four open spots on Fenton's Board of Education, two are incumbent board members, Paul Wedemann and Patty Jalowiec. Wedemann, the current president, was first elected to the Board on April 7, 2015. Part of his mission is to provide an "environment for the academic success of Fenton students in a fiscally responsible manner," as stated on Fenton's website. He has lived in Bensenville for the past 23 years and has work experience in the export/import logistics field.

Current secretary Patty Jalowiec was elected to the Board in April 2017. She is a retired member of the United States Air Force and volunteers for the Air Force Academy as an admissions Liaison Officer. She joined the Board in the hopes of being "a conduit for communication between the board and its stakeholders; to help improve the quality of education for all students."

Candidates seeking their first terms for the Board positions include John Radzinski, Thalia Anguiano, Sylvia Hayde, Joseph Minard, and Xavier Pete. Anguiano and Pete are recent Fenton graduates, and Radzinski, Minard and Hayde are all parents of students either currently attending or who have attended Fenton.

Despite not gaining the same amount of publicity as presidential elections, it is imperative for all members of the community who are

eligible to go out and vote.

On the DuPage county website, County Clerk Jean Kaczmarek is quoted saying, "Mayors, townships supervisors, and board members for schools, libraries, and parks are among the offices on the ballot for this election. Many of our quality of life issues impacting our everyday lives are handled on the local level. This is why voting in a consolidated election matters."

UPDATE: As of Wednesday, April 7 at 8:00 AM, the results of the school board election are being reported by DuPage County with the following 4 candidates winning the Fenton school board election: Patty Jalowiec (959); John Radzinski (955); Paul Wedemann (865); Joseph Minard (766).

Vote totals for the other candidates: Sylvia Hayde (764); Thalia Anguiano (750); Xavier Pete (682).

## Women's History Month: Lesser-Known Women Who Shaped Society

### Dolores Huerta: Civil, Labor Rights Activist

By Julissa Velazquez

Dolores Huerta is a labor activist, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Association, and a leader of the Chicano civil rights movement. She received a teaching degree from the University of the Pacific's Delta College. Teaching inspired her to begin her career as an activist as she witnessed hungry farmers' children coming to class. In 1955, she became the co-founder of the Stockton chapter of CSO (the Community Service Organization), as well as the Agricultural Workers Association. Both advocated for the economic improvement for Hispanics. She worked together with Cesar Chavez to create the National Farm Workers Association. Huerta led many consumer boycotts such as the 1973 grape boycott which led to a law allowing farmers to form unions and bargain for better wages and work conditions. Continuing from the 1990s, she worked to have more Hispanics and women elected into

office. In 1998, Dolores Huerta won the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award. In 2012, she won the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She is currently the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, as well as a board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation, and the Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America.



Photo from Wikimedia Commons

### Claudia Jones: Feminist, Journalist, Orator



Photo from Wikimedia Commons

By Erica Ayala

Claudia Jones, one of the most influential black and feminist intellectuals of the 1900s, was born in Trinidad and Tobago. She migrated to Harlem, New York during the 1920s and ultimately became an active member of the communist party. Jones was aware of the racism that shaped her life and that of her neighbors. She listened to orators on 125th Street and was thoroughly impressed

by the communists. Jones tirelessly advocated for issues like gender equality, civil rights, and decolonization through journalism and public speaking. She stayed in the United States until she was deported to Britain in 1955. She published a groundbreaking article in 1949 that emphasized oppression based on race, class and gender, "An End to the Neglect of the Problems of Negro Women." Claudia Jones founded and served as the editor in chief for the first major Black newspaper in the UK (the West Indian Gazette and Afro-Asian Caribbean News). The West Indian Gazette aimed to unify the black community in a fight against racial discrimination. The publication gave Jones a platform to celebrate Caribbean culture. This Caribbean Carnival eventually led to today's celebration of Notting Hill Carnival. In 1963, she led a march on the American embassy to show solidarity with the March on Washington in the United States.



## Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz: Feminist Author

By Sarah Guerrero

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, who is often proclaimed as “the first feminist author of the new world” was born approximately in November of 1651, in San Miguel Nepantla, Tepetlaxpa.

From a young age, Juana had distinguished herself as a prodigy, almost entirely self-taught. She grew up in Amecameca, where her grandfather owned Hacienda Panoaya. At just three years, she had learned how to read and write Latin, at the age of eight, she wrote her first poem, and in her teen years she had mastered



Photo from Wikimedia Commons

Greek logic and began instructing Latin to other children.

Due to lack of educational opportunities for the women of her time, Juana moved to the Convent of San Geronimo in 1669, where she chased her dream to “have no fixed occupation which might curtail my freedom to study.” There, she wrote plays, prose and poetry, and even studied philosophy, music, and science.

She faced a great amount of disapproval during her lifetime due to controversial publications and beliefs. She advocated for women’s rights to educational access. Now known as the “first feminist manifesto”, Juana’s Respuesta a Sor Filotea defended women’s rights to learn. This letter was published in response to the Bishop of Puebla who criticised her relentlessly for her comments and lack of religious content in her poetry. Sor Juana was forced to abjure her religious faith, due to pressure from those against her controversial beliefs.

Sor Juana died on April 17, 1695, yet her legacy as a Mexican icon carries forward, with her image seen on Mexican currency, and her birthplace now renamed as Nepantla de Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

## Margaret Hamilton: Software Engineer

By Michelle Agyemang

Margaret Hamilton was a computer scientist that helped create one of the most crucial codes used on the Apollo mission that sent Americans to the moon in the late '60s and early '70s. After graduating from Earlham College in 1958, Hamilton taught high school mathematics and later accepted a job offer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) creating software to predict the weather. From 1961-1963, Hamilton worked on the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment project or the SAGE project. During the SAGE project, Hamilton notably wrote software that identifies enemy aircraft. Her work in SAGE ultimately allowed her to become the lead developer of Apollo software at NASA. Hamilton led a team tasked with creating programs for the spacecraft’s in-flight com-

mand. During this time, Hamilton and her team’s work was so new that there wasn’t even a title to describe it. Hamilton coined the term software engineer to describe her work at NASA, saying that her team’s job was just as important as other engineers’. Hamilton left MIT in 1972 and created her own company. In 2016, President Barack Obama awarded her the “Presidential Medal of Freedom” for her revolutionary career in software engineering.



Photo from Wikimedia Common

## Luz Méndez de la Vega: Guatemalan Feminist Author, Poet, Actress, Journalist

By Jenny Aguilar

Growing up in a time of political and military conflict, Luz Méndez de la Vega spent her life as a celebrated writer, journalist, actress, and feminist. Born on September 2, 1919, in Retalhuleu, Guatemala, Méndez and her family were forced into exile because her father opened their home as a location for members of a political party against the then-current president, Manuel Estrada Cabrera. After beginning her education in Chiapas, Mexico, Méndez and her family moved back to Guatemala

where she was then sent to school in El Salvador. It was here where she met Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral who inspired her interest in literature. In 1942, she began her journalism career, publishing articles for the newspaper El Liberal Progresista. After marrying and having three children, Méndez received a bachelor’s degree in literature from USAC and pursued a doctorate at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain. She was a professor of literature at USAC and also publishing work in the famous Guatemalan newspaper, El Imparcial.

## Gloria Steinem: Journalist, Political Activist



Photo from Wikimedia Commons

By Olivia Baran

Gloria Steinem, a feminist organizer, political activist, writer, and lecturer, is an advocate for equality. Steinem touches upon “sex and race caste systems, gender roles and child abuse as roots of violence, non-violent conflict resolution, the cultures of indigenous peoples, and organizing across boundaries for peace and justice.” She was first brought to light after speaking on behalf of a feminist movement in the 1960s. Steinem was

a journalist in New York and centered her first articles on women’s lifestyles and tips in what she liked to call “the women’s pages.” She was very much committed to equality and women’s rights. Alongside a few other women, Steinem created the National Women’s Political Caucus. This promoted “the election of more pro-equality women to public office.” Steinem was also keen on crafting books and biographies which were centered around equality. In addition to this, she was a political writer and editor for the “New York” magazine. During her time as a political writer, Steinem formulated articles regarding various political campaigns and social issues, “including the women’s liberation movement.” She spoke in favor of legalizing abortions in the in the state of New York. In 2013, Gloria Steinem was awarded the “Presidential Medal of Freedom.”

## Sylvia Mendez: History-Making Activist



Photo from Wikimedia Commons

By Sarah Guerrero

Born in 1936, in Santa Ana, California, Sylvia Mendez grew up in a world when most south and southwestern schools were segregated. Racial segregation, which was deeply rooted in the American education system, haunted classrooms across the nation. At just 8 years old, Sylvia Mendez was aware that she would not have the opportunity to attend the “beautiful schools”, which were schools designated for “Whites Only”. She instead had to attend the “Mexican school” down the road, Hoover Elementary. Mendez realized that 17th Street Elementary, where white children attended, had far better educational benefits compared to Hoover Elementary. Mendez’ father, Gonzalo Mendoza, wanted his

children and nephews to attend 17th Street Elementary so they could receive the best education. So Mendez’ aunt Sally Vidaurri attempted to enroll the children, but school officials resisted. Sally was told that Mendez’ cousins, who had light skin, would be allowed to enroll, but Mendez and her brothers could not, for the children had dark skin, and they had a Hispanic last name.

So, as Mendez’s mother, Felicitas Mendez took after the family farm, Gonzalo stood up not only for his children, but for thousands more. Mendez v. Westminster, a groundbreaking landmark case changed the lives of the Hispanic community for generations to come. In February of 1946, the judges sided with the families who fought for their children’s learning opportunities and rights. This case paved the way for the historical case: Brown vs. Board of Education. Then, in 1948, with yet much resistance from peers and school officials, Mendez became one of the first hispanics to attend an “all white school”. In February of 2011, Mendez was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her lifelong commitment to the fight for equality.



Photo from Flickr.com



## Speech Team Competes Towards National Level in Virtual District Tournament

By Abby Niehoff

It's hard to "say it like you mean it" and "mean it when you say it" when you're talking to a screen. Nevertheless, the speech team competed this year with great success. Contrary to previous years, speech team members were given the opportunity to compete towards the national level.

The first step was the district tournament held on March 6. The purpose of this tournament was to determine National competitors. Willing students with events corresponding to the ones held at the district tournament competed. These students are Karissa Lara (Informative Speaking and Program

Oral Interpretation), Alex Pizarro (Original Oratory), Carolina Rosas (Humorous Interpretation), with Anna Micor and Xochitl Quinones competing in supplemental events.

The most noticeable difference between the regular season and the nationals process is added events. Supplemental events were added to the district for competitors to compete in after they had been eliminated from the main events in the competition. For example, Lara competed in Informative Speaking; had she been eliminated from this event, she would have been able to compete in Program Oral Interpretation. The competition goes on all day to shrink the competition

to four competitors. Some were done competing at 12 PM, others 8 PM.

The extra-long day paid off for Xochitl Quiñones, as she qualified for the NDSA national tournament in Program Oral Interpretation.

Fenton Speech took advantage of the virtual competition this year. This was the first time since at least 2001 that Fenton competed at this level. Both Coach Hendricks (she/her) and Coach Feinberg (she/her) agreed that this meant the competition was more equitable- no travel meant no additional costs of airfare, lodging, and food.

"We're so proud of these students who continue working on a craft during a time when it's easy to

let it fall by the wayside. Many virtual experiences have been happening along with this one- these students continue to work and make this a priority," says Feinberg. Hendricks similarly praised the students who competed: "For our students to continue to take opportunities, to turn something negative into positive- that is a skill in itself. That perseverance will enable these students to do anything in life for themselves. So many things come out of this because of these experiences: a college opportunity, an honor society, connections that last a lifetime."

The nationals tournament is set to happen in the week of June 14-18.

## STUNT's Virtual Talent Show Released; Participating Students Share Their Experiences

By Michelle Agyemang

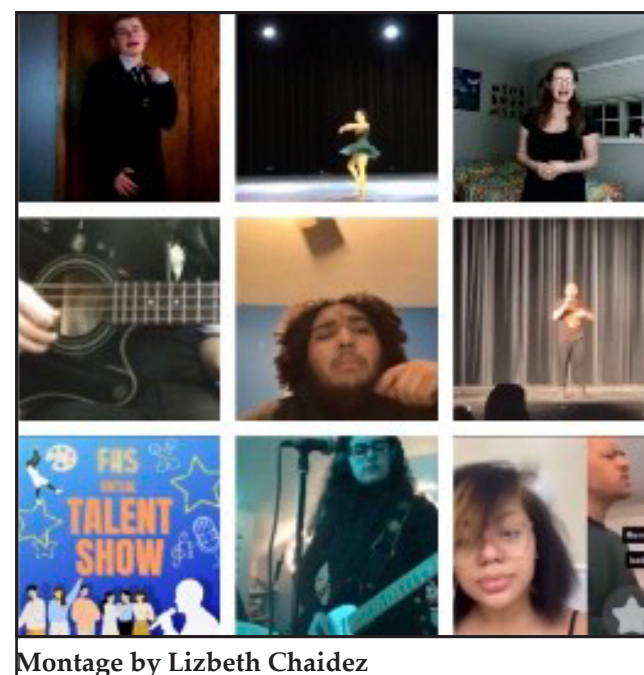
Fenton's Students United (STUNT) released its first-ever virtual talent show on March 19th. The club created a video featuring eight student performers with talents such as singing, dancing, rapping, and acting. Fenton seniors and staff also made videos commenting on the student performances.

STUNT exec board member Lizbeth Chaidez describes her experience producing a virtual talent show saying, "Exec Board and I enjoyed putting together the talent show because it was like putting a puzzle together. It was exciting seeing the final product after hours of editing... It turned out just as we imagined and [we] are proud of our eight performances."

The first act in this year's talent show was sophomore Delilah Johnson, who performed the song "Sober" by Hospital Bracelet. Johnson commented on the talent show saying, "I didn't know how [the talent show] was going to turn out since there weren't going to be any live performances. Luckily, the show came together really great, and I was so happy to be a part of it...It was awesome seeing everyone go out of their way to film something nice for the show! Plus, I loved being able to get feedback from FHS teachers. It was so nice of them to take the time out of their day to do so!"

Senior Anthony Wick showcased his original comedy skit during this year's talent show. "I wanted to do the talent show this year because I wanted to share my talents of acting, comedic writing, and present the piece that got me all the way to IHSA Sectionals to the rest of the school. I just liked having the opportunity to showcase my talents again" says Wick.

Although this year's talent is something entirely original from past years, students were still able to gain a sense of accomplishment by creating a video for the school to see. To watch the 2021 virtual talent show, look through your Fenton email or go to STUNT's Instagram page, @fhsstunt.



Montage by Lizbeth Chaidez

## AP Exams Modified, AP Review Sessions

By Julissa Velazquez

This past year has thrown countless challenges at people all over the world. It brought about many changes in our lives that we must adapt to. As students everywhere are in different situations due to the pandemic, there have been some changes to the AP exams this year. Last year, all the tests were shortened to about 40 minutes and were taken completely online. This was a struggle for some students as they did not have the necessary resources to succeed at home.

This year, the tests will be the traditional 3 hour long tests and the content will be the same. You as students have the choice between taking the written test in person or taking the test online. The first testing dates will be from May 3 to May 14. Students will be taking the in person written exams these days. The next testing dates will be from June 1 to June 11. These students will be taking their tests online.

In an interview with division leader Ms. Ward, she stated, "If a student wants to come into Fenton to take the test remotely on their computer, they can come in and we'll have a set up for them to use stable Wi-Fi."

She would also like everyone to know that though the content is all going to be the same, there are some differences between the online and in person tests. Online testing will not allow students to look back and see previous questions or answers. Speaking to your teacher can help you decide which test will be best for you.

Fenton is also offering all possible resources that students might need. Although this AP season will look very different, review sessions will still be available after spring break. Kylie Peterson hosts monthly AP Ambassadors meetings and offered some information about the sessions.

She stated, "All you have to do to attend these review sessions is look out for a post from your teachers in Google Classroom with the zoom link! These review sessions are led by your peers who have taken the class and test, to give you specific insight on their tips and tricks to getting a passing score! These review sessions can vary from FRQ help, fun review games, or a simple Q&A session! Please contact me at Kylie.peterson@fenton100.org if you have any questions regarding the review sessions or AP tests in general!"

## Group Aims to Celebrate Diversity, Inclusion

By Michelle Agyemang

Fenton has worked on focus groups that promote diversity and inclusion in the Fenton community for a while. With the increasing social change in our society, Fenton is working on making these groups more involved in the community. This year, staff members have worked on a new way to educate students about issues surrounding our community and society as a whole.

Assistant principal Eileen Roberts has led and participated in groups that discuss the importance of Black History Month.

Roberts explained the focus group's work "Our team started by talking about what we did last year. We quickly realized most of what we had done was good, but we really needed to dig deeper and figure out how we educate students and staff so that the same issues don't keep occurring in society. The team brainstormed and dropped ideas onto a working document that included links for videos, articles to read, and simple ideas they had not flushed out yet. When we met, we quickly dug into trying to figure out which ideas would help influence our school the most. That's what we picked and

moved it forward. The group had many deep discussions which, in the end, made our decisions even better!"

There were originally eight staff members involved in the focus group and it grew to fifteen. Social science teacher Ranjana Rajendran was instrumental in using social-emotional learning skills and social justice standards in their discussions.

Roberts commented on the staff involved saying, "Everyone on the team played a role, but Matt Lynch, Elizabeth Wright, and Seredy Williams really stepped up to lead our team through the conversations and next steps for our school."

The ultimate goal for these groups is "to educate and celebrate the history of various groups."

Fenton plans to continue the celebration of many groups during future Black, LGBTQ+, and Latino history months. Fenton hopes to involve students in these stimulating conversations about diversity in the future.

As we completed the work, we realized we had a missing voice, the student! So, moving forward we will add in students to all of our groups."



# Sister Act Production Resumes One Year After Pandemic

By Erica Ayala

Hallelujah! *Sister Act* is coming to Fenton this spring! A live audience will be welcomed at the performances, which will also be live-streamed from April 15th-17th at 7 pm. Tickets will be available for the public one week prior to opening night. There will be a link to the live stream of the shows on the Fenton website for public access of the show.

Additionally, there will be a link to reserve tickets free of charge. To ensure a safe environment for audience members and the cast, the number of people in the auditorium will be significantly under our CDC-approved capacity. Of course, masks are required for entry, and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

Although preparing for the show has looked different than in previous years, director George Mussman stated that “Everybody’s really excited about being able to do a live performance, whether people can see it in person or they are able to watch on the live stream. We’re so excited about being able to present this to a live audience.”

Initially, it wasn’t known if there was even going to be a show this year, so the cast feels fortunate that they’re getting the opportunity to perform. *Sister Act* was going to be performed last year, but the show was canceled due to COVID. Members of the cast and crew have gotten a unique experience in that they’ve had the opportunity to work on this project for two years.

Dr. Mussman continued, “It’s exciting to see something that we’ve been working on for such a long time being near the end. I think we’re going to do a great job of honoring all of the work people put into the show.”

Cast and crew members alike have been hard at work since February preparing for the performances that are just a few weeks away.

Junior Karissa Lara, said “It’s really great that we are going to be able to see our hard work come into fruition. It’s been a really long process, but it’s going to be extremely gratifying to finally see the results.”

Rehearsals have taken on a new format here in Fenton’s auditorium. In February, vocal rehearsals were spread out, and only groups of 4-8 kids were allowed in the auditorium at once. Each performer wore a mask and had an assigned spot in the auditorium six feet away from other people. Because of the masks, every student was given a microphone to help with their volume.

Evelyn Perez, ’22, said that “Having to sing and dance with our masks on is really difficult. But, the cast understands the importance of keeping our masks on at all times.”

Although the cast is smaller this year than it was last year, Sophomore Ryan Peterson said, “I feel the sense of community is actually stronger now than ever before with our smaller cast. It’s almost like we’re part of a family.”

This smaller, tight-knit group has overcome significant obstacles by working together and being there for each other.

The cast is so excited to finally be able to perform together in front of an audience. It’s been a year since any of the performers could put on a live show with their friends.

Perez, playing Mother Superior, said, “I cannot wait to perform on stage. Playing Mother Superior has been such a fun experience! We have contrasting personalities, so being able to play this role has allowed me to develop new perspectives.”

The show is full of exciting characters with big personalities! Karissa Lara, playing Deloris Van Cartier, said that “Deloris is so unlike any character I’ve played and it’s been such an amazing experience being able to let out my sassy and ‘fabulous’ side!”

Along with Lara and Perez, the cast consists of Maya Cornejo, Abby Niehoff, Xavier Martinez, Jason Garcia, Bart Sporna, Ryan Peterson, Aiden Torres, Gerald Logue, Nathan Herrera, Joan Hitt, Olivia Chavez, Kailianna Smith, Kauren Kissane, Michelle Agyemang, Riya Patel, Abigail Botello, Carolyn Stadnyk, Kamil Widlo, and Erica Ayala.



Photo courtesy of

## Photo Op: What Are Your Thoughts On the Pandemic One Year Later?

By Jenny Aguilar



**Grace Marcussen '22:**  
“A year later, I feel as though the pandemic helped me to better know myself and has allowed me to spend all day with my pets.”



**Jazmin Camacho '22:**  
“The pandemic was similar to a roller coaster ride, with the variety of events and emotions that everyone went through and felt. A year has passed and things seem to get better. Everything won’t be exactly the same but we are getting close to being as “normal” as before. This ride is getting closer to its end.”



**Evan Kaspari '22:**  
“It goes without saying the pandemic has made a huge impact on our ways of life; I certainly never thought it would last this long. But I’m kind of proud of how we’ve handled it as a school, we’re staying safe but also sticking together.”



# Bella Forrest's *The Gender Games*: "Fast-Paced and Nail-Biting"

By Jady Golz

It was March of 2019 and the March Book Madness tournament was ongoing in Blackhawk Middle School. I was staring at the chart and skimming through the summaries when *The Gender Game* by Bella Forrest caught my eye. It seemed interesting. Maybe I would read it after I finished the book I was currently reading... that didn't happen. It wasn't until this year, two years after seeing the book for the first time, that I finally read it. And if anyone's wondering, *The Gender Game* got knocked out early on. The two finalists were *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman and *One Of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus.

Forewarning, *The Gender* series spans seven books and the first one ends on a cliffhanger. They're all published so you won't have to wait, but this is one of those commitment-style series. It's a long ride --not a bad one-- just long.

Now that that's out of the way, onto the story. The main character is a spunky girl who is currently in a detention facility. Why? Many reasons. The biggest of which is that she has killed a woman before, and that she tried to sneak her younger brother over the river and into the country on the other side. Why does this matter? Young Violet was born in Matrus, a matriarchal society.

The setting of the story is placed in a world where there's very few people left. I believe the implication is that there was a war that we destroyed ourselves in, but I'm not sure. The small colony of people left and created a society. They eventually recovered and made a society much like our own nowadays. The women in this society feared that the men were taking too much control. So, they abandoned their home by the mountains and set up a new society across the river. The land isn't as fertile but it's sustainable. This is how the two states became Matrus, the matriarchy, and Patrus, the patriarchy. This is also why Violet is in so much trouble for trying to move her brother to Patrus. But the past is in the past and Violet can do nothing about it.

Violet is a bit of a hot head. If it means defending herself, she'd do it without a doubt - and she's really good at it. So good that she accidentally killed another inmate. This was the second time she's committed "womanslaughter" and is quickly hauled away for her death sentence.

But in a surprising turn of events, the Queen of Matrus gives her a pardon on the condition that Violet moves to Patrus as a spy and brings back a metal egg that was stolen. If Violet succeeds, she lives and gets

a half-hearted promise to see her brother again who was sent North to the mines (or so they say), if she fails, she dies. Can hot-headed Violet keep cool in a society where she's nothing more than a decoration to stand beside the men? What's in the egg? Why does Matrus want it so bad? I guess you'll have to read it and find out.

I do recommend this book for anyone looking for a captivating story. The summary on the back states that it's "for fans of the *Hunger Games* and *Divergent*" series. Neither of which I've read, but from what I know they sound fairly similar. If you're interested in complex stories that deal with morality and those thinky-thinky subjects, this book isn't for you (at least not yet - who knows what happens in the sequel). Although pacing is a little slow in the beginning, it begins to pick up after the inciting incident.

I personally enjoyed the book for it's relatable characters, fast pace, and the nail-biting that begins at the end. Violet isn't me per say, but she's very much like someone I know. She feels very real because I know a real person like her. Not to mention the fast paced action that fits Violet's hot-headedness. She's definitely not a passive character. Her mistakes are her own and she owns up to them.

And lastly, I'm not allowed to tell you how the book ends, but I just want to say it was *so good*. I feel that saying anymore will take away the feeling at the end. Just read it and you'll understand.

If you'd like to own a copy, *The Gender Game* is currently retailing at around \$15-20 USD on Amazon. If you'd like to see more of Forrest's work visit her website at [bellaforrest.net](http://bellaforrest.net) or her Amazon Page under "Bella Forrest."



## Wrestling Season Starts April 17th, All Are Welcome

By Olivia Markowski

Every Monday, the wrestling team holds virtual workout classes for students who are interested in getting in shape and possibly joining wrestling! The wrestling team is always looking for new students to join the team from each grade, and they can guarantee that there is something for everyone.

Junior Noelia Vazques shares, "My favorite part of being on the wrestling team is the fact that it's like a second family; one that pushes you to do your best and encourages you to 'fight till the last minute.' I also enjoy the feeling of achievement at the end of live matches or even during duels! I'm definitely excited to see how the meets are going to be approached, whether it be outside as the weather gets nicer or even practicing outside as well!"

The season starts on April 19th, 2021 so if you are interested in joining, or have any questions, reach out to Mr. Hastings to get more information. More information can also be found at this link: [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14HtQ7ZZoIV-BTsmYx96r-Qvao0YJ1iv09pkK9ZVn2gI/edit#slide=id.g9c13d46445\\_0\\_8](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14HtQ7ZZoIV-BTsmYx96r-Qvao0YJ1iv09pkK9ZVn2gI/edit#slide=id.g9c13d46445_0_8)



Photo courtesy of Brian Hastings

## BRAVE Club Participates In Annual Day of Silence

By Abby Niehoff

On April 23, 2021, the BRAVE Club of Fenton High School will solemnly commemorate the Day of Silence. BRAVE members will remain completely silent throughout the day. The purpose of this event is to bring attention to the bullying that has silenced LGBTQIA+ students around the world.

Mrs. Muscarello (she/her), the sponsor of BRAVE, plans on bringing attention to the day with social media campaigns, stickers for students, the development of videos and playlists, and much more.

Grace Marcussen (she/her), a member of the club, says, "At Fenton when we were in person, it was a day for students who are not in BRAVE to help and be part of the club and spread that awareness."

Dan Barton (they/them), also a member of the BRAVE club,

emphasized how important it is to be mindful of our LGBTQIA+ peers and the struggles they face in a public setting, like high school, where different viewpoints can be harmful to them, saying: "I personally know people who've been bullied and harassed for being queer and trans and bringing awareness to this issue is so important. I'm almost certain that other kids in BRAVE have either experienced or know people who've experienced this."

I speak for all students, especially the BRAVE club when I say that I am proud to be at a school with such an accepting environment to allow an important issue like this to be brought to light. We are looking forward to the education and awareness that the BRAVE club will provide on April 23.



Club Corner: Band Club, Yearbook Accepting Senior Baby Photos

Highlights Yearbook	Mr. Kambic (kambic@fenton100.org) and Mr. Nelson (nelsonm@fenton100.org)		Thursdays	The Highlights Yearbook is accepting senior baby photos for our annual tribute collage in the yearbook. Send your digital photos to Mr. Kambic (kambic@fenton100.org) by mid-April. Senior ads and the yearbook itself can be purchased online at yearbookforever.com.
Makerspace Club	Elizabeth Wright, wright@fenton100.org	g2mcehr	Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 pm	Currently, we're crocheting! To order a free kit of beginner's materials, email Mrs. Wright. No experience necessary. Google Meet nickname code: makerspace-wright
Language Club	Amy Vazquez - vazquez@fenton100.org	dhad77m	Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30pm via the google meet in our Google Classroom	We have just started a new craft! It's a great time to join!
Band Club	Mr. George, georgeg@fenton100.org		Thursdays starting April 22nd-May 7	We're getting together WITHOUT computers to have a band experience! If you're an interested band student, then fill out this form and come to "Band Club" <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_R9S4xQAYK32UnO0L8GT3vaRRP8XuWG6d07o0V5pJH0DIsw/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_R9S4xQAYK32UnO0L8GT3vaRRP8XuWG6d07o0V5pJH0DIsw/viewform</a>

Badminton Finishes Season Strong, Players Look Back Fondly

**By Sarah Guerrero**

After a memorable season filled with dedication, incredible memories, passion for the game, and a feeling just like home, Fenton's badminton team reflects on their time supporting one another more than ever before, paving their way through unknown territory.

The team seemed to have a mutual feeling of nervousness heading into their first game of the season due to new COVID regulations and guidelines.

Coach Brian Hastings commented on the steps the team took to remain cautious, reporting "Like most sports, staying safe has been a major priority. We are fortunate that there is not a lot of contact and close interactions."

Freshman Alexa Calderon recalls the common concerns within new players on the team, but she remembers just letting go and having fun that day.

"Once I got out there, I remember the fears just rushing away, and I enjoyed every second of it," she commented.

Freshman Ariana Acosta agreed with Alexa. "At our first game, Nicole Nunez, my doubles partner, and I were so nervous, but we just got out there, tried our best, and had some fun! We took home a victory that night, and from then on I was determined to remember to enjoy my time improving myself with the team," she said.

The badminton varsity team was comprised of seniors Hailey Esposito, Julia Rihani, and Lesly Mendoza, plus juniors Alexa Toledo, Kina Patel, Marissa Warden and Jazmin Camacho. Lydia Rihani, Roza Grochal, Alexa Calderon, and Denisse Aguilar also joined the varsity team. This team competed very well, according to Coach Hastings, along with the junior varsity team, which was made up of Chido Sithole, Sofia Diaz, Ariana Acosta, Lissette

Hernandez, Nicole Nunez, and Nayla Cornejo.

As the season progressed, the bond between the team continued to strengthen. Junior Alexa Toledo said, "Our early morning practices were nice because even though we were tired, we all just got to have fun together."

Alexa Calderon contributed to this, adding, "We had some really early morning practices, which I was usually pretty tired heading to, but the girls made it worth it every single day. I was never not having a good time."

Toledo also commented on how the team stuck together this season, explaining that she was very grateful for her teammates. "They came and worked hard daily. With COVID, this season was a weird experience, but having everyone supporting one another through these difficult times made it better. It was just such a nice environment."

Coach Hastings highlighted the team's 8-7 victory in a game against Streamwood which he describes as a "complete team effort. Juniors Kina Patel and Marissa Warden dominated

their singles and doubles matches and it came down to Alexa Toledo's match at #1 singles with the team score tied 7-7. Alexa lost the first game but then showed incredible resilience coming back to win two close games to give the Bison the victory."

He also mentions the team's conference tournament. "The Bison won 9 matches- 2 in doubles and 7 in singles. This demonstrated the progression and competitiveness exhibited by our girls," he observed.

On the team's senior night, the girls, along with coaches and parents, came together and honored the team's valued mentors.

Alexa Calderon said, "This season, we had the opportunity to play with some incredible varsity members, and they were so supportive, always encouraging us to try our best. They never failed to offer us helpful advice and teach us new things."

Senior Lesly Mendoza-Ortega described the night as "fun, yet very emotional." She also added that "All of the girls were there, cheering us on as the coaches gave their speeches. It was an experience I will never forget.

They did so much for us, and I am so thankful to be a part of a team who cares so much about one another. We really were a united family."

Lesly Mendoza,, who sprained her foot at a game during an exhibition match, remembers that even when she was down, she showed up to support the team that had always supported her. She also wanted to move forward as a team ,a message that she had come to understand this season. "I want my team to know that no matter what situation you're in, just keep going. Never give up on yourself, because in the end, you'll just come out stronger," she assured.

The coaches also recognize the wonderful players from the graduating class of 2021. "The seniors have been a huge part of our program and demonstrated leadership through their examples and words. The badminton program will definitely miss them," noted Coach Hastings.

So, as the season comes to an end, the girls look back on this season, and walk away feeling closer than ever. Alexa Calderon expressed her gratitude for her coaches, saying "Thank you. Thank you for always being flexible, considerate, supportive, encouraging, and for always working with us to become better players and teammates."

Alexa Toledo thanked her teammates and coaches. "To my team, thank you for always putting in the hard work and effort. And thank you to the coaches for reaching out to us and creating these incredible opportunities during these difficult times."

Lesly Mendoza-Ortega also observed the bond that was formed between the girls, finishing with, "I love my team. This year, I've felt more connected to the girls than ever before. We communicated and worked as a team... it really felt like a family."



Photo by Alexa Calderon