

The Tiger Times

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Edition XXI

Special Thanks To: Mr. Getz, Ms. Hyman, Mr. Duffey, and Beth Servetar

Email jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net
to join or contribute to the Tiger Times!

See this Tiger Times Issue for an interview with the Executive Director of the Gracie Mansion Conservancy, a review of multiple language learning websites, an overview of algorithmic bias, instructions on how to make finger puppets, a description of the Ingenuity Helicopter on Mars, an update on the NYC Mayor's Race, one cool fact about each president, a description of Aleena Crawford's visit to the HHWC, the ESMS Book Recommendations Page, the ESMS Debate Page, the ESMS Cartoon Caption Contest, the ESMS Theme of the Month, and much, much more!

May
2021

Reflecting On Remote Learning

By: Jacob Abroon

Remote learning has had a profound effect on us. From the transitions we all had to make at the beginning of the year, to how our new resources will affect us in the future, remote learning will leave an impact on all of us in the coming years, even after learning returns to normal. Looking back, we are completely different than we were one year ago, and in one year, we will be completely different. The effects of remote learning are immeasurable, and reflecting on remote learning after more than a year will show us how it will affect in the future.

To see how remote learning has affected the teachers of ESMS, I interviewed Ms. Petropoulos, an 8th grade math teacher. This school year, Ms. Petropoulos was completely remote, so all of her lessons needed to be taught virtually. Her responses give an insight into how remote learning has affected teaching at ESMS for the past year, and what effect it will have in the future.

When I asked Ms. Petropoulos what changes she needed to make to her teaching style when she started the school



ESMS's Raise Craze Fundraiser

By: Dale Heller

Everyone needs a little kindness, whether it be those who protect us, like firefighters, healthcare workers, and police officers, or the less fortunate in our community, like homeless mothers at Women in Need. And, as an added perk, this kindness supports ESMS by allowing us to have the opportunities and materials necessary to learn in the most ideal way!



How, exactly, have we spread kindness and supported our school? It's simple! The online organization Raise

What The Sport!

By: Rhone Galchen

Hello everyone reading this and what a crazy week it has been in the sports world. From a huge player being left to the Spain squad and one being called up after 5 years to possibly one of the most iconic team to player duos in the modern age (possibly) splitting up, and a lot more is coming up in this article.

First off we have the Stanley Cup. At the time of writing, the first round of the Stanley Cup is playing out and the first round is currently half way done. At the moment, 1 seed Colorado has a 2 wins to 0 wins advantage over 4 seed St Louis, and the 2 seed Las Vegas Knights have a 2-1 lead over the Minnesota Wild. Furthermore, local team the 4 seed New York Islanders are losing 1-2 over the Pittsburgh Penguins whilst the Boston Bruins (3 seed) are the first team that I mentioned to be beating a seed higher than them with a 2-1 lead over 2 seed the Washington Capitals. Another team to do so is the 4 seed Montreal Canadiens over the 1 seed Toronto Maple Leafs (who know their fair share of hockey heartbreak), however, it is only 1 game and Toronto has plenty of time to turn it around (my prediction is that a Canadian

year, she responded by saying, "I had to make a lot of adjustments to my teaching style and lessons this year. When teaching in person, I use a lot of paper and pencil and practice worksheets. Not being able to have students work on handouts meant I had to create all new digital lessons that students could access while also providing feedback so that students could see how they were doing." Clearly, Ms. Petropoulos' teaching style needed to make a large shift. While many teachers would already use platforms such as Google Classroom before remote learning, Ms. Petropoulos' normal teaching needed to be transformed when remote learning began.

Next, I asked Ms. Petropoulos about her new ways of teaching remotely. Knowing that math could be a difficult topic for some students, I asked Ms. Petropoulos, "how are you explaining the topic thoroughly over Zoom?" Ms. Petropoulos responded by saying, "I have been using programs that allow for students to get immediate feedback. The best way to know if a student understands math is to have them work on problems independently and see if they are getting them correct or incorrect. Looking at a student's work gives me a lot of information about what they know, and what parts of the lesson they are confused about." Seeing how students perform virtually is a challenge that many teachers needed to face when remote learning began, so using internet platforms where teachers can track student progress was a great solution, as Ms. Petropoulos explained. She went on to say, "By having students use programs like Delta Math, Desmos, and Go Formative, I can see if students are understanding the topic immediately, or if they need more time to practice." The platforms that Ms. Petropoulos stated are excellent at allowing teachers to see how students can do work independently. For example, on Delta Math, students can be assigned a specific type and amount of work from the teacher, and as they complete the assignment, the teacher can see which questions the student answered wrong, and how long the student took to answer each question. It can imitate in-person teaching with worksheets, where a teacher also can see how many questions a student answered wrong, and about how long it took them to complete an assignment.

Craze allows schools to build individual websites where students can list Acts of Kindness that they will complete. ESMS's Acts of Kindness included painting kindness rocks and placing them around neighborhoods, delivering goodie baskets to firefighters, healthcare workers, and/or police officers, letting someone know their worth, or creating festive Mother's Day Cards and mask chains for homeless women at Women in Need (WIN).

Students emailed family and friends, asking them to donate when the Acts of Kindness were completed. This money would go to ESMS's technology, digital resources, and educational supplies.

The event began April 12th and concluded on May 21st. It was organized by Melissa Cohen, an ESMS parent and member of the PTA. The ESMS Helping Homeless Women Committee (HHWC) helped to plan it and spread the word. The HHWC specifically helped to gather Kindness Cards, the name of the Mother's Day Cards created by students.

The initiative was a success! Approximately 75 cards and 25 mask chains were donated to WIN on May 4, and \$6,386 was donated to ESMS!

When asked why Raise Craze was chosen as ESMS's biggest fundraiser of the year, Melissa Cohen said, "Joslin Paradise, the ESMS PTA President, heard about the Raise Craze fundraiser at a CEC Presidents Meeting and shared it with the PTA Executive Board. The EB board thought raising money through Acts of Kindness during this challenging unprecedented time was a way everyone could participate and kindness is something we all need to focus on. Connecting to a program as we did with (WIN) was to encourage us to remember to live a life with compassion, empathy and with gratitude. Giving back to others is a nice way to feel good."

Just because the fundraiser has concluded doesn't mean that we should stop doing good deeds! If we look around our community, at the simple ways it can be improved, we can clearly see all of the kindness that can be spread!

team will win the series between the two sides). Winnipeg (3 seed) is doing the same to Nashville (2 seed) with a 1-0 win, but as I said earlier, it is only 1 game in and a lot can change. Carolina (1 seed) is doing the work expected of them by beating 4 seed Nashville 2-0 whilst Tampa Bay (3 seed) is pushing Florida (2 seed) right down to the wire with a 2-1 lead.

Moving on to basketball, the Knicks were finally in the playoffs! After years of bad decisions and causing more (and more and more^100000) misery onto their loyal fans they finally are in the playoffs to bring a smile onto their fans faces. While the Knicks may not be expecting to win the whole tournament, there are a bunch of teams who will and one team who will regret that they are not the favorites after looking to be the favorites early in the season. I am first going to cover the team who will regret how their season panned out (so far they could still win the playoffs) with the team of course being the Lakers. After starting the season in great form, a series of injuries to key players in the form of Anthony Davis and Lebron James which prevented them from consistently playing together for large parts of the season, their season went off track and now they find themselves in the playoffs by virtue of winning the playins. However, they have won their past five which will be a sign for optimism, and with Lebron James and Anthony Davis now fit and raring to go. Who knows where they can go? Other teams that can dare to dream about winning the whole cup are the Jazz, 76ers, the other New York team in the league in the Brooklyn Nets, but most notably, the LA Clippers, spearheaded by Chris Paul, Kawhi Leonard, and Paul George.

In football, there is turmoil in Wisconsin because Aaron Rodgers, Packers legend, wants to pack his bags and leave to a different team. Despite the fact that the Packers stated that they refuse to trade him, it is very possible they will eventually relent if Aaron Rodgers truly wants to leave the Packers for a different team and would sit out the season if he was still with the Packers which would force their hand. The problem with Rodgers, who cited the Broncos, Raiders, and 49ers as possible destinations, will keep Packers fans sweating and a trade to one of the teams

Continuing on the topic of using different internet platforms during remote learning, I then asked Ms. Petropoulos about what websites she saw were very helpful with remote learning. She answered by saying, "I love using Desmos for exploratory lessons. Ms. Yu [another 8th grade math teacher] has gotten really great at coding the lessons so that they provide feedback to students, and this makes it easier to see how students are doing as the lesson progresses. Delta Math is another platform that I have used prior to remote learning, but the website has grown in the last year, providing videos for students and also allowing for teachers to make quizzes on it." Clearly, the right websites are great at replicating in-person learning, and even adding more help that was not there previously. With Desmos, Ms. Petropoulos has given her class interactive lessons, such as you are a warrior, and you need to determine the distance you need to travel to attack your opponent, and the students need to use the Pythagorean Theorem to move onto the next part of the lesson. Or, for example students would be given the example of a football video game, and would have to use the Pythagorean Theorem to determine how far a quarterback threw a football. With the help of Ms. Yu, Desmos is a great way for Ms. Petropoulos to teach her students without being in the same room. With Desmos, there are card sorting activities, interactive games, and graphing problems all while the teacher can watch as each student moves through a lesson. Additionally, as Ms. Petropoulos explained, Delta Math's updates have given students better ways to understand material and their lesson, and teachers better ways to assign tests rather than using a Google Form. From her responses, you can see that the platforms Ms. Petropoulos uses are very good at not only recreating what teaching was like before remote learning, but incorporating more resources for students and teachers to use.

After that, the interview shifted to thinking about how teaching has changed since remote learning. When I asked her how her teaching method has changed or stayed the same since one year ago, Ms. Petropoulos responded by explaining, "My teaching method has completely changed from last year. When we first began remote

Photo Credit: raisecraze.com

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and grab a bite!**

Mayor's Race Update

By: Siroos Pasdar

As the primaries for New York City's mayor's race approach, the tension is higher than ever. The candidates, who are scrambling to the finish line, hope to emerge victorious and move to the general election. The group of candidates running to become NYC's next mayor are diverse with many different opinions, backgrounds, and strengths. This article will be going over some of the candidates and profiling them based on these important factors. The following candidates will be covered in this article:

mentioned could shake up the league and the possible Super Bowl contenders. One team that does not have to worry about their quarterback is the Jacksonville Jaguars first round pick Trevor Lawrence. The Jaguars are taking a different approach then that have in the past seasons with their owner Shahid Khan becoming more involved than past years (and with Jacksonville being consistently one of the worst in the league, they may need to). The Buccaneers are going to look to repeat their success although I personally think that they won't be able to repeat as champs. The Chiefs are also most people's pick to win the Super Bowl, but I also don't think that they will win, but actually that there will be a surprise team to win.

In soccer, there have been crazy events. First up, we have a fantastic finish in the La Liga season. Atletico Madrid won their first La Liga title since the 2013-14 season by beating Real Valladolid 2-1 despite Madrid mounting a late comeback in their game against Villarreal. This was an incredible achievement for Atletico Madrid with a team that people did not expect to go all the way before the season started, but it was also a huge embarrassment for Barcelona. Why, you may ask? The reason is because one of the catalysts for Atletico Madrid's success this season was "El pistolero," Luis Suarez. Luis Suarez came on a free transfer from Barcelona after Barcelona showed him, their third highest scorer of all time, the respect of releasing him via a 1 minute phone call. The lack of respect Barcelona showed him and binning him off to save money, according to Suarez, motivated him to do better and to win this title. This triumph for Atletico Madrid is a triumph for not only Atletico Madrid but a personal vindication and it is revenge on his former club Barcelona. Real Madrid, on the other hand, is in trouble.

As if having an aging team, not winning any trophies, and being in massive debt was not bad enough, Zinedine Zidane has resigned from the manager role in Real Madrid. A brilliant player and a great manager as well, he has left in similar conditions to when he left in 2018. He leaves with a massive rebuild on the horizon, a time of painful transition coming up, and he leaves Madrid fans being very

learning in March 2020, we did not have live Zoom lessons, only extra help. I posted a mini video each day of the lesson, and had Delta Math follow-up practice problems. This year, having the live Zoom classes has allowed us to have more of a classroom experience. Whether the lesson is exploratory, or lecture style, every day I am able to hear student's thoughts, comments, and questions, which really drive the instruction." From this question, we can clearly see how this year of remote learning has impacted teaching. Ms. Petropoulos' usage of live Zoom meetings has shown us how we have evolved over the course of this year, and the importance of live Zoom sessions during remote learning. They provide students with a way for the material to be taught, and for the teachers to see how students are responding to different lessons.

Finally, the interview concluded with asking Ms. Petropoulos about how remote learning will impact her teaching one in-person schooling resumes. She responded by saying, "I look forward to returning to using paper and pencil for the majority of the math classes I teach in the future. I love being able to walk around the classroom, and get an idea of how everyone is doing, just by glancing over their shoulders and looking at their work. I really miss sitting down with students and being able to see their step by step work." Clearly, there is no replacement for pencil and paper work, as Ms. Petropoulos explained. Seeing how students are handling a set of problems is something that can only be seen in-person. However, Ms. Petropoulos went on to say, "I would like to continue to have occasional explorations through Desmos, and Delta Math will be a great tool for providing students with immediate feedback for homework, but during class time I look forward to getting back to using rulers, calculators and pencils." While we are all hoping for the school we experienced last February, Ms. Petropoulos explained perfectly that continuing to use the resources she discovered during remote learning should be something occasionally used during lessons, but the traditional ways of teaching are irreplaceable.

Overall, Ms. Petropoulos' interview showed us all what effects remote learning had on teaching. The adjustments that the

- Andrew Yang
- Eric Adams
- Scott Stringer
- Kathryn Garcia

Andrew Yang- Democrat

Andrew Yang, a former presidential candidate, is a leading candidate to become the next mayor of New York City. Yang centered his presidential campaign around income equality and lowering poverty. He is the founder of the non-profit organization Venture for America, which helps others start small businesses, particularly in struggling cities. He has now proposed bold ideas to push NYC through poverty and the pandemic. Yang has proposed to give 500,000 lower income New York City residents \$2,000 a year. He also has visions to safely reopen schools and businesses, and help push the economic recovery in the city.

Eric Adams- Democrat

Eric Adams, who was endorsed by the New York Post, is the current Brooklyn borough president. He was a police officer for 22 years in New York City, and his experience as an officer has set his perspectives on issues such as police brutality. He has suggested that change within the police force would be necessary, but he does not support defunding the police. He also has ideas to provide more education to those in less fortunate communities, and has proposed ideas to extend learning options through the summer.

Scott Stringer- Democrat

Scott Stringer, who was previously Manhattan's borough president, is now the city comptroller. His campaign is centered around affordable housing and early childhood education. Stringer would like to provide high quality and affordable education for all infants and toddlers. He hopes to dramatically increase child care assistance, and train and support early childhood educators. Stringer also wants to allow people to stay in their apartments and homes and still make sure landlords can still make money. He has also suggested converting vacant commercial spaces and hotels into more affordable housing.

Kathryn Garcia- Democrat

upset about his departure. I do think Real Madrid will be able to rebuild eventually without Zidane but I do still think that this is a bad development for Real Madrid. However, two players that will be happy about this are Martin Odegaard and Gareth Bale. Both were on the fringes during Zidane's tenure and will be looking for a new opportunity under a new manager. On the other side of the table, Huesca, Real Valladolid, and Eibar all went to the second division with Elche defying expectations by surviving (though they survived by the width of a cat's whisker).

In other news we have the German league. Bayern Munich won the league, with RB Leipzig coming second (which we knew was happening for a while), but the biggest news that came was Borussia Dortmund coming in fourth. In the beginning of the season, if Dortmund fans heard that they finished fourth (but crucially, still qualifying for the lucrative Champions League) they would have thought it would be an underwhelming season. But if you told them that they would finish fourth place when they were 7 points behind 4th place with 7 games to go after losing to top 4 rivals Frankfurt, they would have been elated. Dortmund were able to complete a marvelous turnaround by winning 7 of their last 7 games to qualify for the Champions League. In other news. Robert Lewandowski broke Gerd Muller's standing since the 1971-1972 season by scoring his 41st goal of the season in the 90th minute. He broke Gerd Muller's record despite playing 5 games less this season due to injury. To put it in context, Lewandowski scored 41 goals in 29 games in the German League which is just unheard of. What a legend. On the other side of the table, Cologne were able to beat Werder Bremen and Mainz earn to 16th place (the relegation playoff), but are still in danger of going down with the game with Holstein Kiel coming up.

In the Serie A, Inter Milan finally won the league title for the first time since the treble winning season at the turn of the decade. This is a huge triumph for Inter Milan, but not all is well at the club. Due to deep financial debt, Antonio Conte was fired from the club (since he wanted to invest in the squad) and Inter Milan may be forced to sell several of their best

ESMS teachers needed to make last March and at the beginning of this year are ones that will have an impact on teaching in the future. Ms. Petropoulos has shown us how she was able to nearly replicate a real classroom while being virtual, and that using platforms such as Desmos and Delta Math provide her with a way to teach interactive lessons, and easily assign tests. Ms. Petropoulos showed us that while remote learning has shown us new ways to teach a lesson, there will never be a way to imitate a paper, pencil, and a real classroom.



By using Delta Math and Desmos, Ms. Petropoulos was able to create great lessons for her students this school year.

Photo Credit: (top) moneyinc.com
(bottom) deltamath.com



Hidden Treasures In The ESMS Neighborhood: Gracie Mansion

By: Nora Cassetta

This installment of the Tiger Times Hidden Treasures series focuses on the Archibald Gracie Mansion, commonly known as Gracie Mansion, and features an interview with Paul Gunther, Executive

Kathryn Garcia sees herself as a problem solver, and someone New York City needs right now. Not as a politician, but a person who can effectively get things done. She is the former sanitation commissioner for the city, and oversaw the huge trash operations. During her time in the de Blasio administration, she assisted the distribution of millions of meals to New Yorkers in the midst of the pandemic. Garcia says that she would get New York out of the pandemic by investing in small businesses and other things that make this city unique, such as art, culture and restaurants.

Sources: nytimes.com, yangforny.com, nypost.com, stringerformayor.com

The Ingenuity Helicopter

By: Matthew Huang

Four carbon fiber blades. Innovative solar cells. A navigation camera. Antennas. These are some of the things that Ingenuity needs to fly on Mars. In this article, you will learn about what Ingenuity is, how it was made, how it got to Mars, and more.

So, what exactly is Ingenuity? It is the first helicopter designed to fly on another planet, Mars. Ingenuity is not made for research purposes, but to prove that the technology it has works. According to NASA, Ingenuity's key objectives are to prove powered flight in the thin atmosphere of Mars is possible, and to demonstrate miniaturized flying technology. This will help determine whether we will send more helicopters to Mars in the future.

Ingenuity is four pounds and has a blade span just under four feet. Ingenuity has solar panels, lithium ion batteries, antennas, four carbon fiber blades, avionics, which is the brain of the helicopter, insulation, and even a color camera to help it operate.

players due to financial issues, which may see Inter Milan lose all the progress that they made this season. In second place are the fierce rivals of Inter Milan, Milan, and in third come tiny Atalanta, who by this point are no longer a revelation in coming in the Top 4. In fourth, are Juventus who secured a 4th place finish with a 4-1 win over Bologna. Despite Pirlo (who probably got sacked by the time you read this) making the shocking decision to drop Ronaldo, they still made it to the Champions League with the help of Napoli collapsing against Hellas Verona in a 1-1 tie. Another team who will be disappointed is Roma, who finished 7th in Serie A. With Jose Mourinho coming in, only time will tell whether Roma will get to their previous heights. On the other end of the table, Benevento, Crotone, and Parma all go down with La Spezia being the surprise team to stay up.

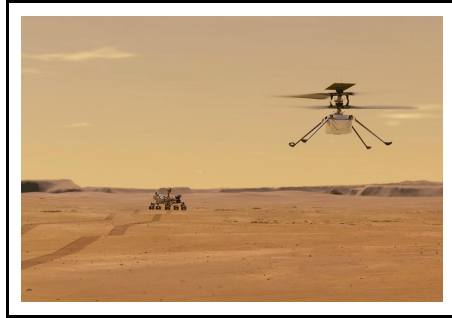
Furthermore, Lille have won the French league. Despite selling so many of their promising players (Nicholas Pepe, Gabriel, Rafael Leao, etc), despite PSG paying more for one player than lille paid for their whole team, despite an ownership change midseason, Lille have won the league. Just like Monaco in the 2016-17 season, Lille, under the guidance of brilliant manager Christophe Galtier, have ended PSG's reign of dominance and have brought PSG to shame. Lille, led by 35 year old Turkish goal machine Burka Yilmaz, great goalkeeper Mike Miagnan, Jonathan Ikone, young Canadian Jonathan David, Jose Fonte and Sven Botman keeping it tight at the back, have been able to make the biggest shock in a year where there were many surprise title winners in the top 5 leagues (and Celtic losing the title to Rangers), Lille are the cream of the crop and should be immensely proud of themselves for achieving this. For every soccer (and especially Lille, although I doubt there are any reading this) fan reading this, enjoy Lille's victory and the small team beating PSG, because with Cristophe Galtier out and many of their young star players possibly on the move, Lille may go back to being a mid table team (unless they hire a good replacement), so just enjoy the victory now. On the other side of the table, Nimes and Dijon were relegated, and Nimes, who won 4 of their last 5 games of the season, scraped the relegation

Director of the Gracie Mansion Conservancy.

Located at the highest point of Carl Schurz Park, just a short walk from ESMS, this deeply historic property has withstood the passage of time, having undergone several renovations, and served various purposes over the years. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington recognized the strategic hilltop location overlooking Horn's Hook and seized the property, then owned by Jacob Walton, and constructed a fort on Walton's front lawn. The American regiments stationed many cannons facing the East River, but the British troops on the opposite side of the River attacked and raided the fort on September 8, 1776, which destroyed the fort and unfortunately, the Walton residence. In 1798, the Waltons reclaimed their property, and sold it for \$5,625 to a Scottish-born shipping magnate, Archibald Gracie.

Gracie emigrated to New York from his homeland in 1784, and became one of the wealthiest men in the city. Gracie then started the construction of a two-story mansion in 1799. Since at that time what we now know as the Upper East Side was considered rural terrain, the house served as the Gracie family country house. Gracie frequently hosted elaborate parties, often with his close friends, including President John Quincy Adams, Alexander Hamilton, James Fenimore Cooper, and Washington Irving. It is amazing that many ESMS students meet with their friends at Carl Schurz Park just steps away from where Gracie entertained these giants of American history and literature.

A decade later, due to debts caused by shipping embargoes and unpaid claims during the War of 1812, Gracie's business crumbled and he was forced to sell his country estate. The families of Foulke and Wheaton owned the property for the next six decades, during which time the neighborhood surrounding the Gracie Mansion changed from farmland and forest to brownstones and tenements. In 1891, the City took over the property through condemnation for park purposes. The eleven acres of the Gracie Estate became the center of the East End Park, which had just been established, stretching from 84th Street to 90th Street. This park was soon



The idea of making a helicopter to fly on Mars first came up in the late 1990's when Bob Balaram, the chief engineer for the Ingenuity project, wrote a proposal. It wasn't really noticed until 15 years later when a Jet Propulsion Laboratory manager went to a conference and a colleague remembered the paper Balaram wrote. Ingenuity was designed and built at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge, California. A Simi Valley-based company called AeroVironment designed most of Ingenuity's hardware. Ingenuity was named by 11th grader Vaneeza Rupani, who submitted the name for the "Name the Rover" contest for the Mars 2020 mission.

Ingenuity rode to Mars on the belly of the rover Perseverance, which was carried by an Atlas V rocket. They were both launched on July 30th, 2020 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. After six and a half months, the rover and helicopter arrived at Mars. According to space.com, in a harrowing "seven minutes of terror," the rover plunged into the Martian atmosphere, jettisoned its heat shield and deployed the largest parachute ever built for Mars to slow its descent to the Martian surface. Cameras on the rover, its sky crane and backshell captured the descent down to the ground, including the moment the sky crane, hovering over the Martian surface, lowered Perseverance to the ground for a picture perfect landing. The debris shield covering the helicopter fell off, the helicopter was brought upright, the landing legs were unlocked, and the helicopter was dropped to the surface.

On Mars, Ingenuity is trying to achieve its purpose through a series of test flights. All of Ingenuity's flights were autonomous, because the signals from Earth take too long of a time to reach Mars. Ingenuity's

playoffs where they will face (one of my favorite teams) Toulouse.

Next up there is the Premier League. While we knew that Manchester City would win the league and Manchester United would finish second, and that Fulham, West Brom, and Sheffield United would get relegated, there was quite a mad dash for the European spots. First up we have Liverpool, who have completed quite an amazing turnaround. After losing 1-0 to Fulham (their 6th home loss in a row), their Champions League hopes looked down in the ditches. However, in a turnaround that was similar to Dortmund's, they fought through their injuries and did not lose the rest of their games to secure a remarkable third place finish. But from a team that came through in the end we go to a team that bottled it in Leicester City. Leicester City, just like last year, occupied the top 4 spot for almost the whole season, and just like last year, they dropped out on the final day, with a 4-2 loss to Tottenham being the final nail in the coffin. However, a consolation will be their first FA cup win over Chelsea with a 1-0 victory courtesy of a sumptuous strike from Youri Tielemans. Chelsea, on the other hand, completed their turnaround under Thomas Tuchel (after Frank Lampard's sacking) by qualifying for the Champions League despite losing to Aston Villa by virtue of Leicester losing to Tottenham. Leicester still did get 5th, whilst West Ham finished 6th, whilst Tottenham stole the Uefa Conference League spot (it is oh so very prestigious, and if you are not a soccer fan, I am being sarcastic) from hated rivals Arsenal. The big surprise of the whole season has to be West Ham who were able to get a Europa League spot which exceeds all the expectations of even the most optimistic fan.

Lastly, there is the Champions League final coming up on Saturday. This final is contested between Chelsea and Manchester City, with Manchester City being favorites due to better form and having a higher quality team. A win for both teams would mean a huge amount to both the fans and the owners. Manchester City have never won a Champions League before, whilst Chelsea last won in 2012 and manager Roman Abramovich is eager to reach the summit of European football.

named after Carl Schurz, “a prominent German immigrant who served as a newspaper editor, Minister to Spain, United States Senator, and member of the cabinet of President Rutherford B. Hayes.”

After a couple of decades as a concession stand for ice cream and venue for various public classes (such as English language lessons for immigrants), several civic groups called on officials to have Gracie Mansion restored to its previous glory. Starting in 1923, the mansion housed the first Museum of the City of New York, but when the museum switched locations in 1932, the Gracie house was once again vacant.

Around ten years later, Parks Commissioner Robert Moses persuaded New York City officials to designate Gracie Mansion as the official residence of the New York City Mayor. According to Mr. Gunther, “Gracie Mansion would not be standing tall today if it weren’t for Parks Commissioner Robert Moses.” Although Moses was known for demolishing anything in his path, when designing the FDR Drive, the construction of which began in the 1930s, Moses feared the deterioration of the Gracie Mansion. In order to save it, he “made sure to cantilever Carl Schurz Park over the new highway.” Mr. Gunther shared that Moses wanted to “save this mansion and turn it into a White House,” the official residence of the Mayor of New York City.

The first in a long line of New York City mayors to reside in the Gracie Mansion was Fiorello H. LaGuardia in 1942. During the residence of Mayor Robert F. Wagner who served from 1954 to 1965, a new wing was built under the supervision of his wife, Susan Edwards Wagner. Unfortunately, Mrs. Wagner passed away before the construction was completed in 1966. The new wing, which includes a ballroom and two smaller reception rooms, was named in memory of her. It was also in 1966 when the fireplace from the country home of William Bayard, where Alexander Hamilton died after his duel with Aaron Burr in July 1804, was installed in the ballroom.

In 1981, Mayor Edward I. Koch Gracie established the Gracie Mansion Conservancy in order to “preserve and enhance the house, as well as to promote

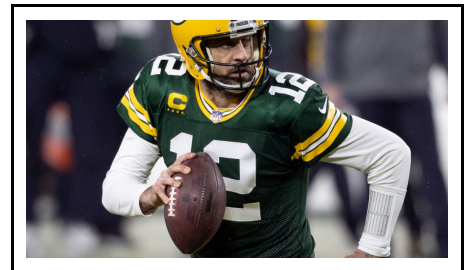
first flight occurred on April 19th, 2021. Ingenuity rose three meters into the air, turned 96 degrees, and then descended safely back to the surface of Mars. The whole flight took 39.1 seconds. This does not seem like very much, but this was the first controlled flight on another planet. Ingenuity's second flight happened on April 22nd, 2021. Ingenuity went five meters into the air, tilted slightly to move two meters to the side, then moved back the way it came, and landed where it started. This flight was longer than the first, at 51.9 seconds. The third flight occurred on April 5th, 2021. The third flight pushed Ingenuity to its limits, with the team adding more instructions for Ingenuity to take more photos. Ingenuity's 80 second flight took it five meters into the air. The helicopter then flew 50 meters downrange and back before touching down. The fourth flight occurred on April 30th, 2021. For the fourth flight, the helicopter rose five meters, flew South for 133 meters, and then came back. The flight lasted 117 seconds.

Ingenuity's fifth flight occurred on May 7th, 2021. According to space.com, “NASA's Ingenuity Mars helicopter is now exploring a new airfield on the Red Planet. Ingenuity made its fifth Martian flight today (May 7), lifting off from the floor of Jezero Crater at 3:26 p.m. EDT (1926 GMT). The 4-lb. (1.8 kilograms) chopper climbed to an altitude of 16.5 feet (5 meters) and cruised south for 423 feet (129 m), following the same path it took last week on flight number four.. But unlike that April 30 jaunt and the three others that preceded it, today's trip was one-way. After reaching its destination, Ingenuity climbed to 33 feet -- twice as high in the Martian sky as it had ever gotten -- snapped some photos and then landed in a new place, wrapping up a 108-second flight and embarking on a new journey of exploration.” Starting with Ingenuity's sixth flight, the operations demonstration of the mission will start.

The flight of Ingenuity shows how there are endless possibilities ahead for the human race. As middle schoolers, our futures are uncertain. Each and every one of us has a role in the future that we may not yet foresee. We can learn from Ingenuity and take its lessons in order to

However, neutral fans would hate this final. The reason being that it signifies how much money has taken over the sport. Unlike West Ham or Leicester City, Chelsea and Manchester City are far from a fairy tale story and became good only due to the rich owners that came in. Manchester City were taken over by Sheikh Mansour, who immediately bought Manchester City the best players and bought Manchester City's rise to the top (in fact, Manchester City's last game before getting taken over by Sheikh Mansour was an 8-1 loss to Middlesbrough). Chelsea has a similar story in which Russian owner Roman Abramovich put in tons of money into the team to raise them to the top and to save Chelsea from being devoured by their debt. Despite this, many were skeptical of both the sides reaching the final due to Manchester City's previous collapse in the tournament to weaker sides and because Chelsea were in a bit of a sorry state under Frank Lampard. My prediction (although mine have not gone very well recently) is that the game will finish 1-1 and go into extra time and then penalties in which Chelsea would prevail.

That is all for the sports article I hope you have enjoyed.



Aaron Rodgers, one of the greatest quarterbacks of the modern NFL, has an uncertain future in Green Bay

What's Behind The Pollen?

By: Anna Hsu

It's the middle of spring! That means warmer temperatures, lots of spring poems, and picnics! Many thoroughly enjoy spring due to the warmer temperatures. However many people disregard spring because of one problem:

Gracie Mansion as a center of social, political, and artistic activity." With the help of the Conservancy, the Gracie Mansion shone with dignity once again. Interior features were enhanced and delicate ornaments were restored and added. Presently, the first floor is used as a showcase for historical antiques created by New York artists. As a tribute to the ships that built the "Gracie fortune," a painted compass is painted at the center of the faux marble floor.

When asked, "What is the most surprising fact that you have learned since getting involved in the Conservancy?", Mr. Gunther explained that recent research has revealed that "Archibald Gracie was a slave owner, and slaves actually helped build the house." Mr. Gunther explained that this revelation was significant because Archibald Gracie was a noted abolitionist, and in 1799, the same year that the house was built, New York passed the Act for Gradual Abolition of Slavery. Gracie freed his two enslaved persons in 1801 and 1802, respectively.

If one wonders whether the Gracie Mansion in any way has shaped and/or contributed to the development of the surrounding neighborhood, Mr. Gunther explained that "[i]n the 1700s, New York City ended at Canal Street, and country houses were built around the East River." As a result, "[r]ather than the house changing the neighborhood, the neighborhood has encroached on the house." Mr. Gunther is in awe of the Gracie Mansion and his sentiment is most probably shared by many city residents and tourists alike. In Mr. Gunther's words, "The beauty of the sight is just magnificent."

Given its long storied history, Gracie Mansion is truly a hidden treasure in the ESMS neighborhood.

Photo Credit: Wikipedia

Sources: graciemansion.org

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make a better world for ourselves and future generations.

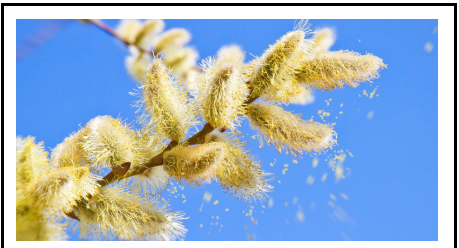
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 Photo Credit: phys.org



Congratulations to 8th Grader Yarden Reynolds For Winning The Jewish Museum Meaningful Messages Poster Contest! Her Poster Was About Environmental Justice!

bee pollen. Pollen allergies are quite the annoyance, but what makes them all worth enduring?

One of the main reasons people don't enjoy spring is because of bee pollen. But what is pollen exactly? Pollen is a white or yellow powdery substance that helps to produce flowers. Pollen is like the natural fertilizer for plants! Pollen is very important in terms of promoting flower growth. Pollen is spread by bees, who carry the pollen from one plant to another. While pollen may enhance allergies, it can also have its benefits. According to *WebMD*, "One small study found evidence that bee pollen might reduce some side effects of radiation therapy for cancer." However, there are side effects from bee pollen medication, so it should be taken in moderation.



Pollen

A lot of people have pollen allergies, but why? The *Mayo Clinic* states, "Allergies occur when your immune system reacts to a foreign substance — such as pollen, bee venom or pet dander — or a food that doesn't cause a reaction in most people." Allergies can be inherited, or even develop over time! Allergic reactions can be very mild, but some can be deadly. Luckily, most pollen allergies are not deadly, and can easily be soothed with benadryl or other allergy medications. *WebMD* says, "More than 25 million Americans are allergic to pollen." Making pollen allergies one of the most common types of allergies.

Although bees may pack a painful sting, bees are very important to the ecosystem. According to *Tree Hugger*, bees are, "one of the world's most widespread and important pollinators, contributing to both agriculture and wild ecosystems." Bees pollinate one of spring's most beloved features: flowers. I interviewed 7th grader London Villagomez

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The ESMS Debate Page

By: Rhone Galchen

This is the ESMS Debate Page. In every issue, two students write arguments defending one side of a topic facing ESMS. The opinions argued in the debate page do not necessarily represent the opinions of the writers themselves. This month's topic:

Should public colleges be free?

One of the biggest lingering questions surrounding public colleges is whether they should be free. Some say that making school tuition-free is needed to avoid student debt, whilst some argue that it is too hard to fund and that this money should be spent elsewhere. Before we get into the topic, it needs to be made clear what public colleges are. Public colleges are state funded colleges, such as Michigan. Colleges such as Harvard and Yale, which are private colleges, are not included in this debate. The reason it is only public colleges, and not all colleges, is due to the fact that private colleges are not state funded, which means that the government can control what they charge for students to go to the school. If you are still confused, think of public and private schools; some public schools are free, whilst private schools cost money to attend.

Yes - Rhone Galchen

Public College tuition should be free for a multitude of reasons. Before I get into them, I will fund this plan by taking away 70 billion dollars from the already over bloated military budget of 700 billion dollars. The first reason is that doing so would prevent future student loan debt. At the moment, Americans have a staggering 1.57 trillion dollars in loan debt. While not all of it is from state colleges, there is still a large amount of loan debt from state colleges. Sixty percent of college students

on her opinion about spring flowers, and she told me, "I love spring flowers! They bring a fresh essence to wherever you are, and they add a nice pop of color to the season." Bees play an important role in pollination. Without bees, fields would not be as full and colorful. So, even though pollen can be annoying, it allows flowers to thrive and bloom.

Spring is one of the most beloved seasons, and many would argue that going out in the spring is worth a couple extra tissues. London also claims spring is the, "perfect blend of hot and cold. You can enjoy sunny days without being overpowered with heat and uncomfortable [feelings]." Spring is a great time to take a walk with your family or just enjoy the sunny weather, especially after being cooped up in the house. Besides, face masks can also shield you from pollen! Without pollen, what would you give to your mother on Mother's Day or your friend on Valentine's Day? Well pollen makes this special gift, which makes the allergies all worth it.

Photo Credit:

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Algorithmic Bias

By: Ahana Chandra

What is the first thing you think of when you see the words, "Artificial intelligence"? A robot apocalypse? Technology taking over our lives? Well, the word "bias" probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. And for good reason. Most people have read, watched, or heard of horrifying sci-fi worlds where humans have been taken over by evil robots and terrifying new technology, but few have heard of today's real challenge with technology: bias. Examples of bias can be seen in almost every aspect of our everyday lives, now including technology. This article will

One Cool Fact About: Each President

By: Jacob Abroon

1. George Washington did not have any kids.
2. John Adams did not own any slaves.
3. Thomas Jefferson was George Washington's Secretary of State.
4. James Madison had two vice presidents, and they both died in office.
5. Like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe died on July 4th.
6. John Quincy Adams was the first president to have their picture taken.
7. Andrew Jackson was the first president of the Democratic Party.
8. Martin Van Buren was the first president born in the US.
9. William Henry Harrison was the first president to die in office.
10. John Tyler has a living grandson.
11. James Knox Polk was the oldest of 10 children.
12. Zachary Taylor's second cousin was James Madison.
13. Millard Fillmore once personally fought off a fire at the Library of Congress.
14. Franklin Pierce kept his entire cabinet throughout his four-year term.

15. James Buchanan was the first president to not be married.
16. Abraham Lincoln dreamed of being assassinated a little bit before he was assassinated.
17. Andrew Johnson was the first president to be impeached.
18. Ulysses S. Grant was invited to go to Ford's Theater with the Lincolns in 1865, but did not go. That was the same event where Lincoln was shot.
19. Rutheford B. Hayes held the first Easter Egg Roll at the White House.
20. James Garfield was a Civil War veteran.
21. Chester Alan Arthur was named after the doctor who delivered him.
22. Stephen Grover Cleveland was the first president to be married in the White House.
23. Benjamin Harrison was the grandson of 9th president William Henry Harrison.
24. Stephen Grover Cleveland passed the bar in 1859.
25. William McKinley was the first president to ride in an automobile.
26. Theodore Roosevelt was and still is the youngest president to hold office.
27. William Howard Taft was the first president to throw the first pitch of a baseball season.
28. Woodrow Wilson defeated then-sitting president William Howard Taft and former president Theodore Roosevelt to win his first presidential election and become president.
29. Warren Harding was the first president to talk on the radio.
30. Calvin Coolidge was born on - believe it or not - July 4th.
31. Herbert Hoover became an orphan at age 10.
32. Franklin Delano Roosevelt

plan to borrow money from the college in order to attend, but due to rising tuition and high interest rates on loans, students can't pay it off. To put it in context to how hard it is to pay college tuition in the present, college tuition has increased at a rate four times that of inflation, and eight times that of the household income. This trend shows that paying off loan debt for these incredibly high college tuition fees is getting harder and harder and free college tuition would fix that in state colleges. At many colleges, after 5 years, over 50% of students have failed to repay even a dollar of their student loans, and the rate of people who are not repaying those loans is only increasing. Therefore, free tuition in public colleges would solve this growing problem for future college students and would ensure that the current problem with loan debt would not increase, but start to decrease.

Another reason is to prevent students from not going to college or going to a worse college. Every year, low income students are faced with a hard situation. Even with financial aid, most students have to choose whether to go to the college of their dreams (or the best college they got into) and take a loan, which they know they may not be able to pay back, or to go to a far worse college that is affordable to them. Free tuition would help solve this dilemma for so many people. It would ensure that current and future generations of students will get higher quality college education in the best state schools. In addition, financial aid is simply not enough. Colleges don't give enough financial aid and therefore we need to make tuition free to allow students to get the most they can from their educational career.

Lastly, this will help us in the long term. CNBC writes, "By 2030 the global demand for skilled workers will exceed supply by more than 85.2 million workers. Approximately 918,000 unfilled IT jobs were listed in the U.S. over the last three months alone, as tech job postings continue to rise." This means that the demand for skilled workers will rise in future years, and free tuition would mean that there are more skilled workers. Therefore, free tuition would help ensure that more people will become skilled workers, because they're going to higher

take a closer look at the imperfections of tech and how they can impact us.

As technology quickly advances to keep up with our every need and demand, many have been creating new algorithms that can perform tasks by using machine learning, or the capacity for technology to learn from data and utilize it to perform these tasks even better than before. Machine learning is considered a part of AI that can be used for tasks in many different areas, including healthcare and hiring people for certain jobs. That being said, it is extremely crucial for these machine learning algorithms to be completely accurate and unbiased. However, we are now finding that many of these algorithms are not actually accurate or unbiased. Many have found that these algorithms discriminated against certain groups of people based on their gender, race, or identity.

One alarming sign of this issue took place in one of the world's largest companies: Amazon. The company was testing out a new AI-powered tool in order to efficiently and accurately recruit people to work there. However, according to Reuters, "by 2015, the company realized its new system was not rating candidates for software developer jobs and other technical posts in a gender-neutral way." As a result, the software generated results that leaned greatly towards male applicants and discriminated against women.

What happened with Amazon has also been happening with many other branches of AI in many other fields. Take facial recognition, for example. Joy Buolamwini, a computer scientist, directly faced the sad truth about the imperfections of this tool. In her article in *Time Magazine*, she states, "some facial analysis software couldn't detect my dark-skinned face until I put on a white mask." And it's not just her. "AI systems from leading companies have failed to correctly classify the faces of Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama, and Serena Williams," Buolamwini says. She reflects on the question, "how much does a person have to change themselves to function with technological systems that increasingly govern our lives?"

never saw the end of World War II, despite being president for most of the war.

33. Harry S. Truman served for 82 days as vice president.
34. Dwight David Eisenhower was the main architect behind the D-Day landings on Normandy in 1944 during World War II, which was the beginning of the end of World War II.
35. John F. Kennedy was the youngest president to be elected to office.
36. Lyndon B. Johnson was the first president to be inaugurated by a woman.
37. Richard Nixon was the first president to resign from office.
38. Gerald Rudolph Ford was the first president to not be elected to the vice president or president position.
39. Jimmy Carter was the first person on his father's side of the family to graduate from high school.
40. Ronald Reagan loved jelly beans.
41. George Herbert Walker Bush was a pilot in World War 2.
42. Bill Clinton was the first president born after the end of World War II.
43. George Walker Bush was a cheerleader during high school.
44. Barack Obama was the first president to be born outside of the continental United States.
45. Donald Trump was the first president to have no political experience or military experience.
46. Joe Biden is the oldest president.

See the next issue for another list of *One Cool Fact About* another topic!

caliber universities. This would make them better workers, which could help fill the need for skilled workers, especially in IT jobs. These higher skilled workers would improve the economy, which would ultimately end up making up for the roughly 70 billion dollars spent on free tuition. All in all, public colleges should have free tuition to ensure that the raging crisis of loan debt won't affect future generations, that students can go to the best public college available to them (such as Michigan) instead of having to go to a worse school due to money, and so that we can have more skilled workers in the future to accompany with an increasing demand for skilled workers.

No - Rhone Galchen

Public college tuition should not be free for numerous reasons. However, before getting into the reasons why public college tuition should not be free, here's a plan that does help college students, but does not give free tuition. Instead of giving free tuition to everyone, regardless of their income, it would be much smarter (and more economically feasible), if colleges increase the amount of financial aid given to low income students. At the moment, the financial aid given to low income students is simply not enough and that is the reason it has become one of the biggest debates surrounding public colleges in the first place. The low financial aid is why there is such a staggering amount of loan debt. Therefore, if we increase the amount of financial aid given to students with a household income below \$70,000 (with of course more financial aid given to students lower than 70,000), we would be allowing students to be able to go to the college they want to without making it free to everyone.

If we made public colleges free to everyone, it would total to a cost of around 70 billion dollars per year. That is a vast amount of money that should be reinvested elsewhere in other topics in the US that need funding. Furthermore, the majority of making tuition free would go to those in the top half of income distribution. The median college student debt is \$29,500, whilst on average, workers earn

So, why is this even happening? Well, although we think of AI as being perfect and completely eliminating human error, what many fail to realize is that humans are the ones who are building these programs. And so the data that humans enter into these programs (and that the technology has to learn from) is the data that may already be biased in the first place. Vox puts it perfectly, saying, "these systems can be biased based on who builds them, how they're developed, and how they're ultimately used."

Once we have learned how and why algorithmic bias works, the only thing left to do is to try and remove it from the technology we use today. Many have already begun this process and have made a lot of progress. In 2016, Joy Buolamwini founded the Algorithmic Justice League. This organization works to eliminate algorithmic bias by promoting transparency and accountability. And many others have joined the fight for algorithmic equality as well.

All in all, people have started to realize that every field should try to limit bias, and that technology is not an exception. One may argue that it is especially important to limit bias in technology, as it is becoming an essential part of our daily lives. While we reap the benefits, we must also remember that it is still not perfect and we must work to keep improving it.



Algorithmic Justice League Logo

Photo Credit: <https://www.ajl.org/>
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What Are The Best Ways To Learn A Language?

By: Jacob Abroon

We all know learning a language is not easy. There are exceptions, rules, accent marks, conjugations, past tense, present tense, future tense, etc. Thanks to ESMS's great Spanish teachers, nearly every student can graduate ESMS with a good understanding of the language of Spanish. Nearly everyone can agree that nothing can replace a teacher or a tutor when it comes to learning a new language. However, what if you want to learn a language on your own, without a tutor, teacher, or family member? Many turn to online softwares to learn a language. This article will go through multiple online platforms that can help you learn a language. From analyzing the teaching process to how well the platform motivates you to continue learning, this article will show you a variety of options for you.

#1: Duolingo

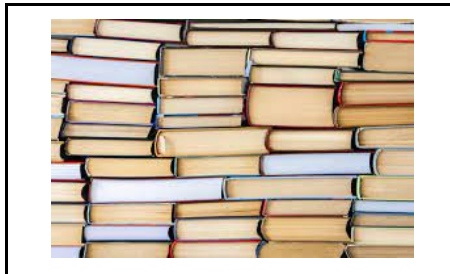
Duolingo, a platform that many ESMS students use to practice Spanish and complete assignments, is great at motivating you to continue to learn. Tracking your "XP," a certain amount of points you earn for completing lessons, motivates you to continue to learn, and try to earn as much XP as possible. By setting daily goals, a user is motivated to reach their goals and exceed them each day. Additionally, there are other digital "points" you can earn with Duolingo. For example, each day you complete a lesson, your "daily streak," or how many days in a row you practice, increases. While a greater daily streak has no value at all, it still pushes many to grow their daily streak and continue to learn.

Another positive aspect of Duolingo is that it is very organized. The lessons are divided into different categories such as travel, sports, work, school, family, etc., with about 20 to 25 lessons per category, and about 10 questions per lesson. So if a user wants to learn about school, they can focus on the categories about school, if they want to learn about travel, they can focus on categories about travel, and so on.

\$33,000 more if they get a college degree rather than a high school diploma. This means that many people in loan debt should be able to pay it over in due time. Thus, making college free would be wasting tax money on people who don't even need it. Supporters of free college tuition cite the need to eliminate loan debt, not enough financial aid, and ensure a more skilled workforce. However, increasing financial aid would solve all these problems and would be giving funding to the people who need it most, while not wasting it on people who do not need the money.

All in all, giving increased financial aid, instead of making public college tuition free, would make sure that the funding goes to the right people, and not the people who don't need the help.

Photo Credit: amazon.com



What Are People's Favorite Books?

By: Maeve Redmond

I surveyed classes 601, 703, and 805 to figure out what books people are most fond of. The results vary quite a bit but have some patterns among them. Even a person that doesn't like to read can find a good book that they love. Maybe if this applies to you, you can look at these results and find your favorite book.

As you most likely know, a lot of people have read the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Three of the 65 kids that replied said that this was their favorite book. A lot of people's favorite books are popular series like Hunger Games and Harry Potter. Some people like a specific book in

What Are Those Dreams Telling Us?

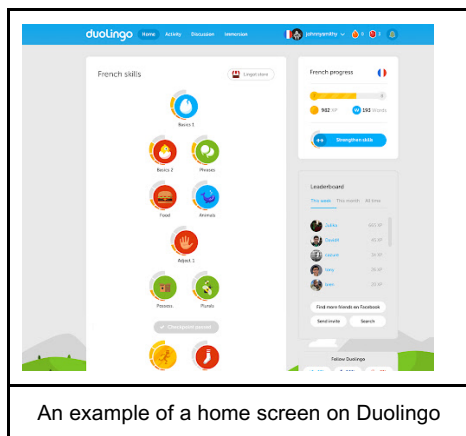
By: Samuel Stevens

When we dream, it's like we are directing a film in our heads. The only difference is that our body's complex system, which is responsible for dreams, is very different from a Hollywood production. Dreams can be entertaining and sometimes even bizarre. They can reveal a lot about your subconscious thoughts and emotions that you may not be aware of.

About 66% of people talk in their sleep! Anna Hsu, a 7th grader at ESMS, told me that she once exclaimed "diamonds" in her sleep for no reason. One night before a big math test, I screamed in my sleep, "estimated calculations!" In the morning, my sister told me how loud I was and that I woke her up. Do you ever talk or scream in your sleep? What random things have you said?

Dreams can be crazy and bizarre, but do they have any meaning? Every person dreams, even if they do not remember about it in the morning. Dreams can be stressful, exciting, and frightening. One of the most common dreams is when you are flying. Maybe you are trying to save the world or you're just peacefully floating through the sky. One theory of the meaning of this dream is that it is a sign that you have freed yourself from something difficult or frustrating. Falling is another very common dream. Researchers have a theory that the meaning of this dream is that you are grasping or holding onto a moment in your life too hard. By understanding the meaning of your dreams, can you learn from them?

So there could be meanings of these crazy dreams, but we are back to the same question: what are dreams? Why have we been dreaming since the beginning of time? Sleep is one of the most incredible phenomena, and there are still many questions to be answered. Have you ever heard the saying, "let me sleep on it"? The most well-known theory is that sleeping and dreaming help us store important memories, get rid of unimportant ones, and process complex thoughts and



An example of a home screen on Duolingo

However, there are some downsides to Duolingo. While there are a large variety of topics, from common basics to first aid vocabulary, when using Duolingo without someone teaching you along the way, understanding rules such as conjugations and certain tenses is fairly difficult. Duolingo is mainly for vocabulary purposes rather than understanding how the language works. For example, Duolingo might teach a user how to say, “to eat, you eat, I eat, they eat, etc.” but understanding why there are certain conjugations for certain pronouns is not taught in-depth with Duolingo.

#2: Babbel

As it claims, Babbel is reportedly helpful in teaching you conversational skills in a certain language. According to a review on cnn.com, Babbel is very user-friendly, and it is an easy experience to be learning through Babbel.

One advantage of Babbel is that you can schedule when you are sent daily reminders to continue practicing. For example, you can tell them to remind you, “Around Lunchtime,” or, “On My Way Home.” As the review put it, “This app is clearly geared toward everyday life.” While Duolingo notifies you at pre-scheduled times, Babbel allows you to customize your reminders much more.

Additionally, Babbel is very easy to navigate. There are different tabs with your lessons, home page, review, and personal profile, so that no user will be lost in the site. Additionally, while platforms such as Duolingo might teach a user to say phrases that are very uncommon, Babbel is helpful for common and everyday

these series and others just love the series overall.

PBS did a survey and they found that the most popular book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. From my survey I found that there was only one person that said this was their favorite book. This is most likely because the people they PBS surveyed were adults and not people that are in middle school. The reading level is different and the books you read can be affected by your age. But whether you are young or old, tall or short, there is a book out there that is for you. And if you really can't find one, you can write one yourself!

As you can see there are many books out there for you to try and read that other people love. If you can, pick up a book and get deep into the land of the story. All you have to do is read a book and you can go more places than you ever could in a lifetime.

Photo Credit: theknow.denverpost.com

Theme Of The Month: COVID-19 Recovery In NYC

By: Siroos Pasdar

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a large burden on New York City. Before the pandemic, areas like Times Square were packed with tourists and visitors. The city was previously known to be home to 8,336,817 people in June of 2019, just a year before the pandemic and drop in population, according to census.gov. Memories of a “normal” life have started to fade away. Our new normal, masks and social distancing, have taken over the world, as has the virus. However as more and more people get vaccinated everyday, the U.S. is seeing a turning point in the pandemic. The CDC has announced that fully vaccinated Americans will no longer need a mask outdoors or indoors, while still allowing businesses to create stricter guidelines. Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced that he will be putting these guidelines in effect in New York state. This marks the beginning of looser restrictions, and hopefully the end to the pandemic.

emotions. There has been research that proves that sleep and dreams help us store information. The “how” aspect of this theory is not completely understood yet, but we know that this theory might just be true!

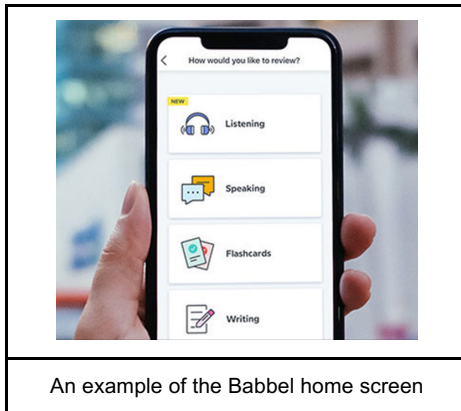
You would think there would only be one type of dream, but that is not the case! There are many different types. The main 5 types are normal dreams, daydreams, lucid dreams, false awakening dreams, and nightmares. Normal dreams are just what it sounds like; they are common dreams about people and experiences that we often forget. Daydreams are when you escape reality for a while and visualize the past, present, or even the future. This happens throughout the daytime. Lucid dreams are when you are completely in control of your dream while you are sleeping. False awakening dreams are exactly what it sounds like; you feel like you have woken up, but you are really asleep! The last and worst one of them all is nightmares! These can be so scary and so realistic. Every person on earth has experienced each type of these dreams, even if you do not remember about it in the morning. Which type is your favorite?

We don't remember most of our dreams. Scientists have found out that you forget 90% of them. Another cool fact is that our mind does not invent characters in our dreams. Every face we see in our dreams is a real person we know! Everybody knows that we don't see in black and white, but studies from 1915 to 1950, show that the majority of dreams used to be in black and white. This began to change over time and now, only 4.4% of people dream in black and white. Do animals dream? Yes! They also dream! Every mammal on this planet dreams.



A dream that is not interpreted is like a letter that is not read - The Talmud

conversations.



An example of the Babbel home screen

However, there are some obvious downsides. Babbel is not a free software. For its users, it costs \$13.95 per month, according to [babbel.com](https://www.babbel.com). With those prices, Babbel would cost well over \$100 per year. For many who might use the platform for a number of months, or who are not willing to spend money to learn a new language online, Babbel's costs are a disadvantage.



#3: Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone, another common language-learning platform, has advantages and disadvantages as any platform would. One advantage is that this software takes a very visual approach to teaching phrases and vocabulary. While many other learning platforms require someone to read a text or listen to audio, Rosetta Stone shows photographs to show certain words. For example, when learning the phrase, "the man is eating," Rosetta Stone would not give you a direct translation, but show you a man eating,

Back in March of 2020, New York City was the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak. Hospitals were overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients. Hospitals set up tents outside in areas such as the parking lot, and at one point, an area for COVID-19 patients was set up in Central Park. ICU and emergency room doctors had described not having enough ventilators or equipment to properly perform their jobs. As a result, many businesses were forced to close, schools went fully virtual, and offices began to move to virtual environments to slow the spread of the virus.

As of May 21st, 854,386 people have been vaccinated in the borough of Manhattan, according to the government's official COVID-19 vaccine tracker. Each dose given is one step closer towards a normal life. Vaccinations have driven the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths down. In some cases, entire states reported having zero deaths on certain days.

"The city artist corp is going to employ artists as part of the comeback in New York City. We are investing 25 million dollars to employ over 1,500 artists to help bring back arts and culture all over New York City. We are going to hire artists, musicians, [and] performers. They're going to be out in communities doing public art, public performances, [and] pop up shows," said Mayor Bill DeBlasio on Thursday, May 6th. This program is one of many programs to help the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has left the city scarred.

New York City is making its recovery far sooner and faster than expected. On May 19th, stores, theaters, museums, gyms and restaurants were allowed to run at full capacity, while still making sure people maintain six feet apart from one another. However, the ambitious plans don't stop there. Subways are now running 24 hour service after shutting down service for a year for certain times overnight to disinfect the subways.

Not all New Yorkers are on board, however. In one New York Times article, Juan Corra, a bricklayer in the Bronx stated, "I would love to go to a movie, I miss these things, but it's too soon." Public

Dreams are one of the world's most fascinating phenomena. Anything is possible in dreamland, so get excited and have fun on your next trip to dreamworld!

Informational Sources:

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Photo Credit:
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How To Prepare For Tryouts

By: Tayden Eagle-McAvoy

Tryout nerves are a very common thing to experience, and learning how to deal with them can be very beneficial. This article will outline some tips and pointers on how to do this.

First, ask informed adults, such as coaches, what would most likely be tested during tryouts. Try to get a good idea on what to expect. Next, prepare a workout routine. If it is not specified, figure out what part of the body would be most beneficial to work on. For example, if leg muscles are the specified area, exercises such as squats, sprints, mountain climbers, and other workouts that target leg muscle improvement. After a few weeks of working out and eating healthy, both endurance and muscle levels will increase, which allows for a better chance at making a team.

Once completing this step, add the number of repetitions (also known as

thus allowing you to understand it yourself. While this process may seem tedious, it could be helpful when it comes to understanding real world applications, such as knowing what to say when a man is eating. Also, many people are visual learners, so using audio such as what Duolingo might do could introduce unnecessary problems.

In addition to using pictures to represent phrases, Rosetta Stone also has good organization. There are different topics that you have to follow as you learn, and they all focus on food, travel, work, etc. Similar to Duolingo, this aspect of Rosetta Stone allows a user to set personal goals, such as, "today, I will complete four lessons," which pushes a user to learn more of the language.

However, the fact that Rosetta Stone organizes the vocabulary into different categories could be problematic while using the platform, because you are not able to continue past a certain category without completing the category before that. This is different from Duolingo, due to the fact that with Duolingo, you only need to answer a few questions per category to continue to the next.

To add on, Rosetta Stone's visual approach to teaching could be difficult for its users, because the potential vagueness of the images could lead the user in the wrong direction. For example, if it shows a girl standing in a thunderstorm holding an umbrella, the user could interpret it in multiple ways. Some examples of interpretations include: rain, umbrella, a girl with an umbrella, a thunderstorm, etc. Clearly, this could have negative effects while using Rosetta Stone.

#4: Quizlet

While Quizlet is not designed to be a language-learning app, a large portion of its users use the flashcard software to study vocabulary for a language.

One clear advantage of Quizlet is the numerous ways you can study vocabulary. From the simple flashcard software that allows you to see a word or phrase and the translation at the click of a button, to Quizlet Learn, which tests your skills to type out certain vocabulary and select the

health officials have also warned that these ambition reopening plans might be too quick.

While opinions can differ on New York Cities plans to reopen, it's a step towards the lives we lived before the pandemic.

Sources: The New York Times, Census, governor.ny.gov,

Theme Of The Month #2: COVID-19 Recovery In The Hospitality Industry

By: Siroos Pasdar

The COVID-19 pandemic has put an enormous strain on the hospitality industry. The hospitality industry, which includes restaurants and hotels, has struggled to stay alive in New York City through the shutdowns and recovery during the pandemic. Many businesses have struggled to pay their rent and employees. As a result, many people have been laid off in the hospitality industry. However, with vaccines now available for people ages 12 and up, hotels and restaurants are starting to experience more business, and they're making their comeback from the pandemic.

As a result of the decline of business earlier in the pandemic, businesses encountered expenses that they couldn't pay. Hotels, which largely relied on tourism and people traveling to do business, were missing most of their customers. Airplane travel also declined as a result of the pandemic, preventing tourists from coming to the city, going to hotels, and dining in restaurants.

Despite the challenges, people have come up with innovative solutions to combat the restrictions of COVID-19. Early in the pandemic, it was determined that COVID-19 was an airborne virus. This means that an infected person could transmit the virus through coughing, sneezing, or close contact with another person. Therefore, it was determined that outdoor environments are much safer than indoor ones. On multiple occasions during the pandemic, indoor dining in New York City was not allowed. Restaurants were

reps) that would be most beneficial to reaching the desired goal. To strengthen leg muscles, try two sets of 10 squats, two sets of 15 mountain climbers, and a one minute wall sit. If the desired goal is to improve stamina and muscle in the bicep and tricep muscles, try pull ups, pushups, and lifting a 2-15 pound weight. If the desired goal is to improve core strength, try sit-ups, pushups, burpees, crunches, and various other exercises. Many sports are based on agility and endurance, so sprints, suicides, and any type of running drill will help.

Another tip is visualizing any mistakes that may be made during tryouts. Yes, this sounds odd, but thinking about messing up eliminates fear. This also helps prepare for the worst. Making a mistake isn't the end of the world, though, as they are common when people are under stress. Now, visualize the best outcome possible—whether that be making all of the layups, scoring many goals, or perfecting a routine. This is a confidence booster, and allows better preparations for tryout day. Visualizing is two-thirds of the work, as it trains body muscles without even moving. As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "believe you can and you're halfway there".

Each night, before the tryouts, try to go to bed at a decent hour. It is recommended to get 8-9 hours of sleep, especially the weeks prior and of the tryouts. This will set in a new great self-care routine, and help get that sleep that may have been missed out the weeks before. Another source of energy is healthy food, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and good fats such as nuts and avocados. Whole foods have natural sugar that will provide a good amount of energy. These foods are great for you and will help maintain a balanced diet. Eating at least one of these items periodically and on the week of tryouts will help. Try to stay away from any sweets, as they can bring your energy down and will cause energy levels to decrease faster. Depending on the athlete, a pre-tryout meal can boost your energy, but try not to eat a lot, as you may feel sick.

Hopefully, these tips and tricks will help ESMS students and athletes to perform well at any tryouts! Exercising, visualizing,

correct answer from multiple choice questions.

To add on, while Rosetta Stone mainly teaches through images and other platforms mainly teach through text, Quizlet has both while studying, so if you are presented with the word, “house,” there would probably be the word, “house,” and a drawing or photograph of a house.

Additionally, Quizlet is an excellent study tool. Even if you are trying to learn a language on another platform such as the ones listed above, you can reinforce your understanding of the language vocabulary through Quizlet, by creating your own study set as you go along, or using public study sets made by other people.

However, as it is with many other language learning websites, Quizlet is not the ideal site to understand the language you are trying to learn, but rather to master vocabulary. Despite this, Quizlet would still be a good way to reinforce vocabulary or phrases that you are learning elsewhere, and Quizlet was not designed to be a language learning website, but rather a flashcard website.

#5: Memrise

Memrise, yet another language-learning website, is also reportedly very good in teaching you common phrases and words, as well as giving you specific topics. Overall, Memrise takes a very unique approach to language-learning online.

According to CNN, Memrise is mainly an audio site. This means that as opposed to images, Memrise has video content for nearly every lesson. In fact, the two primary ways they teach you are with video content as explained previously, and with text-heavy grammar lessons, the latter being very necessary to learning a language. The audio and video are very crucial to learning a language, because that is the main aspect of a language people need to learn the best, yet one of the hardest to understand with different dialects and pronunciations. This leads into the next advantage of Memrise, which is the opportunity to choose dialects.

According to CNN, Memrise allows its users to choose different dialects and

quick to adapt to these new protocols, and they started to set up outdoor seating for diners. This gave many restaurants a lifeline and a chance for survival. Many hope that the innovation of outdoor seating stays in New York. While it has proved helpful during the pandemic, it would also provide more capacity for restaurants in a post-COVID world.

Hotels, on the other hand, were not able to use innovations such as outdoor seating. The decline in traveling, specifically for business people, was felt in most of New York City's hotels. With offices transferring into a home environment, people had no need to travel across seas to a city like New York. This was a large factor in the decline of traveling, and as a result, the hotel industry suffered a great deal.

Both hotels and restaurants have already started to bounce back from the pandemic. With the help of the city, an end could be in sight soon. On May 19th, 2021, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed an executive order to reduce taxes for hotels. This would take place for a three month period from June 1 to August 31. “By eliminating the hotel room occupancy tax for this summer, we’re accelerating our economic recovery, saving jobs and providing relief for one of our hardest-hit industries.” Mayor de Blasio stated.

Businesses in the hospitality industry have also begun rehiring employees they lost in the duration of the pandemic. According to a New York Times article published on May 21, 2021, data from the New York State Labor Department reported a decline in the official unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in April of 2021 was 11.4%, an improvement from the previous month, with a rate of 11.7%. Restaurants alone added roughly 15,000 jobs in the month of April, according to the same Times article.

While the pandemic has caused great destruction in the hospitality industry, a great deal of innovations and lessons have been learned from the experience. Now, the industry, and New York City, is ready to come back better than ever.

and self-care is key! Never hesitate—good luck and most importantly, have fun!

Sources: peaksports.com, ussportscamps.com,
stack.com
Photo Credit: npr.org

Aleena Crawford's Virtual Visit To The HHWC

By: Dale Heller

For years, ESMS students have been active in efforts to support the less fortunate, namely the homeless. While the advocacy is certainly helpful, we cannot be considered experts on the topic. Instead, we turn to people like Aleena Crawford, the Volunteer Services Coordinator at Women in Need.

Women in Need (WIN), is a non-profit organization that houses homeless women and families and provides them with necessities. It was founded in 1983 by Rita Zimmer when she provided emergency shelter for four women and six children. WIN has a significant impact on our city's inhabitants, as today it is the largest provider of supportive housing to nearly 10% of NYC's homeless population!

Ms. Crawford visited and was interviewed by the ESMS Helping Homeless Women Committee (HHWC) via Zoom on April 22. She answered questions including (but not limited to) her inspiration for helping the homeless, the most prominent challenges faced by homeless people, and what adversity is faced primarily by homeless women. The leaders and members of the HHWC interviewed her.

To start the interview, after Ms. Crawford introduced herself, she informed us of why she decided to become involved in helping homeless people, specifically women, and her journey to working at WIN. She said, “I remember when I was younger, I was always very passionate about community and community service, and helping others, things of that nature. I always worried about what other people were doing and making sure that everyone else had what they needed just to survive as a person...When I went to

Sources: The New York Times, www1.nyc.gov

pronunciations to learn from, as different locations have minor distinctions between the language. Many 7th and 8th graders at ESMS know that, for example, the word, “vosotros,” is mainly used in Spain, while it is not as common in other countries that speak Spanish. These subtle but occasionally important details are important to understand while learning a language spoken across numerous countries and places, because they are crucial in understanding people as they speak the language.

One disadvantage of Memrise, however, is that it has a cost which can be very high for some people. With a monthly plan of \$8.99 per month and a lifetime payment of \$99.99, Memrise has costs that could deter users. If you lose interest in a language - especially after purchasing a lifetime plan, the costs you would have paid throughout your learning experience would have been lost with little to no benefit on your part.

Overall, you have a wide variety of language-learning websites to choose from. From sites that help you master common conversational skills to platforms that are excellent for understanding vocabulary, the internet has limitless opportunities. Deciding which platform to use is up to you, however the value of knowing a different language is one that has an everlasting effect.

Photo Credits (from top to bottom): chrome.google.com, cnn.com, play.google.com
Sources: cnn.com, babbel.com

Bits and Pieces

By: Siroos Pasdar

- The “Little Island” has opened on the West Side of New York City.
 - Funded by Barry Diller, the vision for this new park is to immerse guests in nature and art.
 - “What was in my mind was to build something for the people of New York and for anyone who visits—a space that on first sight was dazzling, and upon use made people happy,” Diller said.
- Florida recently made voting more difficult by passing a new law in light of the 2020 elections, and the claims

How To Make A Finger Puppet

By: Gail Tromer

Here are instructions on how to make a paper finger puppet. It's a fun craft that's easy to learn!

Materials:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Colored pencils/markers

Steps:

- 1) Cut a piece of paper into a square.
- 2) Fold the bottom corners of the paper square backwards.
- 3) Fold the top corners of the paper forward.
If you want to make a finger puppet in the shape of a cat, fold the top corners forwards, then backwards.
- 4) Fold the two bottom corners backwards.
- 5) Color the two top corners of the paper square.
- 6) Draw a face on the paper.
- 7) Cut another piece of paper into a rectangle.
- 8) Tape one side of the paper rectangle to one side of the paper square and the other side to the other side of the paper square.



college, I focused on things that would allow me to do that and serve other people, such as psychology, social work...”

Later, Ms. Crawford provided insight on what her job as a Volunteer Services Coordinator entailed. She said, “Essentially, what I get to do all day is assist with all the in-kind [Non-monetary] donations that we receive. I help manage our donation room... and I also give volunteers an orientation and teach them a little bit about WIN... I also help plan other special projects and volunteer programs that we may have.”

Another topic that was explored is how homeless people being housed by WIN are made to feel comfortable and that they can trust WIN. Ms. Crawford’s response was, “One thing that we try to do here at WIN is practice trauma-informed care principles. There are six principles, Safety, which means providing physical and psychological safety, Choice, meaning ensuring that individuals have choice and control over the situation, Collaboration, so sharing power with the individual...because they know what they need more than we do, Trustworthiness, so being transparent and respectful of their boundaries, Empowerment, which is recognizing their individual skills and building upon those, and there’s Equity, which is working to dismantle any oppression, both interpersonal and organizational.”

Additionally, Ms. Crawford addressed the main causes of homelessness along with the main challenge that homeless people face. Domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, untreated medical issues, traumatic events, and difficulty sustaining employment are some of the main causes of homelessness, according to her, and research shows that the largest challenge for homeless people is the lack of affordable housing.

Ms. Crawford educated us about the best ways to get involved, too! She recommends asking politicians specific questions about how they are going to help the homeless, rather than if they will do so. She advises to research as much as you can, and gain as much knowledge

of voter fraud made by former president Donald Trump.

- The bill would limit the use of drop boxes, add stricter identification requirements for those requesting absentee ballots, and many other things with the intention of limiting voting.
- After more than 10 days, Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire and end to the conflict that took more than 230 lives in Gaza, and 12 in Israel.
- There has been a surge in UFO sightings during the pandemic, including a double in the sightings in NYC during 2020.
 - Sightings in 2020 also rose by about 1,000, amounting to an approximate total of 7,200 sightings in the U.S. in 2020.
- The Pfizer vaccine that protects against COVID-19 is now available for people 12 and older.
- Scientists have found the earliest known human burial site, located in a cave near the Kenyan coast.
 - The child found, which investigators estimate to be a boy, was likely two and a half to three years of age when he was buried.

Sources: The New York Times, The Washington Post

Should We Disarm The Police?

By: Camille D'Silva

Last year, in light of several events of police brutality, the idea of defunding the police became very prevalent across the country. However, this brought another issue to light: the disarming of the police. Gun violence coming from police has become a hot topic up for debate, as it grows more and more. This article will be focusing on disarming all police officers, not just certain sectors, and discussing the pros and cons of taking guns away from our law enforcement.

Some people think that police should be disarmed because it could help reduce the number of racially motivated police shootings. Historically, the history of giving police guns is in fact rooted in racist-like

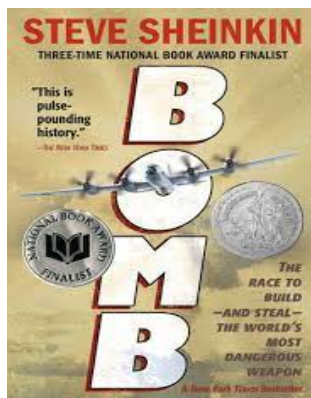
Send in an image of your finger puppet to jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net to be featured in the next issue!

The ESMS Book Reviews Page

By: Julian Fernandez-Sasso

Bomb (Steve Sheinkin) 2012. *Bomb* by Steve Sheinkin follows the Manhattan Project and the race to make the first nuclear weapon. The Manhattan Project was the United States project to make a nuclear weapon. The goal of the research was to produce a new and powerful bomb that could be used in the war effort. It was originally intended to be used against Germany, but ended up being used on Japan in an effort to end the war. *Bomb* also focuses on spies within the Manhattan project, and the German Heavy water plant in Norway. I really enjoyed reading this book, as it gave me further insight into the Manhattan Project.

I also really enjoyed Steve Sheinkin's writing style. He shifts from novel/first person view to a spectator's or informative writing style. The book did well and received positive praise. In all, I would give this book a 10/10. It keeps you entertained and never stumps on the details. I would say more, but I don't want to spoil anything. If you're interested in this topic or just want to widen your knowledge, then this book is for you!



Boxers & Saints (Gene Luen Yang) 2013. *Boxers & Saints* is a graphic novel collection of two books. Both books focus on the Boxer Rebellion of 1899. The Boxer Rebellion began when Christian missionaries came to introduce their

about homelessness as possible. She believes that continued acknowledgement and advocacy will make a difference, and to make sure that the advocacy is based on what homeless people need or want, not what you think they do. Some ideas for this advocacy are donating gift cards, Metrocards, socks, water and/or toiletries to the homeless, as those are overall consistent needs. Calling 311 if you see a homeless person in need of help can also be an essential form of advocacy.

In addition to these responses, Ms. Crawford also informed us of the education needed to pursue her job or a similar position: a Bachelor's degree and four years of college. No specific major was specified, but she believes it helps to have a major related to Humanities along with previous volunteer experience. She also told us that organizations like WIN value applicant mindsets that align with the organization's mission statements and values.

The HHWC focuses on how women, specifically, are affected by homelessness. Ms. Crawford educated us about this. "Domestic violence is definitely the number one cause, and the reason for this is that it frequently happens more with women than with other sexes. Domestic violence isn't a gendered crime but unfortunately, women are more likely to experience it. Oftentimes, men don't report this violence, or it's not taken seriously...Women are put in vulnerable situations where domestic violence can happen."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, homelessness has been greatly impacted. Ms. Crawford commented on the reasons for this. "A lot of people were unfortunate and wound up losing their jobs...or maybe they had someone in their house that was infected or someone they couldn't risk getting infected. This definitely boosted the homelessness rate up higher than it was...People also might not feel comfortable going into homeless shelters or donating because of the factor of infection..."

A recurring idea in our interview with Ms. Crawford was that homeless people are still people. However different their situation may be, no matter how much

thinking, because they were giving them to strikebreakers, usually for breaking up strikes for civil rights. Even now, when police officers shoot guns, it could be said that these incidents are racially motivated. According to Pew Research, one-fourth of officers who fire their guns during their tenure tend to be white and male. By removing guns from these people, we might have less racist killings, since they have become especially prevalent lately, with Breonna Taylor, Philando Castille, twelve year old Tamir Rice, as well as several other incidents. However, there is no concrete evidence that this could actually work in America, and how the community would stay safe.

Another point that supporters for disarming the police bring up is the unnecessary cost of giving the police guns. According to Pew Research, almost 75% of police officers don't actually fire their gun during their time as a police officer. This, combined with the fact that the Police Executive Research Forum found that the average police precinct spends over \$300,000 each year on guns and ammunition, makes people feel like the guns are unnecessary and too expensive. The people who support disarming the police believe that this money could be used for other, more pressing issues, as well as reform in the police department.

The reason that these ideas haven't been taken into effect, though, is because many people fear that when police officers actually need to use their guns, they won't have them. For example, the grocery store shooting in Boulder, Colorado was only stopped when a local police officer, Eric Talley, shot the gunman. Guns were necessary in that situation, those opposed to disarming the police point out. If they weren't there, the situation could have escalated much further. There have been suggestions from disarm supporters to replace guns with pepper spray, tasers, or other less lethal weapons, but no one really knows how effective a tool that would be for stopping someone, especially compared to a gun.

Those who do not want to disarm police have provided other solutions that could be taken to reduce gun violence. Reform for police officers has become a very popular idea, including anti-bias training and more

religion to China. Some accepted, others didn't. The Boxer Rebellion was a series of violent battles between Missionaries from Europe and Chinese citizens. The first book of the series is *Boxers*, which follows a young man, Bao, who rejects Christianity and fights against the Europeans. *Saints* follows a young woman, 4 Girl who converts to Christianity. The best part of these books is the way they show the opinions and beliefs of both sides. Gene Luen Yang takes a very unbiased approach and does his best to show both sides of the conflict. The drawing style is unique and interesting. My favorite part of these books was the way Gene incorporates the religious beliefs into the story. In *Boxers*, we see the characters take the forms of various gods and mythological creatures as their fighting spirit and how they will fight for their beliefs till death.

In *Saints*, we see 4 Girl talk and interact with the spirit of Joan of Arc as a sort of idol or leader to guide her. Gene makes you enjoy every page and never fails to surprise you. He takes a complicated subject and puts it in a way that not only shows you both sides of the conflict, but also grasps the key ideas well. The way he was able to create these magnificent and amazing characters leaves me in awe. I give these books a 10/10, because the writing, the story, and the characters all join together in perfect harmony. *Boxers* & *Saints* are both New York Times best sellers, and have generally positive reviews. I really enjoyed reading these books and I think you will too!

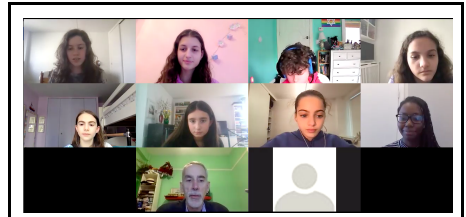
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 Photo Credit: barnesandnoble.com

Inspirational People

The Afghan Dreamers

The "Aghan Dreamers" is the all-female, Afghan robotics team. The five members of this team are Ayda Hyderpoor, Elham Mansoori, Florence Poug, Diana Wahabaada and captain, Somaya Faruqi.

less fortunate they are, they remain human. They all have their own lives, experiences, stories. It's a concept that should be carried with people as they encounter those in more difficult circumstances. It's a concept that should have a place in your mind and heart as you look around your community.



Aleena Crawford (second row, far right) educated the ESMS HHWC about the homeless, and her role in helping them.

Pets During The Pandemic

By: Chloe Comisarow

It's been a tough year for everybody. Depression rates have gone higher and teens are struggling in school. However, there is a solution to this. During the middle of quarantine, thousands of people have bought/adopted pets to help them cope with the pandemic.

Having Pets During the Pandemic

There's no question that having a pet can improve your mental health. Even before the pandemic, adopting or buying a pet for you or your family was a great way to lower blood pressure and stress levels. In addition, cat, bunny, and dog cafés have also been quite popular, and can benefit you mentally.

Although there are multiple benefits to having a pet during a pandemic, there are also its cons. Often, an owner's moods can impact their pet. If a pet's owner is feeling stressed out and/or depressed, that can reflect negatively on their pet. Especially if it has anxiety, this can be harmful.

The Benefits to Having a Pet

Dogs aren't the only animals that can understand how you're feeling. In fact, multiple animals can. They're great listeners, and will act as if you're the only person in the world. Being able to talk to

education needed in order to become a public defender (currently, you don't even need a college degree). People are also calling for body-camera protocol to be enforced more strongly, since keeping them on can help increase the amount of accountability when watching back dangerous situations in which police use their guns. Advocates for disarming the police do not particularly agree with this, though, since they think the root cause of the problem is coming from the guns.

So, will this disarming actually be happening in the near future? Probably not. Police unions (an organized association of workers formed to protect and further their rights and interests) are very strong, and are led by people who do not support disarming the police for the reasons already mentioned. They believe very strongly in gun protection and gun culture as well. So, as of now, disarming the police is more of a theoretical idea. But, we should still be having these discussions, because it could spark change, and regardless of what happens, potentially make our police officers and public defenders better.

Sources: <https://medium.com/an-idea/defunding-is-great-but-lets-talk-about-disarming-the-police-177cdf3d9af>
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The ESMS Cartoon Caption Submission

By: Philip Jow

Every month, there will be a new cartoon, and you, the reader, will be able to submit a funny caption for it. Send yours to jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net

I made and thought of the contest image. The idea for a cartoon caption contest came completely from the New Yorker magazine. I give full credit for the contest idea to the New Yorker. On the back page of every New Yorker magazine, there are cartoons with a blank caption. People from around the country try to make a funny caption for a cartoon. If they win, it is printed in the next issue.



The members of this team are only 15 to 19 years in age. Their latest achievement was building ventilators out of used car parts to treat COVID-19 patients. While it sounds impossible, the accomplishment plays to their name, the "Afghan Dreamers."

When living in a country where two-thirds of the girls cannot read or write, the members of the "Afghan Dreamers" have been accustomed to making ambitious plans, and overcoming challenges. They built these ventilators for their country with a population of about 35 million people, which had only a few hundred ventilators. The ventilators they have built have helped their country in the fight against COVID-19, and inspired others while doing so.

"I hope that our initiative will inspire parents to keep their children, especially girls, in school and to help them realize their dreams." **-Somaya Faruqi**

Sources: National Public Radio, UNICEF USA
 Photo Credit: goodnews_movement

someone or something can do wonders, and pets just so happen to be amazing at listening to you.

Having a pet also increases the opportunity to go outside for a walk, since dogs need multiple walks daily. Taking a walk is extremely beneficial. You can burn calories, strengthen the heart, improve your mood, and reduce joint pain. Even if your pet isn't allowed outside, there are still fun games you can partake in with your pet that could involve running around.

It has also been found that having a dog increases social interaction. While taking your furry friend out on a walk, you may encounter another dog owner. It's only natural that your dog will interact with the other dog, giving you a chance to engage in conversation with the other owner.

In addition to getting exercise and improving mental health, having a pet at home could also decrease risk of stroke and heart attacks. According to the Animal Health Foundation, "Studies have found that people with cats were 40% less likely to have a fatal heart attack." Researchers also theorize that petting any animal could lower stress.

The bond between a pet and its owner is truly a bond that cannot be severed. And being with your pet during the pandemic will only make it stronger as you both lean on each other for support as we make our way through this tough time.

Sources: https://www.animalhealthfoundation.net/blog/2012/10/8-health-benefits-of-having-a-pet/?qclid=Cj0KCQjw4cOEBhDMARIsAA3XDRgtvRfpmSUbSaen3yjD6yHUPtXFl-Yhw94xPBdBDccf6JR_tFDtBUgaAqblEALw_wcB

