



Northern Light



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GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING 2020

Award-Winning Author, Gordon Korman, Virtually Visits North Middle School!

By Willie Benjamin

Gordon Korman is a multi-award winning author who has been writing books since he was just twelve years old. Currently living in Great Neck, Korman travels all across the country to visit schools and inspire kids to pursue their career in writing. Great Neck North Middle School was fortunate enough to have Gordon scheduled to visit and teach students and faculty about his writing experience. Sadly, due to COVID-19, Korman was unable to come to NMS, but instead, he created a video containing everything he would usually say at a regular author visit (the link to the video is listed at the end of this article). Gordon Korman discussed his love and inspiration for writing, his first book, and so many additional fascinating facts about his life.

Believe it or not, Gordon Korman's writing career took off in the seventh grade. At age 12, Korman wrote his first published novel, called *This Can't Be Happening At McDonald Hall*. In the video, he explains how his 7th grade English class was a teacher short, and the only teacher available was the track and field coach. Of course, this coach did not know many of the things students were supposed to be taught in seventh grade, so he allowed everyone to work on anything writing-related from February until the end of school. At first, Gordon worked on the novel in class. However, once he realized the book's potential, Gordon began to work on it night and day, at home and at school. Once finished, Gordon sent his book to Scholastic in hopes to be published. Almost a year later, Scholastic called and they signed Korman to his first publication contract. Crazily enough, Gordon Korman only received a B+ for that assignment! Korman states, "...goes to show how one, weird, random middle school assignment can take you." Later in the video he says, "An idea could be anything!"... "And sometimes, the greatest ideas ever become stories." In other words, a small detail of something can become a huge picture. As a result, you should not be afraid to tell your story and create a "weird" but intriguing novel that people would love.

In his early years of writing, Korman explained, it was a lot easier to write stories and connect with the characters. Since Gordon writes a lot of middle/high school-related books, he could relate to the characters and find his inspiration when he was younger. However, as time passed, Korman grew older and lost his connection with his younger characters. Gordon Korman needed to find a new source of inspiration for his books. As a result, he mostly relied on two very powerful words: *what if*. He describes how by using *what if*, your story could unravel and be anything you want it to be. *What if* could occur in any type of book, whether mystery, fantasy, realistic fiction, comics, etc. Korman also indicates that you do not want your story to be too simple or plain. By using *what if*, your story can evolve from the impossible to the possible. He asks his readers that "whenever you get writers block, just ask yourself, 'okay, what are the what if's of my story?'" Additionally, Gordon says that he also finds inspiration from research. He details that research does not mean that you have to be scrutinizing every single word of every single page, but having just enough information so you know what you are talking about in your novel. Keeping your eyes and ears open and looking around when you go places is a way to get inspiration for your characters, and is in some way a form of research. He discusses that whenever he meets someone, he pays close attention to (or researches) the way they talk, act, eat, etc. Gordon Korman indicates that a major resource of inspiration from his characters is when he meets/researches kids from middle schools that he goes to visit. Specifically, Korman illustrates how significant dialogue can be. This could tell the readers a lot about the person and their personality. Whether you say "hi," "hello," "greetings," "yo," or any other way, this tells people who YOU are. It may be tricky to write, especially when writing about the past, but dialogue plays a major role in writing and in telling a story. Korman states, "And that's what I love about research--'cause it isn't just thinking up facts to stick in a story somewhere. It kinda takes you to places you might otherwise go to."

During Gordon Korman's video, Gordon described many books that he wrote. One famous novel that he explained was *Ungifted*. He used this to show that inspiration can come from anywhere, especially your hometown. He was inspired to write *Ungifted* when he visited Great Neck South High School. When he saw their big robotics team, he realized that there are many different jobs in robotics, and everyone is useful at some point. Whether it is having the vision for the robot, building the robot, or even controlling the robot, Gordon Korman shows throughout this book that we are all gifted in a certain way. You may not recognize it, but you do have talent inside of you. If you're lucky, you'll see it and go through with it... you never know what might happen! In addition, Korman talks about *Swindle*. He explained that this story was a combination of using *what if* and doing research. For example, at first, Gordon used *what if* to create the plot of the story, which may be kind of absurd, but very interesting. Then, Korman needed to research what makes a baseball card so valuable. Without these two very important aspects of getting inspired, *Swindle* would not be as highly regarded as it is now. Third, Korman detailed how he thought of the idea for the *Unteachables* when visiting a school in Kansas. Similarly to *Ungifted*, this novel showed how a great idea can come from anywhere. All you need is your imagination. Lastly, Gordon Korman reads us an excerpt from his newest book, *Notorious*. He demonstrated how he got the plot for this novel from *Murder on the Orient Express*, and that sometimes you have to make the story different from others in order for it to stand out (in a good way, of course).

I, for one, as someone who loves to read and write, really enjoys Gordon Korman books and I hope you do too. Korman encourages all of us to become better writers, readers, thinkers, and to always use our imagination. He adds that if you love to write, don't be afraid to share your love with the world and pursue your career! Here at Great Neck North Middle School we thank him for creating a video so we can watch it and learn from it during this unprecedented time. After all, Gordon Korman has a lot to share! (The video link is below)

<https://youtu.be/yAMe6MCIfK8>



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Although the performances have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and school closures, read journalist and actor, Owen Flood's first-hand experience as a cast member...page 2

P.S. I Love You Day 2020

By Mia Malhotra

Let us think back to the day at Great Neck North Middle School, when everyone showed love and acceptance for all at school. Right now, we are going through some challenging, scary, and nerve racking times, however we have to remember acceptance and love for all. We really need to think back to those days that remind us that we will have better, bigger, and stronger days.

On February 14, 2020 (Valentine’s Day), North Middle celebrated a day called “P.S. I Love You Day.” On this day, students, teachers, and staff learned and talked about spreading the love, acceptance, equality, kindness, positivity, and appreciation throughout our classrooms. Now let’s spread that throughout our world. On P.S. I Love You Day, students decorated purple hearts, and wrote lifetime goals on their heart. They stuck these on their lockers, so when staff and students walked by, they got constantly reminded that they matter, and that we accept them, appreciate them, and that they are loved. Sometimes we all need to take a second to remember that we matter and that we are loved. Right now, we are living through a moment of time. This moment will shape us, break us, and make us better people through the journey. Remember that you are loved and the world needs you. Remember that you are doing amazing things and we appreciate you. Together, students put together a message in their head, to remind them to love themselves. Self love is so important. Loving yourself is the first step to feeling accepted and loved. Take a moment to think back and tell yourself that you are amazing. Think back to this day and remind yourself that everything will be okay.

I experienced P.S. I Love You Day, constantly having to remind both myself and my community that we accept and love everyone and nobody is ever alone. Keep those messages to you and your community, remembering that you are accepted, loved, and you're not alone.

Freaky Friday: My Experience as a Cast Member

By Owen Flood

When I first heard that Freaky Friday was the 2020 show, I was thrilled. I didn’t know too much about it but I was still so excited. Fast forward to auditions, I was of course, nervous. I had prepared an excerpt from “Go,” as I was auditioning for the part of, Adam. When I walked into auditions, I was able to see who I would work with throughout the production. There were familiar faces that belonged to 7th and 8th graders, and new faces, the 6th graders. I was also excited to see Ms. Couteri, our choreographer, Mrs. Murdocco, our director, Ms. Larson, our producer, and Ms. Caracciolo, the head of our stage crew. Auditions went very well and I was invited to callbacks. I was confident that I did well and found out the next day that I was casted as Adam. When I saw the cast list, I also saw my double, Gabe Cabrejo. I gave him a big hug and congratulated him on the role. I was very excited to work with him.

The first rehearsal I had to attend was a read through of the whole musical. There, we got to see how our parts fit with other parts, and we started getting a feel for how we would actually say our lines. January was when we really got started on the play. I attended rehearsals about twice a week, usually one choreography rehearsal, and one vocal rehearsal. At these rehearsals, we would learn our songs and learn the choreography for them. My favorite song is “Women and Sandwiches” which is at a bus stop. My favorite choreography is “Go” because there is lots of moving and concentration.

During tech week, rehearsals are every day from 3:20-6pm. During tech week, we run through the show many times with each cast. Also, we fix things like lighting, floor and overhead mics, choreography, blocking and vocals. I love tech week because you get to be around great people that share an interest in theatre.

When cases of COVID-19 began to increase, the whole production team was worried. We had to hope that our show would not get postponed. Obviously, this did happen, and we had a backup plan. The show was originally reschedule for May 6th and 7th, 2020, but unfortunately it is now officially cancelled.

NMS Robotics

By Logan Ye

Technology is advancing rapidly. There is no doubt about that. Many argue about the pros and cons of technological advancements, but one of the most hotly debated topics are robots. These are machines, big and small, that follow code in order to achieve a goal. Although we haven’t been realizing it, robots already are doing great things for our society. For example, assembly lines around the world have been using robots to perform assembly tasks for a century, among other examples of great ways robots are utilized. As humanity progresses into the future, robots will allow humans more convenience. But will this future happen? We may never know, but North Middle School certainly believes it is possible.

The Robotics team at NMS, also known as the Blazing Legos, was made to expose Middle School students to not only coding and design, but also innovation and team-building skills. They have been working for several months on robot designs, traffic solutions, and core values, which are Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun. Recently, 10 members of the Blazing Legos participated in an FLL hosted robotics competition, receiving praise from the judges on their solution to traffic, being commended on their simple yet effective robot design, and scoring well on team building activities and core values. Besides doing well in the competition, they also gained valuable experience and were able to practice many skills needed in school classes. They were set to compete in a competition at Adelphi in April, but it has unfortunately been postponed to a later date.

Overall, everyone has had a great time on the team and has also learned a lot of skills. There is no doubt that the NMS Robotics team shows that learning robotics and coding can also allow students to use their imagination to innovate and have fun.

Spirit Week At NMS

By Liya Hakimian

Twice a year Great Neck North Middle School hosts spirit week. Spirit week is when we dress up according to different categories every day!

Monday March 2- Read across America Day: Dress like your favorite book character.

Tuesday March 3- Trading Spaces Tuesday: Dress like a twin with a friend or a teacher.

Wednesday March 4- Wacky Wednesday: Dress in wacky clothes, or mismatched clothes anything you wouldn't normally wear in a day.

Thursday March 5- Throwback Thursday: Wear clothes from any decade! You can ever wear PJs to throwback to last night.

Friday March 6- Freaky Friday: Wear your school colors, PJs or your Freaky Friday shirts!

National Latin Exam at NMS

By Jules Sanders

Fifteen students are huddled nervously around a door. A combination of voices loud and meek, they fret about and review for what is to come the second they enter the classroom. IPads are hastily opened and fingers fly through PDFs and other documents in an attempt to sneak in some last-second review.

This was the scene outside Room 238 at Great Neck North Middle School at 11:59 A.M. on Monday, March 9th. I was one of those students.

We were preparing for the National Latin Exam, or ‘NLE’, a yearly standardized test that all Latin students in grades 7-12 are required to take throughout their Latin schooling. The exam is administered every year around the Ides of March. It is divided into two main sections: thirty varied multiple-choice questions regarding Greco-Roman culture and mythology and Latin grammar and vocabulary, as well as the dreaded story section in which students must answer ten multiple-choice questions about a passage written entirely in Latin. Just one year ago, we took our similarly formatted seventh-grade exam, titled ‘Introduction to Latin’, just as the seventh-graders this year took theirs three periods after the last pink testing sheet with ‘Latin I’ printed atop the page was handed back for our class.

Preparation for the exam began long before the actual test; the story from the 2014 National Latin Exam, a historical text depicting the accomplishments of Cincinnatus, still sits in my NLE folder in Notability from November. Since our return from February break, we have taken countless practice exams for homework and were tested on our knowledge of the subject of the exam on weekly Kahoots. It has been a tiring, yet rewarding process for all of us, as the satisfaction we get from completing the NLE far outweighs the stress and anxiety surrounding it.

The information, documents and proctoring concerning the test are all provided by Ms. Giannopoulos, the Latin teacher for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students at both North Middle School and South Middle School.

“I think the National Latin Exam is very valuable because it helps to cover information that the students have already learned, and it helps to preview information they need to know further in our curriculum and later on, when they get to high school,” Ms. Giannopoulos explained. Ms. Giannopoulos thoroughly enjoys administering the test, saying, “...it brings back a lot of memories from when I was taking the exam. National Latin Exam Day was always super fun for us...I enjoy doing anything that relates to Latin. I think it’s a really great way for Latin students to celebrate that Latin is such a valuable language, and that Latin really is not “dead”, but, in fact, immortal.”

For their opinions on the exam, I asked similar questions to eighth-graders, Jayden Wen and Nina Zar, as well as seventh-grader Owen Flood:

“[I]t is a nice review of your overall subjects that you learn in class throughout the year,” said Wen about the test.

On feelings surrounding the exam, Zar responded, “I feel, like I was really nervous and I psyched myself out, and that was harder to deal with than the actual test.”

When asked about next year’s NLE, Flood said he was “excited to see what new challenges it [would] bring.”

The results of the test come back around April 21st, the anniversary of Rome’s founding.

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Social Distancing Activities

Whether it's crafting, baking or reading, Northern Light Journalists have some great ideas to keep you busy!

Crafts: Paper Puppet

By: Nava Sedaghat

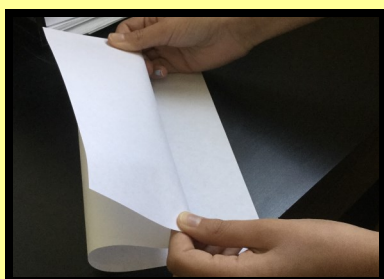
Everybody can get bored at home, not just you! We are always looking for something to do, especially now that we are all home. If you are bored, then keep reading because I have a solution for you! One easy, and fun craft is to make a "paper puppet."

What you will need:

- Paper
- Either colored pencils, markers, or crayons.
- And a creative imagination!

To start:

1. Fold your paper as shown in the picture.
2. Flatten out.
3. Draw the head of the animal you want.
4. Draw the mouth right on the line.
5. Finish the body on the bottom half.
6. Open the paper and draw something in the mouth, for example; scary teeth, food, etc.
7. Open and close the mouth and have fun with it!



Book Review:

No Fixed Address

By Eva Zubli

The book No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen is a very interesting and meaningful book. In this book, Felix and Astrid are the two main characters of the book who live in a van. One day they have a great opportunity to be on a game show and win lots of money. Felix was going through a lot in school and had some friends who criticized him. He also went through a lot of hard moments in the book, like his pet dying. I think this book is important because it can teach us a great lesson to be thankful for what you have and to not take anything for granted. I think more people should read this book because it can teach us a few good lessons.



Spring Crafts

By: Mia Malhotra

Are you looking for something to do? Here are some fun spring crafts:

DIY Face Mask (sew):

Tip: Use your sewing tips from F.A.C.S to sew these.

1. Cut out your fabric and elastic. Fabric: 9x6 inches (women) 9x8 inches (men) -can vary. Elastic: (7 in - women, 8 in men). Cut two pieces of elastic.
2. Then take clips and clip the elastic on to the shorter side. Make sure to do that for both and tuck in the elastic.
3. Leaving 2 inches open, start sewing all around. DO NOT sew over the middle of the elastic. Only sew over the first centimeter.
4. Make sure everything is secure. Then flip inside out using the opening.
5. Once all the corners are inside out, Mark three even marks from each other on your shortest side. Use a marker that will wash off.
6. Then sew the sides again, until you get within 1 centimeter from your mark.
7. Taking your finger (or seam ripper), fold over a small part.
8. Then sew over that fold.
9. Keep doing that for the other marks.
10. Repeat onto the other sides.
11. Sew back your opening on the bottom.

Flower Garlands:

1. Get out different colored construction paper, and cut out some oval flower petals. Make sure to also cut out the middle.
2. Make as many different flowers as you want. (Get creative. You can make different colors with different designs as well! I recommend at least 8 flowers.)
3. Glue or tape the flowers equally apart on string. Make sure your string is long enough to fit all the flowers nicely.
4. Hang your garland up!

Vision/Mood Board:

1. Find magazines, newspapers, pictures, inspirational words, drawings, and more!
2. Take a big piece of paper. Cut out the things you want to be on your board. Think about what makes you happy and what you want, visions and feelings are good in your mood/vision board. This is meant to inspire you.
3. Then arrange the clippings, pictures, etc around your paper.
4. Start gluing and taping things where you want them.

RECIPE: Peanut Butter Banana Chocolate Chip Cookies

By: Nava Sedaghat

When you're craving something sweet, healthy, delicious, and something quick to bake, I have the perfect recipe for you. These chocolate chip cookies are incredibly soft and tasty.

Ingredients

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 ½ cup (one stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 medium ripe bananas- peeled and smashed
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup peanut butter

Instructions

1. Whisk together the flour, and baking soda in a bowl
2. In a separate bowl mix butter and banana and sugar together until combined.
3. Mix the two mixtures then add peanut butter and chocolate chips
4. Take balls of the mixture and place them on a pan
5. Preheat the oven to 375 and bake for 20 minutes



Take out and let cool for a little bit, then enjoy!

Black History Month

By Daniella Nissim

Black History Month was celebrated this past February. It has been celebrated since 1976 and appreciates many influential African-Americans. Black History Month is celebrated across many different countries, but mainly celebrated here in America. One way black history was celebrated in New York City this February was at the Paley Center, where many events were hosted including "A Salute to Black Achievements in Television." Another way black history was celebrated was with the popular app TikTok. TikTok held a Creator Summit with many inspirational people. Black History Month is meant to bring people together and celebrate history.

Pi Day

By: Jeffrey Quintanilla Zepeda

What is Pi Day? It is a day when mathematicians and math lovers celebrate Pi. As you know the first 3 digits of Pi are 3.14 and the exact same numbers are on March 14th. This year it was on a Saturday.

Ever since its discovery, Pi is used everyday. Engineering, construction, GPS, simulation, radio, TV, telephones, power generation, motors and all of this is possible thanks to Pi!

Let's go back into Pi's history—the first calculation of Pi was done by Archimedes of Syracuse (287 to 212), an ancient Greek mathematician and astronomer. Pi was used in different cultures. For example, the ancient Babylonians and Egyptians used approximations for Pi when calculating the area of a circle. Furthermore, Zu Chongzhi (429-501), a Chinese mathematician, created his own ratio that approximated Pi in much the same way Archimedes did. Additionally, Georges-Louis Leclerc (1707-1788), a French mathematician, showed that Pi could be calculated with probability.

North Middle School had fun plans to celebrate Pi Day this year, but unfortunately they were cancelled due to the school being closed for the COVID-19 breakout. Students had purchased tickets for an opportunity to "Pie a Teacher for Charity." The money raised was to support Relay for Life. Hopefully, next year, students will be able to participate.

4 COVID-19 and Climate

By Rachel Sutin

New Yorkers have fought an active crusade against COVID-19. With New York becoming the epicenter of a pandemic, people in power are more vital than ever. As a New Yorker, I admire the prioritization of human health over economic gain that politicians have executed so well. This brings me to my next point- we can prioritize human health and prevent another widespread disease through climate justice.

Air pollution from fossil fuels can have adverse effects on one’s health, which increase vulnerability to a respiratory pandemic. Medlineplus.gov tells us that air pollution can cause respiratory issues. For instance, this “dirty air” can trigger cases of asthma, exacerbate existing respiratory conditions, and progress existing respiratory damage. We now know that those with weakened respiratory systems are more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19. In summary, air pollution is linked to respiratory damage, and those with respiratory damage are more susceptible to COVID-19-related complications. The reduction of air pollution will then lessen the amount of COVID-19 and future pandemic deaths by reducing the amount of those vulnerable.

Increased amounts of fossil fuels in the air may also lead to a higher probability of COVID-like pandemics. We understand that more fossil fuels in the air can line and insulate the atmosphere, raising temperatures. These heightened temperatures will mean fewer yearly frosts to kill off disease. New York may then become a breeding ground for bacteria, heightening the probability of pandemic. Sure, New York snow can be tedious, but the health costs of carbon far outweigh the cost of rock salt. So, climate justice and lower air pollution rates will keep our yearly frosts, killing off bacteria that could breed exponentially. Of course, COVID-19 does not fall under this category, but countless other germs do.

We must do the climate justice to do our bodies justice. Regardless of age, watching the Coronavirus chip away at our collective social and academic lives has been devastating. Politicians must consider tightening their climate legislation to protect New York against future pandemics like COVID-19. Perhaps they may consider ideals embedded in the Green New Deal. Politicians that disapprove of this exact bill can implement ideas pulled from Senator Ocasio-Cortez that will help our future. If not for the “tree-huggers,” New York politicians must implement even more radical environmental policy for themselves, their children, and their public health. Future front-line workers will thank them.

State of the Union

By Andrew Cohen

The State of The Union occurred on February 4th 2020 and was 82 minutes long. President Donald Trump mentioned many of our country's issues, achievements and more, such as the economy, U.S military deployment in foreign countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, trade with China, The Iran Nuclear Deal and the Southern Border Wall.

One of the main topics that was mentioned during Trump’s speech was the U.S economy and China trade deals. The economy has improved greatly and unemployment is at an all-time low. As a result of the tariffs on China, Trump and his administration believe that we have a better relationship with them.

A second subject that was mentioned was the U.S military deployment abroad. President Trump has decided to make a peace deal with the Taliban and bring home our troops from Afghanistan. This would bring an end to the longest U.S war which lasted 19 years as of 2020. In addition, military wife and mother of two, Amy Williams from North Carolina, was in tears when President Trump surprised her with her husband, Sergeant Townsend Williams who came back from his 4th deployment in the Middle East.

A third topic President Trump talked about was the Iran Nuclear Deal. Trump, in his early presidency, pulled out of the Iran Nuclear Deal. He believed that he couldn’t trust the Islamic Regime to follow the agreement and would finally obtain a nuclear weapon which in turn, could be used against the U.S and her allies. Recently, the U.S attacked and killed high ranking General Ghassem Soleimani who was responsible for the death and injuries of many U.S troops in Iraq.

A fourth topic that President Trump mentioned was the Southern Border Wall. He stated that most members of congress have previously voted to build the wall; however, it has never been done. During the speech, he said: “I will make sure that it will be done.” Hundreds of miles have already been built along the border of the U.S and Mexico in the past two years. As a result of that, illegal immigration has dropped dramatically ever since.

At the conclusion of the speech, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, ripped the copy of the speech given to her by President Trump. This in turn had a great number of negative feedback from most media outlets. Overall, the State of the Union had a positive message for our nation. It showed the U.S to be a strong country economically, militarily and otherwise.

The Iowa Caucus

By Ofer Adar

The Iowa Caucus is the first state to vote in the democratic primary. This state has major implications on the rest of the presidential race because it could make or break a campaign. The 2020 Iowa Caucuses were very confusing, dissatisfying, and worrying. Now that the Iowa Caucuses have occurred over a month ago, there’s a pretty good sense of the results from the Iowa Caucuses. The results are in, the victor was declared and now it’s time for analysis.

First of all some people might be wondering, what even is a caucus? A caucus is when a group of people meet up at a certain place like a school or complex. At that site people walk to the section with their preferred presidential candidate. If a candidate gets less than 15% of the people in the caucus that means that candidate is eliminated and the voters who chose that candidate have to choose a different candidate. For example, say candidate 1 gets 4% of the voter and candidate 2 gets 18% and candidate 3 gets 16%. Candidate 1 is eliminated and her voters get to choose a second candidate. Say, 2% of voters decide to go to candidate 2 and the other 2% go to candidate 3, candidate 2 would get 20% and candidate 3 gets 18%. The first vote before eliminations is called the first alignment. The second vote is called the second alignment. The winner is decided during the second alignment. To find the winner, all of the people who sided with a certain candidate during the second alignment are counted. There are many caucus sites throughout the state and all of the results are counted, then added. When the votes are in, there is something called S.D.Es. An SDE is a way to calculate how many delegates a candidate gets. A delegate is the representation of the states voters. In each state there are a specific amount of delegates which are handed out proportionally. For example, Iowa has 41 delegates. Delegates are based on population numbers and members of the party. The way to find the number of delegates is an SDE, the SDE is allocated based on the number of votes in the second alignment in a congressional district. A district is a portion of a state. This means that if a person does well in one congressional district in the second alignment as opposed to the statewide average, they could get more SDEs. The last step is to allocate delegates based on the number of SDEs, then the caucus is over.

In 2020, the Iowa Caucus was supposed to be the turning point in the Democratic Presidential Primaries. During the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primaries, there were over 20 candidates at the start! Many people thought they had a chance of winning the nomination but quickly dropped out. By February, candidates like Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, and representative Tim Ryan were long forgotten. The top contenders going into Iowa were Senator Bernie Sanders, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Vice President Joe Biden, and Senator Amy Klobuchar. These five candidates were expected to win the Iowa Caucus but Amy Klobuchar was ignored as a frontrunner by most people. Most polling also showed her behind in fifth place. Going into Iowa, her polling average according to Real Clear Politics in Iowa was 9% while Bernie Sanders was at 23%, Joe Biden at 19%, Pete Buttigieg at 17%, and Elizabeth Warren at 15%. The top five were not the only people who thought they had a shot. Entrepreneur Andrew Yang, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, Senator Michael Bennet, Businessman Tom Steyer, and Governor Deval Patrick were all betting on Iowa as their turning point where they would take the lead and win the nomination. These long shot candidates all had around 1-3% in polls from Monmouth, WaPo, NYT, CNN, etc. Iowa is generally when many candidates dropped out so the long shot candidates thought of Iowa as their last chance.

The Iowa Caucus began like it did every four years, packed lines and excited voters. But there was a problem emerging. As polls closed, no results were reported. Throughout the night, barely 1% of votes were counted. There was no clear winner and many people were confused. This all happened because of a new app that was being used to record the vote totals for each candidate. The app, called IowaRecorder was developed by Shadow Inc. and there were rumors that the Pete Buttigieg campaign helped create the app to help him win. This was debunked by the Associated Press but regardless, there were problems with the app. The app crashed during the night and the Democratic Party didn’t release any results until 4am the next morning. The reasoning given was that there were inconsistencies in the results so there had to be a recount. Because of all of the confusion, Mayor Pete Buttigieg decided to take advantage of the silence of the other campaigns and announce that he had won the race, saying, “Iowa, you have shocked the nation.” In the next few hours, Senator Bernie Sanders used his internal number to come to the conclusion that he had won and went out to speak with his supporters. This led to a feud between the Sanders and Buttigieg campaigns. Both claiming they had won, they showed their internal information. Senator Sanders released information with 77% percent of precincts reporting showing him at 29.66% of the vote while Pete Buttigieg got 24.59% of the vote.

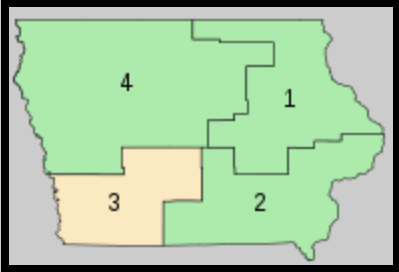
Following the entire Iowa debacle, Andrew Yang and Michael Bennet dropped out of the race with Bennet not getting any SDEs while Yang received 1% of the vote according to the Associated Press and got 7th place with 22 SDEs. Gabbard, Steyer, and Patrick decided to stay in the race even though they performed poorly. Even though there was no clear winner there were losers. Vice President Joe Biden got fourth place with only 15% even though he was expected to get around 23% of the vote. Even Amy Klobuchar was able to receive 12.3% of SDEs, almost passing Biden. This led many democrats to saying that the Joe Biden campaign was over and that he needed to drop out. Elizabeth Warren expectedly got 3rd place and showed no signs of dropping out.

As more results trickled in, the race between Buttigieg and Sanders was getting very narrow. The results were so close that there was a recount of most of the votes. After several days of waiting and criticism towards the DNC for the mismanagement of the Iowa Caucus the results were in. The final results contrasted from exit polling data recorded by the New York Times, the Sanders campaign’s internal numbers, and CNN Exit polls. Buttigieg got 26.2% of the final vote and Bernie Sanders got 26.1% of the final vote. Buttigieg got 563 SDEs and 14 delegates while Sanders got 562 SDEs and 12 delegates. The delegate allocations were heavily criticized because Buttigieg was overrepresented and Sanders underrepresented. The difference in SDEs was only one, the logical solution would be to allocate 13 delegates to Bernie Sanders and 13 to Pete Buttigieg. Warren got 8 delegates, Biden 6, and Klobuchar 1. Every other candidate didn't get any delegates. There was also controversy because in the first alignment Sanders got 24.7% of the vote while Buttigieg got 21.3%. During the second alignment, Sanders got 26.5% of the vote while Buttigieg got 25.1%. This means that Sanders won the popular vote but Buttigieg won the SDEs. SDEs are allocated by congressional districts. The problem is that Bernie Sanders won more congressional districts than Pete

Candidate	Initial alignment		Final alignment ^[1]		State delegate equivalents		Proportion of national convention delegates ^{[1][50][10]}
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Number	%	
Pete Buttigieg	37,572	21.3	43,209	25.1	562.9528	26.17	12.3%
Bernie Sanders	43,581	24.7	45,652	26.5	562.0214	26.13	12.3%
Elizabeth Warren	32,589	18.5	34,909	20.3	398.4403	18.1	7.7%
Joe Biden	26,291	14.9	23,605	13.7	340.3238	15.8	6.7%
Amy Klobuchar	22,454	12.7	21,100	12.2	263.8689	12.3	5.1%
Andrew Yang	8,914	5.1	1,758	1.0	21.8559	1.0	0.9%
Tom Steyer	3,061	1.7	413	0.2	6.5189	0.3	0.3%
Michael Bloomberg	212	0.1	16	0.0	0.2056	0.0	0.0%
Tulsi Gabbard	341	0.2	16	0.0	0.1143	0.0	0.0%
Michael Bennet	164	0.1	4	0.0	0.0000	0.0	0.0%
Deval Patrick	9	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0	0.0%
Uncommitted	1,009	0.6	1,420	0.8	3.7321	0.2	0.2%
Other / Write in	155	0.1	198	0.1	0.6901	0.0	0.0%
TOTAL	178,382	100%	172,399	100%	2,150.821	100%	41

Sanders race has now commenced and will commence in 20 more states in the next few months. And the delegates don’t really matter now because Buttigieg has dropped out and in a reallocation Sanders received 17 delegates from Iowa. But just because the Iowa Caucus didn’t end up having the monumental impact on the race, it was a very interesting event to cover. As of April 7th, there are several races that should be happening this month. Wisconsin on April 7th, Alaska on April 10th, Wyoming on April 17th, Puerto Rico on April 26, and Ohio on April 28th. These next few contests are very important and might mean that Sanders drops out, making the 2020 Presidential Election a contest between President Donald Trump and Vice President Joe Biden.

Candidate	State Delegate Equivalent	State Delegate Equivalent %	First Count	First Count %	Final Count	Final Count %
Amy Klobuchar	114.06	10.93%	10,115	11.57%	8,709	11.00%
Andrew Yang	9.79	0.94%	4,165	4.77%	709	0.90%
Bernie Sanders	298.50	28.62%	24,496	28.03%	23,476	29.66%
Elizabeth Warrar	192.13	18.42%	16,906	19.34%	16,814	21.24%
Joe Biden	157.32	15.08%	12,086	13.83%	9,789	12.37%
Pete Buttigieg	268.22	25.71%	18,187	20.81%	19,464	24.59%
Tom Steyer	3.09	0.30%	1,296	1.48%	192	0.24%
Tulsi Gabbard	0.00	0.00%	145	0.17%	9	0.01%
TOTAL	1,043.10		87,396		79,162	



Noah Syndergaard Undergoes Tommy John Surgery

By: Liana Kase

On Tuesday, March 24th, the Mets and their fans got some pretty bad news. New York Mets pitcher Noah Syndergaard, tore his ulnar collateral ligament in his elbow, forcing him to undergo one of the most well known and hated surgeries in baseball, Tommy John surgery.

Before spring training was canceled, Syndergaard said he had a little pain in his elbow. The 27 year old righty has always trained super hard, so it wasn't a surprise when not too long after spring training was called off due to the Coronavirus, Syndergaard went back to training. Since Syndergaard was training so hard, he hurt his elbow even more, costing him his arm, and 12 to 14 months of no baseball, including the remainder of games for the delayed 2020 season. Instead, Syndergaard is now risking free agency in 2021, along with giving pitchers Steven Matz, Rick Porcello, and Micheal Wacha, who were all originally fighting for the last two spots in the starting rotation, now all get a spot.

The surgery took place Thursday, March 26th, on the day that would have been opening day, at the Hospital for Special Surgery in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Fortunately, the surgery was a success, and sources are saying that Syndergaard should be back by the end of the first half of the 2021 season. Unfortunately, not having Syndergaard in the rotation is going to hurt the Mets. Sources, and fans (including me) still think the Mets are going to win the division, or at least get a wild-card spot. But first, let's just focus on starting the season first.



Apple Products of 2020

By Michael Zakin

As we are in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, some Apple products have been delayed. This article will be explaining all of the products that either have already been released or unreleased for the year of 2020.

Released Products:

2020 iPad Pro:

The 2020 iPad Pro is a small refresh from the 2018 iPad Pro. It features a dual-lens setup, along with 2 more cameras that work together which is also a AR 3-D camera, aka A ToF (time of flight) sensor. The new added second camera is an ultra wide-angle camera, such found in the iPhone 11/11Pro line.



2020 iPhone SE/ iPhone SE2/iPhone 9

Some of you may know this phone as the iPhone SE2020, but at the time of writing, (Wednesday, April 15, 2020) the phone is currently unreleased and is slated to come out either Thursday or Friday of this week. The iPhone SE2020 will/already sports an A13 omega bionic chip, driven from the iPhone 11/11Pro line. It has the frame of the iPhone 8/8+, and will support wireless charging. This phone will sport only one camera, and have a home button.



Unreleased Products:

There are a few unreleased products to go over. Let's start with June of 2020.

Apple over ear headphones: Not much is known about this device, but iOS 14 builds show over-ear headphones in it. Much like the Beats headphones, (yes Apple owns it) it will support noise cancellation and the transparency mode like on AirPods Pro. They will only come in black and white, and start around \$349.99-\$449.99. It is slated to release in June (WWDC Event).

AirTags: Basically an Apple-Branded tile, this product can be used to track lost apple products or things, and will have in-house location tracking. Slated to release in WWDC in June 2020.-

Apple Watch Series 6: Not too much is known about the new Apple watch, but we know it will finally have sleep tracking and blood oxygen levels. Also it will sense when you are stressed. Improved battery life and performance is also coming.

iPhone 12: The iPhone 12 line will be 2 phones this year. One, 5.4 inch iPhone, and a normal sized 6.1 inch phone. Both will have OLED displays, maybe smaller notches, and 2 cameras. It will look the same as the normal iPhone 11.



iPhone 12 PRO: Oh boy, the iPhone 12 Pro. it will sport not just 3, 4, but 5 total cameras if you count the double-lens ToF sensor. It will have an AMOLED display, (Active Matrix Organic LED) and it will also have a much, much smaller notch. On the Max model, maybe none at all. The midnight green will be replaced with Navy Blue, and trust me, it will look AMAZING! It will be different. It will have a square frame with rounded edges, smaller bezels, new A14 chip, 1TB storage option, and 30 Watt wireless charging. It will look like this in sizes of 6,1 and 6,9 inches.



Astros Cheating: Not Good Death Threats: Too Far

By: Liana Kase

Over the baseball off-season, something big happened in the baseball world. Most sports fans probably know of the Houston Astros. They will most likely also know that the Astros won the 2017 World Series. They probably also heard about how the Astros didn't win the World Series fairly. They stole the signs. Because of the shocking news, a lot of things happened in the MLB over the off season regarding the Astros or teams going after the Astros. I'm going to tell you how the Astros cheated, the people who are now in trouble, and the controversy it has caused, not just in baseball, but in sports in general.

The way the Astros cheated was very clever, but at the same time, very wrong. According to the media, the Astros had built in a few cameras hidden behind the center field screen. What these cameras would do is zoom in on the signal the catcher was showing to the opposing pitcher. Once the cameras got a good shot of the signal, they would send the signal to the Astros dugout where a player was waiting. This player would look at the sign, then bang on a trash can with a bat a certain number of times. This would tell the batter what pitch was coming. Some players recall hearing a banging sound whenever they were at Minute Maid Park (The home of the Astros) in 2017. If you were ever to go inside the Astros clubhouse, you would notice a whole set up at the entrance. What it would look like is a table, with a trash can, a bat, and a few towels. Some of you might be asking, what are the towels for? The Astros put their set up right next to a window that the home plate umpire could easily look through. The Astros noticed this, so they would hang towels over the window to prevent anyone from seeing it.

Once the cheating scandal was reported, the MLB decided to do further investigations before deciding on punishments. A few weeks after the investigations, the Astros owner, Jim Crane, held a press conference. He apologized for the Astros cheating, which most people do not forgive, and also told the media that they were firing two people. The first person they fired was their manager, A.J. Hinch, who wasn't reported participating in any sign stealing, but knew it was going on, and didn't do anything about it. The second person was the general manager, Jeff Luhnow, who was fired for the same reason Hinch was. Crane also told the press that the Astros were punished with a fine of 5 million dollars and the loss of their first and second draft picks for 2020 plus 2021.

Other people fired beyond the Astros were Mets manager Carlos Beltran, and Red Sox manager, Alex Cora. Beltran, who didn't even manage a single game, was an Astro in 2017. The media reported that Beltran was the man who started the sign stealing. As a highly respected baseball player, or at least once was a highly respected baseball player, he had a lot of influence in the Astros' clubhouse. Former Astros said that Beltran, "bullied them and steamrolled them," into the idea. What makes matters worse for Beltran was that he lied. Early in the off season, Beltran was asked if he participated in any of the sign stealing, which Beltran denied. Let's just say we won't see Beltran in baseball for a while. Cora was fired by the Red Sox for being Beltran's "Assistant" during 2017 (Cora was a coach for the Astros). In addition, he was reported stealing signs with the Red Sox in 2018 too. Therefore, we won't be seeing Cora around in baseball either.

Now that it's spring training, players are starting to speak out about the Astros and the sparks are starting to fly. Atlanta Braves outfielder Nick Markakis said, "Every guy on that team deserves a beating." New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge said he was "Sick to his stomach," thinking about what the Astros did during a press conference. The Yankees also lost to the Astros in the 2017 American League Championship Series (ALCS). Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout said, "I don't like what they did. But going up to bat and knowing what pitch you're going to get, that would be kind of fun." Now professional sports players in general are starting to speak about it. Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James tweeted, "Listen I know I don't play baseball but I am in sports and I know if someone cheated me out of winning the title and I found out about it I would be mad as heck! I mean uncontrollable about what I could do. Listen here baseball commissioner (Rob Manfred), listen to your players speaking today about how disgusted, mad, hurt, and broken they are. Listen the ball is in your court, and you need to fix this for the sake of sports!" Rob Manfred responded by saying that none of the players would be punished and that they should please let this slide like he did.

Now more sparks are flying to make the first ones look like little flickers of light. First of all, pitchers are planning to intentionally throw as hard as they can inside so they can hit the Astros players. Which is bad. But what is even worse, is this: over February break former Astro Mike Fiers, who was the player that told the media that the Astros cheated in 2017, and current Astro Josh Reddick, both reported that they were both getting sent death threats. Hitting batters is pretty bad, but everyone knew that the Astros are going to get hit multiple times. But death threats, that is going way too far. As much as the 2017 Astros deserve multiple punishments, they still deserve to live.

As opening day comes closer and closer, the Astros get hit more often. The Astros better brace themselves, because 2020 is going to be one painful season for them.

Be well and stay safe..... Summer Issue Coming Soon.....

