

## WILDFIRES WRECKING OUR STATE

### Destructive Wildfires Cover West Coast of the U.S From Almost Top to Bottom

By EMME FIELDS-KREMER

2020 is the year no human being in the entire world will ever forget. A year of uncertainty with lives lost, fights for racial justice, the race for the presidency, and not to mention a deadly virus roaming around Earth. On top of this, global warming, extreme weather conditions, and more contributed to new disastrous wildfires: fires ravaging the states of California, Washington, and Oregon.

California state's wildfires have always been a yearly occurrence, considering the heat and drought. But this year especially has been a surprise, striking as one of the worst wildfire seasons in the Pacific

Northwest. In August, the 2020 wildfire season had begun; more than 8,136 fires led to over 4 million acres burnt in California, over 5.8 million acres including Oregon and Washington. A major difference to the 2019 wildfires: 7,860 fires, causing 259,823 acres to burn in California. In one New York Times article, it states: "Data from two NASA satellites that can detect heat shows fire activity in California, Oregon, and Washington in 2020 has already eclipsed even the worst previous year". The parts of our state already burnt by fires is only 8% of what could possibly be burnt.

*(Continue on page 11)*



This California wildfire is an example of a lightning strike in high heat, fanned by wind, creating disaster.

## MUSIC TO MY EARS!

By ISAAC BOURDEAU

Back in 2014, tragedy struck at John Adams Middle School when an earthquake hit the area. The school had no major damage but it's prized auditorium which had stood there for almost 80 years had a lot of damages. It was no longer safe for anyone to be inside of the building because it could collapse. At first, it was thought that in only three months the auditorium would be up and running again. But now it's 2020 and there have been multiple roadblocks, and debates during the construction of the new performing arts center. A redesigned performing arts center, the demolishment of the old auditorium, and a long construction process are just some things that have happened since the auditorium's downfall six years ago.

The construction of the JAMS auditorium is under way and could be done soon. Let's see the process behind it.

The old auditorium was used by multiple facilities, not just John Adams. SMC and other schools in SMMUSD used it. So many people could voice their opinions on the fate of the auditorium. Eventually, it was decided that they would demolish it and 20 million dollars were invested towards the construction of a new auditorium and performing arts center. The facility itself will have a more open design than the old auditorium, to reflect the goal of creating a thriving and active hub. The rehearsal and performance spaces open up to courtyards, reflecting the style of the main campus, and helping with temperature control. Along with JAMS, other schools will use the performing arts center as well. The main attraction of course is the auditorium



The construction process has shockingly progressed during school closure.

which is wildly improved from the original one. It will feature 750 seats which will be a dream for the musicians in JAMS' famous music program.. The auditorium also supports a variety of theatrical performances with the help of a robust meyer sound electric acoustic system. This also allows for a more compact design for the auditorium. A rehearsal room will be added to the auditorium. Practice rooms, classrooms, offices, and libraries will also be added to the auditorium. Allowing for easy and undisturbed music class practices.

*(Continue on page 11)*

# BACK TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?

Parents Navigate The Virtual World To Keep Up With The Kids!

By NAOMI GAGE

Parents have usually been slightly behind their kids with technology, but on September 10th, Thursday, a vast amount of parents booted up their computers and got onto Google to attend their kids' teacher's presentations.

Back To School Night had long been hosted in the school itself, but this year, it simply wasn't safe enough for such a thing- it would be hard to practice social distancing with 600 parents and dozens of teachers in one school, after all. At a loss, the JAMS staff spent days working on the solution- a virtual representation of our beloved John Adams MS, complete with avatars of Principal Richardson and Assistant Principals Ms. Chacon and Dr. Eure. Navigation was beautifully straightforward- you simply selected the subject and teacher and settled back to watch.

"Welcome!" Principal Richardson began in his opening message, "To Back To School Night. This is a Back To School Night like no other." And so it was. Overlooking the obvious difference of location, this Back To School Night was still markedly different- the teachers spoke of subtle changes to their time-honored curriculum, of concessions and compromise, and of the elusive "perfect distance learning" that

schools all over America sought. Of course, not all changes were compromises- some of the curriculum still remained the same, and the teachers' spirits remained unbroken. Math, after all, is math, no matter how it is learned. School, too, is always going to be school, although it may be accessed from a different format.

A parent said: "The virtual Back To School Night is really convenient- there are pros and cons to each way, of course, but I happen to really appreciate it. This way, I don't need to worry about rushing home to make dinner, or helping with homework. Additionally, I can bookmark the presentations, and rewatch them at any time."

It's a good point- parents are always busy, and a virtual Back To School Night certainly goes a long way to ameliorate the issues that come with any time-consuming event. However, "I do miss seeing other parents," Another parent shared. "Last year, we would all meet up and share stories... it's nice to attend BTSN from the comfort of our homes, but I do miss the community."

The most important factor in this is the safety and health of our community- social distancing is very important. In order to stay safe, we need to stay home. (Link to BTSN presentation [here](#).)



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



By KATHERINE BARBA

Mr. Richardson is our principal at John Adams Middle School. Many students probably haven't been in contact with him since they have been caught up in distance learning so it's likely that he's not a familiar face.

"Academic and social emotional growth for every student is my main goal this year. We want to continue to build a kind, connected and compassionate school culture. I was raised to give help when it's needed. So this job is perfect for me. My parents instilled this in me. And I work hard to model this for students, staff and my own kids." These are the caring words from our school's principal explaining how he is motivated to come to work and how he is compassionate about helping other.

Distance learning definitely has its pros and cons for our principal. "My least favorite thing about working from home is that I miss kids and my staff. I love working with people and helping people," Mr. Richardson explained. It's hard for him to find ways to be helping students and staff right now since we aren't on campus. Mr. Richardson said he enjoys walking around during nutrition and lunch, sitting down with students and getting to know more about them.

He spends a lot of time these days sitting in his office, on his computer for almost twelve hours straight, joining Zoom meetings, planning events and making sure that every student in John Adams Middle School is having a chance to grow their knowledge and prepare themselves for their future. That's what it's like for Principal Richardson. "I love working with people and helping people. It's harder to do from my home," he said.

# The Flipgrid Campaign

By MADELINE BRAUN

ASB moved their election online this year and JAMS students were able to remain at home and watch the campaign speeches on Flipgrid. This allowed the candidates to get their message across on this digital platform

In their Flipgrid video, candidates stated their experience, why they thought they would be the right one for the job, and how they would help the student body as

a whole. Some even went on to talk about their personal interests, make jokes, or brought in friends to vouch for them. The now-presidents, Kevin Hornesby and Holden Savage, promised to "try everything in our power for no homework on Fridays" so that students could spend their own time however they wanted on "no homework, just weekend activities." Vice president elect, Gelila Mihret, spent the beginning

(Continued on page 11)

# VACATION OR STAYCATION?

Did Students and Staff Choose To Get Away From Home Or Simply Just Stay Put?

By HOLDEN KOPMAN

Where did JAMS or Samohi students/staff travel over the break? When we found out that California had the most COVID-19 cases, surely everyone wanted to vacate. During the summer, a lot of families were able to travel to the places that allowed U.S citizens, and they may still be in those places thanks to distance learning. Other families have a difference of opinion given that when Covid hit California, many chose to stay where they were instead of taking the risk of travelling.

To represent one side of the argument, people are cramped up inside their homes for the majority of the summer if

they do not chose to travel. This means that they're taking a safer approach to staying healthy. But representing the other side, the people who chose to travel are traveling far from areas with high cases. It is interesting to witness people and their approach to COVID as it represents risks and solutions at the same time. When and hopefully if students return to campus, it will definitely be strange to return to the old normal.

Whether people choose to travel or not, they both have the same idea of trying to stay safe and healthy. Some may travel by flight, but a longer less-risky approach

to travelling is by car. People are not in a small space with strangers (not knowing where they've been or if they are affected), not having to wear a mask the entire time, so it is a much safer approach to travelling if one is not planning on going far.

We must all try our best to keep ourselves healthy in these times.

In conclusion, many may travel far and many may stay close to home but in the end, staying safe and stopping the spread is the main priority during this crisis.



*"I flew to Canada and had to quarantine, but spent summer mostly at home".*

Noah Kopman, Samohi student



*"I spent time in San Diego to visit my mom and get the COVID test".*

Ms. Beeman-Solano, JAMS teacher



*"I did not travel out of state but drove to Indian Wells."*

Mr. Chapman, Samohi teacher

## Dangers of TikTok

By MEYER BRUNO

TikTok is a social media platform, mostly used by the younger generation, has taken over the world. TikTok has more than 600 million downloads around the world. It's a place where people can post up to 60 second videos for other people to watch. The developers of TikTok have recently added a new feature called the Creator Fund where every 1000 views on a video gives the creator 90 cents. This is an amazing idea because it encourages people to post more videos and be more active on the app.

Many parents are scared that TikTok is a bad influence on their children. On

the website scarymomma.com they discuss why TikTok is a terrible app and how the lyrics of the songs the kids are dancing to are explicit. Yes, they do bring up a good point. TikTok can be very dangerous and it can be used for bad things but TikTok is also a way to connect with people, find their passion, find their style and much more.

TikTok is a way that someone can find friends and connect with people, since school is now online, it makes it so much harder to find friends. TikTok or any other online game or social media is a way for kids to find friends, interact, and create connections with real people.



Garyvaynerchuk.com states that "A big part of Instagram's value came from the fact that it made it "easier" for people to become photographers. It gave people the option to take pictures from their mobile device, edit it, and share it with friends. They started by building an app that people could use to express themselves first. TikTok could be an interesting preview of other platforms that could provide people with a framework to create." Many people use TikTok to share what they're going through and their pain. Many people use the platform to share they're feelings of suicide, depression, or even share that they have an abusive home and they need help.



## BLACK LIVES MATTER: AN OVERVIEW

By NAOMI GAGE

2020 is a year of bad news and good news, of contradictions. So many things are happening across the country, even with the majority of the American public sheltering at home.

Most prominently, Black Lives Matter protesters are the first in a rising tide of discontent.

### WHAT DOES BLACK LIVES MATTER MEAN?

Black Lives Matter is pretty self-explanatory. Black. Lives. Matter. It seems, too, like this should be something that everyone knows, that is taken for granted- of course they matter, don't they? Everyone matters, right?

Unfortunately, the facts tell a different, unsettling, story.

George Floyd was a 46 year old man whose only crime was to use a counterfeit \$20 bill at a convenience store.

Within seventeen minutes, George Floyd was pinned to the floor by three men and showing no signs of life.

Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, kept his foot on George Floyd's neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. He and two other officers kept him pinned down while he and onlookers called for help, while he pleaded for his life, even after he lost consciousness, even after he died.

BLM Protesters around the country kept a flashlight on for eight minutes and forty-six seconds in memorial.

George Floyd isn't the first black person to be murdered without recourse. There are others, countless others.

### KNOW THEIR NAMES

Rayshard Brooks, a 27 year old man, fell asleep at the steering wheel of a drive-through McDonald's. He was shot twice in the back.

Breonna Taylor, a 26 year old woman, was asleep at home when three officers came in to search her home for a drug case. Her boyfriend believed it was a break-in and called 911 while firing his licensed firearm. Breanna, who was unarmed and defenceless, was shot eight times. (The officers responsible for her murder were not fired. They were not prosecuted. Instead, they were "reassigned".)

Atatiana Johnson was at home, babysitting her eight-year-old nephew, when a policeman shot and killed her through the window. The reason? He was responding to a call from her neighbor, who reported that her "door had been left open".

So, yes, the racism in America is ridiculous and incredibly dangerous. Innocent people are being murdered. Black Lives Matter is a response to that, and the anger and passion in the protests is both awe-inspiring and slightly terrifying.

### PROTESTING IN A PANDEMIC: THE LOGISTICS

Ultimately, no matter how hard one tries, a socially distanced protest is impossible. Even if one starts six feet apart from everyone, one will eventually end up shoulder-to-shoulder. And while that's certainly not ideal- social distancing is important - some things matter more.

Of course, masks are essential, and every caution is taken: no one should be fighting for other people's lives while

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*This is not about white people, period.*

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risking your own. In the end, it's about what one values more: a few more hours of safety, or social justice.

### WHY NOT "ALL LIVES MATTER"?

Something that some people have been complaining about is the exclusionary nature of the saying "Black Lives Matter". All lives matter, don't they?

The answer: yes. Yes, of course all lives matter, yes, of course white lives matter. However, white people are not getting gunned down by overzealous racist cops. As one person on social media put it: "If someone is injured, you provide them a band-aid, you don't complain about how you didn't get a bandage, too. You are not bleeding."

You are not bleeding. White lives matter just as much as black lives do, but that's a given, they have so much privilege already, and people of color are the ones bleeding right now. They're the ones getting most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, they're the ones getting murdered in the name of the law. Black Lives Matter is not about being racist towards white people. This is not about white people, period.

### THE DARK SIDE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

Unfortunately, as much as it's easier to pretend things on the protester's side are all good and righteous, there is, as always, more to it than that. Some people have been taking things to a dangerous level: looting stores, vandalizing premises, and destroying public property.

To be clear, this does not represent the majority of Black Lives Matter protesters; most are genuinely dedicated to stopping violence, not inciting it. Most are following the dynamic of a peaceful protest-chanting, marching, holding up handmade signs. However, it's undeniable that some protesters aren't, and others may follow their example.

These people are not doing the right thing. Social justice does not excuse blatant and pointless destruction. Not only that, but they give BLM a bad name; many people have chosen not to support the movement because of the mayhem caused.

Protesting safely and effectively does not need to be that difficult.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are several ways anybody can help the Black Lives Matter movement.

Firstly, march! This can be time-intensive, especially if there aren't any organized marches near you and you have to start your own, but it's a worthwhile option. Ask around, invite your friends, and use what you have to make a sign. Sometimes, even five people marching can make a difference, especially in this pandemic, where too many people at once can be quite dangerous.

Second of all, the Black Lives Matter organization (<https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>) can always use donations. The money goes to a worthwhile cause, and it's extremely helpful for the volunteers.

Thirdly, and most importantly, educate yourself. Read books and articles about how to help. (I recommend "This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work", by Tiffany Jewell), and make sure to talk about it. America needs more young people who are politically active and aware, people like you. What are you waiting for?

# VOTING



Greta Thunberg is a great example of an activist that might not be able to vote but still makes a difference.

By ADINA FRID-MADDEN

Viruses, racism, riots, brutality, inequality, misinformation, and hate. Looming over us, affecting our everyday lives. We might feel like we can't breathe at times, powerless to change anything. Our opinions don't matter, our values don't matter, our thoughts aren't heard. A shadow of frustration that we can't make disappear. But there is one thing that makes all these things untrue, one right that we fought for, our one individual opportunity to change the world: voting.

As we all know, George Washington was the first president of the United States of America, elected in 1789.

However, most of us might not have known that he won a grand total of 43,782 votes, representing 6% of the population because only white males who owned property were allowed to vote. After the **Civil War in 1861**, the law changed to give all men the right to vote, regard-

less of property ownership or race. The people in power knew that if they allowed these new voters to cast their ballots they wouldn't be able to stay in power, so they created literacy tests, poll taxes, and other means to prevent new voters particularly African-American men from actually being able to vote. The KKK used violence to intimidate, and by 1892 only one percent of African Americans in Mississippi were even registered to vote. These restrictions lasted for almost 100 years until the **Voting Rights Act** began, which resolved to eliminate these barriers that prevented African-Americans and other minorities from voting.

Still, for many years, whether white or not, women could not vote. Women across the

country defied long-standing gender norms and protested for their right to vote, which often led to assaults and injuries for the women who were actively protesting. **Inez Millholland** was a famous activist that campaigned throughout the United States even though she was suffering from many chronic health problems. In 1916 she died while giving a suffrage speech, with her last words being "Mr. President, how long will women wait for liberty?". Even though Inez did not get to see her efforts succeed, her actions and activism helped actualize the 19th amendment that in 1920 gave women the right to vote.

In 1954 the age to vote was still 21 years old, but during the Vietnam War the government began drafting 18-year-olds into the military. Protestors rose up with a rallying cry: "**old enough to die, old enough to vote**". By 1971 the 26th amendment made all citizens 18 and older eligible to vote, as it is today.

So why do more people check Facebook then go out and vote? It is a shocking statistic, that only 60% of registered voters actually cast their ballots. People have fought for and died for these rights. Voting gives us a chance to voice our views, thoughts, and values. After all, the United States prides itself for its democracy, but it isn't a democracy if nobody votes. We make it a democracy, we can choose who makes history. This is our time to fight back, to show just how powerful unity can become. Us middle schoolers can't vote, but we can sign petitions, **organize protests**, and make sure that our family members who can vote do. When our time comes we will be ready.

OLD ENOUGH  
TO FIGHT,  
OLD ENOUGH  
TO VOTE

An example of the pins that protesters would wear when fighting to be able to vote at 18 years old.



African American fought and protested for their right to vote.



Inez Millholland wearing all white on her white horse to represent the 'new woman' of the twentieth century.

The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson .





# Climate Change Catastrophe

As climate change is progressively getting worse, we must take the necessary precautions to keep our world intact.

By WALDEN SULLIVAN

Wildfires! Hurricanes! Droughts! These are just a few of the increasingly devastating effects of climate change. But what do people mean when they use the words “climate change?” Simply put, climate change is an overarching term that describes fluctuations in Earth’s average temperature. The Earth’s average temperature is around 59 degrees fahrenheit or 15 degrees celsius. But over the years, temperatures have been rising faster than ever, which dangerously alters weather patterns around the world. This article will go over the basics of climate change and analyze recent discoveries that show the true dangers of it.

Let’s dive a little deeper into the general meaning of climate change. Climate change is heavily connected to the greenhouse effect. According to the BBC, “This is linked to the greenhouse effect, which describes how the Earth’s atmosphere traps some of the Sun’s energy. Solar energy radiating back to space from the Earth’s surface is absorbed by greenhouse gases and re-emitted in all directions. This heats both the lower atmosphere and the surface of the planet. Without this effect, the Earth would be about 30 degrees colder and hostile to life.”

In other words, the BBC is explaining that the greenhouse effect

is actually crucial for the Earth. Without greenhouse gases, the world would be very unpleasant and difficult to live in. But, because of man-made emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, the effect is backfiring.

Man-made emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are mostly made up of burning fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels and other man-made CO<sub>2</sub> causes “stored carbon” to be released into the air. Now here’s where the greenhouse effect comes in. This carbon is released into the air and then gets trapped in the atmosphere due to greenhouse gasses. This causes the Earth’s average temperature to fluctuate because greenhouse gases trap in heat. It is this temperature fluctuation that causes global warming and other forms of climate change.

One way of considering the dangers of climate change is to view the Climate Clock. Recently, in New York City, a new clock was unveiled that does a little more than tell the time. The climate clock is currently being shown at Metronome in Union Square in Manhattan. The New York Times says, “For more than 20 years, Metronome, which includes a 62-foot-wide 15-digit electronic clock that faces Union Square in Manhattan, has been one of the city’s most prominent and baffling public art projects... Now, instead of measuring 24-hour cycles, it is measuring what two artists, Gan Golan and Andrew Boyd, present as a critical window for action to prevent the



The “Climate Clock” prominently displayed at Metronome in New York City

effects of global warming from becoming irreversible.”

This means that one of the biggest art projects in NYC is now showing the amount of time until climate change is too hard to fix unless we make a change. On September 19th, 2020, the clock is showing that based on the predictions of the two artists, we have less than seven and a half years to make a drastic change in our lifestyle.

There are a few things that you can do to help eliminate climate change. Try to limit the amount of red meat and dairy that you consume. Things like red meat and dairy products are very carbon-intensive to produce. Driving a car that is not electric or hybrid is also very bad for the environment. There are some things you have to drive to, but when you can, try to walk, bike, or carpool. These are just two of the ways that you can help out. For more information, go to this [link](#).

If we don’t take immediate action, we are in for a catastrophe. But in addition to our efforts, our president and the rest of our government need to make new laws and regulations that will help prevent climate change. This is a community, and we ALL need to come together to make it through.



BBC’s explanation of greenhouse gases affecting climate change

# The Craft & The Furious

JAMS student, Sabrina Glasser, beat the competition in Craftopia on HBO Max!

By WALDEN SULLIVAN

Seventh-grader and JAMS student, Sabrina Glasser, won Craftopia on HBO Max! Craftopia is a television show that gets crafty kids to show off their creative skills and get the chance to win \$5,000.

Sabrina was featured on a special Halloween episode on October 27th, 2020, and was competing against two other kids. She had to complete two challenges which included an elimination after the first round. For the first challenge, the “craftestants” had 45 minutes to transform an ordinary papier-mache form into a scary Halloween themed pinata. Sabrina’s pinata was a creative monster head with eyeballs popping out. After making it through the first round, the second challenge was to creepify a dollhouse. Being on camera was easy for her. “It’s not as stressful as I thought it would be being in front of a camera. I had to narrate my work but I liked doing that because it came naturally for me,” she said.

According to Sabrina’s mother, “she chose to renovate a bathroom in the dollhouse which featured an eyeball as a toilet”. Sabrina spooked the competition

and went home with \$5,000 and a large golden trophy. Sabrina doesn’t know exactly what she will do with the money yet, but she says that she will definitely use some of it to purchase art supplies.

Her time on the show and observing the people in the HBO studio has given her a new perspective for her future. Sabrina said, “After this experience, I want to be a producer now. It seems like a hard but fun job and I think I would really enjoy it as a profession.”

For the link to the promo video click [here](#) and Craftopia’s Instagram click [here](#).



Focused! Sabrina uses her creativity for the pinata challenge that sent her to the 2nd round of the competition..



Sabrina beat the competition on HBO’s Craftopia to win a \$5,000 cash prize.



One of Sabrina’s creations for the Halloween dollhouse renovation - a creepy toilet!

## Halloween: Online Costume Contests

Students participated by recording a Flipgrid video of their Halloween costumes.

CLOCKWISE:

- Chloe E as Mario
- Azul R. as Lucky Charms
- Marie Z. as Rogue (X-Men)
- Nicholas B. as a grill complete with cooking utensils and condiments!
- Isabella C. as a haunted doll
- Violet P. as a character from Stranger Things



Pets got in on the costume action too. Curtis D. dressed one of his chickens as Yoda.





# COVID Goals

By JAMES CORONA

Since the arrival of the coronavirus on March 11th, 2020, millions of students all around the globe have been forced to stay inside-avoiding any human contact, constantly washing their hands, and drenching themselves in hand sanitiser. They can't see friends, go to the park, or play sports. A lot of them are probably bored at home, just on their phones all day, or just sitting in their room doing homework. Why? Because that's all they think they can do.

They're wrong. There are lots of ways to stay entertained during quarantine. There is something for all those students to do

while they're stuck at home. If they just look, they will see all the possibilities and activities they can do with this free time.

There are many ways for students to stay entertained during quarantine. A lot of them probably have the right tools at home already, and some of them don't need anything at all. These activities aren't just for students- they can also be for anybody who's feeling bored during quarantine, and today is the day where all these people are going to find out just how fun quarantine can be.

## Pandemic Pets

By JACK NASH

It's almost the end of 2020 and while some of us would have been going on trips across the world we've been quarantined in our homes for about 6 and a half months. While some people are fine with staying indoors. Some people are getting rather bored, and need a change of pace.... and what better change of pace then to add a new furry family member into the mix?

These days, the only people we really see on a day-to-day basis are our family. Because we are stuck at home we rarely ever get to see our friends and distant family. So, having a pet would be the next best thing. Multiple people have already had pets before the pandemic but a substantial amount of people have been getting new pets. Lots of kids at JAMS have been getting cats, dogs, fish, and hamsters over these last few months, and seem to be a lot happier as a result.

Because of these new furry or non-furry friends, many kids have been a lot happier in their homes.

As Petassure.com states, "85% of respondents agree interaction with pets can help reduce loneliness." Saying that pets can both reduce loneliness, and improve personal fitness. Although owning a pet is expensive. The payoff of taking care of your animal is greater than what money can buy.

### LEARN ON THE INTERNET

The first answer is the Internet. There are so many things to do on the internet. On YouTube, they can watch anything their heart desires; on Netflix and Hulu they can finish that show with 9 seasons that they couldn't get too. Now there is so much time to waste on the Internet, there are so many websites and apps all over the web to explore. Say people get tired of watching shows all day on Youtube, and Netflix, well there is the next big thing. Video games. Over the last decade, video games have been a staple in a lot of kids' lives and it was essential to have one in their room. Xbox, PS4, PC, there are so many games with different genres for people to explore. With the Internet people could set goals to keep them looking forward to completing something, like beating a final boss, or completing a mission. With goals like that it will keep them intrigued and have them wanting more. They can set bigger goals like completing the entire game, and if they do beat the game there are millions of other ones to beat.

### STAY FIT AND HEALTHY

Another goal for quarantine can be to work out. If people get bored of the internet, and video games, they finish all their shows, they beat all their games or maybe they don't have a game system or access to the Internet. Some people are a little out of shape because gyms and sports are closed and they want to work out but just don't know how. They need nothing but themselves. No dumbbells, no treadmills; all they need is their own body. Pushups, situps, planks, leg lifts... If they want to get back into shape, all they have to do is these workouts everyday, and they will come out with results.

If they don't want to go that far, and just want to stay in shape. Jogging, and taking walks, These can be some great goals for people who want to commit, goals like losing weight, and these can help people get more confident, and again get motivation to complete a task.

In conclusion, there are lots of ways to stay entertained during quarantine. People don't have to limit themselves to working out and gaming: there are many other ways, like reading books that you could never get too, learning how to cook, or learning how to speak another language. There are so many opportunities for people to explore. It just takes the will to try and do new things. See this quarantine as an opportunity, not prison, the sky's the limit!





# The Show Must Go On!

By KINKADE SPENCER

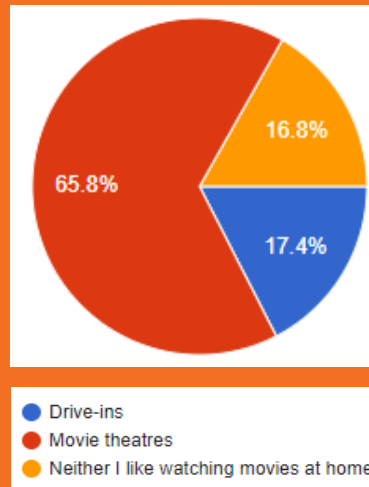
Much of Hollywood has been put on hold. This includes the releases of new movies like Ghostbusters: After Life, DC's new Wonder Woman, to Marvel's Black Widow. The pandemic has also put a pause on movies that were in production. Even though it might look like Hollywood is really struggling, they still manage to find ways for the show to go on by releasing their movies in Drive-in Theatres.

One of the ways Hollywood is still bringing people joy is through the recently popular Drive-ins. Now, if you don't know what a drive-in is then you're not alone because many kids in this generation have never seen one. A Drive-in is like a movie theatre but outside and instead of sitting in the movie theatre seats you get to sit in the luxury of your own car. Now you're probably wondering why drive-ins are becoming more and more popular? Well, it's all because of COVID and social distancing.

Since pandemic restrictions are keeping large numbers of people from gathering indoors, people decided they might as well watch the movies outdoors in the comfort and safety of their own cars. Not only is it good for avid movie watchers, but it's also good for struggling drive-ins. Ever since the movie theatre was invented in 1905 theatres have continually evolved and become more advanced relying on new movie-watch-



A modern drive-in theater.



Survey on student preference on their movie-going experience.

ing technology to keep viewers interested like IMAX speakers and moving seats. When asked which viewing format they prefer, 65% of students said that they preferred movie theatres instead of drive-ins (see pie chart). It's because of how modern and advanced the current theaters are today that almost put the final nail in the coffin for drive-ins. Drive-ins just couldn't keep up because they relied on the viewer's setup and sound system in their car. I mean who wants to drive all the way to one of the only drive-ins left, when one can just go down

the street to their local AMC and watch the movie there with other people? This reason is exactly why Drive-ins are becoming more successful and popular again and it's all because of COVID restrictions. It's actually quite ironic when you think about it; the limitations of the viewing format that pushed drive-ins to the brink of extinction are the same reasons why they are doing so well today.

In conclusion, because of these three factors COVID shutting down indoor theatres. Drive-ins being the only outside theatres that meet pandemic restrictions. Hollywood only being able to release movies online or in drive-ins have all caused drive-ins to soar in popularity and have also helped them financially. But realize this, we are the generation that will decide what the future will be for all drive-in theaters.

## Was Mulan Worth the Money?

By CALVIN BRODKIN

Most people know Mulan as the 1998 animated Disney film, but Disney transformed it into a live-action movie. Mulan is the story of a teenage girl in ancient China and when the emperor of China begins a war with the Mongols, he enforces the rule that one man from every family must fight. Mulan's father is very sick so Mulan takes his place to fight in the war, and pretends to be a male.

Disney+ released the Mulan remake on September 4th, 2020, Over 22 years after the original Mulan was released on June 19, 1998. Mulan was released on Disney+ for premiere access, which meant people had to pay a fee of \$30 to watch the film. Since customers already have to pay to watch Disney+, an extra fee of \$30 dollars meant that not everyone had access to watch it. In a recent survey, JAMS students didn't think Mulan was worth



the \$30 for premiere access. Fifty percent of students said that Mulan was not worth \$30, only 14% thought it was worth \$30, and 35% of students said it should be cheaper. Ratings of Mulan also varied. Of the students that saw the movie 30% rated the Mulan remake 5 stars, and 15% of students rated it one star. Overall, there weren't any strong opinions about the movie.

Students had varying opinions of the live-action Mulan; most students enjoyed the movie but thought it was overpriced. Some students just hated it. Mulan would likely be more popular if it were not so expensive just to watch the movie on a platform that has a monthly fee, but this Mulan had to cost extra because it couldn't premiere in theatres due to COVID. This new way of releasing a new movie could be the future and Mulan paved the way.

## Remembering Chadwick Boseman

By LEUL BELAY

In 2020, we lost so many people - Kobe, Gigi, Pop Smoke, and now, Chadwick Boseman, 43, who was "T'Challa" in *Black Panther*.

His wife, Taylor Simone Ledward, confirmed the death just minutes after he died, saying that his family was on his side. Minutes later, she made a post on Instagram saying that without him knowing, in 2016 Boseman was diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer and that this year it advanced to Stage 4.

Boseman appeared in movies such as the highly-grossing 2018 movie, "*Black Panther*", which made \$1.3 billion in Box Office, the critically acclaimed 2020 movie "*Da 5 Bloods*", which made \$35-45M in Box Office, and TV shows such as "*Persons Unknown*" and "*Lincoln Heights*", all having to take surgeries the entire time, which explains why he was such a true fighter. He never spoke publicly about fighting colon cancer, and what makes it even more shocking is that the MCU didn't even know about it.

Many people were shocked when they heard about Chadwick Boseman's death - including people such as "Captain Amer-



ica" actor Chris Evans, saying, "A true original. He was a deeply committed and constantly curious artist. He had so much amazing work still left to create." Bob Iger, Disney Executive Chairman, called him "an extraordinary talent, and one of the most gentle and giving souls I have ever met. He brought enormous

strength, dignity and depth to his groundbreaking role of *Black Panther*."

One student said that they were really shocked to see Chadwick die of cancer, without anyone knowing it. And another student said they were really sad to see them go, because the *Black Panther* was their favorite character. Overall, a lot of people were really shocked and sad to see him go when he was too young.

Wakanda forever.

## A Change In Melody

By TESSA LEVINE

Cardi B, Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande, and twenty one pilots: they all are among the many talented artists and bands that have released music during the Covid-19 pandemic. As we all have probably noticed, we are currently in the midst of a pandemic that prevents most employers from allowing their employees to work on site but some jobs don't always require us to be present. Writing, recording, and producing music are among the exceptions.

The pandemic is not only forcing artists to find work elsewhere but also not giving them the same kind of creative outlet that they are able to find through music. One of the things that we have to take into account is that the pandemic has negatively affected the production of music because most artists write about experiences, and because of the pandemic it can be difficult to find something to write an interesting

song about. As Page Hamilton, lead guitarist and singer of the band *Helmet* said during an interview "I didn't realize it till it was taken away from me, that one of the greatest parts of my life is being on stage." One thing that he may have meant by that was that nothing is permanent and that we only realize the importance of certain things after they're taken away, music as some have realized helps shape some of our personalities in ways we don't even notice until it's gone.

The pandemic may not be over for quite a while so one thing we can do to improve our moods is listen to some up beat music. As Page Hamilton said "the pandemic is also forcing artists to find different ways to express themselves." So, who knows? We may have quite a few musical surprises being released soon based off of the moods of artists.

### Top Ten Songs Released During The Pandemic

1. **WAP** - Cardi B., Megan Thee Stallion
2. **X** - Jonas Brothers (with KAROL G)
3. **Don't Start Now** - Dua Lipa
4. **Wonder** - Shawn Mendes
5. **My Future** - Billie Eilish
6. **Exile** - Taylor Swift (ft. Bon Iver)
7. **Rain On Me** - Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga
8. **Be Kind** - Marshmello, Halsey
9. **Stuck With U** - Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber
10. **Holy** - Justin Bieber, Chance the Rapper



Page Hamilton performs in Australia with his band *Helmet*



## CALI-FIRES

(Continued from page 1)

Many causes contribute to the creations of wildfires. One fire this year, known as the Glass Fire, appeared on September 27th, at 3:48 AM for an unknown reason, burning initially a 20 acre brush fire, later growing into two. There are many possible ways this fire could have started. It could have been natural, such as lightning strikes. Other ways certain fires have been started by the carelessness of humans, such as campfires and cigarettes. In the unfortunate cases of a few of this year's fires occurred downed

power lines and a pyrotechnical gender reveal gone wrong. The unawareness of people has brought misfortune for beings across the state changing the lives of many.

The results of these incidents transformed sparks into flames, bringing devastation to many, including John Adams Middle School Students. Although the wildfires have not reached Santa Monica, where our school is located and most of our students live, terrible air quality due to smoke invaded the Santa Monica area, and beyond. Slowly affecting our already dry state, California has experienced the worst. How can we let this slide anymore, watching the clearly visible ruin on our televisions, or written in our

newspapers? How do we learn of this mess without a single feeling flowing through our body; a feeling of hurt for those who are affected. It's not as if we are not affected. Our land is being destroyed-the beauty of our state: destroyed. There is not much our JAMS community can do to stop the wildfires. But, we can be more watchful of our actions, and learn of what our state is dealing with. Simply picking up a piece of trash or not littering at all, can lessen a chance of an outrageous fire to begin. Being mindful and careful, may in some small way can save lives and our state.

The wildfires our state is experiencing is a tragedy to us all. The wildfires show no sign of slowing down, clouds of smoke and ash are in the air; property has been lost, many people have died. But as always, we have to keep going and leave the present behind us just for a moment, and take a breath. The last thing I would suggest for people to follow is to stay home, stay healthy, and stay safe.

## NEW AUDITORIUM



Famous parts of JAMS are in the construction zone like the famous sign.

(Continued from page 1)

The construction process of the new performing arts center was of course a loud one. Students and staff members alike could hear the clanking of machinery and the yelling of construction workers. But no one felt it more than the science, and music classes. They were right next to the action so they could hear, and feel everything. Some classes could hear the loud noises from the site, and some even shook the school! It was a long process to get construction to even begin. There was a big debate of pondering whether it would be more cost-effective to replace the building, or simply refurbish it. But partnering with SMC helped to make the decision to eventually demolish the building and erect a new one in its place. "This project is funded by a Bond sold by our school district and Santa Monica College. Santa Monica College is contributing about \$20 million and the District is putting

in \$12 million. Two what struggles, and hardships have occurred during the entire process. The process has been long. We closed the auditorium unexpectedly in August of 2014. The question was: Would it be more cost effective to repair or replace it? Partnering with SMC helped make that decision. Once the building of the new Performing Arts Center was approved, the process has been pretty easy. We have great support people, architects and construction experts," Mr. Richardson said.

He went on to say, "So the demolish versus renovate was ultimately a financial issue. It initially looked like a \$200,000 fix. But the Division of State Architects (DSA) required some additional upgrades that pushed the project to \$2 million. And that number kept going up. When SMC decided to partner with us, it made the decision pretty easy. In terms of design, we worked with a firm called HGA. They are based on Santa Monica and had a lot of experience with PACs."

The story of the JAMS auditorium is a long one. The first one was built way back in the 1930s. When it was torn down people were very sad to see it go. It's been 4 years since that day and many things have happened. A struggle to decide what to do with the building, a new design created by architects, and engineers, a grueling construction process, and the excitement for a new and improved performing arts center is just one part of the history of John Adams Middle School. But an important part of it.

## ASB CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 2)

of her video talking about her personal interests and introducing herself, and then brought in a friend to vouch for her. Treasurer elect, Emily Juarez, made her speech interesting by making jokes and editing in sound effects. She encouraged students to vote for her using humor, saying that "although I'm not skilled in many things, I can still be a good treasurer," then pretending to force her friend to promote her by gesturing threateningly with a baseball bat.

The winners of the election were eighth graders Kevin Hornesby and Holden Savage as co-presidents, seventh grader Gelila Mihret as vice president, eighth grader Celeste Radusky as secretary, eighth grader Emily Juarez Meza as treasurer, and seventh grader Jonah Dworkin as historian.

Although it was new and unusual for everyone to be doing this all from home, everyone tried their very best to make do with what they had. This year technology has made it possible for students to do many new and amazing things, but hopefully next year the election will be able to happen again at school and JAMS students will be able to see one another in real life again.

# The JAMS Journal

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# B O N N E A P P E T I T !

Eating a balanced diet is very important for your body. If you don't maintain a balanced diet it can lead to risks of many chronic diseases such as cancer and heart disease. Eating healthy can also protect your body from diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, and some types of skeletal conditions. According to HHS.gov "Your food choices, each day affect your health — how you feel today, tomorrow, and in the future".

A healthy and balanced diet should contain protein, fruits, veggies, grains, and dairy. Instead of eating unhealthy food such as fast foods and sugary items, students can put their extra time into creat-



ing balanced meals, to sustain a healthy life. For some students it may be hard to think of healthy food options, therefore these are some healthy dishes to maintain a balanced diet.  
- AISLIN GUTIERREZ

### AVOCADO TOAST

- Ingredients:
- avocado
  - salt
  - pepper
  - lemon/lime
  - bread of your choice
  - bowl
  - spoon.

1. Start by emptying your avocado into a bowl.
2. Use a fork to mash all of the avocado until there are only small chunks left.
3. Pinches of salt, a pinch of pepper and a dash of lemon or lime juice.
4. Toast some bread, and smother a few spoons of avocado, on the bread, and you are done!



### GARDEN SALAD

- Ingredients:
- lettuce
  - onions(optional)
  - bell peppers(optional)
  - dressing of choice

1. Start by cutting up your lettuce
2. Cut onions and bell pepper and toss in bowl
3. Drizzle some of your favorite dressing and voila!