

An Inauguration Celebration

By NAOMI GAGE and
WALDEN SULLIVAN

Despite the many attempts to stop it, the inauguration of Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took place on January 20, 2021. This event was one of many historical landmarks, because it marked the beginning of a new era. Not only do we now have an experienced President in the White House, but we also have the first female and POC Vice Presi-



US President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris with their spouses.

dent in American history.

So, what is the inauguration? The inauguration is a ceremony that shows a peaceful transition of power from one president to another. Many former presidents and vice presidents showed up as well. At the inauguration, the new President and VP of the United States is sworn into office. They have to recite "The Oath of Office" which is a promise to uphold their new found duties.

After the Oath of Office, Biden

A Poet Inspires a Nation

By EMME FIELDS-KREMER and
ADINA FRID-MADDEN



Amanda Gorman reciting her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration.

Born in Santa Monica, raised by a single mother, Amanda Gorman was a curious child from the beginning. Her exceptional talent for literature, as well as her determination, got her to be the first-ever National

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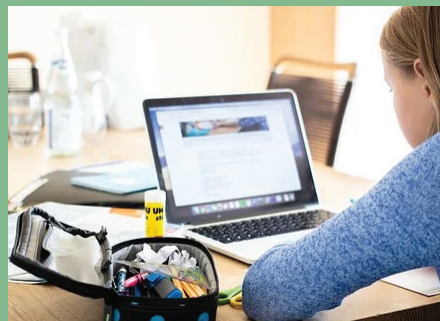
Socially Distanced Learning School Year

In the midst of this confusing pandemic, all that anybody can seem to think about is how to get out. And now it seems that life may actually be getting closer and closer to slowly returning to normal, or at least something resembling it. But how?

By MADELINE BRAUN

JAMS students may finally get their wish and be able to at least partly return to school sometime in the near future. The school district is proposing a few alternatives to distance learning, with an aim to do the seemingly impossible and keep all JAMS students both happy and physically healthy.

Our school district is beginning to think about abandoning distance learning for another kind of socially distanced school setting this year. There are three alternatives to distance learning being offered. All of them seem to revolve around maintaining some amount of physical distance while simultaneously giving students and teachers an opportunity to see each other and interact in the flesh. The first two opportunities, Traditional Hybrid and Hybrid Enhanced with Technology, both involve students partially returning to in-real-life school and partially learning from home.



The other option is Distance Learning Plus, which is exactly what it sounds like: regular distance learning, but with "extras" such as in-person activities happening as well.

When asked how they felt about distance learning, many students expressed that they felt annoyed or exasperated with having to learn via their computers. "I really wish that we could go back to normal and I kind of hate Zoom school, I can tell that none of the kids are learning," said one student. They then went on to express that they felt that nobody seemed to really care about the subjects that were being taught

when they were receiving the lessons via computer. It's very easy for a student to lose motivation to keep learning when all their work is automatic and nothing is hands-on. Any joy that came from being able to interact with a project is completely gone now that everything is typed and can be turned in by pushing a button. But other students begged to differ. "DO NOT bring us back to real school until the pandemic is under control, students will die, and they will put other students at risk. Many middle schoolers just will not wear a mask or social distance, and those kids put everyone else at risk," an anonymous contributor stated passionately. After all, what use is being entertained when the cost is someone's life? It's far more important to stay home and stay safe then to return to school to satisfy some sort of emotional ache and put everyone at risk.

When asked which alternative they preferred, 57% of students said they would like one of the hybrid models best, and 43% said they would either prefer to remain as we are now or continue as we are right now with the addition of in-person activities. The fact that only a bare majority of students chose hybrid is a bit surprising considering that it's the closest option to in-real-life school. And it really does

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A POLITICAL PROGRESSION

An Opinion By NAOMI GAGE

Let's go through some recent history. After the election in 2016, we have been subject to some of the most controversial governing in American history.

This is not an opinion. This is a fact. Misinformation has been spread on a public platform- misinformation that has resulted in lives lost.

An unprecedented attack occurred on the sacred grounds of Capitol Hill- an attack in which one woman lost her life, and three others died from "medical emergencies", and a Capitol Hill officer who died from his injuries. We are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic- and the government's mishandling of it has resulted in some of the highest COVID-19 numbers in the world.

There has never been a figure in political history who was so passionately dedicated to destroying the projects for organised human life on earth."

Political activist Noam Chosky had this to say: "There has never been a figure in political history who was so passionately dedicated to destroying the projects for organised human life on earth in the near future," he said. "That is not an exaggeration."

An anonymous eighth-grader had this to say: "I stayed up all night to watch the election... not that it did any good, because the election lasted a week! But when I found out that Biden won, I was so excited. It's ridiculous that they're trying to overturn the results- he won, fair and square."

This brings us to the next topic of conversation: how the GOP was trying to overturn the results of the election. Here are the facts: there is, as of right now, no evidence to support their claims of voter fraud.

While their efforts to overturn the election did not succeed, this raises many concerns in our political thinkers: namely, that the GOP is turning away from a fair, free, democracy and into something very different.

Geoffrey Kabaservice, the director of political studies at the libertarian Niskanen

Center, said that: "Once the Republican Party got into this idea that voter suppression was the way to go.... and Democrats would ruin the country if they hold power—then anything would be permitted, including antidemocratic means."

In other words, many Republicans sincerely believe that Democrats would "ruin" the country if they got a hold of power, and thus are willing to betray the ideals of American democracy in order to preserve the ideals of America. A paradox? Yes, but one that many political leaders have used before: to commit wrong for the sake of good.

The road to hell, as it is said, is paved with good intentions.

The Republican Party, "without acknowledging or realizing it, has become an antidemocratic force," Kabaservice finished, and it is something we all should be afraid of- not that they are evil or even, necessarily, bad- but that they believe they are doing the right thing, which is altogether infinitely more dangerous. We cannot compromise on American democracy.

On January 6th, 2021, after posting their intentions and pictures of weapons they intended to bring, hundreds of MAGA supporters committed a violent assault on Capitol Hill. Members of the Senate, who were in the midst of deciding the election, had to be evacuated. At one point, several of these individuals erected gallows- a wooden structure with a rope meant to hang someone to death - near the Capitol building. The former president had this to say beforehand: "Be there, be wild." Five people lost their lives.

This is a clear and violent attack on our democracy. This was not a "peaceful protest", and these people were not protesters, they were domestic terrorists. If we are to continue to uphold the principles of democracy, we must hold these people accountable- not just these terrorists, but the lawmakers and the politicians who supported this movement.

However- there is hope. Although the election took days to call, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won the election, with 306 electoral votes to the former president's 232. For the first time in American history, we have a female Vice President- not only that, but a woman of color. Let's meet her.

Kamala Harris was born here in California. She grew up with a sister and a mother who had stimulated advancements in breast cancer research. She was influenced strongly by her grandfather, a retired Indian civil servant who strongly supported democracy and women's rights. She graduated law school in 1989.

From there, she was hired as a district attorney, and worked her way up, eventually running for Attorney General of California in 2010. In 2017, Kamala ran for Senator, and won, representing California along with Dianne Feinstein (who had been representing since 1992).

This is Kamala Harris, our new Vice President- highly competent, efficient, effective. Add that to our new President, Joe

We are all of us Americans, and it is time to set aside our differences, our feuds, and most importantly, to set aside the MAGA hats.

America can, and will, be great again.

Biden- a man who the country has known as the Vice President to beloved former President Obama - and we have one thing: hope. Hope, and a path to the future.

Some things we can look forward to in the Biden administration include: a more effective plan for pandemic-control, an end to the Saudi Arabia-Yemen war (which has raged for six years), more vaccines for the public, and a recovering economy.

According to the students of John Adams, 98.5% are happy/relieved with the new administration. Lilly Resnick, an eighth-grader, said: "I'm just really relieved, you know? Like, [Trump] just added so much stress, and made us think about things that we shouldn't have to think about. Having Biden and Harris as our leaders is really relieving."

In the end, the facts are simple: The GOP lost the election. Our new president is Joe Biden, our new Vice President is Kamala Harris.

In these divisive times, we need unity more than ever. We are all of us Americans, and it is time to set aside our differences, our feuds, and most importantly, to set aside the MAGA hats.

The Notorious RBG

The life and accomplishments of Supreme Court Justice and gender equalist, Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By EMME FIELDS-KREMER

The Man, The Myth, The Legend. The WOMAN, The Myth, The Legend; that's more like it. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg left behind a legacy for people across the United States, leaving her mark especially on the hearts of young women. She fought for Women's Rights tirelessly her entire life. Of course, many men tried to knock her down with unspeakable remarks such as, "You're a woman, no one will pay attention to you. Go home, take care of your kids, and cook them a meal". But all her life, Ruth never gave up, still fighting for gender equality until she died on September 18, 2020, at 87 years old. "I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability."

On March 15th, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York, a healthy baby girl, Joan Ruth Bader, was born. When Ginsburg was 17 years old, the day of high school graduation, her mother died from cancer. Her mother never gave up on her, so after her death, Ruth knew she couldn't give up on herself. After high school, she applied to Cornell University and was accepted, and eventually met her future husband there. At Cornell in the '50s, there were very few women, the population of students mostly men; but Martin D. Ginsburg stood out from the crowd. In an interview, RBG said that Martin was like no man she ever met. He cared that she existed, cared that she was a woman, and understood what injustices women are facing. When they graduated Cornell in 1954, they got married, and had their first child, Jane Ginsburg, on July 21st, 1955.

Ruth enrolled at Harvard Law School in 1956, just a year after her husband. She was only one of nine women in her class, with 552 men. The hardships of going to Harvard she and other women were discriminated against by awful men only because they were female. On top of all this, she had a toddler at home with

a babysitter every day, and came home at night, working until 5 AM, while her husband took care of their child, reminded Ruth to eat her dinner, and supported her all the way through.

During RBG's second year of law school in 1957, she found out her husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer, making her life more stressful than it already was. Every day then, she had to take care of her daughter, her husband, tackle her work from law school, arrange to get work and notes from friends, then give them to Martin, so he could study and do his work from home. Ruth at most got two hours of sleep a day and slept all weekend. This sleep and work schedule eventually became a habit that lasted her whole life. Eventually, when everyone least expected it, Marty beat cancer and graduated Harvard Law right on time, later getting a job offer in New York City. The family moved to New York, and Ruth graduated from Columbia University, completing her last year of law school. She was one of the top students in her class but did not get one job offer, while all the men did. After a while of firms rejecting her job application, she got the help of one of her law professors, getting a job as a clerk to a federal judge. Later, in 1963, Ruth got a job as a law professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, but got paid less than the men. She soon found out she was pregnant with a second child, and gave birth to James Steven Ginsburg on September 8th, 1965.

It eventually became Ruth's life work to fight the injustices of being a woman as state and federal laws throughout the country discriminated on the basis of gender. In the late '60s, she first began dealing with sex discrimination, while some students asked her to teach them a course in Women and the Law. Now that Ruth had the power of being a lawyer, she had the opportunity to fight for equal rights in court. She first started at her school to help female professors file a lawsuit, and won. Then Ruth went on to co-found the Women's Rights Project at the American

Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and signed as a volunteer lawyer. While teaching, she began to defend clients in court.

In 1973, Ruth had her first case to argue at the US Supreme Court, her client: Sharron Frontiero, an officer of the US Air Force. Male officers in the Air Force received benefits for their wives; though Sharron was a woman, she did not receive those benefits for her husband. Ruth made her argument that women are just as important as men, and stated: "It is time for the law to catch up to society". She convinced the court and won the case. While Ruth was known for fighting for the rights of women, some of her cases involved the rights of men--men who stayed home to take care of their children. Everyone assumed all caretakers were female, made laws that only applied to them, and gave only the male sex certain rights. In 1975, Ruth argued her case for stay-at-home dad, Stephen Wiesenfeld, and won the case unanimously. Over 10 years, she won five out of the six cases she argued before the Supreme Court and wrote the briefs for many other cases.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter made Ruth Bader Ginsburg a federal judge on a circuit court in Washington, DC. She worked as a judge for the next thirteen years, while later, in 1993, finding out that President Bill Clinton nominated Ruth to become an Associate Justice on the US Supreme Court. The Senate still had the final say in this matter and confirmed her nomination, with a vote of 96-3 in her favor. On August 10, 1993, RBG officially became the second woman to be a United States Supreme Court Justice. With a heavy daily workload, Ruth had four clerks and two secretaries to help out. She toiled at her desk all day with a jam-packed schedule, until her husband convinced her every night to return home. When she wasn't at work, or if it was the weekend, Ruth loved to visit the opera (she even appeared in one) and go on vacations.

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ROLLING TO THE FUTURE

Whether one is scrolling through social media or taking a walk on the beach, they'll find themselves struggling to ignore the surge in new rollerskaters.

It all started the beginning of an exceptionally bad year, at the beginning of an exceptionally bad month: March. People found themselves with nothing to do except stare at the paint chipping on their walls or give themselves anxiety by researching the coronavirus on the Internet. We all had to think back to what we had at our houses that could keep us active. That's when people started pulling out their old rollerskates.

One hundred thousand views, one million views, five million views to 14 million views. TikToks, Instagram posts, and YouTube videos blew up. Why? Because watching Ana Cotto gracefully slid from side to side on her sparkling roller skates on a sunny afternoon was what we craved. We had been quarantined for so long that someone smiling outside was incredible, rare. Because for us walking and running was the only thing we could think to do which was no fun when the most exciting thing you would see was your old neighbor taking out his trash. Of course, your feet ached because all you've done in the past month is plop yourself on the couch and watch Netflix. No, this was new, this was exciting, this was aesthetically pleasing! This is why rollerskates quickly sold out around the world. Even

A young man on roller skates that are pedaled, 1910



A roll through the rise and history of roller skates.

By ADINA FRID-MADDEN

the hashtag #rollerskating itself has more than 3.5 billion views on TikTok. But the uproar has caused a struggle for people to get their hands on rollerskates. "It took months to get my rollerskates. I didn't mind that much- I can be patient, but the problem was that most major companies

"I love roller skating for many reasons. It is great exercise without thinking you are exercising. When I am skating I feel a huge sense of freedom and don't have a care in the world. It is also relaxing, and just a lot of fun! I would encourage everyone to try it at least once. It might not be easy the first time. It requires a lot of balance and core strength, but after a few tries, you will walk away loving it!"

sold out of rollerskates within minutes every time I went to look. I just wasn't fast enough! Luckily though, I was able to get a hold of a pair!" This JAMS student isn't the only one grappling with the infinite demand for skates. Skate companies around the world are constantly having to restock their inventory.

Although, social media isn't the only thing attracting people to start

roller skating. The connection between African-Americans and skating has also brought black people to start skating to connect with their roots. In an article in The New York Times, Jim Farber wrote: "The connection between African-Americans and adult skate nights is deeply linked to the country's wrenching history of segregation." He also stated that during segregation, rinks kept black and white skaters apart, which led to the formation of distinct black skate culture.

Ironically, a lot of white women are not only using the moves that were created and are part of black skate culture, but also, they are also getting credit for them. Thankfully, many of these influencers have made sure to point out that these moves were created in black culture.

Skating is fun, healthy, and also historically a very accepting community. Today, rinks are safe havens for people who are part of the LGBTQ+ community as well as inclusive to all races, religions, cultures, and nationalities. The skate community prides itself on its inclusivity and welcoming community. As Ana Coto so perfectly said it, "I'm so glad more people are getting interested in rollerskating, I think all the more skaters the better. Even if this bubble pops, we're not stopping, skating is not going anywhere."

Roller-skating was invented in 1735 by John Joseph Merlin



How to Lessen Your Depression

By WALDEN SULLIVAN

“Depression is a complex condition, involving many systems of the body,” according to a definition provided by the respected magazine, *Psychology Today*. While depression can be so serious that it ends up requiring hospitalization and/or medication, it can also be helped in a number of other ways. It is particularly important for teenagers to stay aware of their feelings and mental health, especially during times of crisis, such as the current pandemic.

Depression can sometimes feel like it came out of nowhere and for no reason, but in other scenarios, it can be triggered by social life, body dysmorphia, bullying, and many other challenges. And even though depression can be a problem for anyone, depression has recently spiked with teenagers because they have been feeling isolated from friends and “the real world” over quarantine. Many studies have shown that quarantine and distance learning have severely impacted children/teenagers’ moods, anxiety, and depression. There are also many second-hand problems that depression causes.

Here are a few signs/symptoms of teenage depression: Sometimes if a teenager (or adult) is feeling depressed, they take it out on themselves. When someone feels like life is pointless and nothing matters, sometimes they feel alive from cutting or burning themselves. The BBC says, “Adolescents who said they had hurt themselves on purpose rose from 12% to 14%”. This data shows



that over the pandemic, self-harm with teenagers has increased from a few years prior. Other issues such as eating disorders, getting into drugs, alcohol, and nicotine can also occur.

Young people have recently been turning to more destructive behaviors due to the lack of social interaction between teenagers. Kids used to be able to go out with a friend, host a party, or even just say hi to someone walking in the hall. But due to the pandemic, most of this is im-

possible. The *New York Times* says, “Research shows that adolescents depend on their friendships to maintain a sense of self-worth and that nearly one-third reported feeling unhappy or depressed in recent months”. This statistic is explaining that in 2020, more school students have been feeling depressed and despondent than ever before.

The good news is that “Depression, even the most severe cases, is a highly treatable disorder” (*Psychology Today*) and there are a lot of ways to

keep your mental health in check and improve your mood on your own. One of the best things to do when feeling depressed is to go outside. We have all been cooped up for the past 10 months, and we need to connect with the outside world (see Tessa Levine’s article on page 10 to see local outdoor spaces that you can go to). Even just taking a walk around your block can drastically improve your mood. If you can’t go outside, try meditation. There are plenty of free apps and websites that you can use to relax and readjust your mindset. These are just a few of the many things that you can do to alleviate your depression. Some apps that I like to use are “HeadSpace” and “Calm”

The most important thing you can do when feeling depressed is not to judge yourself and to reach out for help.

TALK TO SOMEONE

You can always talk to your grade-level counselor (Ms. Cowgill, Ms. Asiaban, or Ms. Check). There are also many other resources such as Teen Line 800-852-8336 and the National Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255.



2021, A New Start

Will 2021 Make Up for the Disappointment of 2020?

By **HOLDEN KOPMAN**

2020 was hoped to be a great new decade, but there was much more tragedy than anyone expected. There were a variety of dramatic events including a global pandemic, wildfires across the state, and the tragic death of George Floyd which started many BLM protests. 2021 may offer us a fresh start and stop the craziness around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage on with no clear answers in sight.

Moving into 2020, there was a feeling of normalcy in the air as everyone counted down to what they thought would be a 'Happy New Year'. With the start of a new year, everyone hopes and prays that 2021 will not bring as much tragedy as 2020. COVID may not be ending anytime soon but Americans must try their best to stay safe and healthy to help keep the numbers down. Now that masks have become our "new normal", it will definitely be strange once they are not needed anymore, no matter how long it takes.

Americans hope that Biden makes decisions that benefit this country, and he may help Americans find stability again. He claims that he will provide for schools, small businesses, and families to make it through this crisis and dramatically improve healthcare. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will hopefully fight to revive the spirit of most Americans. Before Biden, many believed that Trump was making decisions that were not in the best interest of the country. All in all, the state of California celebrated Biden's victory and look ahead with the possibility of a brighter future.

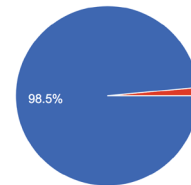
With 2020 being a disappointment of a year, it motivates Americans that 2021 can offer the people some answers and positive changes. COVID-19 is one of the worst pandemics to hit this world in a very long time and 2021 has to be the year to change that. In a survey with over 200 responses from JAMS students, it is shown that the majority of them believe they can not determine the future ahead. It is also shown that the popular vote for preferred education in the future is physical school, which proves kids are missing their lives before COVID. If people keep hoping for the



Forty-sixth US President, Joe Biden Photo: Google Images

Are you happy with the election results?

264 responses



- Yes, I'm happy with the election results.
- No, I'm not happy with the election results.

best, they may be able to continue to lower the cases throughout 2021 and once again find normalcy. Though 2020 was not a very joyful year, there can still be redemption in 2021.

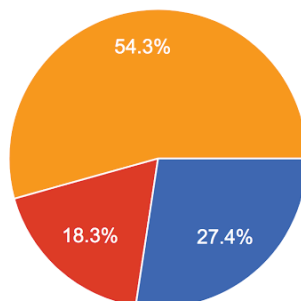
Last year has brought much tragedy to this world and especially this country. However, as history has demonstrated, pandemics have a cycle and eventually the population will develop immunity and the virus will disappear.

It may not be guaranteed that 2021 will be an improvement to 2020 but many have high expectations that it will. Everybody must hope for the best and look at the positive side of day to day life to get past this dark chapter in history. Most Americans are hoping that our future president will provide proper resources and support for a wounded country so that it can thrive once again. Most importantly, people need to learn from this traumatic experience to ensure that history does not repeat itself. Stay safe, stay healthy, and most importantly have a very Happy New Year!

JAMS STUDENTS SURVEY

Do your parents/friends/community influence you on your political ideas?

208 responses



- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

One More Leap?

Let's look back on the history of space travel and see into our future in the stars.

By ISAAC BOURDEAU

The space race is a direct result of the Cold War between the US and USSR also known as the Soviet Union. Both superpowers were looking to one up each other technologically, militarily, and economically. The space race itself began in 1957 when the USSR launched Sputnik 1 into space the first artificial satellite. America freaked out at this achievement because they knew that if the Soviets had space supremacy they could rule the world. So president Dwight D. Eisenhower founded the National Aeronautics and Space Administration but you probably know them as NASA.

NASA went quickly to work and launched Explorer 1 in 1958, becoming America's first satellite. But the Soviet Union one-upped them by sending the first human into space. Yuri Gagarin was a Soviet cosmonaut and a person whom many consider won the space race for the Soviets. Everyone at the time believed that the path was clear. The Soviet Union seemed to be the dominant superpower not only on Earth but in space as well. The US would have to do something extraordinary to top sending a human into space. So that's exactly what they did.

On September 12th, 1962, President John F. Kennedy announced in a speech in Texas that they were not going just to space, they were going to the moon. "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." Kennedy is mad. The space race is a direct

people thought. At the time sending a human into space was a challenge. Landing one on the moon would be impossible. But Kennedy and the US were determined on landing a human on the moon by the end of the 60's.

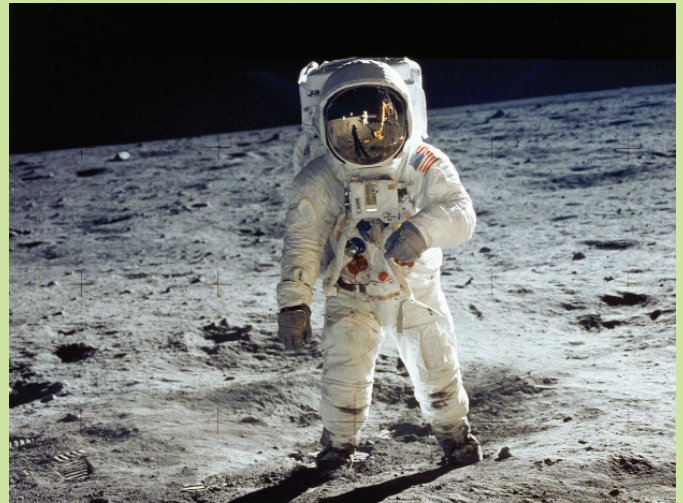
And so the work began on the ever impossible landing on the moon. The process itself took a team of engineers, scientists, astronauts, and years of planning, designing, and working out how exactly to land on the moon safely, and efficiently. It was a race against time as NASA only had



John F Kennedy's moon speech in Texas inspired many to reach for the stars.

around 7 to 8 years to pull this off. In 1969 after other successful rehearsal missions it was finally time. Astronauts Neal Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins boarded the enormous 363 foot tall Saturn V Rocket. And on July 16th at 6:32 AM ET the behemoth launched off from Kennedy Space Center toward the moon.

Armstrong and Aldrin now stand on the lunar surface as an ecstatic crowd cheers them on from Earth. Michael Collins result of the Cold War be-



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin was one of the first humans to step on the moon.


is in the main Apollo spaceship up in orbit around the moon. He will wait for the astronauts to return from the moon. The two astronauts below begin a 3 hour long campaign walking around the moon, collecting samples, and setting up scientific instruments. They also set up the famous flag that symbolizes the triumph of landing on the moon.

But as soon as they had gone out to the moon, Armstrong and Aldrin have to climb back into the lunar module. One rest period later, the two ascent to the command module and make their way home. The Apollo missions tell us that humanity can do anything when we put our minds to it. After Apollo 11 six more missions were sent to land on the moon (only 5 were successful due to the Apollo 13 accident.) NASA and the USSR were planning way more ambitious missions. Long standing moon bases, space tourism, and a manned mission to Mars were all proposed to happen by the end of the 20th century. So what happened? Why aren't there colonies on Mars, or easy space travel?

The simple answer is: space travel is expensive. It

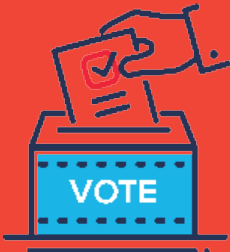
wasn't a walk in the park technologically, and economically. The Apollo program cost 152 billion dollars in today's money. The Apollo missions were also heavily politically driven. The Apollo missions were during the height of the cold war, and near the end of them tensions were starting to ease. So NASA's budget was cut multiple times. Apollo 18, 19, and 20 were cancelled and with it NASA's dreams of a moon and Mars base were crushed. So where does that leave us? Will we ever go past Earth and go to the moon, Mars, and beyond? Or are we going to be stuck forever on our little moist mudball? Well don't lose hope just yet, because there have been some incredible things that have happened in the last decade. Back in May 2019 the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 NASA announced the Artemis program. Named after twin sister of Apollo, and the Greek goddess of the moon, the Artemis program will be a continuation of the Apollo program, and beyond. Its mission is to create a permanent base on the moon, and use that as a waypoint for a manned mission to Mars. The first missions to the moon will use a space station platform

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Compared to the rest of the world, the United States of America has always stood out. From the empirical system to incompetent leaders, the electoral college is another thing that we can add to the very long list that we don't do like the rest of the world. The electoral college, we've heard it before, especially during election night and it somehow seemed to correlate to the magic number: 270. Media outlets never does seem to stop talking about it, but what does that number mean and what does it have to do with the electoral college?


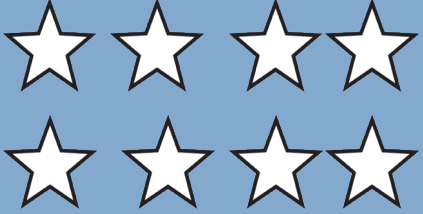
In the 17th century the Founding Fathers decided to create a different way to elect a president. They didn't want the outcome of the election to only be determined by states with high populations. So, they



THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, EXPLAINED

By ADINA FRID-MADDEN

created the electoral college. The electoral college revolves around electoral votes. Electoral votes are given to every state based on how many representatives they have as well as two votes for each senator in congress - making everyone think that votes are given based on population. But they aren't. Here's the problem, one electoral vote equals one representative, but that one representative can represent a different amount of people, making certain votes more important than others. For example, in Wyoming, one representative (one electoral vote) represents approximately 198,00 people while a vote in California or Texas accounts for over 700,000 people. If all 538 electoral votes were distributed evenly among the U.S. population, each vote would represent

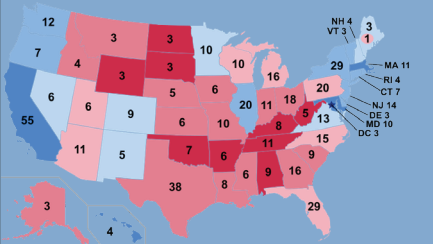



about 607,000 people. This is why the electoral college system tends to have an unfair advantage to smaller states with lower populations which is what can cause a candidate to lose the popular vote but still become president, just like the elections in 2016.

The reason why the number 270 is so important is because a presidential candidate needs to gain 270 out of 538 electoral votes to win the presidency.

States will vote on who they want as president and depending on who wins, all of the state's electoral votes will go to that candidate.

Being a very controversial topic, the electoral college's future is unclear, either way here it is, explained.




Need A Tutor?



Attention Students,

This is a crazy time for everyone, but most of all students. It's hard to keep up with schoolwork in a virtual environment, and it's easier to become distracted and confused. We know how hard it can be, because so many students are going through the same thing. But if you're having trouble with school, or just want some creative time to learn a new skill or connect with interesting people, CAT is here for you.

What is CAT?

Connect Apart Together (aka "CAT") is a student-led virtual outreach program that provides both academic and creative/non-academic tutoring and support. The goal of the CAT Program is to connect high school student volunteers from different LA high schools with students in the greater LA community to provide mentorship, entertainment, and company.

How to sign up:

If you are interested in signing up for a tutoring match, let us know. We will quickly find a talented CAT volunteer for you. Once a match is made, the volunteer will reach out to you to discuss a plan for meeting with you through an online platform such as Zoom, Google Meet, Skype, or Facetime (your choice)!

If you have any questions about CAT, feel free to email JAMSnews@smmk12.org

Online Classes

From a Student's Perspective

By KATHERINE BARBA

"I miss going back to school because I was able to see my friends, now I'm stuck at home by myself for most of the day" said Asha Hudson. John Adams Middle School students and staff have been doing online teaching and learning from home since March 13, 2020. Students thought that they would be out of school for only two days, but that quickly changed. Time passed by, eighth graders are now in high school and fifth graders are just starting their first year of sixth grade at JAMS online.

Asha Hudson is starting seventh grade at JAMS online. She says "In my opinion, going to school in person is much better than doing online school because it's much easier to pay attention to my classes because my little sister does online school too and I live on a busy street so it's always noisy." Online school has multiple pros and cons. For example, a few pros are that others start school a bit later than we did last year, so that gives us a few extra minutes of sleep, in between classes we now have five-minute breaks that allows us to take the time to stretch, go to the bathroom and get a quick snack. Those are just a few pros to distance learning, and there are a few cons as well - when the Internet goes out, when something isn't working correctly on the devices that are used for school, or when siblings are being very annoying.

"I think that doing online school is both fun but stressful, I like staying home with my warm pajamas on while I'm doing my schoolwork but sometimes I'll get distracted since I'm home with a TV and my phone" said Asha. Since everyone is stuck at

home doing school work, it's common to easily get distracted by electronics when we're supposed to be doing work. But last year when students were doing in person school, it wasn't as easy to get distracted since phones were not allowed to be used during lessons. "Sometimes while I'm in the middle of a Zoom, I'll get a text message or notification from my phone that quickly lures my attention into using social media and I completely get distracted from class" said Gabriela Paniagua. Apart from getting distracted from school work, what gets you motivated to even finish it? Some people might have strict parents who won't let them do anything until their kids are completely done with homework, or maybe others are just more intrinsically motivated.

Ever since the pandemic started, many kids have been through hard times and struggled by the fact that they're all stuck

at home, alone and can't go out worrying that they might get sick. Adding school on top of that for students is making it a little more difficult for them to deal with. So, what motivates students to get up, and join their online classes? "Something that motivates me to join my Zooms and complete my assignments is that every morning I wake up early to make myself some breakfast and think about what I want to be when I grow up. A job that I've been wanting for as long as I can remember is to be a teacher, and if I want to become one, I need to study hard, get good grades and of course finish school successfully." said Asha.

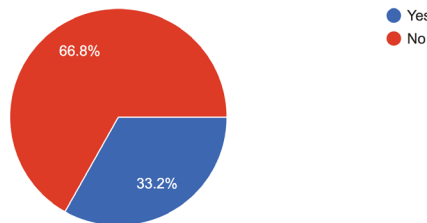
Some students may enjoy getting up in the morning to join their online classes but others don't as much, and that's reasonable. Conducting school

online is a bit harder than doing it in person since we all just entered a new grade but this is the only way we are able to receive our education and all students should be grateful for it.

Either way, whether it takes a few more months or less for kids to go back to school, we're all in this together.

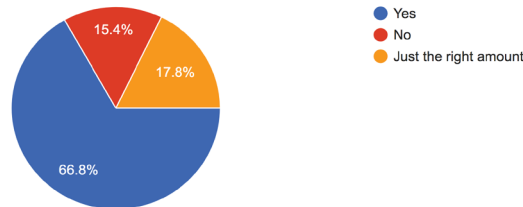
Should students be required to turn on their cameras during Zoom meetings?

208 responses



Do you think you spend too much time on screen?

208 responses



Amanda Gorman

Continued from page 1

Youth Poet Laureate in 2017. She was later asked to recite a poem at Joseph Biden's and Kamala Harris's inauguration. Even with her outstanding talent and passion for the art of poetry, Gorman struggled to write a poem that would unite the nation and bring hope to those who are lost. She was

about halfway through her poem when January 6 struck, rioters stormed the capital with confederate flags and hate symbols. That is when Gorman understood the importance of her poem.

It wasn't to unite the government or to unite politicians, it was meant to unite America, we, the people. No matter the differences or disagreements, the poem was

meant to break through the hatred and prejudice, to unite people that were broken. Her poem explains that America can not undo what has been done, but we can do our best to preserve what we have left. Use peace to keep our country alive and prosperous. While hard times bring out the dark, the light will always shine through. Gorman finished writing her poem that same day, inspired and moti-

vated by the events our country faced on the tragic date.

On January 20, Amanda Gorman stood in front of the mask worn crowd with pride, as she powerfully and beautifully ended her poem, reciting the words:

***For there is always light.
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.***

WORST VALENTINE'S DAY STORIES...

By NAOMI GAGE

"Being single every Valentine's day since I was born :("

You might know Valentine's Day as that happy holiday in February in which candy is distributed, couples are lovey-dovey, and there's pink, pink, and more pink.

"I don't like Valentine's Day," a seventh grader shared unabashedly, saying: "It just always felt like a way for the couples to rub it in all the single people's faces that they were happy and dating someone." In other words, for the singles (which, given that this is a middle school, constitute most of the population) get the short end of the stick during Valentine's Day.

"The candy isn't even that good."

Eighth-grader Holly Childs shared.

"Those Brach's candy hearts are pretty nasty." The candy she is referring to is known as Brach's Conversation Hearts, and is generally considered a staple of the American Valentine's Day.

While most of the JAMS population feels pretty neutral about the pink-themed holiday, (51% answered that they "didn't really care about Valentine's"), some people have shared their worst Valentine's day horror stories!

"My crush ended up being my best friend's secret admirer..."

"Once I pretended to have a crush on a boy to impress this cute girl I was crushing hard on, but it went haywire..."

"I threw up right before school and had to go home and then was sick for the rest of the week."

"So for a couple of weeks, me and this boy were hanging out and he used to nap on my shoulder. Valentine's Day was coming up and I gave him a gift. He shoved me away and I hit my shoulder."

"One time this one guy took my pride flag."

"Was sitting alone in class, didn't even get the gifts that were supposed to be given to the whole class, and when I told my crush that I liked her she just said nothing."



"I was crushing on this girl so hard and I gave her candy and asked her out but she was straight :("

"In 6th grade I found out that my now ex-boyfriend hated Valentine's Day."

"Probably when a guy started hitting on me and making me uncomfortable even though I was clearly not interested."

Quarantine Couples

How couples in quarantine are keeping the sparks alive.

By JIMMY CORONA

Dating, it feels like a big deal in middle school, it seems like when kids become 6th, 7th or 8th graders they have to start dating. But of course, all relationships come to an end, even the good ones, and in this case, middle school “relationships” end extremely fast. A kid could blink one minute and two kids are dating then blink another minute and they’ve broken up. Average middle school couples last two months. A lot of kids are dating right now in 6th grade saying “they’ll be together forever”, but don’t realize that they’re 11, fresh out of 5th grade, and have been dating for two days. Middle schoolers usually have a hard time staying together until high school because of maturity and changing preferences.

Unfortunately, there aren’t a lot of courtships occurring in middle schools due to COVID, which is a big roadblock for young love. Fortunately, some students have found ways to communicate. Thanks to technology it’s made

it possible for quarantine couples to keep the sparks alive while keeping their distance. Several apps and websites make communication from far away easy. Instagram, Snapchat, and iMessage are some of the most used apps in the US. These apps are split into two categories, text-based apps, and face time apps. For example, Facetime is only for video chatting, there is no texting feature - they’d call someone and see their face. Couples can’t only hear their partner’s voice but see their face too. The other side of communication is texting. Over the years texting



has become people’s primary way to converse to each other. With an app like iMessage users are able to write to whomever, whenever, and wherever they want. Two people could be miles away from each other and still be able to text each other. Instead of looking at each other’s faces, people would write a letter and send it to a person. This is also a great tool for long-distance relationships because, with Facetime, it takes a lot of phone power to run and if they don’t have a great connection sometimes it won’t even work. That’s why texting is a great alternative, but there are some

apps that can even do both. Enter Instagram and Snapchat, two of the biggest social media platforms on Earth. Taking iMessage, FaceTime, even Facebook and putting them all into one. These apps allow someone to interact with people all over the globe, looking at peoples’ posts, stories, there’s even online shopping, With Instagram and Snapchat, couples can text and FaceTime, and it’s been helping many couples keep in touch. Fifty percent of the kids that answered a survey about dating said they haven’t even seen their partner at all during quarantine, they’ve been using social media to communicate this entire time.

Even though dating has become nearly impossible due to COVID, couples have managed to stay strong through these times. Even if these relationships don’t last, they will prove that with good communication and dedication, anything is possible.

The Great Outdoors

By TESSA LEVINE

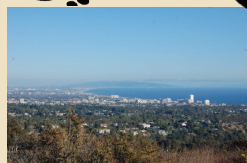
“Real freedom lies in wilderness not in civilization”. - Charles Lindbergh
This quote can mean different things depending on who reads it. Though the pandemic has made its potential meaning

a bit clearer, it means you can find more freedom in the wilderness than you can amongst civilization. Being isolated during quarantine is a different experience for everyone. It may be easier for some and

more difficult for others but going outside is always important not only for our physical health but also for our mental health. Finding places to go with friends outdoors may seem easy and it is true

it used to be, but now finding somewhere to go while social distancing can be difficult, so here are some beautiful hikes and parks to go to if you need a brief escape from everything that’s going on in the world.

Mountain High hike in Wrightwood.



Will Rogers park/ hike in Santa Monica.

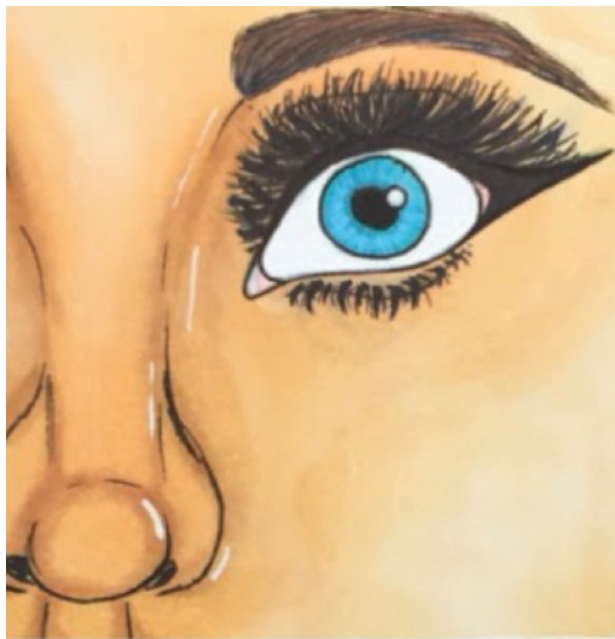


The “Temescal Canyon loop”



CROSSCURRENTS LITERARY MAGAZINE: EXPLORING THE IMAGINATION

CrossCurrents is a literary and art magazine. It contains many of the JAMS students' best art and writing pieces. CrossCurrents is a place for students to have their poems, stories, essays, memoirs, photos and drawings published so they can be shared with the entire JAMS community. Everyone creates something they are proud of to share it with others. Mr. Saling has been publishing CrossCurrents since 2007 and said that "CrossCurrents gives students a chance to share their writing, drawings and photos with a wider audience." -Aislin Gutierrez



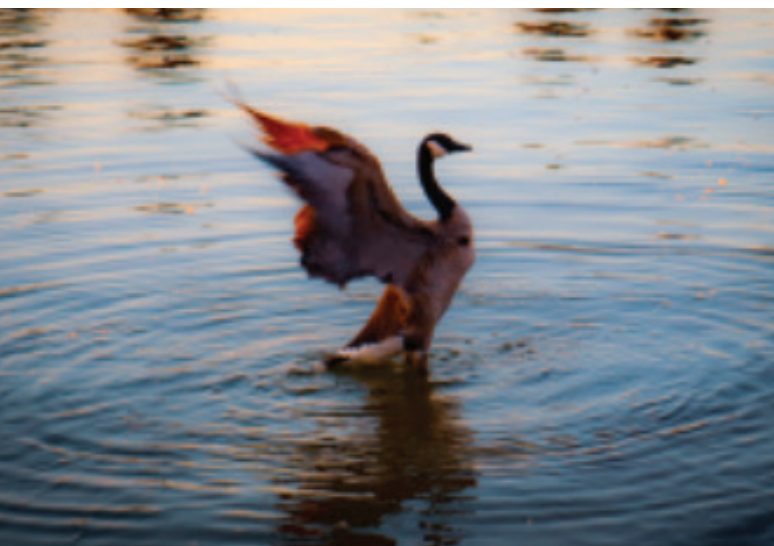
Gabriella Carrillo



Isaac Feinberg

Ode to My Sketchbook by Eric Lima

*As I open the cover,
Revealed are the numerous pages filled with drawings of all shape and size, Colored art sits next to still black and white pieces,
Doodles, full-pieces, rough drafts, even just abstract lines adorn the pages, A sense of disorganization is given off,
But upon later inspection, it is an organized clutter,
Each drawing has a meaning, a purpose,
Each one created with a certain feeling at a certain time,
A simple, meaningless line may have been created due to anger, sadness, or even something else, No, this isn't just a sketchbook, but an illustrated journal,
Even though on paper, drawings jump out of the page like a crowd of people trying to catch your attention, with each one trying to overpower another,
However, when the artists' thoughts are organized, magic occurs,
An entire page filled with one concentrated drawing,
Details cover every square inch; no line was not considered,
Matching a trees' branches, the sketchbook goes many directions,
Yet, they all are still firmly planted in the artist's vision,
And even when the pages run out, the imagination never will.*



Isaac Feinberg

DISCORD VS. ZOOM

By KINKADE SPENCER

There was a time when going to school meant meeting with friends on the school yard during lunch and learning new things in classrooms in person. All of this has changed though due to the global COVID-19 shutdown. This dilemma has not stopped school districts though, with the recently popular Zoom app, teachers are now able to teach students in the comfort of their own home but many are wondering if Zoom is the best tool for on-line learning.

Zoom is an online website that allows users to connect with other users virtually in sort of a Brady Bunch way by using cameras.

Since March 2020, Zoom



But some people believe that there are better alternatives to Zoom. When asked if there was a better alternative for Zoom 43.8% of students said yes. One of these is the popular app amongst gamers called Discord. Discord started out as a social platform for gamers who wanted to connect with other gamers who shared the same interests. They were able to accomplish this by creating servers for certain subjects/topics that other people also might want to talk about (ie. video games, movies, study groups).

Discord also features many of the features that Zoom offers like a camera mode and the option to share screens. Because of its accessibility and use for every subject, many students are wondering if Discord is a better platform than Zoom. When asked which they prefer 38.3% of students said Discord and 36.7% of students said Zoom and 25% of students said neither. Max Bernstein thinks that Discord was a better alternative than Zoom and said, "It improves communication between teacher and student, and it's easy and simple to use."

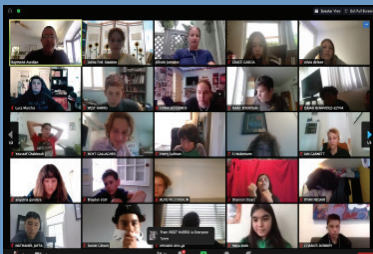
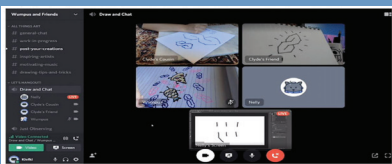
Many of the settings are described in Layman's terms and are not very complicated. Glitches rarely happen and calls are set up whenever a user wants to, not scheduled, no links, just easy as a few clicks. One can create invites to voice channels, which are a way to instantly join a call and is a link. Users can have large amounts of control over students in servers,

such as muting, deafening, taking away certain abilities (such as share screen, etc.).

Discord feels just easy and familiar and it's intuitive. I use it for my personal life, but it's actually really good for a variety of different things. One can use it for large events, small events, events among friends, simple calls, communicating to large amounts of people, communicating to small amounts of people, communicating to a person, etc. It doesn't take up as much bandwidth as Zoom, and it's easier on your computer. In the end, I just really love it.

"Discord is a group-chatting platform originally built for gamers, but which has since become a general use platform for all sorts of communities" (Business Insider)

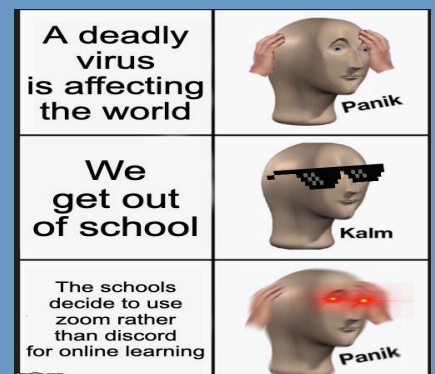
In the end everyone has their own personal opinion on the subject but the data clearly shows that students would prefer learning by using Discord instead of using Zoom. That's alright though because online learning won't be forever and soon we won't have to worry about which learning platform we think would be better because we'll all be together, in person.



has drastically increased in popularity because many institutions needed a communication platform that allowed multiple users to participate.

This caused many school districts to rely on Zoom in order to teach students without having to teach in person, in the classroom.

"Zoom was seeing 200 million daily meeting participants." (Business of Apps)



By imgflip.com

The Affects Music Has on Your Mood

How does music affect your mood and how can it be used?

By MEYER BRUNO

Music is a worldwide phenomenon, billions of people listen to music around the world and each person has their own experience with it.

People listen to music anywhere and anytime, which makes it a common way people express their emotions. Music has many uses, one of which is therapy. Music therapy was invented in the 1800s and is a great tool to relieve stress. A study showed that after reviewing 25 trials, researchers concluded that music is a valid therapy to potentially reduce depression, anxiety, as well as to improve mood, self-esteem, and quality of life. Reaschers also noted that no negative side effects were reported in any of the trials, making music a zero-risk treatment.

The effect of music on your mood has been studied by thousands, even Harvard said, "Music is a fundamental attribute of the human species." A survey that JAMS students took showed that 64% of a survey taken by 141 people

believes that music helps them focus.

According to healthline.com "A 2015 review in The Lancet found that people who listened to music before, during, or after surgery experienced less pain and anxiety, compared to patients who did not listen to music. The music listeners didn't even need as much pain medication. To conduct the study, researchers looked at data from 73 different trials, involving more than 7,000 patients."

An article from Aimm.edu sums up the idea that music affects your mood, "The Journal of Positive Psychology, conducted a study in 2013 that discovered, individuals who listened to music that could be classified as happy and upbeat were able to improve their mood and overall happiness in just a few weeks."

Everyone has their own experiences and relationships with music one thing everyone has in common is that it can evoke feelings. A good way to cope with strong emotions is to listen to music.

Students' Happy Songs

The JAMS Journal staff share songs that make them happy.

"American Boy" by Glee Cast	(Emme Fields-Kremer)
"Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen	(Holden Kopman)
"Don't Stop Believing" by Journey	(Naomi Gage)
"Dancing in the Moonlight" by Toploader	(Adina Frid-Madden)
"Share Your Address" by Ben Platt	(Walden Sullivan)
"Lose Yourself" by Eminem	(Calvin Brodtkin)
"Bloody Stream" by Koda	(Jack Nash)
"Dadbod" by Logic	(Jimmy Corona)
"Love Song" by Kaash Paige	(Kate Barba)
"Ghost Adventure Spirit Orb" by Chloe Moriond	(Maddie Braun)
"Tamale" by Tyler, the creator	(Meyer Bruno)
"Kompliziert" by Namika	(Tessa Levine)
"For the Longest Time" by Billy Joel	(Kinkade Spencer)
"Notion" by The Rare Occasions	(Leul Belay)



JAMS Teachers' Happy Songs

(Click on the titles below to hear the songs that make your teachers happy.)

"Sound of Sunshine" by Michael Franti
(Ms. Ransom)

"ily (I Love You Baby)" by Surf Mesa
(Ms. Chacon)

"Happy" by Pharrell
(Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Gabor)

"I'll Take You There" by The Staples Singers
(Ms. Milwe)

"Mad About You" by Belinda Carlisle
(Mr. Miranda)

"Dynamite" by BTS
(Ms. Cowgill)

"Grazing in the Grass" by Hugh Masekela
(Ms. Mathews)

"Candy Rain" by Soul 4 Real
(Ms. Kapasi)

"Here Comes My Girl" by Tom Petty
(Ms. Jung)

"This Must Be the Place" by The Talking Heads
(Mr. Saling)

"Blinding Lights" by The Weekend
(Ms. Joyce)

"Low" by FloRida
(Ms. Warren)

Any songs from Hamilton
(Ms. Hale)

"Beautiful People" by Ed Sheeran
(Mr. Bertone)

"Black Water" by The Doobie Brothers
(Ms. Levin)

"Love Shack" by B52s
(Mr. Reynolds)

"Perfect Day" by Lou Reed
(Ms. MacLearn)

"Everybody Loves The Sunshine" by Roy Ayers
(Ms. Burga)

"Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley
(Ms. Vargas)

"Hey Ya" by OutKast
(Ms. Check)

"I Gotta Feeling" by Black Eyed Peas
(Ms. Watts)

"Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher" by Jackie Wilson
(Ms. Posner)

"Calaverita" by La Santa Cecilia
(Ms. Buccioni)

"Hard Times" by Paramore
(Ms. Clarke)

"Waste" by Foster the People
(Ms. Stolz)

Travel Destinations During COVID

By JACK NASH

After 11 months of rarely leaving the house because of the current pandemic, we need a vacation.

With the pandemic causing people to confine to their homes, the need to get away from it all and go on vacation has never been more apparent, and with spring break coming up, the time to relax is now. But what are different country's COVID situations? What are their border customs? And is it safer to travel domestically, or internationally?

While places like Australia and New Zealand are closed to travelers outside of those countries there are lots of alternatives if you want to travel domestically. Mexico has no travel restrictions

and allows commercial flights, and has its borders open. Canada also has open borders but requires a 14-day quarantine. While Canada's COVID situation is better than Mexico's, they both are better situated for COVID than the United States.

If you were to travel internationally, there would be more restrictions on where people can and cannot travel. In Europe, Denmark, Finland, and Hungary would be out of the question because of their permanently closed borders. Other European countries are open but require quarantine for everyone.

Most of South America and the Caribbean have no travel restrictions, with Costa Rica, Brazil, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba included. Most South American countries have few COVID cases with the exception of Brazil.

Almost all of Asia and the Middle East have closed borders. The only exceptions are South Korea and Iran which both require a 14-day quarantine. Both countries have very low COVID rates.

Because of Africa's extremely low COVID rates, most of Africa is open for travel. Cape Verde, Egypt, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Chad are all open for travel if tested negative for the virus.

The only country without travel restrictions in the south pacific is French Polynesia. It requires a 14-day quarantine. The country also has a very low infection rate.

There are many places to travel to despite the pandemic. From the Caribbean to Canada, as long as people social distance, one can enjoy spring break like you're supposed to, by having fun.

VIDEO GAMES IN 2021: EFFECTS ON STUDENTS DURING DISTANCE LEARNING

By LEUL BELAY

All over the U.S, there's one thing that most kids and teens enjoy the most these days: video games.

Considering the Xbox Series X and the PS5 have just come out in stores and are the next high tech console around the world, with 4K support, today we are going to reveal if gaming affects people during distance learning and if it really does affect the mind and body for most students at school.

According to sciencedaily.com, since 2017 video games are becoming more common and are increasingly enjoyed by adults and kids. But since then, the average age of gamers has been decreasing. It was to be estimated around the age of 35 in 2016, but now the estimated average of gamers' ages are somewhere between 12-18, or possibly above in 2020. It also shows that video games can be linked with anxiety, depression, obesity, sleeping disorders, and stress. People who remain physically inactive for long periods



because of gaming may also be at higher risk of obesity, sleep disorders, and other health-related issues, according to the WHO.

The Xbox Series X/S and PS5 run up to 4K support, which really affects your vision. The maximum averages the human eye can see is up to 8K, or 8,000 pixels, which is more than enough, and the standards that the human eye looks at is around 1,080 (1080p) or 1,400 pixels (1440p). Both consoles were really made for the next generation.

From a recent JAMS student survey, "Video Games during distance learning", 64.6% of the students at JAMS said

they have been playing video games in the range of either 1-4 years, while 12.5% of the students either said they have been playing video games for 1-12 months, and 24% of the students said they don't play video games. Thirty-two percent of the students said they play for 2-4 hours and 20% of students said they play for 40 minutes to 1 hour a day, while some play for 20-30 minutes or just don't play video games at all. Over 40% of the students at JAMS said that video games have not affected their experience of distance learning and their grades in general haven't dropped, and it hasn't affected their lifestyle or schoolwork, while over 22% of the students said it has. Overall, the results were very shocking, considering video games are a really big distraction when it comes to school.

In conclusion, the majority of students at JAMS are not affected significantly because of video games during distance learning. However, some students find it difficult to do well in distance learning due to the distractions of video games.

The Cost of Becoming an Influencer

Less than 2% of YouTube videos get 1000 views.

Everybody wants to be a famous influencer. People get to do whatever they want and make tons of money. It's no surprise that there are over 37 million content creators on YouTube, but not everyone can become famous. Becoming a content creator could mean that one just films themselves playing a game every few days, and it looks easy, but most of the time becoming famous takes a toll on your life, and isn't as easy as you think.

"It was so much easier to connect with my fans when I was smaller. I could answer every message, and I enjoyed that," said PewDiePie.

There are over 37 million YouTube channels, but less than 0.2% of them even get a thousand subscribers. Under 0.06% of channels have one hundred-thousand subscribers, and 0.006% of channels have one million subscribers. With over

By **CALVIN BRODKIN**

7 billion people in the world, that means that if every single person made a YouTube channel, 420,000 of them would hit 1 million subscribers. That sounds like a lot, but billions of the people on Earth do not have the access or capability to make a channel. There are 2,400 channels with 1 million subscribers, and it took an average of 3.6 years for each of them to reach 1 million subscribers. If everyone in America made a YouTube channel, 0.0008% of them would hit a million subscribers.

The YouTube algorithm requires a YouTuber to upload 10 minute videos at least once every week to get recommended to random users. Because of this pressure it means that there are very few types of videos that can be successful, for example animators are unable to upload every week because it takes time to make the anima-

tions. Video game YouTubers became successful because they could film themselves doing something that takes an hour, then just edit it down to 10 minutes and upload daily if they wanted. But because so many people are trying to use video games as a means to become YouTube famous, the chances go down drastically, because if a million people are trying to do one thing a very small amount of them will actually make it. The odds of making it are so low it means that if someone would like to succeed they need to make their content better than others, they need to spend lots of time, energy, and effort to make their content the best, and that takes a toll on people.

In conclusion, being a YouTuber may be the dream of many people, but it is much harder than they think, when so many people try to become creators only the elite can actually succeed.

One More Leap: See Our Future in the Stars

Continued from page 7

named Gateway to store supplies and landing equipment. This is to ease wait for the trip there sense the first Apollo missions had to luge a big lander to the moon.

NASA is planning to send the next humans to the surface of the moon by 2024 - only 4 years away! The mission will send 4 people to the moon. Two of them will stay in the Gateway and two of them will descend down to the lunar surface. This will include the first woman on the moon! These missions will pave the way for future generations to live and work in a multiplanetary society. Right now NASA is developing the SLS or Space Launch System. This will be the most powerful rocket in history and will carry heavy cargo to the moon. If all goes well and NASA meets its deadlines, we will see the first woman, and next man on the moon by 2024, a long standing moon base by 2028, and missions to mars by the 2030's. NASA hopes that with its ventures, the future will be paved for humanity. What



This is Starship prototype SN8 taking flight.

may happen in the far future? Colonies on Mars? Who cities? Maybe even terraforming? While the terraforming part probably won't happen in our lifetimes, we hopefully see the first large cities on the red planet, and maybe we'll even live there.

But NASA is not the only one trying to go to Mars. You probably know about SpaceX more so its founder, but if you don't here is a short explanation. Founded by its CEO Elon Musk in 2002, SpaceX has been a pioneer in reusable rocket technology, developing rockets that are reusable and landed on their own. Musk's goal with SpaceX has always been clear however. Many scientists believe that humanity will not survive on only Earth forever, eventual-

ly we will have to expand. SpaceX's goal is to start this main expansion by setting a manned mission to Mars. They hope to get a main Mars landing by 2024 or 2026. They plan on achieving this by rapidly lowering the cost of spaceflight. That has already been happening with SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets which have the ability to land vertically on pads.

Reusable and cheap rocket technology however is only one piece of the puzzle because you still have to get to Mars. That's where Starship comes in. Starship is SpaceX's interplanetary spacecraft design. It will be the ship that will bring humans to Mars. Starship is huge with it being able to hold up to 100 human passengers. Currently Starship is in the prototype phase, and has yet to leave the atmosphere. The ship comes in 2 parts. The first part is the booster labeled Super-heavy that will get the main Starship up to orbit. Then of course is the main starship which is the interplanetary vessel. If all goes well Elon Musk states that we could see a full Mars city by the 2050's setting our mark on the red planet. We are so lucky to be living in this exiting time. To live to

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Socially Distanced Learning

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seem as if everybody is anxious to get back to seeing each other in real life. The most common rationales for wanting to go back to school were seeing friends and teachers, getting out of the house, and social interactions. This proves how dependent JAMS students are on interactions with other people, and how important it is to them to see everybody again soon. In fact, more than half of students said they would be far more motivated to go back to school if they knew that their teachers and classmates would stay the same. One might think that if students were that eager to get back to seeing each other in real life, they would feel a bit disappointed in the options that were being made available to them. But ironically, the amount of students that felt positively and indifferently towards the alternatives was equally split, and almost no students expressed feeling negatively.

“This whole virus is obviously out of control at this moment, so keeping ev-



erybody learning safely should be the most important thing,” one person announced in response to being asked their thoughts on the whole situation. All in all, a lot of the students that were asked their opinion expressed that they would much rather be guaranteed safe than return to in-real-life school. A good amount of those students also expressed distaste for distance learning though, and said that they wished they felt safe returning.

In conclusion, JAMS students may not be enjoying quarantine, but they sure are pulling through. And whichever alternative wins, everyone will work with it as well as they have been working with this. That much is obvious.

Inauguration

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gave his Inaugural Address, which can be found **here**. In it, he talked about the need for unity to repair the things that have gone wrong, and how peace and friendship can help us rise above the anger and tragedies that America has gone through.

The Inauguration wasn’t all speeches and oaths, though. There were also musical honors. Lady Gaga, J.Lo, and more performed during the celebration. Lady Gaga sang “The Star Spangled Banner” and J.Lo sang ‘This Land is Your

One More Leap

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see humans finally return to the Moon, and set our feet on Mars for the very first time. The best part is we will be the ones to pave the way for humanity’s journey into the stars! So remember never give up hope, and you can do anything.

Land” and “America The Beautiful”. The Inauguration was a celebration of hope that marked the beginning of a new and brighter future.

Notorious RBG

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She whitewater rafted down the Colorado River, water skied, and parasailed in southern France, just to name a few.

In 2013, a majority of the US Supreme Court agreed to remove parts of the Voting Rights Act, an act that had protected voters across the country. Ruth strongly disagreed with the majority opinion. She said destroying the law would be “like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.” Out of the blue, she got popular fast, a website referred to her as “the Notorious RBG”. Young people across the US, inspired by Ruth, began to create shirts that had photos of her wearing a crown, while the popular saying “You can’t spell truth without Ruth” was printed on coffee cups, bags, as tattoos, and clothes. She even once said, with a chuckle, “I’m eighty-four years old and everyone wants to take a picture with me.” While she still is a pop-culture icon to this day, Ruth kept up the pace pulling all-nighters finishing work and breezing through 20 push-ups a day, all while in her mid-eighties. She received many awards throughout her lifetime and there were two movies made about her: *RBG*, and, *On the Basis of Sex*.

The Notorious RBG, being Ruth’s clever nickname, was given only a few years ago, but defines who she is and her legacy. Though only a couple of words, this is how she will always be remembered.

“I dissent.”

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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