

# Spartan Newsflash

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## The Pandemic Impact on Asian Americans

by Nadiyah Osman

Grade 8

This all started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Asian Americans are facing racial violence at a higher rate than ever. The NYPD reported hate crimes by Anti-Asian sentiment increased 1,900% in 2020, just in New York City.

Disease outbreaks have always been excuses to rationalize Xenophobia—prejudice against people from other countries—for centuries. HIV was blamed on Haitian Americans, the Influenza pandemic in 1918 was blamed on German Americans, and the Swine Flu in 2009 on Mexican Americans. The list is endless.

Now, like in the past, it isn't just Chinese Americans who are receiving hate. Racist aggressors don't distinguish between different ethnic subgroups, anyone who is even perceived to be Asian is a possible victim.

Former President Donald Trump using the terms "Chinese virus" and "kung flu" as well as former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's use of "wuhan virus" helped normalize anti Asian xenophobia, increasing public hysteria and racist attacks.

Some examples of the violence towards Asians are; an 84 year-old man being shoved to the ground while walking in San Francisco, and two days after the attack he passed. The 19 year-old attacker pleaded not guilty with murder and elder abuse. A 64 year-old grandmother was robbed from her car in broad daylight. A 61 year-old Filipino man was slashed across the face on

his way to work. A 91 year old man was thrown to the ground in Oakland Chinatown, where there have been over 20 violent attacks/robberies reported since January.

Joe Biden's Executive Order was a "direct aim at the racism Former President Donald Trump stoked toward Asian Americans." The memo urges federal agencies to ensure their documents aren't promoting racism, directs the Department of Health and Human Services to issue guidance about the federal government's COVID-19 response to make sure it's accessible and not discriminatory, and directs the department of justice to work on combating Anti-Asian harassment and collect data on it. Many advocates still want to see additional commitments including more data related to the pandemic that could help highlight the challenges many groups are facing.

Stop AAPI Hate is a reporting database responding to incidents of hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the US. They have received over 2,800 reports of Anti-Asian discrimination between March 19th and December 31st, 2020.

This is a big problem today and will not be resolved overnight. You can always make a change yourself by educating yourself and others on this important subject. You can also raise awareness and support small Asian businesses, many have faced burglaries, destruction, and loss of money due to the pandemic and racist motives. You can also report any incidents at [stopaapihate.org](https://stopaapihate.org).

### Student reporters featured in this edition:

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INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION: The truth about chocolate, baseball life, boredom busters, AVID, comics, Students for Change update, fun facts, word search, Q & A on Hometown Sweets, and more!



### Random Facts

by Isabel Tix

Grade 6

Bubble wrap was originally intended to be wallpaper.

# Perspective on Life and Baseball

by Noah Pierson  
Grade 6

I love baseball. There are a lot of different things that go into the sport. For starters there are a lot of rules in baseball, here are some of them:

- 1.) The fielding team can only have 9 players on the field at a time.
- 2.) There are 9 innings in a professional baseball game.
- 3.) If a batter gets hit by a pitch, it's an automatic free base to first base.

To me, baseball is the best sport ever! My favorite position is left field (in the outfield). The reason that is my favorite position is because I couldn't pay attention in the infield. Every once in a while I would pitch or play second base but that was it. Because I couldn't pay attention in the infield the Coaches put me in left field. Now I've played that as my main position for 3 years and it's been my favorite position ever since. I also like left field because I get a better view of the field. I love when a fly ball comes right at me and I snatch it up.

Starting last year for baseball, in the 11's, we were allowed to throw off speed pitches. Let me explain to you what off speed pitches are - an off speed pitch is something that moves or changes speed while in air. For example, a curveball is supposed to drop a lot. Another example is a slider, what it's supposed to do is well, you guessed it: it slides. If a right-handed pitcher throws, it will curve to the left. Same thing if it's a left-handed pitcher, but it will curve to the right instead. Sometimes you have to change the pitch for different batters.

The same thing happens in life: sometimes you have to change. Like when I had to change from in school to all online because of Coronavirus. It was a weird and difficult change. My Grandpa helped me through the start of the school year. He would learn with me how to submit an assignment. He would also stay with me for the zooms. It was a long hard journey, but I learned how to do all that by myself. It's similar to baseball - once I went in the outfield I had a different perspective. I had the same thing happen with school when I switched to online learning.

# Perspectiva sobre la vida y el béisbol

Por Noah Pierson  
Grado 6

Me encanta el béisbol. Hay muchas cosas en este deporte. Primero, el beisbol tiene muchas normas. Aquí, algunos tenía:

- 1.) El equipo de campo solo puede tener 9 jugadores en el campo a la vez.
- 2.) Hay 9 entradas en un juego de béisbol profesional.
- 3.) Si un bateador es golpeado por un lanzamiento, es una base libre automática a la primera base.

¡Para mí, el béisbol es el mejor deporte de todos deportes! Mi posición favorita es el campo izquierdo, porque cuando yo fui más joven, tenía problemas para prestar o prestar atención.

¡Para mí, el béisbol es el mejor deporte de la historia! Mi posición favorita es el campo izquierdo, que está en el outfield. También me gusta lanzar y jugar en segunda base. Sin embargo, me gusta más jugar en el outfield, porque tuve problemas para prestar atención cuando jugaba en el infield, así que, por mi seguridad, mis entrenadores me pusieron en el outfield. Durante los últimos tres años, he jugado en el campo izquierdo como mi posición principal. Por ahí, tengo una buena vista del campo y me encanta atrapar pelotas voladoras que se golpean a mi manera.

A partir de la temporada pasada, con el equipo de 11 años, pudimos lanzar lanzamientos fuera de velocidad. Un lanzamiento fuera de velocidad es un tono que es más lento que su tono primario, generalmente conocido como una pelota rápida. También hay lanzamientos conocidos como lanzamientos de rotura, como una pelota curva. Lanzamientos como esos más o cambiar de ubicación mientras están en el aire. Se supone que hay que soltar una pelota curva y un deslizador, sí, la adivinaste, se desliza.

A veces hay que cambiar el tono para diferentes bateadores. Lo mismo sucedió en la vida, como cuando tuvimos que cambiar para que la escuela hiciera todo en línea debido al Coronavirus. Este ha sido un cambio extraño y difícil. Mi abuelo me ha ayudado durante todo el año escolar. Ha ayudado con las tareas y la presentación de tareas y la estancia alrededor para las lecciones de Zoom. Ha sido un largo viaje, pero no soy capaz de hacer todo esto por mi cuenta.





# The Truth Behind Chocolate

by Robert Pruden  
Grade 7

Ah, chocolate. The perfect candy. That is, until you know where most chocolate companies get their cocoa from. Big companies such as Hershey's, Nestle, and Mars buy their cocoa from African cocoa farms that use illegal child labor. Some chocolate products made by child labor include Hershey bars, Reese's, Godiva chocolate, Mr. Goodbar, KitKat, M&M's, and Milky Way. That isn't even all of them.

These chocolate companies have been doing this for a long time. In 2001, Hershey's, Nestle, Mars, and five other chocolate companies signed the "Harkin-Engel protocol." This protocol was supposed to get these companies to stop using child labor.

Every few years, these companies had set goals on eliminating parts of child labor from their chocolate - not a single one has met those goals. The Harkin-Engel protocol was a non-binding protocol, meaning that failing to do as the protocol states has no punishment whatsoever.

Just because certain chocolate was the product of child labor doesn't mean that all chocolate is bad. Companies like Theo Chocolate and Alter Eco are 100% child labor free. One of the most notable companies is a small Dutch company called "Tony's Chocolonely." Not only is the chocolate good, but they pay their cocoa farmers 40% more money than usual to keep them from using illegal child labor.

Chocolate is a delicious treat, But next time you have one, think about where it came from.

For more information, please check out this [link](#).



Page Edited by Amoree Perez  
Grade 8

# Boredom Buster: Movie Night

by Ameera Lange  
Grade 7

Have you ever found yourself bored during covid? Well, I have a solution: watching movies is a great way to pass time! There are many different ways to make watching movies enjoyable, even the old ones! Family movie night is my favorite way to watch a movie. We all pick a movie, make a delicious snack, and sit back to relax and watch the movie. A movie I suggest for you and your family is "Clouds" on Disney+.

Netflix is a great way to enjoy a movie or binge a series. One of my favorite series is Heartland - it's about this girl named Amy who finds her way through horses. It's full of drama and is also full of sappy moments.

Going to the movies is a great way to get out of the house and enjoy time with your friends. I recommend going to go see "Raya and the Last Dragon" and "Tom and Jerry". If none of these options work, ask a friend or an adult for an oldie but goodie. Below is a list of other GREAT movies:

1. Guardians of the Galaxy
2. Star Wars
3. Harry Potter
4. Back to the Future
5. Clouds
6. Breakthrough
7. Black Beauty
8. Mary Poppins
9. Mary Poppins Returns
10. The Goonies (1985)
11. Wonder Woman
12. Wonder Woman 1984
13. Hidden Figures
14. Men in Black
15. Rocky (IV is my favorite)
16. Ghost (1990)
17. Big (1988)



Page Edited by Amoree Perez  
Grade 8



# My Baseball Journey

by Nate Barclay

Grade 6

I have always loved the game of baseball. America's pastime is the most fascinating sport of all! This winter, I decided to try out for Minnesota's Elite Baseball program, the Minnesota Blizzard. At first, baseball had been rough not practicing for such a long period of time due to Coronavirus. The first time I went into the cages this winter, I could tell I just wasn't myself. Tryouts took place in a place a third of the size of the metrodome but modeled just like it. I tried my hardest, but it is hard when you haven't been working and practicing for months on end. I felt like a rusty nail. It was very hard barely knowing anyone that was there with me. But I made it work out.

Just over a month later, we got the news of the teams. I made the 12U spring team, and the team that would be going to Phoenix, Arizona in a few weeks. This was some of the best news I've gotten since we knew a COVID-19 vaccination was finished. Almost immediately after, practices began. After a few Blizzard practices, I was ready to play. I made some new friends, and we all were going to have a great spring season. Weeks later, we got news that we would have our first outside practice of the spring season. Just yesterday, sure enough, we had the outside practice. It was chilly and very windy outside, but we got it in. We played a little scrimmage against teams, and I played outfield a few innings, then I got to get on the mound. I was talking to an instructor when he said I would be pitching in the innings to come. I warmed up in the

bullpen, fixed my curveball, then I was ready to pitch. I jogged out to the mound and threw my warmup pitches, then it was time to play ball.

*Here we go.* I said in my mind. I went into the windup and the pitch. *Whoosh.* "Strike!" Said coach Barta behind me. It was a fastball right down Broadway. I got the ball back, and into the windup, and the pitch.

"Strike two!" Exclaimed Barta.

I began to feel my adrenaline rapidly rising. I got the ball back and looked for the sign. It was the index finger on the right thigh. *Outside fastball.* I reminded myself.

I went into the windup, and the pitch. I hit my spot perfectly, and not a moment past when Barta motioned his fists and yelled,

"Strike three!"

I fixed my cap, and got ready for the next at-bat. I stepped on the mound, got the sign, the windup, and the pitch. From the moment I released that ball, I knew it was a beauty. It got a swing and miss, just like the next two fastballs did.

"Strike three!" Barta said more calmly this time.

"If I could give you a piece of advice, throw 'em three breaking balls here. He won't see 'em coming." I nodded my head and said, "Ok." I got the sign. It was an index finger waving. I shook it off, and got the middle and index fingers wiggling, nodded, and the windup, and the pitch. The ball seemed to move lots as it curved out and into the mitt, but I could tell it wasn't where I wanted it to be. Just high.

"Ball." Barta said lightly. I got the ball back, and gripped it hard. I got the curveball sign. The windup, and the

pitch. It was just low as it went into the mitt.

"Ball two." Barta said quietly. "2 and 0 is the count." He reminded. I got the ball back, and shook myself, forgetting that I was behind in the count with two balls. I seemed to reset the count to 0-0 and forget that it was now a hitters count. I got the sign from the catcher. The windup, and the pitch.

The ball seemed to float out of my hand, and soar into the air and bend into the strike zone with ease.

"Strike one!" Barta said enthusiastically. As soon as I got the ball back, I knew I was in the endgame now. I got the index finger from the catcher, and nodded my head. As I pitched the ball, I heard the quiet "Sss" of the ball as it glided straight into the mitt.

"Strike two!" Barta yelled louder. As the ball landed in my mitt, I said to myself, *One more. Just one more.* I got the sign from my catcher, the double finger wombo combo special. I closed my eyes, and took a deep breath. I gripped the ball tight, and started the windup with a little grin on my face, hidden by the mask I was wearing. The ball met the bat not a moment later, as time seemed to stop as the ball flew straight up into the air. Just a moment later, Alex, the third baseman called it and caught the ball. I had pitched a perfect inning. After Barta gathered us for the usual Blizzard on 3, I got my new jersey and walked to the car. I talked to my coach Farmer, and he said, "Take care of your body!" "I will!" I replied.

So in just a few days, I will be on my way to Arizona. Hope it goes well!

## Students For Change

by Tommy Lounsberry

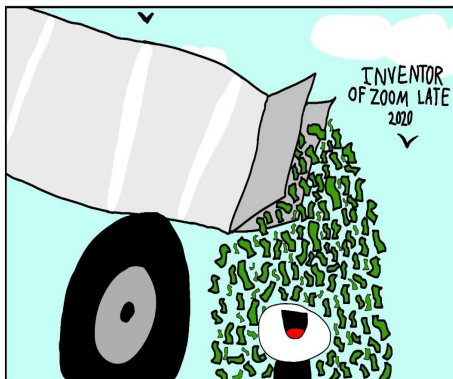
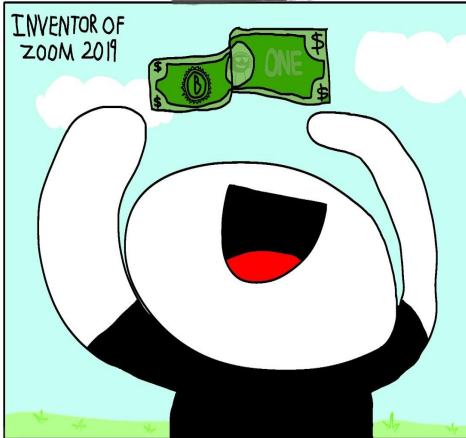
Grade 6

Students For Change is a group of students at IGHMS that are in grades 6-8. We meet every other week on Wednesdays. The group talks about stuff that is going on in and around the school community. We have a big project that we're working on: It is a student concern form. This will be in the attendance folder in schoology once it is published. Students can go to it and fill the form out with any concerns they may have. Only teachers will see it. We also work on projects each month that go with a theme for that month. If you are interested in more information you can email Mr. Chappius:

[chappiusm@isd199.org](mailto:chappiusm@isd199.org).

# Comic Bits

by Robert Pruden  
Grade 7



## Random Facts

by Isabel Tix  
Grade 6

A cornflake in the shape of Illinois sold on eBay for \$1,350.

# Q & A: Hometown Sweets

by Sevanah Davidson and Isabel Tix  
Grade 6

Have you been to Hometown Sweets? According to this employee (Ellie Johnson) and from personal experiences, it is a great place to go. If you want to learn more about Hometown Sweets then read the information below:

Q: Did employees get the opportunity to transfer to Hometown Sweets?

A: 2 people came from Peterson's, the previous business that was in the same building. The bosses were interested in them because of Peterson's being similar to Hometown Sweets.

Q: What is the most popular item?

A: The most popular item is the Superman ice cream. Both kids and adults love this one!

Q: What is the theme inside of Hometown Sweets?

A: The theme is along the lines of a 50s candy shop, where we play rock and roll music. We also have chairs that make it look like a classic candy store.

Q: What does Hometown Sweets sell?

A: Hometown Sweets has a variety of sweets for sale. We have 16 flavors of ice cream in the case at all times, tubs of self serve candy, many types of chocolates, and we are going to be selling 20 different flavors of popcorn including a Spartan Mix.

Q: What is the centerpiece or the spotlight of the shop?

A: The thing that draws the most attention to kids is the lollipop tower, and the colorful sweets sign on the front of the ice cream stand.

Q: What are the uniforms or clothes you wear while working at Hometown Sweet?

A: We wear our own jeans and a provided blue, green or purple shirt and hometown sweets mask.

Q: Do you sell any Spartans themed items?

A: We sell Inver Grove Heights Spartans and South Saint Paul Packers merchandise.

Q: How is Hometown Sweets different from Peterson's?

A: Hometown sweets has more variety than Peterson's did. We still sell ice cream and popcorn but there is now chocolates, nuts, stuffed animals, gummy candy, and much more that you will have to stop by to check out.

# AVID and College Choices

by Barthina Khalil and Erika Anacleto

Grade 7

We have learned many things so far this year in AVID. One of the recent units taught us about college preparation and how to choose what college is right for you. Students learned about the different types of education and schooling after high school. We learned about the different types of colleges, college vocabulary words, and what jobs you can qualify for with your specific degree.

The different types of colleges are: technical school, community college, liberal arts college, and university. Choosing a college depends on what feels right for you. Technical colleges specialize in specific career readiness and lasts for two months to two years. If you're interested in a job that's really hands on, this college would be a great choice for you! A community college is for two years and after graduating, you can transfer to a four year college/university. A Liberal Arts college is where students study a wide variety of different subjects, including, humanities literature, philosophy, and the social sciences. A University offers higher education and is a school that offers a four year degree program. After graduating in four years, you can move on to graduate school to get a higher degree to qualify for a higher occupation like a lawyer or doctor.

Private college is funded by organizations other than the government. Usually the tuition is higher and the college can be religious, but you don't have to be religious to attend that college. Private college is usually more expensive, but they offer more scholarships. On the other hand, public college might be a great choice for you! A public college is funded by the state administration and is cheaper but can have less opportunities for scholarships.

## Comic Bits

by Zoe Diaz  
Grade 8



The SAT tests (Scholastic Assessment Test), can determine whether you are eligible to work and study out of the state, whether colleges will accept your application, and what kind of scholarships they can offer you. It assesses math, English, reading, science reasoning, and an optional essay. Some colleges or universities require the SAT test score, which are ranked from 400-1600. The ACT, or the "American College Testing" is a test that assesses math, English, reading, science reasoning, and an optional writing essay as well. The score is ranked from 1-36.

Our AVID class establish good background knowledge about college to get prepared in the future. We learned about the different types of colleges, SAT and ACT tests, and college vocabulary words. Hopefully after reading this article, you'll have a better idea of what kind of college you may want to go to in the future if you choose to continue your education after high school.



# Word Search: Famous Pop Singers

by Erika Anacleto

Grade 7

JUSTIN BIEBER  
DRAKE  
MILEY CYRUS  
USHER  
JENNIFER LOPEZ  
TAYLOR SWIFT  
SELENA GOMEZ  
SHAKIRA  
KATY PERRY  
BEYONCE  
BRITNEY SPEARS  
ADAM LEVINE  
LADY GAGA  
NICKI MINAJ  
ADELE  
BRUNO MARS  
DEMI LOVATO  
RIHANNA

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U	B	S	L	E	A	A	B	I	R	M	M	Y	P	T	T	B	Y	J	Z	P	N	U	F	C	R	A	Y	T	B	
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J	Q	S	L	L	M	A	I	S	X	K	E	O	M	M	M	E	Q	L	T	R	Y	C	C	G	L	R	F	B	R	
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N	V	N	U	N	U	J	A	E	C	N	C	U	U	I	T	R	T	A	Y	L	O	R	S	W	I	F	T	D	L	
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Y	Q	A	N	O	D	P	K	O	E	L	D	Z	X	K	H	R	O	K	M	I	S	W	Q	N	T	P	P	K	K	

## Random Facts

by Isabel Tix  
Grade 6

The Goodyear blimp  
is the official bird of  
Redondo Beach,  
California

Comic Bits  
by Kendra Williamson  
Grade 6

