



Northern Light



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GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

WINTER 2021

NMS HOLDS FIRST VIRTUAL SPELLING BEE

Journalist Johnathan Ahdout explains this year’s version of the Scripps Spelling Bee competition

The year 2020 obviously didn’t go as we planned, but North Middle School has adapted to this new normal throughout 2020 and into 2021. Every year, there is a school-wide spelling bee, starting from a classroom competition to competing with other students throughout the entire school to spell the best. During this school year though, things took a different turn.

This year, the qualification part of the school-wide spelling bee, was a little different. While some classes held this component during class and over Zoom, others competed on an online platform, in which students spelled a series of words of different varieties based off of an audio clip of the word being pronounced. Students had a limited amount of time to complete this quiz, and of the classes that used this form of a qualifying test, whichever student in each class had the best record of spelling on the quiz, as well as the best students in each class that qualified in class and over Zoom, moved on to the next part of the spelling bee: the school-wide competition.

On January 12th, spelling bee contestants logged onto a Zoom webinar. In-school students “zoomed” from Room 118, and remote contestants, “zoomed” from home, joined to compete against one another. A webinar was made instead of a regular meeting so only the judges, pronouncer, moderator, and contestants can speak, as to not have interruptions. They spent the first three periods of the day preparing for the bee, and setting up the webinar. Contestants started with Round 1 before the school started watching, and at 10:15 AM, Dr. Lander sent the Spelling Bee Webinar live on YouTube. Contestants had to put their hands up while spelling for integrity, and the Scripps GNNMS Spelling Bee started.

The judges were Mr. Del Ferraro, Mrs. Brody, and Mr. O’Connor, the moderator was Mrs. Dove, and the pronouncer was Mr. Norberto. Contestants spelled words, correctly, or not, and started dropping like flies. By the end of round five, only four contestants remained: Elliot Kane, Joy Wei, Dale Yang, and Kiersten Ho. Dale and Elliot dropped out in that same round, and Joy and Kiersten entered the anticipated final round.

The rules of the final round are as stated below:

- If all students in the round misspell their word, the round will restart.
- If a tie between two misspelling contestants, they are tied for the same place.
- If only one student spells their words correctly, they have to spell the championship word; if they spell that correctly, they win the school-wide bee.
- The winner of the school-wide bee advances to the regional spelling bee, where they compete against other winners throughout Long Island.

In this final round, both contestants misspelled their words, and the round restarted. The difference was that in this second final round, the contestants could not have studied these words prior to this round, as they were from Merriam-Webster Unabridged. The final commenced. As Kiersten misspelled *civility*, Joy spelled *ivories* correctly, giving her the chance to spell the championship word correctly to win the Spelling Bee. The word was *charade*, which Joy spelled with ease, giving her the win after eight long rounds. Congratulations to Joy, and make sure to read her first-person narrative of her experience of this year’s Scripps Spelling Bee competition.

NMS Spelling Bee winner, Joy Wei, Gives a first-hand account of what it was like to participate in the first virtual bee

My hands were sweating. My shaky fingertips left marks on the iPad screen as I scrolled through the list of words. One of the teachers in the spelling bee was calling out names, taking attendance, but her voice was like a distant echo. I was kicking myself internally as I speed-memorized the rows and columns of spelling bee practice words. My lips mouthed the words silently, repeating them, before moving on.

It was the day of the school spelling bee. I had been so excited when I won the class spelling bee in English class, only to forget about the date of the school bee. I hadn’t studied the words like I should have, and was now frantically memorizing them on the study list minutes before the bee starts.

Stupid, I berated myself. Stupid, stupid, stupid.

Slowly, the fevered determination dissolved into dejected resignation. I slumped back into my seat and stared sullenly at the faces on the screen. I would have to accept my failure. At this point, I wasn’t even aiming to win. I just hoped I wouldn’t get out in the first round, and prayed I didn’t make a fool of myself.

When the bee started, I was surprised by the easy words they threw at us. Sure, there were some unlucky people who got obscure words I’d never even heard of, but mostly they were no brainers.

It grew more and more difficult. People dropped out of the rounds at an alarmingly fast rate. I breathed a sigh of relief every time I managed to spell a word correctly, and the pressure was passed on to the next person.

Before I knew it, the contest was down to four people. I snapped out of my stupor when the teacher announced it. By now, I had straightened in my seat and was leaning forward, hanging on to her every word.

Two people spelled their word incorrectly. During the next round, I waited with bated breath and clenched hands as my number was called.

“Your word,” Mr. Norberto says, pausing for dramatic effect. “Is *solay*.” (*I still don’t know how to spell it.*) *I laughed nervously and asked for the definition. Yeah, like that’ll help.*

I don’t know what happened afterwards. I think I stammered some half-coherent answer, and gave up in the middle of spelling the word. My voice trailed off like I was asking a question.

The bell dings. “Sorry, that is incorrect.” I hung my head, rubbing my eyes wearily. Well, that’s it.

Then, something unexpected happened. The other girl, Kiersten, got her word wrong as well. According to the rules, if both of us spelled our word incorrectly, we both moved onto the next round.

I was on the edge of my seat. The bee was only down to two people, and neither of us would be satisfied with second place at this point in the game. Kiersten was given a word, and I watched with poorly concealed glee as she spelled it wrong. I immediately felt guilty. Did that make me a terrible person?

Mr. Norberto issued the next word. If I got this one right, I would be the spelling bee champion. I opened my mouth to spell the word, the answer already on my lips.

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Are we in Greenkill or Great Neck?



Read all about it on page 2!

Greenkill in Great Neck... at NMS

By Abigail Bernstein

It is a time honored tradition that sixth graders every fall semester look forward to—Greenkill—the nature trip that helps sixth graders bond with their fellow classmates. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the trip had to be cancelled. However, the staff and teachers really showed creativity this year and developed “Greenkill in Great Neck.” It took place the Monday and Tuesday before winter break.

Although it says Greenkill in the title, it was nothing like the actual nature trip. Every 6th grade student participated in some way or form, either in person or over zoom. We participated in activities such as: Mad Libs, poster-making and watching our teachers sink in cardboard boats we made for them.

Hybrid A was unable to do all of the same activities as hybrid B, due to inclement weather. While hybrid B went out and built shelters in the forest behind the track, hybrid A got to make “Candy Burgers” which were “disgusting all together but separately delicious,” as many 6th graders said afterwards— probably on a sugar high. Many students said that they enjoyed making the boats, but they did not really like watching the boat races for a variety of reasons. One reason being that “the camera kept turning off” said one kid from hybrid A, watching from a classroom. Another two kids from hybrid A who were chosen to be in the live audience reported that the pool room was really hot and stuffy, so it was not enjoyable to sit in.

Meanwhile, multiple teachers explained that they actually loved being in the pool with the boats, even if half of them sank before the teachers even got in them. Mr. Norberto stated that he also loved the boat races, but I’m sure he didn’t enjoy forgetting his bathing suit and having to wear sweatpants in the pool. Furthermore, Mr. Norberto also confessed that one thing he enjoyed about Greenkill in Great Neck was watching Ms. Andreacchi fall during the hike on hybrid day B; which happened to be one thing Ms. Andreacchi hated about it. Additionally, many teachers shared their disappointment about the weather on both hybrid A and B, one day being rainy and the other being freezing, making it very difficult to do outdoor activities. Ms. Linehan and Mr. Auger, for example, said they enjoyed building the outdoor shelters, but didn’t appreciate the frigid weather. In addition to that, Dr. Cozine’s Words of Wisdom star himself, Dr. Cozine, stated that he loved that the students had time to get to know each other, but he wished it could have been a week instead of 2 days.

Overall, most 6th graders really appreciated that their teachers, staff and administration put together such a fun day for them and gave them a break from their everyday school routine.



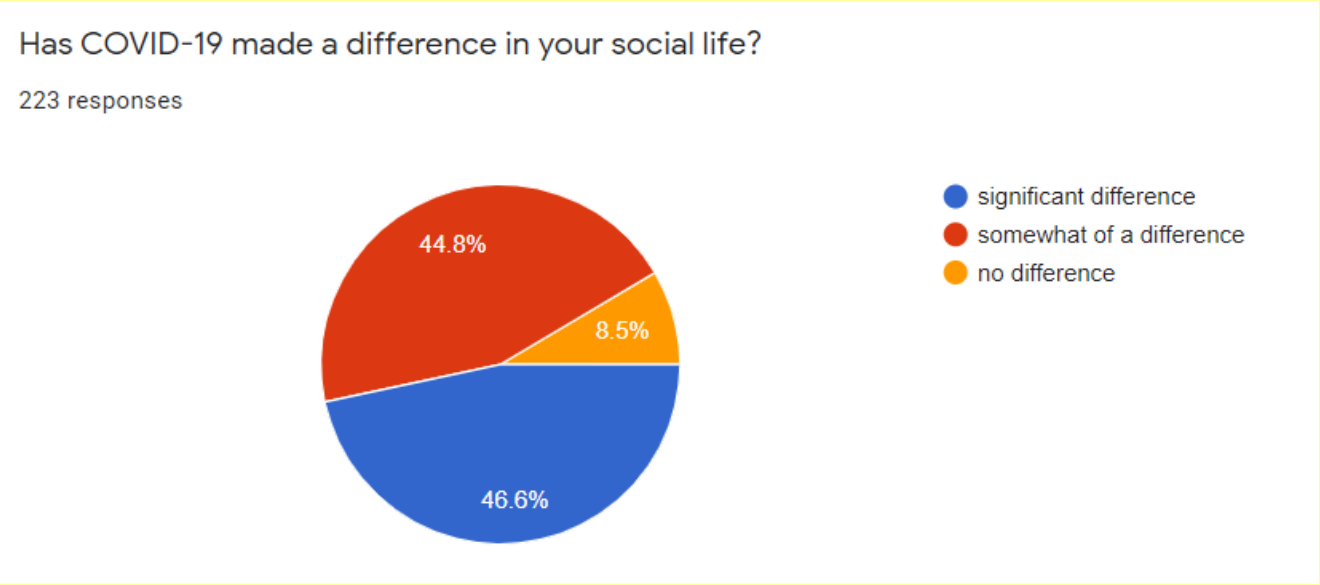
NMS Poll Results: How has COVID-19 Affected Our Social Lives?

By Daniella Nissim

COVID-19 has changed everyone’s lives in so many ways, but one way that COVID-19 has really affected society is how we interact with each other. In a recent survey done at Great Neck North Middle School, 46.6% of students answered that COVID-19 has significantly made a difference in their social life, 44.8% of students answered that COVID-19 has made somewhat of a difference in their social life, and only 8.5% of students answered that COVID-19 has made no difference in their social life.

By looking at these statistics, we know that students don’t live the same lives they did before going into quarantine. For example, one student said “Covid has made it harder to be with the people I love, and want to be with the most...it has also been harder with group events such as parties or sleep away camps, I really miss doing certain things like that,” meaning that they aren't able to interact and socialize with their loved ones.

For many people being by yourself for a long period of time can take a toll on your mental and physical health. Research has shown that social isolation increases the risk of mental health issues, like depression and anxiety, as well as chronic conditions like high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. It also raises the risk of dementia in older adults. To conclude, the COVID-19 pandemic has majorly affected society.



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NMS Teachers Weigh in on Remote Learning

By Gabriella Sadaghati

As the second half of the school year approaches as well as the new year, it is evident that this hybrid/remote learning experience has brought a just challenge to all school members. The diligent staff members have done everything in their power to serve a safe, yet purposeful learning experience for the students. While teachers continue to work in a highly industrious manner, some have yet to question: how do *they feel about this new experience?* *This article* summarizes 5 teacher’s thoughts and opinions on this new situation. The teachers being interviewed are Dr. Boyt, grade 8 Algebra/Pre-Algebra teacher, Mr. O’Connor, grade 8 English teacher, Mr. Ziring, grade 8 Health teacher, Ms. Leone, grade 6 and 8 Science teacher, and Mr. Epstein, grade 6 and 8 Social Studies teacher.

This newly introduced hybrid/remote learning situation has brought with itself many challenges. The very first piece of information which was sent via email regarding what this year would look like caused the majority of these teachers to feel nervous and anxious. However, many positive feelings emerged from the teachers as well, such as excitement to be back in person with their students, despite how many conditions them and the students were required to learn under. Two teachers stated that they were primarily worried about being able to create a class environment which would be both engaging and fun. For instance, Mr. Epstein’s class always consisted of many class discussions. One of his concerns included if students would still be active during the discussions both at home and in the classroom. Similarly, Dr. Boyt was mainly concerned if all school members would always adhere to the safety protocols in a cautious and responsible manner. Once time began to pass by and teachers and students started to adapt to their new environment and positions, many more lingering questions were answered for the teachers. To start, some teachers have found hybrid learning more efficient and enjoyable than fully remote learning which was implemented back in the spring. All teachers morally agree that complete online learning is more constructive in terms of having students all in one setting; however, all prefer to teach in-person even though only half the class would be present each day. They all also notice a highly increased amount of participation and engagement compared to spring. In relation to the students’ active state during this time, teachers acknowledge that most students have been adjusting to this experience pretty well. A few teachers mention how they understand the difficulties to learn in this situation, so they try to be more lenient with attendance, handing in assignments promptly, and other expectations. However, Mr. Ziring describes the adjustment of his students as “mixed”. He explains how he finds students logging off when class is still in session, which occurs a bit more often than he believes it should. Although, he does say he understands how difficult it could be for one to focus all of their devoted attention to the lesson during

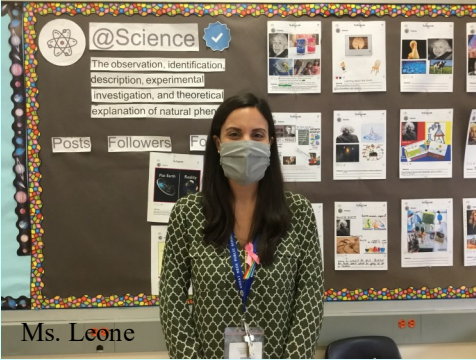
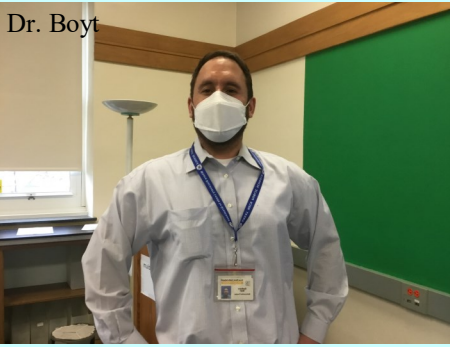
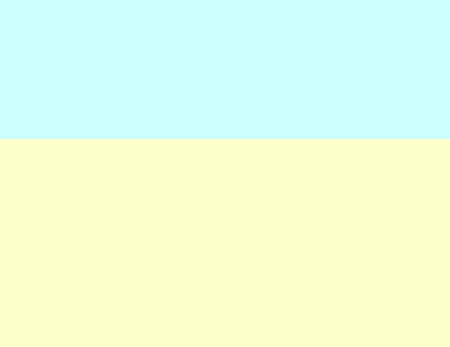
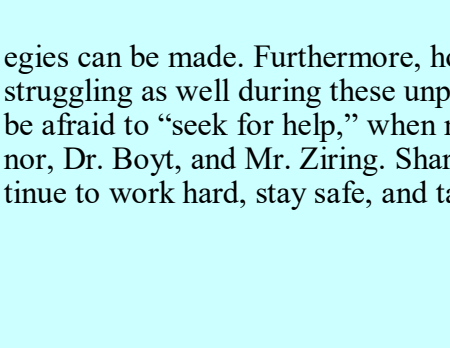
a 39-minute period while attending virtually. Additionally, 4 out of these 5 teachers say they find the completion of assignments remaining the same than previous years. Mr. Ziring, however, tends to have had more complete assignments from students in traditional school years. In reverse, Ms. Leone shares how she receives more complete assignments from certain classes than preceding years. The gap of the assignment completion between the two teachers’ classes is surprising, but considering how strange this school year has been, should not be too unusual.

When asking the question of how this new style of teaching contrasts from standard teaching, many mixed answers were received. Two teachers stated that they find the split between in-person and online students unbeneficial to their teaching at times. Following along the lines of the use of technology in the classroom during these times, Dr. Boyt acknowledges the new apps which are currently being used which weren’t commonly used in previous years, such as Zoom and ClassKick. As for Mr. Epstein and Mr. Ziring, they seem to describe their thoughts on this question more personally to their own subjects/conditions. Mr. Epstein explains how it has always been essential for students to closely pay attention in his class, as each social studies lesson is a “story.” With that in consideration, he thinks that video conferencing does not add much value to his teachings, feeling the students are not as engaged as they can be in a physical class setting. On a relatively similar note, Mr. Ziring explains how he is being reintroduced to teaching once again in 15 years, only at a very challenging time. So, this experience has been a bit more difficult for him compared to other teachers. However, he explains how he has been trying his best to adapt to the new experience, and that it has become easier for him overtime. Along with the many challenges hybrid/remote learning brings, teachers find that the biggest obstacle they have to overcome each day is technology. No doubt, technology can be a source of both assistance conflict at once. A screen separating teachers and students is difficult as it is since it prevents a proper connection between the two groups, and when technical malfunctions occur as well, teachers find it overwhelming. An additional challenge teachers encounter during this experience is balancing the in-person and remote students at once. Luckily, all teachers say they have seemed to create efficient ways to fairly balance the two groups. Also, a couple of teachers say they feel unsure if certain students with general self-expression difficulties are following along at home. All teachers describe how they want their students to be fully engaged in the lesson, however it is difficult for them to be sure if they are virtually. It seems as all teachers do face similar challenges each day, however they have either found themselves an adequate solution or are doing fine maintaining the situation alone.

School can take a load of effort under normal circumstances for both students and teachers. Roughly 3 out of 5 teachers that have been interviewed say that they feel as if the workload has remained the same as previous years. However, Mr. Ziring and Mr. O’Connor say almost otherwise. Mr. Ziring states how technology has created more work for him, as he isn’t remarkably comfortable and familiar with it. On the other hand, Mr. O’Connor shares how he finds everything to take a bit longer to “grade, plan, and instruct.” Ms. Leone’s opinion lies between the two oppositions. She explains how her class regularly contains many hands-on assignments and activities, and more work is generated for her when she is required to create the same material digitally for the remote students. Although technology may add additional preparation for her, it also reduces the amount of preparation she would have to maintain with physical material. “Some things take more time, and some things actually save me time,” Ms. Leone says. Following along the lines of workloads, teachers were also asked if they have created any strategies/tactics to make their work easier for them. Most teachers stated how they have discovered new apps which have helped them connect with their students in real time. Two teachers say that the app Classkick has been a great help to see if their students are up to date, and it has helped alleviate much of the overwhelming feelings they have when they are faced with a lot of work. Additionally, Mr. O’Connor shares how the app Actively Learn has been quite supportive to him, as he can also view the progression of students in real time as well. Mr. Ziring describes how asking for help from fellow teachers and students has benefited him personally. He explains once more how this experience has been new and a bit difficult for him, and also advises others to seek help when needed too. During these unprecedented times, teachers can’t stress enough how vital it is to receive support from peers and especially from them. However, it seems as if students lack to question if they might need some support themselves, and it is truly significant for them to feel as though they could receive a bit of aid and substantial help in this difficult period as well.

As much as this article is focused on the hybrid/remote learning experience of these teachers, they offer some advice to all students and their colleagues. Morally speaking, all teachers state to continue working hard, as they notice how incredibly well all students and teachers have been adjusting to such a difficult experience which has never been encountered before. Along with the piece of their similar advice, some teachers have suggested other advice which are worthy of highlighting. For instance, Mr. O’Connor shares very vital and intelligent advice, which also is something that both students and teachers should adhere to during these challenging and strange times: he says to “find ways to apply self-care and be kind to yourself. Take breaks and know that your teachers understand.” Applying self-care is essential during this time, as it is often forgotten by all school members how important it is to take some time to yourself and rewind. For teachers specifically, a couple of teachers add reassuring advice, as they understand how overwhelming the position they are in could be. They say to think “bigger picture,” first, because the health and safety of all individuals matter most, and that everything else will follow in the same footsteps. Finally, Dr. Boyt offers some very clever advice for both students and teachers as well: “Adversity doesn’t build character, it reveals it,” meaning whenever you face a difficult situation, it more reveals one’s character rather than building it. All teachers hope that their advice helps, and all are impressed by how rapidly and great students and staff have been coping with this situation!

As mentioned before, this new hybrid/remote learning experience does not come easy to both staff and students. Now that the school has gained more insight on how the teachers are adjusting to this challenging situation, potentially some new changes and strategies can be made. Furthermore, hopefully the opinions and feelings of the teachers interviewed in this article could serve as a helping hand to other teachers who may be struggling as well during these unprecedented times. On the same note, it is important that all staff/teachers know that they are not alone, and to quote one teacher, to not be afraid to “seek for help,” when needed. A special thanks to all the teachers whom shared their thoughts and feelings in this article: Mr. Epstein, Ms. Leone, Mr. O’Connor, Dr. Boyt, and Mr. Ziring. Sharing personal opinions and experiences on a fairly difficult matter is not easy. Finally, a personal message to all staff and students: continue to work hard, stay safe, and take care of yourself and others for as long as this challenging situation lasts.



Flu Vs Covid - Differences and Similarities

By Mia Rios

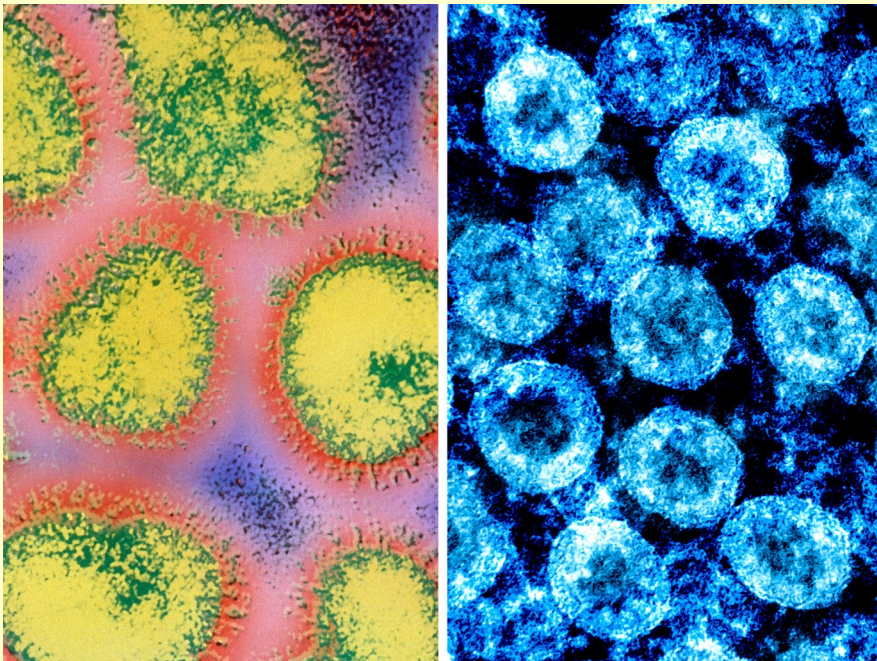
Covid-19 and Influenza. Two deadly diseases that had caused humanity to go under quarantine. During 1918-1919, in the time of the Flu, over 62,000 people died. During 2020 and now, 2021, over 41,148 people have died due to Covid-19. Now that 2021 has arrived and we are in the middle of winter, many people get sick, and we need to be able to at least identify if it’s Covid or not. Coronavirus, also known as Covid-19, has many symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Some of these are:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you see a person with these symptoms, make sure to take them to a doctor to get checked.

Influenza is very similar to Covid-19. Some of its symptoms are:

- Fever
- Aching muscles
- Chills and sweats
- Headache
- Dry, persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Tiredness and weakness
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Sore throat
- Eye pain



(At left) A colorized electron micrograph image of the influenza virus. (At right) Color-enhanced electron micrograph image of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, isolated from a patient. Science Source, NPR.org

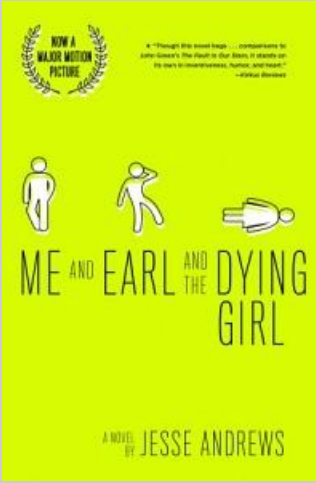
Book: *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews

Book review by Noya Zarnighian

Greg Gaines wants to make it through high school. The only way he thinks he can do this is by being acquaintances with everyone, but not have a single friend. Without any friends, Greg has no enemies. The closest he has to a friend is Earl, his movie-making partner. He and Earl keep their movies a secret, scared of the embarrassment that would follow someone else viewing them.

This all changes when his mother receives a phone call stating that his old Hebrew School classmate and childhood friend, Rachel, recently got diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia, a cancer of the myeloid line of blood cells. His mother urges him to befriend Rachel. Initially, Greg hesitates. After all, he only became friends with her to attempt to get closer with her attractive friend, Leah Katzenberg. He then realizes that he can't argue with his mother, so he ends up calling Rachel.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl has received a 3.6/5 rating on Goodreads and a 3.8/5 rating on the Barnes & Noble website. It was released in hardcover in 2012, and later in paperback during the following year. In 2015, the book's movie adaptation was released with the same name. This book falls under the genres of Humor and Young Adult Fiction. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews can be found at the Great Neck Public Library and on Sora.



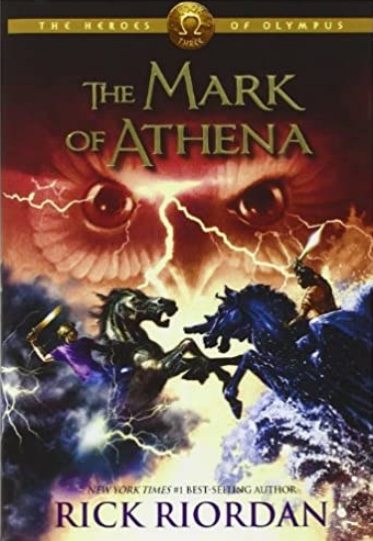
Book: *The Mark of Athena* by Rick Riordan

Reviewed by Jolene Fu

The book *The Mark of Athena* is really great. It contains seven demigods - children of the Greek and Roman gods - trying to stop Gaea, the goddess of the earth who is angry at the gods for overthrowing her sons, the Titans. These seven demigods - Percy, son of Poseidon/Neptune the sea and horse god, Annabeth, daughter of Athena/Minerva the wisdom goddess, Jason, son of Zeus/Jupiter the god of the sky and ruler of the gods, Piper, daughter of Aphrodite/Venus the love and beauty goddess, Frank, son of Ares/Mars the war god, Hazel, daughter of Hades/Pluto the death and riches god, and finally Leo, son of Hephaestus/Vulcan the god of fire and machines.

Frank, Hazel, and Percy have just saved Camp Jupiter, the Roman demigod refuge, and Annabeth, Leo, Piper, and Jason have saved Camp Half-Blood, the Greek demigod refuge. Percy and Jason have had their memories wiped and been exchanged between camps. Percy went from Camp Half-Blood to Camp Jupiter, and vice versa for Jason. When Annabeth, Leo, Piper, and Jason went to Camp Jupiter in the Argo II, an extremely powerful warship that can fly, they are planning to get Percy and form an alliance between the two camps. Suddenly, Leo randomly started a war, with no idea of how and why he did it. The seven leave with Camp Jupiter's army hot on their heels, and have to deal with monsters, gods, angry spirits, and rescue Nico, Hazel's half brother, son of Hades.

This is a great book full of adventure, humor, and mystery. It is the eighth book of the Percy Jackson series. The first five books are in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, and then this series is called the Heroes of Olympus. I gave this book a four star rating out of five. It was very good but ended in a cliffhanger that was very sudden. Though that did mean I was absorbed in the characters and plot, it is a very annoying thing to be stuck on a cliffhanger. I recommend this book to all middle school students.



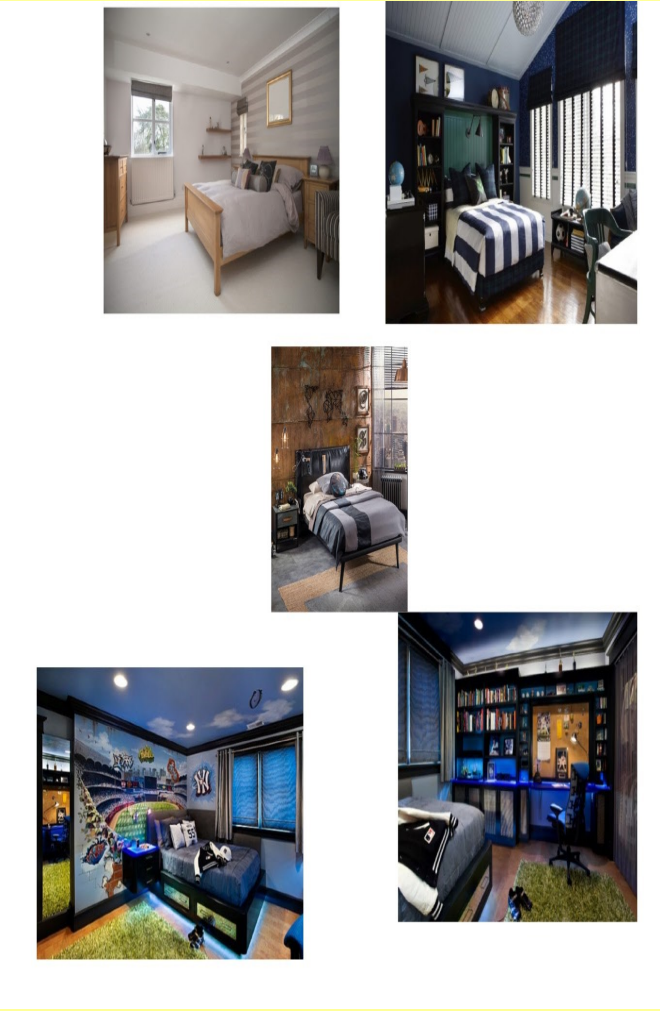
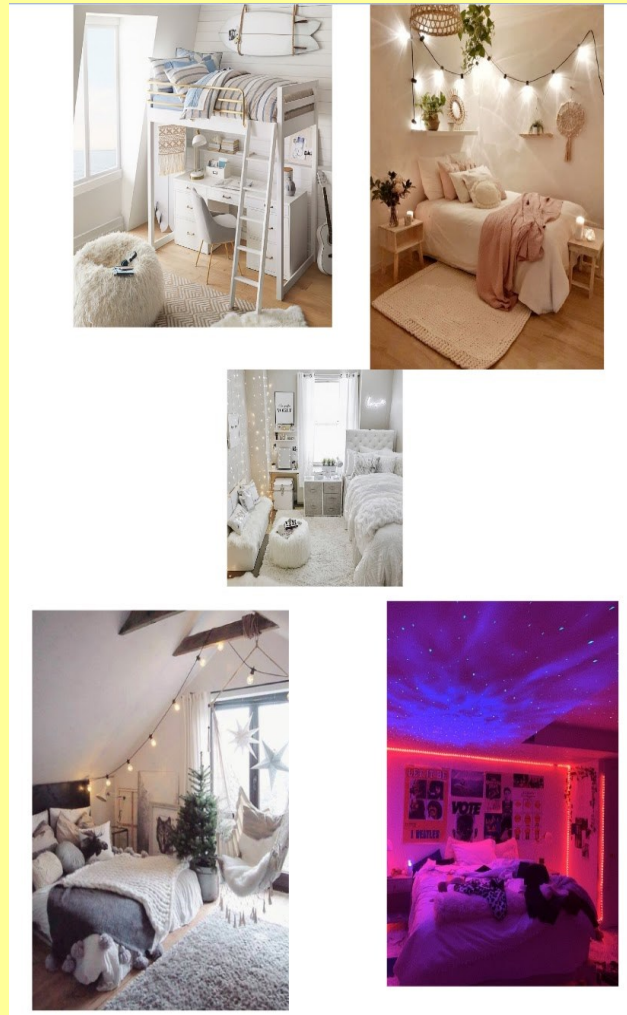
Room Aesthetics

By Ella Ginsberg

Here are some room aesthetics for boys and girls, since a lot of people are redecorating their rooms:

ROOM AESTHETICS FOR GIRLS

ROOM AESTHETICS FOR BOYS



BTS' 2021 Grammy Nomination

4

By Katie Park

In a Youtube video from BTS's official account, four of the band's members, V, Jungkook, RM, and Jimin leaned forward on their couch, watching the nominations in anticipation, where they were joined by millions of their "ARMY" fanbase. Their controversially all-English single, *Dynamite*, was nominated for Best Pop Duo or Group Performance, on November 24th. Naturally, the members were ecstatic. "Amazing, so it does happen eventually," RM says, while shaking his head in disbelief. Jungkook sits down in shock for the rest of the video while in contrast, smiling V walks around the room videotaping the moment on his phone.

"We made it. How does it feel?" V asks his fellow members, and then turns to the camera, asking his fans instead, "how does it feel?"

A couple of the ARMYs at Great Neck North Middle School had responses, including Zoe Chung, who commented, "I'm so happy for them, I'm hoping that they will continue holding the title as the best K-pop group."

One optimistic fan, Audrey Han shared thoughts on her favorite band's nomination: "I think it's a big step for BTS in their music careers. It's an amazing achievement for any artist to get nominated for the Grammys since it's one of the most prestigious music awards. Not only that, but it's the first time for a Korean band ever to get nominated, so this will definitely go down in history. I definitely have faith that they'll win, and if they do, it will definitely be good for their image and how they are viewed as musicians with their love for music."

Others, like Emma Wen and Ashley Liu shared their input as well: "They are the first Kpop group to get nominated and like it's hard for American artists to get nominated too so it's special." Emma says.

"I'm really happy and proud because I know that they always wanted to be nominated and worked really hard for it. They deserve the award, I'm not surprised though because what Yoongi wants, Yoongi gets." Ashley states.

It was certainly a remarkable day in the group's careers but also for the Korean Pop industry as a whole, with BTS being the first ever K-pop group to be nominated for a Grammy. BTS already has a reputation for competing against their own records and breaking barriers in foreign countries. On August 21st, *Dynamite* broke the Youtube record for the "most-viewed video within 24 hours," reaching an astonishing 101.1 million views, (a record that can be found on the Guinness World Records website). Along with debuting at the Number One spot in the Billboard's Hot 100 (the first Korean-artist-made-song to do so) and a book-full of other various feats in line, *Dynamite* will continue to take the win. In the meantime, ARMYs all over the world will be watching and cheering for BTS together, on the 21st of March.



"Maybe... Grammy?" One member in particular, Yoongi (seated one from the left in the bottom row), who is known for being intent on the Grammys has mentioned multiple times with his signature gummy smile, that winning an award is his dream. "The bigger the dream, the better. We want to rank No.1 on Billboard Hot 100." "We want to go to the Grammy's too."

Korea's Rising K-Pop Girl Group

By: Elena Zhuang

Recently there has been a new k-pop group that is rising called... BLACKPINK!!! With their famous line in all their songs, (Blackpink in your area), and their talent of singing, dancing, and coordinating, they were eventually led to fame! But, how did they rise? YG's Blackpink, and their members, Jisoo, Lisa, Rosé, and Jennie practice about 12 hours everyday! Before debuting, they were trainees for 6 WHOLE YEARS! Training for fame isn't an easy path. In their debut in August, their famous album, "Square One" dominated Korea's major music chat's! Their songs included, "Whistle" ("Whistle like a mistle bong bong") and "Boombayah" ("Boombayah, yah yah yah boom-bayah.") Later on, with much more practice and fun, their "Square Two" album eventually came out! But, that's not all! Eventually they got more and more albums, they even made songs with Lady Gaga ("Sour Candy") and Selena Gomez ("Icecream")! They have made songs that are sad and songs that are powerful. If you asked me, these girls deserve every right to be where they are now!



Now, to introduce all of the lovely members of Blackpink. From her mainland South Korea, Jisoo is one of the lead vocalists, and the visual of Blackpink.. Jisoo is also said to be the leader of Blackpink because of her motherly behavior. Next, we have the girl that came from Thailand, Lisa! One of the main dancers of Blackpink and the youngest! Her other positions include lead rapper and sub-vocalist. We also have another South Korean lovely, Jennie! Jennie is the other rapper of Blackpink she's also said to be "YG Princess"! Her other positions include vocalist and center! From Australia, Rosé ! She is another main vocalist and is the tallest Blackpink member! She also is a lead dancer and another sub-rapper!

Blackpink has a friendship NO ONE can break. Girls from all over the world, sing in this k-pop group. Their songwriter Teddy Parks, says, "But the combination, that's what makes Blackpink unique." I would say that these girls come from different backgrounds and different life-styles. Their combination is what makes you want to listen more. The power of their songs will always be stuck in your head. So, next time you are craving something powerful or sweet, search up the all time favorite k-pop legends... Blackpink!

5

Videogame Review: ARK: Survival Evolved

By Elliot Kane

This videogame review is about the popular survival game ARK: Survival Evolved. Released in 2015 by Wildcard Studios, this game has been one of the most popular games on the many platforms it can be played on.

What is ARK?

The game is an open-world survival game where you have to survive on an island infested with dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals. You have to survive, make tools, level up, build bases, and tame the creatures on the island and in the oceans around it. You can play single player, or multiplayer mode where you can play PVP, where you battle other players with your creatures, or PVE, where you work cooperatively with others. ARK can be played on Nintendo Switch, Console (Xbox or PlayStation,) PC, or mobile. Mobile and Switch only have the main map, and mobile has different game mechanics such as new items, but fewer creatures and no storyline.

Expansions:

There are four paid expansion packs, or DLCs for ARK, each adding a new map with new biomes. The Island, the main map, contains several different biomes including forests, swamps, mountains, redwoods, and tundra. Players can explore these biomes, including the ocean, where they can find different creatures and resources to beat the game. In other expansion maps, there are deserts, deep cave systems, harsh wastelands, ruined cities, volcanic wastes, and in the latest paid DLC, they added a large Lunar Biome that’s set in space!

Each of these maps adds new creatures and items, expanding upon the game. There are even terminals where you can transfer in between maps!

The reason ARK is such a good game is because of everything you can do. If you play this game, I’d advise you to play on PC or Console, because they have the most to offer. ARK is so amazingly well made as an open-world game, the graphics are incredible, and who doesn’t like riding around on dinosaurs, or flying through the air on a pterosaur?



What else?

If dinosaurs aren’t enough for you, some ARK maps including Scorched Earth (above) offer fantasy and science fiction elements, like massive Wyverns you can ride around on, or humongous Xenomorphic predators, or even giant Space Whales! This game offers so much exploration and adventure, with all nine maps. Besides the paid maps, if you’re on a budget, there are four mod maps that have become official, that are just as fun and completely free!

ARK also has a lot of mods. Mods are only available on the PC version (available on steam, it’s in the top 10 most played games on steam for 2020) and a couple have made their way to the console version. There are mods for everything. Building, base decoration (yes, ARK is also a building game,) adding new creatures, overturning the entire game (there’s a mod that replaces all the dinos with Pokémon,) and even full maps. There’s something for everyone in ARK.



The Lunar Biome in ARK: Genesis
Ocean biome on ARK: Genesis

Storyline:

ARK’s storyline isn’t the kind of thing you’d find in a normal videogame. The storyline is written through Explorer Notes, which you can find in the paid maps and are supposedly written by past survivors of the arks. Ark also has a plethora of different bosses, and exciting cutscenes when you beat them.

YouTube:

Ark has many youtubers, and its own YouTube channel. People make ark videos that range from playing through the full game, explaining about creatures, or even just putting dinos in an arena and seeing who will win.



A person riding a T-Rex
Genesis Arctic Biome



A Ferox in the

New Content:

A new map, Genesis Part 2, will be released in March. The boss in this paid expansion pack will be voiced by David Tennant! Furthermore, in 2022, ARK 2 will be released, starring Vin Diesel as a survivor named Santiago. There hasn’t been much info about this, though.

Finally, on an ending note, there will be an ARK: Survival animated series released in 2022. There’s a pretty exciting voice cast for it, too. This game has been an extremely popular game since it came out, and it definitely deserves its popularity.



Dear Miss-Know-It-All,

I don’t know how to study. Even when I try, I always get so distracted when I study. Be-cause of this, I’m not getting the best grades.

Thanks in advance,
Haroldston “Harry” Stylish

Dear Harry,

Lots of people have this issue, but don’t know how to overcome it. You should try using quizlets, notecards, doing practice questions, or have a friend help you. Also, see what gets you distracted and get away from it. If your phone is distracting you, turn it off. If a noise is distracting you, you should change the room you’re studying in. If these still don’t help, make sure to let me or a teacher know.

Sincerely,
Miss-Know-It-All

Dear Miss-Know-It-All,

Ever since quarantine started, my friends and I have drifted apart. In the beginning of the pandemic, we talked everyday. We stopped talking as much because of school and COVID-19 related issues. I don’t know what to do.

I need help,
William Eyelash

Dear William,

There’s one big thing you need to do…TALK TO THEM! If they won’t start up a conver-sation, you need to be the bigger person and do it. You can talk about everything you did over those couple months you didn’t talk and things you’re doing now. There are probably so many things that you guys need to catch up on. If they don’t respond or respond poorly, maybe it’s time to meet new people.

Hope this helped,
Miss-Know-It-All

New Graphics Card

By Michael Zaken

Recently, NVIDIA, a famous company known for developing software, and hard-ware intended for computers, has released a new addition to their RTX 30 SERIES lineup of graphics cards. A graphics “Card” is a PC/DESKTOP/LapTop component, that is used to render 2/3d video and process image and video input and output. As some of you know, they already have 3 models. RTX 3070, RTX 3080, RTX 3090. The higher the numbers, the better the card. They are starting to branch out into totally new areas, like the low end line. They recently unveiled their newest addition to the lineup, the Rtx 3060Ti (Titanium). It has 8GB of GDDR6 VRAM MEMORY, 4868 TENSER CORES. It slots right under the second lowest member, the RTX 3070. The RTX 3060 Ti competes with their last-gen 2080 SUPER, and AMD’s very own RADEON 5700XT. It slots in at about 399\$, which compared to the competitors prices of around 1200-1500\$!!! I think it is a definite **BARGAIN** and you should get it for your PC, of course, if it was in stock at all.



Coyotes in Great Neck?

By Daniel Goldberg

You might’ve heard about many critters living in Great Neck. Deer, foxes, raccoons, and even osprey live on the peninsula. However, there may be another animal arrival-the coyote. Coyotes were pushed West when European settlers arrived. For a long time, the East coast was coyote-free. Over the course of the last century, coyotes have begun colonizing their old homes. Coyotes that are/have come to Long Island came from Brooklyn, either going over the bridge at night or by swimming.

There are different types of coyotes. For starters, it is very possible that you will hear the term “Coywolf”. Many scientists think that the western coyote should be called a coywolf because of its genetic differences with normal coyotes. Eastern coyotes are up to 84% coyote, and have a small percentage of dog and wolf. Western coyotes are around 60% coyote, 30% wolf, and 10% dog. Also coywolves are around 35-37% heavier than ordinary northeastern coyotes. Given this evidence, most scientists have given the Western coyote a ne name, the coywolf.

Now that you know a little more about the coywolves, we can discuss a different matter. Coyotes, coywolves, wolves, and foxes are very healthy for the environment. They control rat and mouse populations, and deer populations too. Since deer live in Kings point, and coyotes do occasionally hunt deer, they can keep our deer population in check. The overpopulation of deer can cause many issues for the environment, such as destruction of many plants. Also, ticks are a big problem. For those of you who don’t know, ticks are small insects that latch on to an animal to suck their blood. When they latch onto a deer, they also take Lyme disease with them. When they latch onto a person, that person can get lyme disease. In order to stop this problem, coywolves are a perfect solution.

Also, all canines, even wolves, do eat fruit. Unlike most other animals, canines do not spit out the seeds, and instead carry them around. While patrolling their territory, they let out the seeds in the form of feces far away from the mother plant. This helps .

Another thing that coyotes could deal with is our cat problem. Although many think cats are beautiful and cute, there are too many of them on the streets of Great Neck. This issue is hurting our bird population. Many irresponsible cat owners let their cats out or even abandon them. Both stray and domestic cats hunt and kill many birds.

It’s quite likely that you or somebody that you know are scared of coyotes arriving. Generally, coyotes are not dangerous to humans. Still, it is very much recommended to supervise babies or little kids playing outside. Also, pets should not be allowed to go outside alone. A small dog or cat can be attacked by coyotes. If you confront a coyote, DO NOT FEED OR APPROACH IT. If you feel like it bothers you, you can shout at it. If it doesn’t back down you can stand tall and spread your arms out to make yourself look large. You can wave sticks at it. But whatever you do, DO NOT RUN AWAY!!! Scientists say that running away when you see a coyote is acting like prey.

Overall, the arrival of coywolves in Great Neck is a good thing. Coyotes will help the environment and solve many pest problems. Surely we have room for some extra inhabitants.



Weird Food Review

By Riley Cheng

Welcome to the second issue of Weird Food Review. In this column I will try weird food and tell the history, the taste and give it a rating.

Cactus

Background
Cactus for Nopales and nopalitos are the pads of the nopal cactus but some people eat other cacti. People eat as a vegetable supplement and they put it in salad. They regularly appear in restaurants, grocery stores, and farmers market in the American southwest and northern Mexico. People think that cacti is in every desert but it’s a mostly American thing but Pho a type of Vietnamese food also use cacti for their food. Also they don’t eat the needles.



History

There isn’t much history for Nopal or the cactus as a food but whatever. Nopal means for the pads of the plant from Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs. Also it can mean prickly pear in English. It was a type of rare food of the Aztecs but not as widespread of other foods. They’re about 114 species of it. It’s widespread in Mexico and the US so it’s common to be put in a meal. It can be put in loads of different foods like salad or tacos. It is sometimes used as a side vegetable. As I said it is important for former possession of Mexico which are Arizona, Colorado, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

Taste

It tastes kind of moist because it was wet but it also tasted dry like it needed water. Its texture isn't that special because it feels like dragon fruits but was a little bit harder and it doesn't have the best texture. But the taste was like if broccoli was more stronger because it hit like a truck. It had a big salty flavor but also soft and sweet in some cases.

½ Very good

Also this wasn’t much because Nopales isn't that widespread

Cow Stomach

Background

It is also referred to as flank, tripe, or plate in America. It’s a staple in steakhouses as well as hot pots in China. It’s mostly eaten in America and mostly part of steakhouse menus. For the Chinese it’s part of a hot pot which is basically you putting hot soup and putting it in a pot. Then you put it over a stove and put vegetables like lettuce or peppers and put meat like pork or beef. It is a small white diamond. It’s also served in Italy and the British isles, but it's also not limited to cows.

History

It’s a cow stomach where you want to get three things. The rumen, the reticulum, and the omasum all in a cow's belly chamber. But some variations also have Abomasum but it’s less common. Dressed tripe was extremely popular in the UK. It was nutritious, popular, and cheap to get. Most people who ate it were poor but it can also be made more fatty so more expensive. It was popular from the 1900s but it’s not as popular anymore. It’s still very popular all over the world but it rapidly declined in eater’s mostly in the UK. Tripe is even considered a pet food. The increased affluence of Britain after war has rapidly reduced the number of eater’s but it is still very much popular in mainland Europe. Countries like Spain, France, and Italy still eat it and sold at most supermarkets. It’s also served in restaurants.



Taste

I tried the Chinese version. As I said, it is like a white diamond. It is really squashy and chewy and soft. It has its own taste, nothing like I tried so far. But it was small, meaty, and even juicy.

½ Very good

For the next issue, I will try frog legs and jellyfish.

Exotic Animals

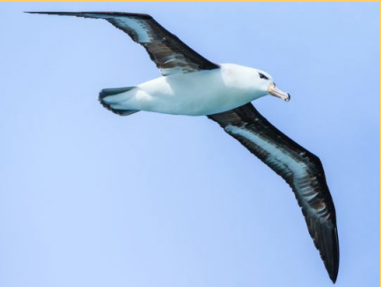
By Eylon Yudalevich

There are millions of animals around the globe all of which have spectacular abilities, beautiful appearances and many more! In this report I am going to talk about a few exotic animals that I think are very interesting. Let's get to it!

This is a serval. The serval’s scientific name is: Leptailurus Serval. They live mostly in Southern Africa. These fabulous animals have huge ears that allow them to hear many things such as prey, which is the food that they hunt. They eat rodents and small reptiles. The serval is considered one of the greatest hunters in the cat world. This animal can pick up a sound of a rustling rodent and can pounce from almost 12 feet away! This animal is almost like a superhero, with its super jump and super hearing. The serval is quite the amazing animal.



This is an albatross, it is one of the largest birds in the world. Albatrosses are incredible birds and have the largest wingspan of any bird, their wingspans are about 3.5 meters which is the same as 11.4 feet! That is extraordinary! These animals have a strange and elaborate mating dance which actually looks quite silly. Albatrosses can also smell food from about 12 miles away! That is no small feat! These birds also drink salt water which is quite unusual for animals, since even we can’t drink pure salt water. This superior bird has many special abilities and it looks quite majestic.



Lastly on our animal journey, we have the freakishly extraordinary Tokay Gecko. Pronounced to-kay. Tokay geckos live in many places in Northeast India as well as southeast Indonesia and western New Guinea. These tiny creatures grow to about 7 to 14 inches, which is quite tiny! These geckos eat insects and occasionally eat their own kind! Something special about the Tokay Gecko is how their mating call is a croaking sound with a noise similar to the word “tokay.” This is why they are named tokay geckos.

Well, it seems you have finished this captivating report on the amazing Serval, the majestic Albatross and the fascinating Tokay Gecko. I hope you learned something new by reading this article!



Sources: National Geographic Animal Encyclopedia.
Sources: Sandiegozoo.com
Sources: Forbes.com

Trendy Food: Caviar

By: Elliot Ganjian

There are many fancy foods, one being caviar. There are also many kinds of caviar that range at many price points. The most expensive caviar is ALMAS caviar. This caviar comes from the Iranian Beluga fish, at the astonishing price of \$34,500 per kilogram. On the other hand, the least expensive caviar is Ikura caviar which comes from the salmon and is \$12.50 per pound. There is a huge difference between the two prices, as well as the taste factor.

Almas is creamy, nutty, and salty, while Ikura tastes fresh, salty, and slightly fishy. They both have very different tastes and textures too. The texture of Almas is smooth, almost like there are thousands of little tiny bubbles in your mouth, and when you put pressure on them they pop, as a salty taste fills your mouth. Ikura has the texture of bigger bubbles in your mouth and when you put pressure, it pops with a very salty liquid.



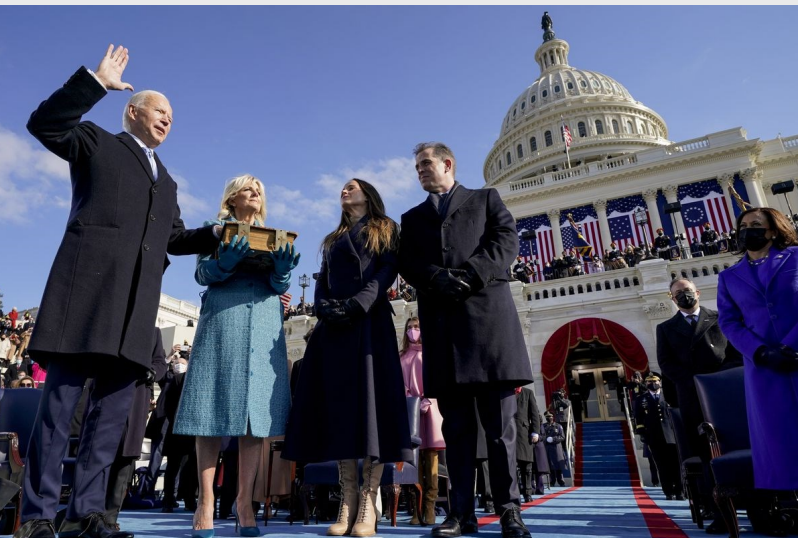
Inauguration 2021

By Ofer Adar

On January 20th, 2021, the 46th President of the United States, Joseph Robinette Biden was sworn in. Senator Kamala Harris was sworn in as Vice President of the United States. The transition of power came amid political violence, national security threats, and the deadly COVID-19 Pandemic. It was the climatic ending to former President Trump’s lame duck term in office. This article intends to give information regarding the Trump-Biden transition and Inauguration Day.

Following the 2020 election, former President Donald Trump filed lawsuits in a myriad of swing states where he and his attorneys claimed there was widespread voter fraud. The goals of these lawsuits were to make sure Trump stayed in office for another four years. Throughout November and early December Trump tried to convince state legislatures to vote against certifying their election results. Most notably in swing states that Biden won such as Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada. Despite this, on December 9th all 50 states certified their election results meaning Biden was essentially the winner. Even though this was a big blow to the Trump legal team made up of people such as his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and attorney Sidney Powell, the electoral college vote hadn’t taken place yet so he did not give up.

On December 14th, the Electoral College convened and cast their votes for the winners of the states they were representing. There were no faithless electors this time around meaning Joe Biden received 306 electoral votes and Donald Trump 232. Ironically, in 2016 Trump received 306 electoral votes and Hillary Clinton 232. Although this was another setback there was one last chance for the results of the election to be contested. On January 6th, congress would convene to certify the electoral college results. In the past there were many congress people who tried to obstruct the certification, most notably in 2000 there were objections to the results in Florida. None of these objections were able to dissolve the joint session which is when the house and senate meet together because a senator and representative both have to sign onto an electoral college objection. In 2020, 14 senators originally signed onto these objections. In Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nevada these objections were raised but a debate wasn’t held. In Arizona and Pennsylvania a debate was held.



On the same day, a Stop the Steal rally was held by Former President Trump and his allies. During this rally Trump told his supporters in the audience that he calls on his Vice President, Mike Pence, to overturn the results. Some believe that because Pence was presiding over the certification that he had the power to void the results. The Supreme Court struck down this notion in a court case that took place a week before the events of January 6th took place. Some think his speech used inflammatory rhetoric, some of which encouraged a small faction of the group of peaceful protesters to storm the capitol building. Although law enforcement officials were stationed outside the building rioters still broke through and brutal combat took place in close quarters between the two sides. Four rioters were tragically killed during the ordeal, Ashli Babbitt was shot by police while trying to reach the speaker’s lobby. Kevin Greenon, Benjamin Philips, and Rosanne Boyland also tragically died during the storming of the capitol. The certification of the electoral votes was delayed as a result of this and people situated in the capitol building were forced to hide from the rioters. Once the rioters were pushed out of the building a lot of damage was inflicted but nonetheless the electoral college votes were certified. This ended any opportunity Trump had at being re-elected and in a video he conceded the election and promised a



“peaceful transition of power”. Following January 6th, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, and Snapchat banned the accounts of Donald Trump and many of his supporters which sparked outrage from free speech advocates. In addition congress began impeachment proceedings against Trump for the second time in his presidency, he has already been impeached and will have his trial in the senate in the near future.

On January 20th, Kamala Harris was sworn-in as the next vice president of the United States and then Joe Biden was sworn-in as the next president of the United States. Thousands of troops were stationed throughout Washington DC to make sure another insurrection wouldn’t occur. Trump bucked orthodoxy by not attending Biden’s inauguration and has been silent ever since he left office. Mike Pence on the other hand was present from the transition. This marks a return to the status quo from before the Trump years but only time will tell how Joe Biden will govern as POTUS.



Lockdown or Locked Up

By: Liel Kafaierad

In this segment of Lockdown or Locked Up I will be discussing the occupancy of ICUs, the percentage of people who get tested for the virus over the percentage of the tested people who actually get the virus, and the symptoms of Covid-19.

The New York Times: occupancy of ICUs

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the ICUs are more packed than ever. According to the New York Times, most ICUs are reaching their maximum capacity . Some are at a lower capacity of 31%. Although this could be scary to a lot of people we have to look at the progress we have made from March, to this day.

The percentage of people who get tested for the virus over the percentage of the tested people who actually get the virus.

Suffolk County says that “78,850 people who got tested for COVID-19 actually got the virus”. This may be scary but it’s the truth. Please follow the C.D.C guidelines to stay and keep others safe.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Here is important information if you feel/have: a fever, dry cough, sore throat, loss of taste and or smell, headache, a rash on your skin, discoloration on fingers and/or toes, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of speech and/or movement. If so please get tested for COVID-19. You might have it but not know it. That’s it for this season's segment of Lockdown or Locked Up. Stay safe.



I love presents. I mean who doesn’t? So although 2020 was not a year to remember. These gifts are definitely something that deserve some hype. No matter what you celebrate, the holiday season needs some gifts. I have interviewed my classmates for the top gifts for middle-schoolers (sixth graders) this year. So read on if you want the scoop on the gifts.

My Presents

□ Please Read □

This is not to brag.

I am beyond lucky to receive all these gifts.

This is just an add on to my article.

These are just a few gifts that I would recommend even though I love all of my gifts.

1. S.T.M.T D.I.Y Crystal Soap Making Set (super fun to make, easy and functional and pretty results) can be bought from Michaels.
2. Interactive Harry Potter pop up book- this thing is super fun to play with Note: I got the Guide Through Hogwarts but you can also get the pop up version of The Sorcerer’s Stone and I think that there are other’s. Can be bought off Amazon
3. Sew your own apron with a cut out and sew guide.

The Favorite Gifts Of My Fellow Sixth Graders

1. Airheads Candy
2. Led Lights
3. A Fortnite Nerf gun set
4. Phone switch
5. Air pods
6. New clothes
7. A new bird feeder
8. Makeup
9. A new winter coat

WINTER WORD SEARCH



Basketball During Covid-19

By Jonah Berkowitz

Basketball is finally back and it is going very smoothly considering the pandemic that is amidst us. Each time has played around 21 games in the long 72 game season (however a normal season would be 82 games). Their have been many changes for this abnormal 2020/2021 season in the NBA. The NBA has had to pay over 100 million dollars for all of the precautions to keep every player safe! There have still been many cases of Covid-19 in the season so far. The whole pandemic has affected many different people, not just athletes. People are losing jobs, and loved ones. People are becoming dangerously sick, to the point of needing oxygen tanks just to breath correctly. We will get through this pandemic, as a community, a country, and a planet.

Before talking about the safety precautions and guidelines of the NBA season, let’s talk statistics. As of today the Sixers lead the Eastern Conference with a 16-6 record carrying on a four game win streak. If this win streak can continue, the Sixers may have a comfortable rest of the season considering the Bucks are three games below them at the moment. The Eastern Conference is still going to be very competitive, with a few teams fighting for the first place seed. However, the competition is no where near the Western Conference. There are three teams sitting atop of the conference with over 16 wins each. The Jazz are currently in first with a 16-5 record, the Clippers are in second with a 17-6 record. Even though the clippers have more wins, the over win percentage is lower then the Jazz’s win percentage. In spite of being third place the Lakers have a 16-6 record meaning that one loss by the 16-5 Jazz could mix up the whole order of 1st to 3rd place. The top 3 scorers of the league so far are Bradley Beal the Washington Wizard with 34.8 ppg (points per game), Kevin Durant the Brooklyn Nets player with 30.8, and Damian Lillard the Portland Trail-blazer with 29.1 ppg. Points per game just means the average points a player is scoring in all of their games. The top three assisters in assists per game are James Harden the Brooklyn Nets player with 11.2 apg, Luka Donic the Dallas Maverick with 9.6 apg, and Russel Westbrook the Washington Wizard with 9.5 apg. Lot’s of these high scoring and assisting players are on teams that are surprisingly not performing well. One team that has the second highest point scorer the Brooklyn Nets, is 3rd in the Eastern Conference only 1 game behind the second place Bucks. Kevin Durants high scoring has been a great contribution the phenomenal Nets season so far.

There are many statistics that can be talked about on and on, the highest rebounders, best defenders, and other team records. But statistics wasn’t the only reason that I chose to write this article. I wanted to explain the safety and precautions the NBA is taking to have a season and the cost that everything was. No exact estimates have been made to cite the overall cost of this years NBA season. However CBS stated that because of the shorter season, no fans, and a later start the NBA lose about 500 million to 1 billion dollars! This however is just an estimate so the season could cost less or maybe even more. These weren’t the only expense the NBA has made due to Covid-19. If you may recall their was also the “bubble” which was a closed campus environment to keep NBA players safe. Covid-19 hit the NBA at a weird time in 2020 and forced the season to end early. Many players had attracted the virus or had teammates who attracted the virus. In the end, the NBA still wanted a winner, someone to hold the trophy at the end. The NBA found out that the best way to do this was to keep all of the players in a containment zone. This zone would provide the players with all basic necessities such as food, water, restrooms, and sleeping quarters. The whole containment one was in Disney, Orlando, using Disney’s facility for most of not all of their needs. The bubble itself ended up costing over 150 million dollars to the NBA. These are all the costs we know of now, the overall cost for the season can most likely be found somewhere throughout the internet after the season is over. All of the players are getting daily testing and they may get vaccinated sometime during the season. Some experts are saying as early as April or May so mid-season vaccines are possible. These two factors of vaccinations and testing can add a lot to the overall cost.

The daily testing provided to NBA players has been a major talking point across America. Many essential workers who are at a higher risk of retracting Covid-19 receive much less opportunities to get tested. For example, when asked about coronavirus testing in December, 42% of registered nurses said they had never been tested. Many of these nurses are in large hospitals that handle many Covid-19 patients. Even if these nurses aren’t in direct contact with those Covid-19 patients, when their masks are off to eat in the cafeteria they can be exposed to nurses or doctors who were in direct contact with Covid-19 patients. Without testing open to these nurses they may not now of they have Covid-19 and can give the virus to other nurses and doctors. Luckily, many states are changing this and making testing sites for nurses and doctors even of they are asymptomatic. However, basketball players had this all year and back in the summer during the playoffs. This raises some questions about what our societies and what our countries priorities are. Nonetheless this was just an article that explained exactly what is going, the questions about society are questions that you should be answering yourself.

The Super Bowl this year was not something many would have predicted. There were a lot of interesting things. This was the 11th straight Super Bowl where the team that won the coin toss wanted to start on defense. (The Chiefs won the coin toss). Patrick Mahomes didn’t play his best game. The buccaneers blitzed him every time so he always had to throw fast. He also got sacked multiple times. Kansa city only had 9 points at the end of the game. (3 field goals). The other reason why Kansas city Chiefs lost is because of all of the flags. The Chiefs got flags 8 times. Which is a super bowl record.

The Tampa bay Buccaneers had an amazing game. Their defense was off the charts. They had a few sacks, and caused a lot of incomplete passes by the Chiefs. Also their offence was amazing. Tom Brady completed 72% of his passes and had 3 touchdowns. Tom Brady is 43 and played in 10 super bowls, and won 7, including super bowl 55. The best teams in the NFL all time are the Steelers and patriots. They each won 6, and Tom Brady himself won 7. Another big part of the super bowl is Rob Gronkowski. He got 2 touchdowns and 6 catches. Him and Tom Brady got a NFL record with 13 super bowl touchdowns from Tom Brady to Rob Gronkowski. At the end of the game, it was a blowout, 31 to 9 Buccaneers won.



Mets Make Blockbuster Trade

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By: Liana Kase

The Mets certainly made a splash this offseason. With signing James Mcann, plus trading for pitchers Jordan Yomamoto and Joey Lucchesi, the Mets definitely made improvements to their team, but, there was one move that would make the Mets offseason signings one of the best in the league.

The Mets traded for all star shortstop Francisco Lindor and starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco. The Cleveland Indians (The team we traded with) got shortstop Amed Rosario, shortstop and second baseman Andres Gimenez, and prospects Josh Wolf and Isaiah Greene.

What Mets fans really got excited about was Francisco Lindor. Lindor, who is Puerto Rican and has made himself an ambassador for the game, will definitely love New York. Lindor is nicknamed Mr.Smile since he is always smiling and loves the game. Over a 6 season career, the 27 year old has batted .285 with 138 home runs, 411 RBIs, 896 hits, and 99 stolen bases. He also has been in 4 all star games, won 2 silver slugger awards, won 2 gold glove awards, and has won the platinum glove award once, an award that is given out to 2 players, one from the NL and one from the AL.

Even though the attention was mainly on Lindor, some people didn’t realize how acquiring starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco would also be a big help. Carrasco is 33 years old and a cancer survivor. He is nicknamed Cookie and adds a lot of depth to the Mets starting rotation. Over an 11 year career, Carrasco has a 3.77 ERA (Earned Run Average), a 1.20 WHIP (Walks Hits per Innings Pitched), 1,305 strikeouts, and 88 wins. He has won the Roberto Clemente award, an award for players who do great things on and off the field and won the American League Comeback Player of the Year award.

Some people were hesitant to trade Andres Gimenez, a rookie who showed a ton of promise in the shortened 2020 season, but anyone would take Lindor and Carrasco over him any day. The Indians are also entering a rebuild, in other words, pretty much looking to trade all of their stars and start fresh. Lindor is also going to become a free agent at the end of the 2021 season. Since Cleveland did not want to negotiate with Lindor on an extension, they were trying to trade him. The Mets are willing to negotiate with Lindor on an extension, plus Lindor would love to get an extension with the Mets, but they are really close to the Luxury Tax Threshold, an amount of money on your payroll that MLB does not want you to pass. If you do, the team has to pay a fine. Steve Cohen has said that he is willing to surpass the threshold if it means we can get other big free agents and extend other players.

Lindor fills a gap in shortstop that the Mets have had for a while. Plus, Carrasco joins a rotation of 2 time Cy young award winner and arguably the best pitcher in baseball Jacob Degrom, along with Marcus Stroman, a Long Island born pitcher who is an all around athlete. Plus David Peterson, another young player who showed a ton of promise in 2020, and Noah Syndergaard, a pitcher known for throwing extremely fast (Syndergaard is recovering from Tommy John surgery, but is on track to return around May or June).

This sounds like a lot, but it is only one of the many big moves the Mets made this offseason. The move gave the Mets the 6th highest chances of winning the World Series this year. In other words, the league should watch out, because in 2021, the Mets are going to be serious competition.



Steve Cohen is Open to Taking Fans Requests for the 2021 Season

By: Liana Kase

Calling all Mets fans! Steve Cohen is wanting to hear your ideas! Cohen, who is the new owner of the Mets and is also a passionate fan, knows that the fan base wants to see things happen this year. For example, fans want to see the team and the festivities at Citi Field. Whether it is bringing back the black jerseys, signing new players, or parading Bobby Bonilla around the field on July 1st, Cohen is open to anything.

Even former Mets are getting into it. Lenny Dykstra even asked Cohen to fire Ron Darling from SNY. Obviously that is not going to happen, plus it was a joke. Everyone with a twitter account is having a good time interacting with Steve Cohen.

But that is not all, not only is Cohen open for ideas, but he is playing around with the fans too. Before signing catcher James Mcann, he had tweeted out saying that he had no news except that he had lost 2 pounds. Other times Mets fans asked him questions and he responded in a joking manner.

One thing’s for sure, Steve Cohen is going to be one of the best owners the franchise has ever had.

Editor’s note: This was written before the events revolving Gamestop. Steve Cohen then deactivated his Twitter account. He is still open to suggestions though.

Spring issue coming soon....

