



# THE INLET

Vol. 8, No. 4

SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

June 2020



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE SENIORS!

Each year, The Inlet highlights the seniors in its final issue of the year. Though school was cut short, the Inlet staff wanted to make sure the senior issue was still published. Beginning on **PAGE 6**, you can hear all about the senior's reflections, accomplishments, funny moments, future plans, and more!

## DR. DOELGER REFLECTS BY JANE RICHARDS

Back in March, Dr. Doelger, Shelter Island School's Superintendent had to make a tough call (based on the Governor's direction) to close the school for what started as only a weekend, but then extended to the remainder of the school year. Events unfolded quickly and safety of students and the school community became the focus. Dr. Doelger reports that making the call "felt like a relief, at the time, but also felt so disappointing." He felt relieved that he had the guidance from first the county, and then the state government, but he was also "obviously tremendously disappointed that the situation had deteriorated to that point." Dr. Doelger explains that the most difficult part of keeping the school closed has been "dealing with the unknown." He is "trying to help everyone stay together and finish the school year strong." He also acknowledges that it "will be a challenge for everyone finishing up the year in this virtual setting." Yet, Dr. Doelger was sure to point out that with the help of the technology department and the talented staff in our district, distance learning began almost immediately and has been running smoothly thus far. "We did in a few days what in other places could have taken months," he noted

with pride.

Although this situation is unfortunate, Dr. Doelger is keeping a positive outlook on the end of the school year. He commends "the teachers, staff, administration, parents, and the whole community who have just been wonderful through all of this," and added, "I couldn't imagine having to experience this anywhere else." Dr. Doelger considers himself very lucky to still be able to work in the building every day. He says his "days change based on priorities, but have always been focused on making sure the district continues to run smoothly." Along with Dr. Doelger, administration, district staff, business office, cafeteria staff, custodial staff, and daycare staff are also still in the school building. Everyone in the building is someone essential to the day-to-day operation of the district. Dr. Doelger's favorite part of the day is recording the connect-ed message that goes home. Another task that keeps Dr. Doelger very busy is the "learning plans for the state" that he is almost "constantly filling out."

In regards to distance learning, Dr. Doelger believes that the school has done as good a job as possible. Both elementary and secondary levels are doing a lot of things

similarly, but he thinks the one big difference is that the "elementary is and should be much more of a social and emotional focus" than the secondary school. Dr. Doelger really hopes that students are physically back in the building in September, however, he does have plans in place should we have to go longer. He says that "nobody truly knows the answer [to when this will end], but I certainly am hopeful to be back for September." In the meantime, Dr. Doelger's message for parents is to "hang in there." He knows "this is terribly difficult for parents doing their own jobs, while also participating in distance learning and all of you have been amazing. Thank you to all parents for your constant support." Dr. Doelger's message to students is "hang in there! You have done a great job handling this adversity. You only have a few more weeks left before the summer, so try your hardest." For students struggling emotionally through these tough times, his advice is "this too shall pass. At some point, we are going to go back to normal and we will all be fine." He stresses to "please reach out to us if you need anything. We have a tremendous amount of resources to help you."

As we all know, these are very stressful

times to endure, so what is Dr. Doelger doing in his downtime to cope? He enjoys "going for walks on the beach near my house with my wife and reading a lot." And, in a "superintendents--they're just like us!" moment, Dr. Doelger also admits he has "definitely gotten my fair share of Netflix in." The one thing that is always on his mind, though, is this year's senior class. Dr. Doelger hopes "we have given and continue to give you enough of a special experience through these trying times. All students, most especially the class of 2020, are always on my mind." Dr. Doelger explained graduation plans as of now, as well. "We are planning for June 27, with June 28 and June 26 as rain dates. At the very least, this will be a drive-in experience, but we are hopeful that this can be a socially-distanced in-person experience." He also notes that they still have to wait until the date gets closer before making a definite decision. In closing, our superintendent has one final message for the students: "We have 5 weeks left. Try your hardest, be good to your parents, enjoy your summer, and we will hopefully be back in September."

## VALEDICTORIAN / SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED!



# Congratulations!

The Inlet would like to offer a very special congratulations to our 2020 Valedictorian (the Inlet's very own) Emma Gallagher and Salutatorian Lyng Coyne. Emma is heading to George Washington University to major in Environmental Studies and Political Science and Lyng is planning to double major in Math and Biology at Providence College. We wish them both continued success!

Shelter Island U.F.S.D.  
P.O. Box 2015  
Shelter Island, New York 11964  
[www.ShelterIsland.k12.ny.us](http://www.ShelterIsland.k12.ny.us)  
BOXHOLDER  
SHELTER ISLAND, NY 11964

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 6  
Shelter Island, NY 11964



# THE END

BY THE EDITORS AND MRS. DEVON TREHARNE

## HENRY BINDER:

If you asked me what I was doing on my last day of high school, I honestly could not tell you. (To be fair, I didn't know it would be my last day in high school.) Much of my high school career has gone by in the blink of an eye. What makes the end so much more tragic for me is that I meant to slow my life down and press pause as I neared the end, I wanted to soak in every last moment...our senior trip, prom, graduation... I wanted to look back and reminisce about the person I used to be and the memories I made along the way. It's true you never realize how much you've taken for granted until it's already too late. This ending to the story of my high school career I never could have anticipated.

I no longer wake up at 6:00am to ready myself for school, now my classroom is on my laptop screen where emails often take the place of genuine conversation. I no longer see my friends and family daily; our face to face interactions have been replaced by brief texts and scheduled video calls. Senior prom only exists with YouTube DJ's and celebrity hosts. Our senior trip funds sit in our class bank account untouched. Our graduation will likely resemble a drive-thru, but they will be handing us a diploma costing twelve years instead of a "Happy Meal" for \$4.99. I feel a sudden sense of loss. We all saw this coming, but it still hurts.

This quarantine has also prompted me to think quite a bit about my past. It was not until recently that I understood how much my life has changed and how much I have changed in only a few years. I think back to the kid I used to be in elementary school. My cargo shorts and floppy hat defined who I was; now, they do not. The most significant slivers of joy throughout my Shelter Island career are what really made me into the person I am today. It's the little things that I now reflect on. I remember playing with Mickey the hamster in Mrs. Wood's class and then setting traps when he escaped (RIP). I remember making clay sculptures with Mrs. Sareyani. I remember class Halloween parties in elementary school. I remember changing a tire in Driver's Ed, only for the next group to discover while driving that the tire was not completely on. I remember staying up all night in Disney, and the stories we would make up. I remember stopping in Philadelphia during the Washington DC trip and eating french fries and tomatoes at Reading Terminal Market. I remember being late to take pictures because I was setting up prom with Mr. Miedema and Mr. Brennan at the Ram's Head Inn my junior year. I remember parkouring into a lake on the last day of the National Parks trip and having to fly home with a damp shoe. I remember the beginning of it all as if it were yesterday. As Pat Conroy would say, "these are the quicksilver moments of my childhood I cannot remember entirely. Irresistible and emblematic, I can recall them only in fragments and shivers of the heart."

The reason I actually joined The Inlet is that Mrs. Tuthill said I could help design the newspaper. I really had no interest in writing when I joined The Inlet, I just needed a class that fit my schedule. If not for having an English class with Mrs. Treharne and Ms. Colligan, I'm not sure if I would have stayed in Journalism or ever found enjoyment in writing. I hope other students take advantage of these opportunities and understand that writing is not just for a grade, but to find your voice. I have been an editor of the paper for two years now and it has helped me learn and grow as a student and as a person, and for that, I am forever grateful. Next fall, I plan on continuing my educational career at Marquette University where I will major in English or Digital Media.

I'm not quite sure how my life will go from here. Though I know I will land on my feet, it seems daunting taking a leap of faith and moving so far from our small island. Because of the commitment and dedication of my teachers, I know that I am aptly prepared for what is to come. I know that the challenges I have faced are just the beginning, and it will not become much easier, but I am an islander, and I know that counts for something. In the words of Bob Dylan, "yesterday's just a memory, tomorrow is never what it's supposed to be." These words seem more true than ever. This is just the beginning, I know that for sure. Goodbye.

## EMMA GALLAGHER:

It goes without saying that I wish I could have spent these last few months at Shelter Island School with my friends. I wish I was able to have the bittersweet closure I imagined having for years, alongside the people I have grown up with and the teachers who have helped me along the way. Senior year from the couch is just not the same.

When I was little, it was nearly impossible to imagine being a senior. The days of dancing my heart out next to my best friends at senior prom and throwing a blue cap into the air as my community watched felt so distant as I walked the halls of elementary school. In middle school, I wanted nothing more than to be in high school, to graduate and move on. Time felt like it was dragging on. Finally, I made it to high school. I have come to love everything about this place, and at once I want to stay here forever, but am also very ready to take the lessons I have learned elsewhere. So much has happened and I feel like I have finished running a race in which I have not stopped to rest for years. I have worked hard, had fun, run from sports practice, to work, to school, to this club meeting, to that club meeting, over, and over. I have filled every day to the max, pushing myself to do more. I thrive on activity and involvement. I have made the most of my time, and in doing so have catapulted my life forward. At the beginning of this year, I was so content and relieved to have finally made it. I had done so much for so long and finally it felt like I could slow down and take it all in. The finish line was so close, and I was ready to accept that though it would be hard to do, I was ready to say goodbye.

I have always known to not take things for granted, to appreciate every moment as it comes. I thought I had mastered the art, and despite my involvement in so much, felt like I was savoring every single moment. There is a saying from a show I once watched that goes as follows, "I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them." It is simple, yet perfectly sums up how I feel in this moment, and how I imagine the rest of the world feels as well. I was running the race so fast I failed to realize the finish line was being stripped from the pavement. This race is over, but it doesn't feel that way because I never crossed the finish line I chased for so long. I am eternally thankful for the amazing memories I have made at Shelter Island over the last thirteen years. However, I imagine this loss will be ingrained within me for the rest of my life, that though better times are ahead, I will always feel the void left by this uncrossed finish line.

I am sad to have left "the good old days" without properly saying farewell, but I have hope. Because of this, I realize how much more I can appreciate everything, how much more can be held in my heart. It hurts that I did not appreciate everything as much as I could have before, but I look back fondly on my time on Shelter Island. I am so lucky to have grown up here. I am so lucky to have a family that loves and supports me and friends I will never grow apart from. I am lucky to live in a beautiful place and to be healthy. I am so grateful for so much. And I know that this stage of my life is over, but that more great times are to come. The world will recover and so will I. This is most certainly the hardest thing I have ever been through in my short life, but I am hopeful. I have cried and felt angry, but there will be more eras of my life that I deem "the good old days," and I look forward to them.

I hope this causes the world to redefine itself. Many of us may feel like "we wish it could go back to the way it was before," but I hope this helps us all see that living breathing people and our planet are so much more important than material success and power. We can use this as an opportunity to grow, to live more sustainably, to realize that everyone deserves equal treatment, healthcare, the ability to live without wondering where the next meal is coming from, and so much more. Life may have seemed good before, but as with everything, we can do better. Our global society needs to use this forced slow down to redefine our values. We need leaders that will make change for the better and not cause chaos in times of darkness. It will take some time for us all to recover, but I believe when we do, we will be stronger and ready to make the world

a better place. All this uncertainty can be scary, but together we can welcome fear and make good.

So, as my calendar that was once filled with seemingly endless activities remains blank, and my binders sit untouched in my locker, I reflect. So much has made me who I am today, and so much will shape me into who I will be in the future. This school and the people in it will be with me forever. Writing for The Inlet has been a joyful constant in my life in these recent years. It has taught me that it is okay to speak my mind, I am allowed to have my own opinions, I should not hold back from speaking if I believe my words and emotions will do good, I have a voice and I am meant to use it. In a few years from now, other students will be designing these pages and writing editorials about pressing issues in society. In a few years from now, students will dance their hearts out with their best friends at senior prom and throw their blue caps into the air as our community watches. This is hard, but the promise of the future offers comfort. That is why I know, eventually, it will be okay. It takes a village, and this one is here to stay. Thank you, and until next time, Shelter Island.

## JONAS KINSEY:

I think everyone has imagined how their perfect high school experience would come to an end. Like a happy ending in a book, us seniors would walk through the graduation tent and onto the stage. From there, we would have a perfect view of the rows and rows of friends and family, looking upon us proudly as we prepared to take the final step into our lives. There would be cheering, there would be tears, but the day would truly be filled with a genuine sense of accomplishment and triumph. Unfortunately, real life does not always deliver a happy ending. The spread of the coronavirus has effectively robbed the Class of 2020 of many of its final celebrations. No prom, no senior trip, and our final sport seasons vanished before our very eyes. This is not how I imagined the last couple of months of school to come to an end for me, but I won't let that take away from all the great memories I've still had from Shelter Island. My time in this school has been truly life changing and I've made close friends who I will continue to keep in touch with long after graduation. I couldn't even imagine going to a different school-- because I already had the best experience going to Shelter Island School, and the coronavirus can't change that.

I keep thinking back to that last day, right before school ended. Completely unaware of what was about to happen a day later, I actually remember feeling really lazy and not wanting to go to school that day. Eventually, I ended up going, albeit with a huge chip on my shoulder, and just imagined it would be like any other day. I knew there were a few corona cases in upstate New York, but I hadn't been taking the news about the spread of the coronavirus too seriously. That's why it was a surprise to hear Mrs. Treharne announce that our class field trip, which was supposed to be to a Broadway play in the city, was canceled due to fear of us contacting Covid19 in the city. I remember this being the first time I was personally affected by the virus I had seen on the news; I didn't personally hold it against anyone because it was just the administration trying to keep us safe. And while I definitely found it worrisome that an entire field trip was canceled because of the coronavirus, I thought that canceled field trip would be the extent to which the coronavirus would affect my class and me. But, things changed so quickly, all in the same day. There were people talking about Southold already having confirmed cases, and then came the news the Pierson school district had already closed down for the rest of the week and cancelled its spring sports season. I still never considered the potential of our school closing and adamantly denied it, in part because I didn't want it to happen so badly that I hoped I could wish it not to happen. The worst part of the day, now looking back, was my last track practice. My last track practice was normal, it was me and my best friend Luke practicing hurdles outside the gym; that was it. There was no emotional goodbye for the team I had been on since 7th grade, no goodbye hug to my coach, just a "see you guys tomorrow, we're going to have a hard day!" This hard day never came, because our school closed down the next day. I just wish I had known my last day

was going to be my last day of school...of everything, because I would have made the most out of it. I didn't and I regret that so much. I guess this is what real grief feels like.

Despite the abrupt ending, all the memories I've made throughout my time on Shelter Island are still intact. And they are something Covid19 cannot take away from me, or any of the seniors. Shelter Island School is truly unique and I am honored to have attended it since kindergarten. When I was younger, I used to be a very shy, quiet, and insecure person, but through my time on Shelter Island, I have taken on many responsibilities which have helped me mature into a confident person who is ready to tackle whatever life outside of high school has to offer. One of these responsibilities has been being one of the three editors of this newspaper! I remember picking the class out of a list of electives to take because I had an open slot in my schedule and thinking nothing of it. Soon enough, however, I fell in love with the class and the idea of writing articles and publishing them into a real tangible newspaper that the school and community can read. I still remember two years ago when Mrs. Treharne had myself, Henry, and Emma stay after school with her. Even then, the possibility of being made editor with them wasn't even a possibility I had reasonably considered. I was struggling with a lot of self-doubt at the time too, so even when she told us she was making a team of co-editors, I couldn't really enjoy the moment too much. I was scared I wouldn't live up to other people's expectations of me, and that I would let the other members of The Inlet staff down. However, I took advantage of this new opportunity and never looked back. Today, I am proud of myself and the other editors, and all we have accomplished as staff of The Inlet.

As we prepare to enter the next stage of our lives, I ask the Class of 2020 not focus on the negatives this coronavirus has brought upon our senior year, and instead focus on all the great memories we have all had in the past, and the memories we will undoubtedly make in the future.

## MRS. TREHARNE:

I find myself in the position of having to say goodbye to the student editors of The Inlet every few years and it never gets easier. Ever. Advising The Inlet and working with its incredible student editors is kind of like adopting children, having employees of the month every month, and making great friends all rolled into one. That might sound odd, but it's true. For the past two years, I have been fortunate enough to have three incredible editors: Emma Gallagher, Henry Binder, and Jonas Kinsey. This year, they all graduate and go on to bigger things and bigger places. All three of these students have been a part of The Inlet their entire high school careers and they each hold a very special piece of my heart. Their commitment touches me deeply and they have left their marks on our little publication. I have watched their personal growth in awe; as Emma has found her voice and used it to guide her peers in the classroom, advocate for the environment and sustainability, and forge her own path, as Henry has found confidence and fought for causes he believes in, even establishing a club of his own to ensure the school will move forward with more sustainable practices and students can find a way to make an environmental impact on their island home. I have also watched Jonas grow and change in fundamental ways; going from shy freshman to self-assured senior, ready to follow a career path in law enforcement, which I have no doubt he will succeed in. Emma, Henry, and Jonas are the kind of teenagers who read self-improvement books, intrinsically motivate themselves to do better and leave their school and community better for their being a part of it. These three have made me laugh, pushed their peers to create, and seen their own writing rile and provoke, reach out and touch the community, and make people think. For Emma, Henry, and Jonas I am so, so appreciative; there are not adequate words to thank you for the hours and hours you all pushed yourselves and put into the school newspaper and the staff who relied on you. You make me so proud and I am grateful for the privilege you afforded me to watch you grow, write, and become.

We would love to hear from from you!

To contact **THE INLET** call

**631-749-0302 x144**

Email letters to the editor to:

**devon.treharne@shelterisland.k12.ny.us**

**EDITORS:** Henry Binder, Emma Gallagher, & Jonas Kinsey

**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Devon Treharne

**STAFF:** Abigail Kotula, Emma Gallagher, Henry Binder, Jonas Kinsey, Myla Dougherty, Ben Waife, Daria Kolmogorova, Bradley Batten, Jalill Carter, Jane Richards, & Zeb Mundy

**THE INLET** is a publication by Shelter Island High

School Journalism participants with the support of

Brian Doelger and the Board of Education



## CORONAVIRUS ROBS COLLEGE STUDENTS OF GRADUATION AND MORE

BY ABBY KOTULA

Yes, it is awful being a high school senior right now, but college seniors are experiencing the same grief, and may actually be losing more. College graduation is a major milestone and one that is usually marked by celebration and reflection with family and friends. College seniors also have a number of activities at the end of their academic year designed to say goodbye to friends and cap off their college careers; this has all been lost. We reached out to some Shelter Island School alumni grappling with the loss of college graduations and college life to find out how they are coping.

“It was actually really sudden,” Tristan Wissemann, a college senior who recently graduated from SUNY New Paltz, says about the final day of his on-campus college career. “I was doing homework at the time [of Cuomo’s conference] and two days later I was packed up and heading back to the island.” As a senior, Wissemann was looking forward to his graduation weekend, as he has heard many fun things about it. Instead of celebrating with his friends, though, he is now quarantining at his Shelter Island home, spending time with his family, safely visiting his hometown friends, and completing his distance learning. Wissemann misses the ability to speak with his professors every day, and admits that distance learning is “extremely different” than his normal school schedule. “We just do a lot of reading and small online assignments,” he explained. As for graduation, Wissemann shared, “we have a virtual graduation planned for May 22nd. Students were asked to submit a picture, short message or quote, and a correct name pronunciation. This won’t take the place of an in-person ceremony, which is tentatively scheduled for May 2021.” So, what is next for Wissemann, now that his college years are behind him? Before COVID-19, Wissemann had been planning to study for a master’s degree at a university in England, while playing basketball abroad. The thousand-point scorer is worried, however, that his plans for next year may fall through due to the pandemic. If these plans do fall through, Wissemann isn’t losing motivation. He says he will try to find some work and pursue graduate school in a year or two, when the pandemic is over. Reflecting on the sudden changes in his life, Wissemann can still find things to be grateful for, saying, “this era of social distancing has made me grateful for the time I had and will eventually have again with friends. I don’t think I’ll ever take the normal things for granted again, like going out to eat or playing pickup basketball together with friends.”

Serina Kaasik is another senior at SUNY New Paltz and has experienced the same turn of events as Tristan. In just a few days, Serina went from living on her own

to quarantining back in her childhood home. About this she says, “It is definitely frustrating, going from being super independent... to now having my parents constantly around. It feels like I’m living in some dystopian universe. I’ve basically lived independently for four years now, lived across the world for a time, and now after all that, being 22 and back in my childhood room feels like some alternative universe.” For the most part, Kaasik has been dealing with distance learning pretty easily, but without the in-person touch of the classroom, some classes have been proven difficult. “It is definitely harder to stay motivated being out of the classroom and away from the library and college setting in general,” she explained. Kaasik is most upset by not being able to have closure. She states that it feels like she left for summer break and she’ll return in the fall, and it is very hard for her to “digest the fact that college is over.” Still, Kaasik is a smart young woman with a plan. She has been accepted into Teach for America and, as of now, she will be teaching ESL in the Greater Boston area this fall, all while receiving her master’s degree in Education Policy at Boston University. Kaasik would like to remind the students that “when people say college will be over in the blink of an eye, they really are not kidding. You never know when a pandemic will come and take it all away from you!”

Former Inlet editor Kelly Colligan was set to graduate from Tulane University in New Orleans this spring. Colligan’s situation is a bit different, however, as she has not had to engage in any distance learning due to the fact that she “technically graduated last December, so I haven’t had to learn from a distance.” So, for Colligan, the academics did not change, but the experience of the end of her senior year sure did. She put it this way: “The most difficult part of this has been actively processing what exactly is happening around me. It feels more like a simulation. We definitely have FOMO (fear of missing out), too. Second semester senior year and formal graduation being cancelled has been very difficult to accept, but we have to keep this in perspective. Having supportive family and friends during this time is a gift; I find myself feeling guilty being too upset about graduation being cancelled and my job search being halted. Some Americans must put their health/safety at risk working at essentially businesses, others are out of work and unsure how they are going to stay in their homes/apartments, etc. This is a scary reality for many, and I have to remind myself to keep all of these things in perspective going forward.” Colligan decided to remain in New Orleans until her lease ran out June 1st and now she has returned to Shelter Island and will pursue employment in NYC,

though she knows it may be “a challenging road to get there.” As for a graduation from Tulane, Colligan said, “we were told that graduation would be cancelled, and possibly postponed. We filled out a survey regarding our preferences for the postponed ceremony. They offered September, November, and December—I don’t see any of those dates working out, as we will likely still be dealing with COVID. They organized ‘TUgether: Connecting the Class of 2020,’ an online livestream graduation event. They also said they’ll be sending us a package ahead of the ceremony...I have no idea what that could be.” For Colligan, this abrupt end to her college experience has been sobering. She shared, “we all expected graduation to be eventually cancelled, but that doesn’t make it any less disappointing. I remember writing a note in my phone in May of 2019, last graduation. It said I better take a good look around because I will be graduating in a blink of an eye, and I better live in the moment and take it all in. To read that now...it has been a crazy transition...”

It’s not only college seniors who have had their college careers interrupted. Former editor of The Inlet Lindsey Gallagher is a sophomore at the University of Montana and is finding that distance learning is far different than work in the classroom and is taking some adjusting. “A lot of my classes, instead of having zoom meetings at normal class time, have just become independent study where I have assignments I just need to turn in before the end of the semester,” she explained. “Many times I’ve found myself stressed over the fact that I have more free time which makes me feel like I’m neglecting my school work and it’s pretty much impossible to have the fruitful, engaging discussions that happen in the classroom over zoom. I’m also finding that it is harder to stay interested and feel invested in what I’m learning. I can’t wait to be done with the semester.” She did, however, make the decision to stay in Missoula, Montana, where she is living in an off-campus apartment. This was not a difficult decision because in Missoula there are many outdoor activities that she loves participating in, such as biking, running, and hiking, and she was afraid that coming home would eliminate her motivation to do any sort of college work. Gallagher did not find out about the pandemic and how bad it had gotten like many of us, as she was actually on a week-long backpacking trip completely off the grid when the country began to shut down. Before she left, it was clear the campus would remain open and coronavirus wasn’t to affect her classes. One week later, Gallagher returned to an empty campus and was told to pack up and move out, and the next morning she was gone. Lindsay just transferred to the University of

Montana, and since she was new to campus this year, she is worried that next semester she will find herself at square one. The loss of social connections is very difficult. She shared, “When the actual campus closes down, the entire college experience is lost. You lose connections with other people, you lose the ability to meet with professors and build real relationships with them... I don’t think I have ever craved a hug like this in my life.” As for future plans, Gallagher’s summer environmental ethics course has been cancelled, so she must take online classes to receive the amount of required credits for one of her minors in climate change studies. Despite battling loneliness and the loss of what she thought would be a field-based environmental ethics course she was really looking forward to, Gallagher knows that she is lucky, she said, “I realize I am very fortunate to have a safe place to live, enough food to eat, good health, and educational opportunities in front of me; it could be much worse.” Another reminder she wanted to share was this: “connections with others are the most important things we have.”

College had just begun for freshman Luke Gilpin at George Washington University. After taking a gap year, Gilpin had recently declared a major in the fine arts. Thought the abrupt end to his year “sucked” Gilpin ended up getting used to online classes relatively quickly. Distance learning, and all the free time, has especially allowed him to focus on his art and make connections outside of college. Gilpin now attends an outside zoom art class with dozens of experienced artists who give him tips and tricks to help him perfect his abstract pieces. He is unsure what next year will bring, as Gilpin’s school is in the heart of Washington, D.C., a place with high infection rates. He explained that as of May, “the school is already moving some of my classes around, which worries me they might be moving towards an online curriculum next year.” In addition, Gilpin had just joined a fraternity in February, and how that will play out with social obligations remains to be seen. Gilpin’s advice for surviving these stressful times? “Do whatever you feel like you enjoy to fill your time, it doesn’t matter what it is.”

Our hearts go out to these college students, dealing with the disappointment of long-anticipated experiences ripped away. The one thing they nearly all echoed, however, is to always remember to have a deep appreciation for the time we do have, since nothing is a given. Whether graduating online, next year, or studying for that summer internship from home, we wish these Shelter Island alums the best of luck in their next endeavors.

## TEACHERS ADAPT TO DISTANCE LEARNING

BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA

Not only are students adapting to distance learning, teachers have to learn how to hold classes online, how to motivate students, support them, and connect. Teachers have faced different challenges and overcome them in a variety of ways. I think we can all agree that distance learning online is vastly different from physically attending class. In this new world of teaching and learning online, we are all doing our best and we reached out to teachers to find out how it has been going for them. **HERE ARE QUESTIONS WE POSED WITH INPUT FROM OUR TEACHERS:**



*How long did it take you to adjust to teaching online classes? What platforms are you using most?*

**Mr. Brennan (Secondary Social Studies):** “I feel like I adjusted fairly quickly, but also kept tweaking how exactly I was going to teach online classes. I have mainly been using Google Classroom and Google Meet. I have also used Remind to keep in contact with students.”

**MS. DIORIO (ELEMENTARY SPECIAL EDUCATION):** “It took me a couple of weeks, at least. I’m mostly using Google Classroom, Google Meet, IXL, and Khan Academy. I’m always looking for new and engaging platforms, but there’s so much out there that I can be a little overwhelming.”

*Is there anything in particular you struggled to adapt to?*

**MR. BOCCA (SECONDARY ENGLISH):** “The adjustment, thankfully, was not as difficult as I anticipated, at least with regard to launching and maintaining my digital ‘classrooms.’ Being away for so long from face-to-face interactions with my students and colleagues, however, was a bit harder to get used to.”

**MRS. COLLIGAN (SECONDARY ENGLISH):** “I have struggled to fill the void of continuing my personal connections with my students. Even in live Hangouts classes, the video interaction just doesn’t replace the in-person connection that teachers have with their students.”



*What is the most difficult part of distance learning for you and why?*

**MS. MAYO (ENL):** “Having to be in front of a computer for so long. I definitely prefer interacting with people and not screens. I also don’t like sitting still and you have to when everything is happening through the computer.”

**MRS. SEARS (SECONDARY SPECIAL ED.):** “Contacting students to offer help, but not hearing back for many days.”

**MS. CORBETT (SECONDARY SPECIAL ED/SOCIAL STUDIES):** “The most difficult part is the lack of face-to-face time with my students.”

*What do you miss most about being in school?*

**MR. BOCCA:** “What I miss most about school is the anticipation of teaching a lesson that took a good deal of time to conceive and prepare for. For me, there is nothing more rewarding than welcoming students into a classroom where one knows, with near certainty, that there will be electricity in the air and hearts aflame. My goal as a teacher is to string more and more days like this together, and while I am proud of what we’ve done ‘remotely,’ I miss that profound and all-consuming experience.”

**MRS. COLLIGAN:** “I miss seeing everyone the most! I also miss the comfort and structure of my classroom.”



*Do you have a particular schedule or distance learning style you are following?*

**MS. MAYO:** “I write what I have to do each day and make my schedule according to that. I tried a daily schedule but it just didn’t work.”

**MR. BRENNAN:** “I am an early-riser, so I like to make sure everything is in place for the day, usually before 7:00 AM, and begin to make a list or plan for what I want to do in terms of grading, contacts, or scheduled classes. I then will follow that schedule throughout the day.”

*What’s your favorite part of online classes?*

**MR. BRENNAN:** “My favorite part of online classes is when my dog or son, Owen, serves as my co-teacher. Owen is a bit of a celebrity amongst my classes so they have been excited when he makes appearances.”

**MS. DIORIO:** “I think that distance learning has been very challenging. I think it is pushing me to be a better teacher. It’s hard to develop creative, hands on, engaging lessons online. I think we’ll all come out of this as better teachers.”

**MRS. SEARS:** “Still having the ability to “see” my students...even if it is through a computer screen.”

**MS. MAYO:** “Everyday can be pajama day!”



*Anything else you’d like to share?*

**MR. BRENNAN:** “It has been a challenge and I know it has been difficult for some of our students. I am very proud of how our students have worked through this and tried to do the best they can.”

**MS. DIORIO:** “This has been really difficult for everyone-- teachers, parents and students. One thing that has been kind of beautiful about it is how close I’ve become with everyone I work with (teachers, parents and students alike). We’re all in the struggle together.”

**MS. CORBETT:** “I can’t wait for it to be over!”

## CORONAVIRUS STRIKES OUT SPRING SPORT ATHLETES

BY BEN WAIFE

For many students at our school, one of the joys of this time of year is to be able to partake in sports. Yet, because of current events, we are unable to do so. On April 21st, Suffolk and Nassau County announced that spring athletics were officially cancelled because of the coronavirus. Although this may not be the end of the world for some students, it truly is heartbreaking for many, especially the seniors.

When asked about the cancellation of the baseball

season, junior Matthew Strauss said, “It’s really upsetting, I think that we had a real solid chance this season to go upstate and make school history. I really wish that we had the season, but you learn to move on and use it to make you stronger, I’m just keeping my head up and looking forward to next year.” Senior Lauren Gurney, who pitches for Pierson’s Varsity softball team said that this would have been the year they won it all. She is coping with the cancellation by practicing

by herself because she is going to play club for the University of Maine, and possibly try to walk on. Bazy Quigley Dunning, a freshman, was very excited for the upcoming baseball season as well. He shared, “I felt like we were going to have a great season and win a lot, It stinks that we will lose our seniors for next year.”

Whether it was a game they have grown up playing, or recently found joy in, the seniors’ final spring season may have been their final opportunity to compete in an

organized game in their sport of choice. Some states around the country begin their seasons earlier than New York because of their warmer weather and school schedule. Sadly, here we were only just getting started.

For the runners, softball, and baseball players, and anyone else who was eager to play a sport this spring, I am sorry Coronavirus has taken our season away, and I hope that you find yourself back here again next year to get out there and compete.

## LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

BY DARIA KOLMOGOROVA

We are currently living through a pandemic that will one day be a chapter in history books. This is a scary and confusing time for many, and it seems like everything is going wrong. Everyone is so focused on Covid-19 and the negatives, and the media is full of stories of suffering. It is a struggle to see any good things coming out of this crisis and the quarantine that we are all under; but that does not mean that good things are not happening.

Have you seen the news reports on the positive environmental impacts of human beings being quarantined? Air quality and water quality around the world is improving dramatically and wildlife is thriving. And, the human spirit will not be defeated. Whether it be banging pots and pans at 7pm to show support for frontline medical workers, having balcony sing-a-longs, or neighborhoods hanging Christmas lights to

spread cheer, people are working hard to keep smiles on the faces of the people around them. Shelter Island students have found ways to make positive changes, including sophomore Valeria Reyes who says, “I can sleep in, take my dogs on more walks and practice my Fortnite skills now.” Freshman Madigan Teodoru says that she now has the time to “meet more personal goals and sleep in more.” Sophomore Ariana Carter is able to

“self evaluate” while being in quarantine; something so many of us in the hectic day to day don’t have time for.

Even though things are bad and everyone is still in quarantine, that doesn’t mean we should dwell and focus on the negatives. Don’t forget to look at the bright side of things, because it is in the hardest times that we can learn the most.

## COVID-19: A RETURN TO SIMPLE JOYS OF THINGS FORGOTTEN

BY JANE RICHARDS

In many ways, quarantine is like going back in time. Self-isolating with family, friends, and roommates has brought people closer than they have ever been; in more ways than just physical proximity. Board games and puzzles are sold out everywhere and family walks, family meals, quality time with pets, and real time conversations are now the center of our lives. People are cooking, crafting, and creating in ways they have never had time to before.

While COVID-19 looms, the desire for face to face connection is stronger than ever, and people are doing whatever they can to connect with their loved ones near and far. It is proof of the cliché “you don’t know what you have until it’s gone.” As soon as we were told we couldn’t

be together, we desired it more than ever. This is one of the blessings and great ironies of this terrible virus. In our collective fear and loneliness, we have reached out like never before. Before COVID-19, when our phones actually rang with a live phone call, you might have assumed it was a telemarketer, been alarmed that it must be an emergency, or even been annoyed that the call wasn’t a text. AT&T reported that this spring, cell phone calls peaked at 44% above average levels, and Wi-Fi calling more than doubled. In March, Verizon was reporting 800 million calls per week. Both companies also reported that the duration of the calls were longer than usual, which means that people are calling each other to actually talk, not just leave quick messages and

make business calls. And, people are not just calling their grandparents, many people are checking on old friends, neighbors, or even long lost acquaintances. I’ve seen this yearning for connection with my own family; my dad called up his college roommate just to talk, and my mom calls her sisters every morning. Zoom calls and FaceTime have also seen a huge uptick, with people planning Zoom board games, happy hours, birthday parties, and more. Before COVID, we used technology to connect in a very disconnected way—we texted friends from down the hall, texted our parents from our own bedrooms, cancelled plans because we were just too tired. Now, we are using technology to see each other, celebrate each other, and check on each other when

we need it most. Technology is connecting us more meaningfully than it ever has before. Online platforms see our need to connect and are catering to it; Netflix has created “Netflix Party” where friends can watch movies “together” in real time with a chat bar on the side to discuss what they are watching. It is these small ways we are still connecting even while apart.

When COVID-19 is a thing of the past and we are free to be together once again, I wonder, will remember the creative ways we have connected? Will we still make the phone calls, have the family game nights, check on old friends and neighbors? I, for one, hope so.

## SUMMER: BUSINESS AS USUAL OR UNUSUAL?

BY MYLA DOUGHERTY

The Coronavirus has harshly affected the world economy, with the stock market crashing, record low unemployment rates, and businesses being forced to close around the world. In a small town like Shelter Island, where most business relies on the summer tourism, local jobs and businesses are bound to be affected by tourist decline. Many second home owners who typically come to Shelter Island during the summer have fled to the island to get away from busier places, ironically making the island busier than it normally is in the spring. But regular summer tourism is expected to decline due to travel restrictions and social distancing measures put in place because of the Coronavirus. Many businesses on the island, including some of the biggest tourist attractions like Sunset Beach and Camp Quinipet,

are choosing to not open this summer due to the virus.

Many students with summer jobs have been forced to look for new ones because the businesses they work for have closed for the summer. This year, some Shelter Island students were planning on becoming lifeguards for their summer jobs. The virus came just before lifeguard certification tests were scheduled to take place, and the tests are now postponed indefinitely. Francis Regan planned to become a lifeguard, but now she can’t take the test. She said, “Since the certification class was cancelled and the beaches probably won’t be open, I’m unsure whether I will be able to find a summer job.” Lily Page, who was also planning on lifeguarding, added, “I’m looking for a different job, but it’s so uncertain what’s going to be open for the summer.”

Some businesses are deciding to stay open despite the virus, and are being forced to adapt and be creative in order to keep everyone safe. Among the businesses staying open is Stars Cafe, which is now only offering takeout and pickup to help reinforce social distancing. Emma Martinez, daughter of Pepe and Lydia, the owners of Stars Cafe, shared that the restaurant has been “surprisingly busy” during the pandemic. Customers at Stars are required to wear masks, and sometimes have to wait in line outside because a maximum of two people are allowed in the store at one time. Emma doesn’t think this will deter customers however, saying, “people like our food, and have been placing orders for their families, so business is still booming.” Emma thinks that “although this summer might not be as busy

as every other summer, we never know what the future has in store for us.”

Another business that is staying open is the Tuck Shop. Jane Richards, who works at the Tuck Shop, said that there are ups and downs to working during the pandemic. She explained that “the virus has made it a bit easier to handle busy nights, because only two people are allowed in at a time,” but “the masks make it hard to hear customers.” Being one of the few places that is open so far this summer, Jane said, “the virus is definitely bringing more business to the shop.” Additionally, the new pizza place on the island, Slice, is planning to open soon despite the virus. If you can, try to do your best to support our local businesses through this tough time, and stay safe!



## AP TESTS GO ONLINE: NERVES AND COMPLICATIONS AROUND

BY JONAS KINSEY

Imagine taking on the challenge of an AP class, learning a rigorous curriculum, and practicing for the final hurdle, the last obstacle in the form of one last test for college credit...only to be told (upon hitting "submit,") you have to retake the test. With the coronavirus closing schools, the College Board made the decision to offer AP exams online, and things did not go smoothly for many students across the state and locally, in our district. With many students encountering problems submitting their responses online, and others struggling with a new test format, and even finding a nice quiet environment in which to take the test, this year's administration of APs frustrated some and found others calling "foul" on the test as a whole.

The College Board AP exams cause any student to stress; gaining college credit for a good score is what is essentially at stake. Some students even decided to opt out of taking the APs, unsure how the administration would go for them during this distance learning period. When the College Board decided to move ahead with APs despite school closures, they ensured fair testing, a modified exam, and clear instructions for students on how to take the test. Many did not find this to be the case.

For the online tests, answers could be submitted in three forms, students could: take pictures of their handwritten answers and upload them, type their answers on a google doc and copy and paste it into

the website, or attach a text file from google docs. The difficulty some students ran into was that taking and uploading pictures takes time and uploaded pictures taken on iPhones needed to be formatted a particular way or they would be rejected, and students received a message that they should "sign up for make up exams in June." Mr. Brigham reports that 50% of his students had technological issues when taking the test and will need to retake in June. "The students were expected to upload 9 pictures in 4 minutes," he explained, with obvious frustration in his voice. Even Mr. Brigham's own son will have to take a make-up exam after his submission was rejected because one answer did not upload. Mr. Brigham took his anger out in a letter to the College Board, expressing his frustration with what he deems an unfair testing process. In it Mr. Brigham expressed, "Blaming kids devices and connections for these errors is not acceptable. Having a few minute time frame to upload 9 separate files on question 1 was the heart of the issue and that was clearly an AP decision. I had several students who worked incredibly hard and because they needed 15 more seconds to load a jpg to a server that did not meet the capacity for this testing, they now have to take this test again in June. Those students who have to retake due to College Board errors should not be charged for the exam at all. At least then the College Board will have attempted to make up for the extra time students

now have to prepare, due to the College Board's mistakes." Mr. Brennan's students did not have as much difficulty uploading, and only one student chose to handwrite and submit, but he agreed the College Board could have been more clear on a number of things. Mr. Brennan shared, "I know this was a major undertaking for the College Board, but I wish they were more proactive in their communication and policies. Teachers were left to learn about the issues from their colleagues. Most teachers anticipated problems and the College Board only changed their policy to address some of the issues a week into exams, leaving students who experienced issues in the first week with only the option of taking a make-up. Thankfully, none of my students had any major issues and I was very proud of how hard my AP European History students worked to prepare and adjust for the challenge." Mrs. Colligan also felt frustration with the AP digital testing process, adding, "The AP exams were very complicated this year. Teachers were given a 51 page PowerPoint to share with students on the new format! The procedure for uploading and submitting the exams was confusing and stressful for students. It will be interesting to see how the College Board translates the modified format into the final score. Our kids showed tremendous patience and effort under these conditions and I hope that will pay off!"

Senior Emma Gallagher wrote out her answers for her

AP Calc Exam and uploaded photos. Emma described the complex process of uploading her answers: "I wrote my answers on lined paper, took pictures on my phone, airdropped them to my computer, made sure they were the correct file type to be uploaded, and then dragged them from my desktop into the AP exam website." This was "quite the complicated process," Emma shared, and keep in mind, all of this was in a timed exam, during which she could have "timed out."

The College Board has recently modified its policy and in the event a student cannot get their test answers uploaded, they may now email them in. Though this modification will help second week test-takers immensely, there is no concession being made for those who had difficulties in the first few AP exams, which just plain seems unfair.

The College Board is a for-profit corporation and after the debacle with testing this year, there are many on social media questioning whether or not families should even "buy-in" to the APs in the first place. Was this a fair testing administration? Will anything else be done to help those students who need to retest? We don't have those answers yet. For those students who took APs and ran the gauntlet successfully, congratulations, for those with make-ups looming in June, it seems just another blow in this already challenging environment of distance learning.

## KEEPING BUSY DURING QUARANTINE BY EMMA TEODORU

Due to the worldwide pandemic, we are all inside. During the quarantine, it can be hard to find activities to occupy yourself and/or to find motivation to do just about anything. So, what are Shelter Island students up to and how are they passing the time? **READ ON TO FIND OUT:**

**ELIJAH DAVIDSON (9TH):** "I've been playing basketball and watching YouTube."

**ANGELINA RICE (9TH):** "I've done nothing but eat and sleep."

**VALERIA REYES (10TH):** "Sleeping in, baking, going on walks with my dogs and getting all my school work done."

**MATTHEW STRAUSS (11TH):** "Working at the ferry, doing my school work, working out in my basement and restoring my boat."

**JANE RICHARDS (11TH):** "I have been quarantined with my friend Liz, which has made getting by much easier."

**LYDIA SHEPHERD (11TH):** "School work, going outside a lot, missing all of my friends and becoming sick of staying home."

**LUKE-LOWELL-LISZANCKIE (12TH):** "I've gone fishing and skateboarding."

**KAL LEWIS (12TH):** "I've been playing basketball at my house, watching a lot of movies, and sometimes working with my dad."

**AMELIA CLARK (12TH):** "I've done a lot of reading and cooking. And when it's nice out, I lay out on my roof."

**LYNG COYNE (12TH):** "I do class work, I learned how to cook fun meals, I workout daily, binge watch tv shows, drive around the island, sketch/doodle, and I just started reading a new book."

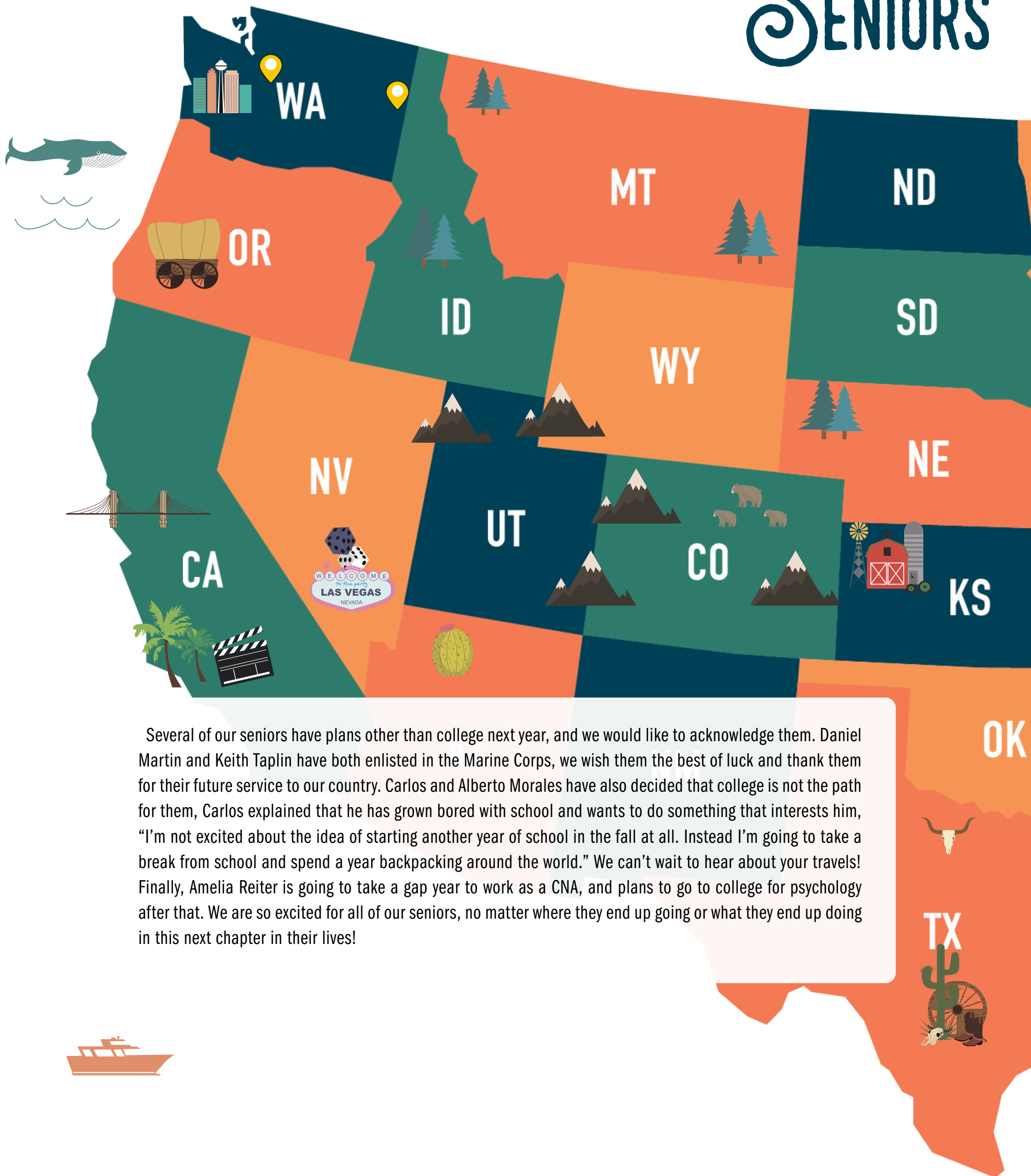
### CROSSWORD ANSWERS | PAGE 11

**HORIZONTAL** (1-maria, 2-jenniferl, 3-nicholas, 4-henry, 5-jenniferc, 6-daniel, 7-alberto, 8-walter, 9-audrey, 10-luke)

**VERTICAL** (1-emma, 2-keith, 3-lyng, 4-jonas, 5-reiter, 6-carlos, 7-mitchell, 8-abby, 9-lauren, 10-kenneth, 11-lucas, 12-clark)



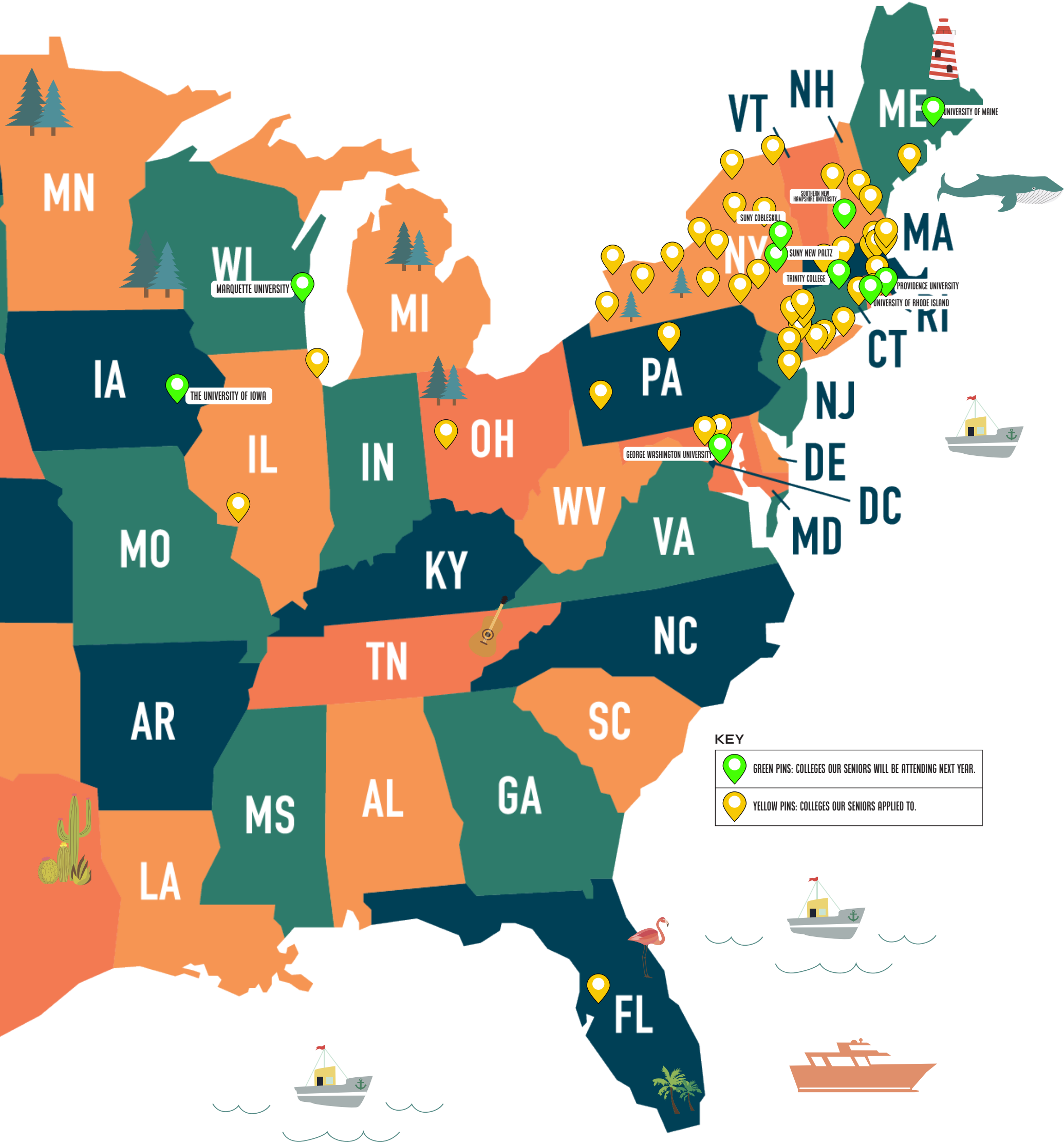
## SENIORS'



Several of our seniors have plans other than college next year, and we would like to acknowledge them. Daniel Martin and Keith Taplin have both enlisted in the Marine Corps, we wish them the best of luck and thank them for their future service to our country. Carlos and Alberto Morales have also decided that college is not the path for them, Carlos explained that he has grown bored with school and wants to do something that interests him, "I'm not excited about the idea of starting another year of school in the fall at all. Instead I'm going to take a break from school and spend a year backpacking around the world." We can't wait to hear about your travels! Finally, Amelia Reiter is going to take a gap year to work as a CNA, and plans to go to college for psychology after that. We are so excited for all of our seniors, no matter where they end up going or what they end up doing in this next chapter in their lives!



# COLLEGE CHOICES





SENIORS SAY ‘THANK YOU’

BY BRADLEY BATTEN

As the seniors get ready to graduate, we asked them to stop, reflect, and share with us any messages of thanks they might have for special people in their lives. **HERE ARE THEIR RESPONSES:**

NICK LABROZZI

“I want to thank Mrs. Tuthill for being so understanding, supportive, and guiding me through the college decision process and making it very simple and easy. I would also want to thank my family for always being there for me through thick and thin. Moreover, I would like to thank my friends. We made great memories together that I will cherish forever and will never forget.”

JONAS KINSEY

“I’d like to thank Nurse Mary for all she has done for me and my class over the years.”

LUKE LL

“My thanks go out to my parents, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Conrady, Mr. Miedema, and Coach Card.”

LUCAS QUIGLEY DUNNING

“Thank you to my family, friends, coaches, and teachers.”

WALTER RICHARDS

“Thank you to Coach Card and all my teachers for making high school a blast.”

EMMA GALLAGHER

“There are so many people who helped me get to where I am today. Mainly though, I want to thank my family. I want to say thank you to my sister for being the best role model I could have ever asked for and the best friend I will ever have.”

LYNG COYNE

“A thank you to the entire faculty and staff at Shelter Island School, a big thanks to both my parents for their support, and thanks to all my coaches and community members that helped me through the years.”

LAUREN GURNEY

“Thank you to my parents, Mr. Williams, and my coaches at Pierson.”

DAN MARTIN

“Thanks to Mr. Bunce, Coach Card, Mr. Miedema, Mrs. Colligan, my family, the Adipietro family, the Strauss family, and Mrs. Sharon Gibbs.”

KEITH TAPLIN

“A big thank you to Mrs. Weir.”

AMELIA REITER

“I want to thank Mrs. Sareyani for being the most compassionate, helpful teacher in the school.”

ABBY KOTULA

“Thank you, everyone for inspiring me to learn and achieve. I especially want to thank Mrs. Tuthill, Mr. Theinert, and Mr. Williams for pushing me to find my passions, and also Mr. Brennan, Mr. Miedema, and Mrs. Woods, for helping me through school and giving me the best years of my life.”

SENIORS SHARE: “WHAT I WISH I WOULD HAVE DONE IN HIGH SCHOOL...”

BY EMMA TEODORU

KAL LEWIS

“I wish I would have started running track earlier, doing more independent races and more specifically, I wish I ran the mile more than the two-mile.”

AMELIA CLARK

“I just wish that my class was as close when we started high school as we are now.”

HENRY BINDER

“I regret not taking part in the school walkout and allowing the opinion of others to overshadow my personal beliefs.”

NICHOLAS LABROZZI

“I wish I would have appreciated high school more. I wish I stopped complaining about it and realized how fun it actually was/is.”

LUCAS QUIGLEY DUNNING

“I wish I would have dunked in a game.”

LAUREN GURNEY

“I wish I started playing volleyball during my freshman year.”

WALTER RICHARDS

“Won a [basketball] championship.” Mitchell Rice: “[Figured out] how to be more open minded and friendly.”

JONAS KINSEY

“I did everything I wanted, absolutely no regrets.”

KEITH TAPLIN

“Squared up with a teacher at least once.”

DAN MARTIN

“I wish I would have played football.”

LUKE LOWELL-LISZANCKIE

“Had a normal senior year.”

EMMA GALLAGHER

“I wish I had more time to read and do art for fun because they are both things I love to do. I also wish I joined the Unity Club because I would have helped to show support and make a change for something I think is really important.”

ALBERTO MORALES

“I wish I was able to play soccer on Shelter Island.”

JENNIFER LUPO

“I wish I would have had my senior trip or a proper graduation.”

LYNG COYNE

“I wish I was able to experience a real homecoming with the whole homecoming king and queen.”

AUDREY WOOD

“I wish that I had been a part of the school play before this year and last year.”

ABIGAIL KOTULA

“I wish I was more outgoing and friendly when I was younger.”

LOOKING BACK: MY HIGH SCHOOL JOURNEY

BY HENRY BINDER

Waking up at 6:25 every morning, taking a shower, and getting ready was the neverending routine for me for the past four years, and I never really anticipated that would change. Walking through the lobby and seeing the same faces I had seen for thirteen years was something I expected and took for granted, but this is not an article about what has been lost in my high school experience, it is more about what I figured out and how.

I’m not sure what I expected high school to be like now that I think about it. I was one person amongst twenty-three in my class. I was not part of a clique, I was not a “loner,” I had no enemies, I had no hobbies, I was just Henry. Most kids go into high school with a vision of parties and picture-perfect experiences, but I never had that expectation. I’m not sure if it’s because I’m a realist, or I was naive. Either way, I had no idea what I was going into.

In ninth grade, I joined the baseball team because I assumed it couldn’t be that difficult, even though I hadn’t picked up a glove or bat in a few years. I was pretty good, or at least skilled enough to earn Most Valuable Player. That was the last year

I enjoyed baseball. I’ve never enjoyed the idea of organized sports. After that year, you could say I was pushed to play another season. The pressure of coaches and parents wore me down until I was on the team again even though it wasn’t in my best interest. I was also on the varsity golf team every year, beginning in seventh grade. I never was the greatest at golf, but my skills would measure up with most octogenarians. I liked golf, not for the competition per se, but because it was interesting to chat with the other teams. You could say I enjoyed golf. Just maybe.

In time, I think I found myself. Without the distraction of sports and extracurriculars, you have to think about what is left. Who am I? Fortunately for me, sports were never my thing, so I could rule out identifying myself through athletics. Year after year, I shaved away what didn’t make me happy, anything that was just excess. Going into high school I felt like I should “join” as much as I could, I learned along the way that was not the best route for me. I found that I enjoyed writing and that if I wanted to be successful, I would have to be motivated because

no one else would be pushing me along. I found my educational motivation and became a high honors student, unlike the student I had been previously. I became inspired by the rhythms of David Bowie and Bob Dylan, and I tried to be the most authentic version of myself I could be. One could accurately describe my music taste as “millennial dad.” With each of these new interests and discoveries, I further defined myself.

When I think of my high school career, it feels like two chapters. Each symbolizing a very different half of my being. One part shy, unmotivated and the other part, eager, curious, and optimistic. Had you sat in class with me every day, this transition wouldn’t have been necessarily apparent. The change might not have been dramatic to others, but I was evolving and that was enough for me.

From the end of sophomore year on, everything seemed to pass in the blink of an eye. Perhaps it was the mixed emotions of stress and drive, but I’m not entirely sure. What I do know is that the best moments were those spent in places I’ve never been to. The first major trip I went on was the National

Parks Trip. There were only a few of us in the group, maybe fourteen, and we went to Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks. It wasn’t your typical group, and possibly that’s why it was so incredible. I learned a lot from that trip. Not just my love for the outdoors, but my individuality as well, and how I could be content without excess. Going on the National Parks trip was easily the best choice I have made. I went to many other places during my time in high school, but the other standout trip was going to Strongpoint Theinert Ranch in New Mexico. On both trips, I learned that some of the best moments can be shared alone, over a meal, and in nature, it’s quite simple. I hope future high school students get to experience trips like these because they truly changed my perspective.

When they say junior year is the most important, there should also be a disclaimer saying, “good luck.” As a whole, I think junior year was most rewarding because I could gradually see my hard work pay off. I started my college search early, during my freshman



SENTIMENTS FOR THE SENIORS

BY EMMA GALLAGHER

Shelter Island School is very unique in that teachers get to see students from the time they start kindergarten to the time they graduate high school. It's safe to say we have special bonds here, and to honor that we asked our teachers to reflect on their favorite memories with our seniors over the years. We had many teachers reach out, with a lot of memories to share.

Mrs. Woods taught our seniors when they were only in first grade. Mrs. Woods remembers how sweet Jonas was in first grade, and that "his favorite book was somewhat "dark"... Monsters and Villains. He loved it so much that I had to hide it so he would choose different books to read." She applauded Maria Carbajal for how hard she worked when she was younger despite having to learn a second language, and acknowledges how she has persevered throughout high school. Mrs. Woods looked back on Kal's "awesome sense of humor." His favorite book (one that he did a book report on) was Everybody Poops." The next student she highlighted was Mitchell Rice. Mrs. Wood said, "Mitchell was very quiet and reserved. He was quite disorganized and you never knew what you were going to find in Mitchell's desk. It was like a scavenger hunt of things lost. But I could not be more proud of him now..." Mrs. Woods is also proud of how far Lucas QD has come. "When Lucas was in first grade, he had a habit of chewing on the sleeves and neck of his shirt. But look at him now... an awesome team mate and an all around good citizen." Finally, she added,

blames the broken intercom in his room for his confusion, yet the students all heard it. "Everyone in the room was laughing (with me and/or at me), and I still haven't lived it down." Yeah, that's right Mr. Bocca. You never will live it down.

Ms. Mayo recalls an embarrassing memory, "Kal and Walter tricked me into leaving the small SS room while we were reading Romeo and Juliet. Kal hid in the closet and grabbed my ankle under the door when I came back in. It scared me into SCREAMING and dropping to the floor." She had two more positive memories to add, one being sitting, talking, and laughing about life in the United States with Carlos and Beto every day during 9th period after they moved here from Mexico, and the second being getting to know Mitchell and Keith in Mrs. Sears' class.

Mrs. Mahoney began with "Home Depot," and explained how she despises shopping there. Her only exception is a memory with the NHS Executive Team (Emma, Dan, QD, and Kal). Speaking of an annual shopping trip for Habitat for Humanity, Mrs. Mahoney said "these four made me smile, laugh, and shake my head while we filled our cart. Once outside, the games continued with shopping cart races in the lot, followed by an IHOP bill exceeding \$100 -- must have been Emma's avocado toast?" (Yeah, it was probably not the multiple orders of home fries or dinners the boys each got.) More generally, Mrs. Mahoney said she will "miss labs and discussions in the classroom, cardboard campouts with jiffy pop, manhunt, and spooky walks, the talent on the court, XC course, and on stage, the National Parks trip where we played in the snow in July, and even the silly things the seniors did in elementary school like dance the macarena with Nurse Mary at the Back to School BBQs."

Ms. Colligan recalls many "fun, carefree, and wonderful days in AP Lit." Specifically, she remembers when the current seniors were reading The Crucible and Elizabeth Proctor "was having a rough time with her husband John, to say the least." Abby Kotula

mistakenly called Elizabeth a "sticky" wife instead of a "sickly" wife. The class laughed and laughed, and the more red in the face Abby got. She will also never forget the "motley crew" she had in tenth grade with Dan, Luke, Kal, and Walter with which she had more laughs and read more books than with any other class. Ms. Colligan lovingly added she will not forget having Henry as her TA senior year. She said, "Henry, I will miss your infectious smile and your presence as the great young man that you are!"

Mrs. Sears remembers "avocados and orange nubs" in English 10 with her and Ms. Mayo's class. Mrs. Farkas had two words to say to Amelia Clark, "hot sauce." Mr. Knipping recalls when Emma Gallagher was in 7th grade at her first state championship race in Canton, NY. "There were freezing temperatures and snow on the ground, and Emma's sneaker got stuck in the mud. She ran more

than half of the race with only one sneaker." Mrs. Cat Brigham remembers, "Luke requesting to listen to Irish sea shanties for second period art, all of the seniors who contributed their work to the Parrish Art Museum, and one of her favorite drawings of all time by Jonas."

Mrs. Treharne has many memories with the seniors. She will remember "Henry's favorite 'breakfast food,' a peeled cucumber he would bring in a gladware container and eat like a banana every morning, calling Emma 'Lindsey' way too many times and feeling awful about it, teasing Kal for always being late to class despite being the fastest kid on Long Island, and Jonas's kind 'hello' and 'goodbye' at the beginning and end of every class." She also looks fondly back on when she "convinced half her class that Holden Caulfield was 'not that annoying, while the other half wanted to beat him up,' feeling proud when the class went to see "A Raisin in the Sun" and responded maturely to its intensity, getting a 'lovely hello' every morning from JC when they washed their cup out in her sink, getting to know Carlos and Beto, 'two of the nicest guys around,' and finally, watching the seniors change from awkward 9th graders into (only sometimes) awkward seniors."

Ms. Corbett says, "I remember hosting a surprise 11th birthday for Mitch in October of 2013. His birthday is in July so having it 3 months late was my trick for guaranteeing he would be completely surprised...which he was!! Thanks to all his classmates keeping it quiet and showing up for a really fun time! They did a mummy wrap and played balloon games. It has been a joy to watch them grow. Love you seniors all so much!" (\*See pics in the senior collage of this party.)

Mr. Miedema and Mr. Brennan are the senior class advisors, so they have many memories with this class. In a project where students create their own DBQ about the Industrial Revolution, Lucas QD surprised the class, and the teachers when he came up to the front of the room and said his essay question requires analysis of "the positive and negatives of child labor." Mr. Miedema and Mr. Brennan said, "I'm not sure you can advocate for child labor." Miedema added, "So then the mocking started as students began to list the positives: Small hands, low pay, they can be scared into working faster." (Mr. Miedema was sure to clarify, "yes, we are aware that is wrong and by no means do we minimize the horrific actions of child labor, but," he just loves the idea that "this class can minimally roast each other and take it in good fun.")

Mr. Theinert also has several memories of the seniors. "After just purchasing a new shirt at a gift shop in Yellowstone National Park, Henry was aghast that he already lost the bag with his new purchase. I went jogging back to the store with him to see if we could find the misplaced item, and had no luck. We returned to the bus, and Henry realized he tucked it into an unchecked pocket on his backpack. He was embarrassed and refused to tell me what happened for 6 days. Eventually, I learned the truth and we had a good laugh." His second memory is of Audrey Wood, "We issued each student who participated in our Student Leadership Strongpoint last Memorial Day a journal that they could use to document their thoughts. Unbeknownst to most of us, Audrey collected wildflowers that were in bloom

and pressed them into her journal. At the end of the weekend she shared what she had been collecting and it was a beautiful and unique way to capture her time at The Ranch." Next, Mr. Theinert wanted to praise Maria Carbajal, "After a few conversations with Dr. Dunning and me, Student Council President Maria Carbajal turned her focus to the Reindeer Games and figured out new and exciting ways to re-energize the schoolwide event. It is amazing to see how much Maria's confidence and leadership has grown in the past four years." The final memory he wanted to commemorate was taking the seniors to D.C. last year, "specifically going to Arlington with the students, where Lyng, Maria, Abby, and QD had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier thanks to Mr. Brennan's planning. It brought tears to my eyes seeing our students in front of such a significant landmark for our nation. That whole trip, but certainly that day is a memory I will hold on to forever."

To conclude, Dr. Doelger said, "I have vivid memories teaching this graduating class as 5th graders seven years ago. These students have a very special place in my heart. They have a very kind and caring nature. I often think about the numerous



DR. DOELGER INSISTED ON INCLUDING THIS PHOTO OF KAL LEWIS AND MITCHELL RICE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.

service activities these students take part in. They do things that most seniors elsewhere would never do, and don't really care about being 'cool.' They care more about doing the right thing for each other and their group." Dr. Doelger added, "When I returned, they maintained the virtues they held as 5th graders, but also grew up to be remarkable and accomplished young men and women. I am certain this class will go on to do amazing things." And, of course, he remembers "clear as day, when Jen Lupo's 'My Little Pony' somehow flew across my Social Studies room."

As a senior, I speak for my class when I say we appreciate our teachers and everything they have done for us. We, too, will cherish the memories we have made in our wonderful school forever. Thank you for the great flashbacks into our time here at Shelter Island. We love our teachers!

LOOKING BACK: MY HIGH SCHOOL JOURNEY

BY HENRY BINDER - CONTINUED

and sophomore years when my sister was choosing a college herself. I quickly realized when it was my turn that I did not want to stay local. After roughly thirty college tours, I knew Milwaukee was my place, and Marquette was my college. I now doubt I would have gotten in had I not improved my academic standing in early high school. You may think thirty colleges is ludicrous, and you're not wrong. I used the chance to tour the country to decide where I

could fit in. I was looking for a change, and I felt like a city environment in the north could give me some perspective. Choosing a college was undoubtedly the most challenging decision of my life. I knew that location would certainly change the person I would become, and that my life could have a completely different trajectory depending on my college choice. Coming to terms with this was tough, but necessary.

Looking back, there isn't much that I would

change about my high school experience. I have stuck with a close group of friends for much of my life, and I would not have preferred anything else. I continued doing things that really excite me, and I discontinued doing things just because someone else wanted me to, or they were "resume fillers."

To be honest, I never thought I would be the person I am today. At the beginning of my high school career, I was unsure of who I would become,

and that's okay. One piece of advice I would give to everyone is to stick to who you are, even if you aren't entirely sure who that is quite yet. If you follow your own path and seek out the things that make you content, you will be the person you were always meant to be.



## CLASS OF 2020 ALL GROWN UP

BY JANE RICHARDS

**THE CLASS OF 2020 SURE HAS COME A LONG WAY, BABY!****SENIORS' CONFESSIONS**

BY ABBY KOTULA

Summer of 2020 means that most of this year's seniors have spent thirteen years together in the same building. As they graduate, it's been tradition for seniors to be able to get their confessions out in the open--with no punishment--for everyone to see... and laugh at. So here are some of the deep, dark secrets our seniors have been hiding:

**JONAS KINSEY**

"I got caught sneaking into the gym and Mrs. Anderson gave me detention, but I never went and she never checked with Mr. Gulluscio to see. I got out of jail free on that one."

**ABBY KOTULA**

"In 9th grade English, I got a 100% on an outside reading presentation without reading the book. I guess I was pretty convincing. Emma worked super hard on hers and got a 99%, which still bugs her today."

**LUKE L-L**

"There is a lot of footage that doesn't make it into an episode of SITV because it is too inappropriate. I have secretly gathered a large surplus of these clips without Mr. Conrardy's knowledge, including the original scene of Mr. Conrardy in the SITV opening."

**JEN LUPO**

"Reiter and I ditched Marine class a few times, but one time we went into another classroom and Mr. Gulluscio found us."

**KAL LEWIS**

"One time, halfway through the school day, I ditched to go get some food off island."

**CARLOS MORALES**

"I forged my parents' signatures a few times on permission slips for field trips."

**LUCAS QUIGLEY-DUNNING**

"I always sneak into the teachers' lounge and grab snacks and drinks."

**HENRY BINDER**

"I used to take tickets every time we left Mrs. Green's room in 2nd grade until I had hoarded so many I couldn't spend them or it would look suspicious."

**AMELIA CLARK**

"One time in middle school our sub didn't show up to class and I got so nervous I ran down the hallway and threw up in the trash."

**EMMA GALLAGHER**

"The computer final in 8th grade was the only test I ever cheated on. To be fair, I was absent for all the review, there was an unknowing sub, and all the review papers were spread across the table."



PROM... FROM HOME?

BY EMMA GALLAGHER, MYLA DOUGERTY, AND JANE RICHARDS

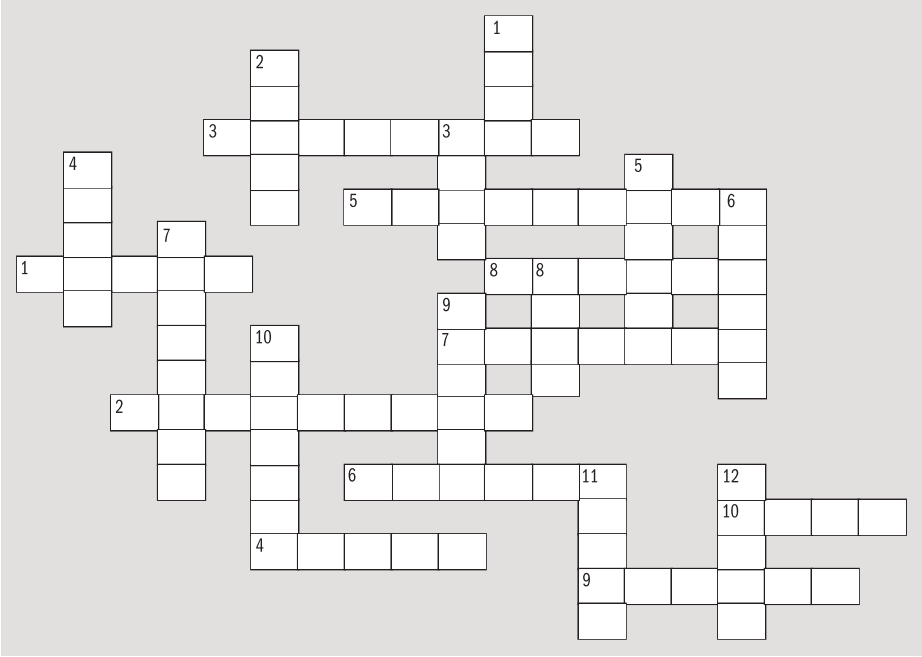
One of the things that makes prom so memorable is being able to dress up, put on jewelry, do makeup, hair, and nails. Although stay at home orders and school cancellations have left many high school students wondering if they will have a prom, there are students that purchased their outfits even before the outbreak of coronavirus. We figured that if students cannot go to prom, they might want to dress up and show off their outfits at home. So, we asked students to send us their pictures from home! The future of this year’s prom remains unknown, but we hope this provides at least a little fun for students right now.



SENIOR CROSSWORD

BY EMMA GALLAGHER AND ABBY KOTULA

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5



For this issue, we thought it would be fun to honor our senior class and their funny, embarrassing, and unique moments in a crossword. Guess each senior by the hint given!

HORIZONTAL

- 1. Was Student Council President
- 2. Cried when they brought a My Little Pony into school and Dr. Doelger threw it across the room
- 3. Threw Liza by the wrist
- 4. Cut him/herself with playdough scissors in preschool
- 5. Went to BOCES for a veterinary program
- 6. Did not know how to spell “bus” in third grade
- 7. Moved here in ninth grade and joined the cross country team
- 8. Spends their free time snow plowing
- 9. Loves cats and volleyball
- 10. Tried out for National Ninja League and got first in their wave

VERTICAL

- 1. Never ate a single lunch from the school cafeteria
- 2. Pulled the fire alarm in elementary school because they were told candy would come out of it
- 3. It was “never this senior’s day”
- 4. Stabbed themselves in the cheek with a pencil and had to go to the hospital in third grade
- 5. Drank out of a life straw for current events with Dr. Doelger
- 6. Raced Matt Strauss and beat him significantly in baseball
- 7. Performed the iconic “Buckle your Pants and Dance” song on the Schooner Trip
- 8. Called Elizabeth a “sticky wife” in The Crucible
- 9. Was rumored to be a deer and wore a Pierson jersey on picture day
- 10. Ate dog treats and ate a goldfish off the floor in the fourth grade bathroom
- 11. Was accidentally stabbed by two of their best friends with a scalpel
- 12. Wrote an entire essay criticizing Mr. Bocca’s fashion choices

JenniferC	Lucas	Lyng	Abby	Carlos	Maria
JenniferL	Jonas	Reiter	Walter	Lauren	Nicholas
Luke	Clark	Emma	Mitchell	Kenneth	
Audrey	Henry	Daniel	Alberto	Keith	



