

The Tiger Times

Editorial Staff: Jacob Abroon (Editor-in-Chief), Tali Ben-David, Darragh Boyle, Nora Cassetta, Ahana Chandra, Skyler Cheng-Chapman, Alexis Choi, Liya Choi, Olivia Choi, Tayden Eagle-McAvoy, Rhone Galchen, Dimitri Hanjis, Dale Heller, Anna Hsu, Lola Kravitz, Nicholas Oh, Siroos Pashar, Maeve Redmond, Anna Rodriguez, Athena Shevorykin, and Gail Tromer

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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!

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See this Tiger Times Issue for the all-new ESMS debate page, tips on how to stay efficient in school, a recap of sports from the past month, a poll showing the opinions of ESMS students on a topic on all of our minds, an overview of the 2020 presidential election, a riddle page, a joke page,, and much, much more!

Our Principal's Perspective On The Pandemic

By: Jacob Abroon

Throughout ESMS, there are dozens of students and members of the faculty that deserve recognition for their hard work during the pandemic. Among them is none other than our principal, Mr. Getz. When ESMS and every other New York City public school switched to remote learning on November 18, Mr. Getz handled the change extremely well, and ESMS's transition was smoother than many other public schools across the five boroughs. To learn more about how Mr. Getz led ESMS through the second remote learning switch, I interviewed him through email on a variety of topics.

As Mr. Getz told me, the transition to remote learning in the middle of November was, "not a problem, as far as instruction goes." He told me that this occurred because, "All summer long and into September, the teachers and the staff planned on creating a model of teaching that was based on live, synchronous, remote instruction for an entire class. This model works the same whether we are in the building or out." As we all know, the students learning remotely and in-person used the same schedules, and always joined the same Zoom meeting for each



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How To Improve On School Subjects

By: Nora Cassetta and Tayden
Eagle-McAvoy

Frustration. You sit at your desk, resting your head in your hands, reading a question multiple times, but you are not able to come up with the correct answer. If you recognize this scenario, you may want to keep reading. And don't worry, almost everyone has experienced this disheartening, gut-wrenching feeling while studying or taking a test.

In this article, we will try to outline ways in which you may be able to succeed in school subjects you find difficult. First of all, it is important to identify the areas in which you are struggling. You can probably do that on your own, but asking

The Heroes Of ESMS

By: Ahana Chandra

We've all heard of the frontline heroes and the healthcare heroes, but what about the heroes of East Side Middle School? These heroes are the ones who have continued to stay strong and help our school community grow even during these unprecedented times. In this article, I will share with you the experiences of some of the wonderful teachers, staff, and students who have done exactly that.



We have all heard of healthcare heroes, but what about the heroes of ESMS?

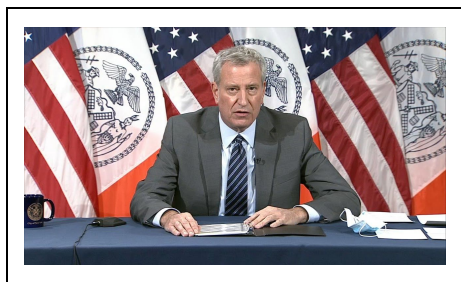
I interviewed 7th grader Elana Koenig about her experience running a charity during the pandemic. Her charity helps raise money for childhood cancer foundations. When I asked her what challenges she has faced running her charity, she said, "during Coronavirus, people lose their jobs, and don't have the

class, making our transition much easier.

While the switch to remote learning may have been like *déjà vu* for some, ESMS's reaction definitely wasn't. As Mr. Getz told me, the remote switch in March was a learning point for everyone at ESMS. Mr. Getz told me, "We learned that most of our students manage best when they receive live, synchronous learning... This is a more effective model, at least in middle school, than asynchronous learning, in which the teacher posts work, and the students do that work more or less on their own." While asynchronous learning, such as how all of ESMS learned on Election Day, "has its advantages," the live classes that we have now, "[seem] to work better. It helps all of the students stay organized and get the live attention of their teachers. And it allows for more live and authentic student to student interaction." Being able to converse with teachers and collaborate with peers is something we all have started to desire once we switched to remote learning, and the synchronous form of learning solves that issue.

As a result, remote learning going forward will be very different than last spring. While last spring, "we were mostly asynchronous," we are now, "spending most of our time in live interactions." All students are learning through live classes, and all students can see their teachers much more. While the transition to remote learning was very smooth for ESMS, Mr. Getz told me that unfortunately, classes such as P.E. and Dance will have to function from home, both being classes that work best in-person.

With everything unknown, Mr. Getz, along with the rest of ESMS, has pushed through changes in learning, and all of the difficulties we are experiencing.



your teacher could give you a better understanding of what you may need to focus on. While it may be intimidating to ask a teacher for help, the teachers at ESMS are very helpful and want every student to succeed, so don't be afraid to ask for help. Once you have identified the area(s) you want and/or need to focus on, it is equally important that you make a plan. By making a plan, you can set specific goals for yourself. The goals can be short-term and/or long-term, but be realistic--Rome was not built in a day.

One strategy that may be helpful in giving you a better understanding of a subject you struggle with is by utilizing reputable online resources. Having identified the specific area you want to focus on, you can look at reputable websites, such as Khan Academy and BrainPop, for lessons or videos related to that area or topic. Khan Academy is a widely used, free online platform that provides educational videos and interactive activities for all grades and subjects. According to a 2018 ConStat U.S. Online Education Customer Survey, 90% of educators and students who have utilized Khan Academy, report it is an effective and viable learning resource, more than any other core curriculum online learning resource (www.khanacademy.org). Similarly, BrainPop (www.brainpop.com) is a popular online resource that provides animated educational videos in various subjects, such as science, social studies, English, math, and technology. Tim and Moby are always there to help and, at ESMS, we are very lucky to have access to BrainPop through the school.

Another strategy that may be helpful is to incorporate your struggles in your learning process. A wrong answer on a test or in the classroom should not be seen as a failure, but as an opportunity to learn from it. That is what a growth mindset, which is embraced at ESMS, is all about. We always hear the expression, "learn from your mistakes." Although it may be daunting and discouraging to review an incorrect answer, it is, in fact, a useful way to improve in subjects that you

money to support themselves." She told me that because of this, there is not as much donation to her foundation. Regardless of this, she has still kept on going with her unwavering motivation to help those in need. I also inquired about where this motivation comes from and I received a very inspiring answer. She told me, "I suffered from cancer two years ago, and I remember how hard it was for me. I wanted to help other organizations, help other kids who suffered from cancer, and I wanted to create my own organization to help kids who suffered from cancer." And it turns out, I am not the only one inspired by her work; many other students and members of the ESMS community have also contributed to her charity by donating, volunteering, and helping with campaigns!

Another student who has contributed to the school community is Jacob Abroon. Jacob runs the Tiger Times and has continued running it throughout the pandemic. I talked to him through email to find out more. He told me about how the pandemic has made it hard for the members of the Tiger Times to meet in person, as they had done pre-pandemic. Because of this, the members of the Tiger Times now meet virtually through Google Meet. "When the pandemic hit, I knew that we could continue remotely, and that is exactly what we did," Jacob explained. He added, "I was confident the Tiger Times could continue into this school year." His confidence in the Tiger Times stems from the fact that he had created it when he was in the beginning of sixth grade. As a result of this, he said, "I am very dedicated to it." In addition, he also told me how he has tried to uphold the sole purpose of the Tiger Times, which he claims is "to bring ESMS related information to the students of ESMS." He explained, "I have tried to uphold this purpose by making sure that we stay centered around ESMS and write articles that apply to ESMS students."

In addition to these amazing students who have done a great service to our school, many teachers and ESMS staff members have also done the same. I interviewed Ms. Servetar (our parent

When schools were closed on November 18th, ESMS made a quick adjustment

Photo Credit: abc7NY

**Hi East Side Middle School!
Have you been reading the
Tiger Times? Do you want to
submit an article, send in an
advertisement, or join the
team? Email
jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net
to contribute to the Tiger
Times!**

The Importance Of School

By: Jacob Abroon

Cold temperatures. Going on a computer for hours. Barely leaving your seat. Wearing a mask for 5 hours.

That is how some would describe in-person school this year. From frozen fingers to just 30 minutes of being maskless, the in-person schooling we have either experienced or heard of is not ideal.

So why did anyone even go to school? Why did any of the students at ESMS go to school twice every six days? Why did anyone choose to fill out the same health form at least once every week instead of sleeping in until 8:30? If you are one of these people, why did you choose to do hybrid learning, and continue to do so?

You realized the importance of school. Through all of the hardships and struggles this pandemic has brought upon us, every one of us saw how important school was to us. Something we all took advantage of just 9 months ago is now something we crave to have back. Were you rooting for schools to stay open in March? Were you less than pleased when schools were closed for the rest of the school year last April? Were you excited when you had the opportunity to go back to school? Were

are struggling in. So, take another look at that math problem or essay paragraph or science question that you got wrong or incomplete and redo it after you have reviewed the lesson material and other resources, such as the online resources mentioned above, to better understand the material. And if you still don't understand it, ask your teacher to explain it to you. Studies show that making a mistake and "then being corrected is one of the most powerful ways to absorb something and retain it" (Claudia Wallis, "Why Mistakes Matter in Creating a Path for Learning," The Hechinger Report, July 26, 2017, www.kqed.org).

The point is, don't get discouraged! Help is available and, with a growth mindset, you can turn struggles into successes. Happy studying!

The Future Of Learning

By: Tali Ben-David and Siroos Pasdar

The Coronavirus has been an enormous struggle for everyone to overcome. With cases on the rise nationwide, New York City has reached its biggest setback since the spring, when it was the global epicenter of this virus. On November 18, 2020, in person learning was shut down. Virus infections had crossed the 3 percent positivity rate, and it was deemed necessary to close schools to further prevent the spread of COVID-19. "Today is a tough day, but this is a temporary situation," Mayor Bill de Blasio stated. He adds "our schools will be back." The closure affects about 300,000 students who were using hybrid learning. While everyone will be learning fully remote, we still wanted our classmates' opinions on the learning model they were using before the city wide school shutdown, and why they chose it.

We sent out a Google Form to our entire class and received 15 responses. An overwhelming majority had been using the hybrid model before schools closed. According to the survey, of 15 responses, 80% (12 people) had chosen the hybrid

coordinator) about her experience helping our school during the pandemic. She told me that during remote learning, "it just got lonely not seeing kids and parents all day long." And loneliness is not the only challenge she has had to face during the pandemic. "In the ESMS community, some people lost jobs, experienced family deaths, or needed assistance with food, housing or mental health services," she explained. Ms. Servetar has been helping those people "pull together the resources they needed." Despite the challenges she has had to face, Ms. Servetar told me, "I love seeing what every new day will bring!"

Ms. Servetar is not the only staff member who has helped our school during the pandemic. Meet Ms. Fernandez. She is a new teacher at our school and she started teaching at our school during the pandemic. She teaches seventh grade humanities and is also class 701's homeroom teacher. When I asked her what it is like being a new teacher at a new school amidst a pandemic, she responded, "Overall, it's been an amazing experience. Everyone works together: staff, parents, students alike. I'm really happy here at a new school, pandemic or not." However, she also told me that "It was a little scary at first because I didn't get to meet anyone and I had never been in the building before, so all the "newness" at first was scary. But there was nothing to worry about: everyone has been welcoming and supportive." In terms of virtual students and in-person students, Ms. Fernandez said, "A major obstacle is the problem of 'how do virtual students and in person students interact better?'" She has worked hard to solve this problem by creating "Rainbow Groups" which are a way to connect virtual students to in-person students by giving them a chance to collaborate with each other and ask each other for any help they may need. Overall, she says, "I really love my students, our school, and I love what I do."

All of these ESMS heroes have one thing in common: they are working extremely hard to make our school even

you dissatisfied when schools closed again on November 18th? Did you look forward to the days when you would go into school?

We all want to be around our peers, and see our teachers in the same room as us. From collaborating with the people at our table to participating in memorable activities, we all want to be back at school. Whether you learned you are good at puzzles or you are handy in the kitchen. Whether you were hybrid or all remote, you realized how much you want to be in the school atmosphere. Change teaches us the importance of normal. We only realize how much we desire normalcy when there is change.

From the students who chose to do hybrid learning to the students who chose to be all remote, we all have realized how much we value school, and how important it is to some of us to merely sit in the same seat at school.



Only now do we realize how important school is to us

Photo Credit: mitchellgiurgola.com

model, while only 20% (3 people) were fully remote.

A Virtual World

This is mainly “to minimize my chance of exposure to the virus,” 6th grader Joshua Fields said. With a rise in COVID-19 cases, the fully virtual model is becoming more popular. “I started going fully remote when cases of the virus started increasing,” said Vincent Li.

Safety may not be your only benefit. “If you are fully remote you can spend quality time with your family more.” Liya Choi told us. Liya added that working in the comfort of your home can be easier for some people.

Not everybody enjoys it though. Vincent additionally stated, “No I actually do not like this model, I think that in school experiences are much more fun and helpful. But I am fully remote just for the safe run.” When asked in the Google Form whether he recommends his model to others, he responded by saying, “Why have nice when you could have exciting?”

Safety First

Many people have a preference over the hybrid model due to the social benefits. Safety is always a top priority for in person learning. Safety measures such as:

- Mask wearing and face coverings
- Social distancing
- Sanitizing surfaces (computers, gym equipment, desks, ect.)
- Random COVID-19 testing

had all been put into effect. In case someone did get the virus, these measures would have prevented the spread.

Skylar Borkowsky said, “My experience with it [was] great, we [had] P.E on one of our in person days, and Dance on the other, so we get to get out of our seats and do something active on every in person day,” when prompted on how her experience with the hybrid model was. “I really like[d] the hybrid model, it feels so

better than it already is. And it’s not just them. So many other students, staff members, and teachers are also contributing greatly to our school community in their own ways. Although I was not able to include all of them in this article, they are still there. So, the next time you come across one of these people, whether it be yourself or someone else, take the time to show your appreciation!

Photo Credit: The New York Times

How To Stay Organized During Remote Learning

By: Tayden Eagle-McAvoy

Are you having troubles with your organization during online school? If so, this is the article for you. We have all struggled throughout this crazy year. We have dealt with important things like the Coronavirus to tiny chronic internet problems. Sometimes I find myself doing homework with music on, little space to work, and a cluttered room or desk. That is not the way to be organized, especially when it comes to school. I am here to help you become organized during online school. Here are three simple effective ways that are sure to help: making an efficient schedule, having a clean environment and I have for my reader’s a Tayden trick, how to create effective scheduling systems!

To make an efficient schedule, start by looking at your Google Classroom, see what assignments you have, and figure out which ones you should do first. To do this, take a piece of paper and write down all your subjects. Next, take all assignments and estimate how many hours or minutes it will take to finish each. Take the estimates and divide them by the days you have until their due dates. Here is an example of how to do that using my article. I think it will take me 12 hours to write and edit this article. I have three days to write it so I divide 12 hours by 3 days and get 4 hours per day. In an empty notebook, you can write down all your assignments and how long they will take



ESMS School Spirit

By: Nora Cassetta

When you walk up the steps of the ESMS building, you see different designs all along the walls. Paintings of tigers — the school mascot — vines, and vibrant New York City. Not too long ago, the school's morning routine included a daily announcement ending with, "be kind to each other! Go Tigers, ROAR!", a message we can still hear in school phone messages. These are only some of the ways in which ESMS, in a subtle but steady manner, seeks to promote school spirit. Have you, however, ever thought about what school spirit means and why it is important?

In a very basic way, school spirit is defined as "the feeling of being proud and enthusiastic about the school that you go to" (macmillandictionary.com). School spirit, however, is anything but basic. It can be considered the heart of the school, as it is determinative of the school environment, values, and work ethic. A high sense of school pride sets the tone for academic success and promotes respect for each other. It creates a sense of belonging and acceptance. It creates an identity. An emphasis on school spirit has been shown to yield high academic achievements. According to an online research conducted by Harris Poll for Varsity Brands in 2014 to learn more about the effects of school pride and academic achievements, about 75% of students who were enrolled in a school that emphasizes the importance of school spirit performed above average. Looking at students who were enrolled in schools which do not emphasize school spirit, only 42% performed above average

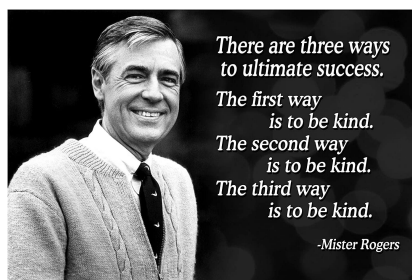
good to go and meet some kids my age. Also, when the teacher is in the room with you, it is much more engaging than looking at them through a screen."

Most people highlighted the importance of socializing and interacting with other students. "People need social interaction, and you cannot have that when you are stuck at home. Also, it is unhealthy for kids to be looking at screens for hours at a time," said Aidan McCorkle.

A'honesti Cowan used and preferred hybrid learning, "schools shouldn't have reopened at all. There's no reason to sugarcoat a global pandemic. It's serious so let's take it seriously." she said.

"Everyone is different. If you don't feel safe at school, then do the remote learning. But we have had two positive Covid alerts, and no one else got sick from whoever had Covid. If you enjoy socializing, or if you have a hard time focusing at home, I recommend the hybrid model," said Mia Golant. But until cases lower, we will all be learning from home.

Quote Of The Month



Quote Of The Month Photo Credit: amazon.com

The HHWC Mask Drive

By: Dale Heller

This pandemic has caused adversity to people in big and small ways. The homeless people of NYC have been particularly affected. While many of us have been foraging for toilet paper, becoming hand sanitizer collectors, and

you. Draw a checkbox next to each assignment so when you finish with one you fill it in. This technique helps you to stay organized. Keep at it you will get better estimating with practice.

Before you start your homework, you are going to need a clean environment. A clean environment helps you stay focused and gives you room to do your homework assignments. Here are some questions to ask yourself to see if you're organized. Do I have good lighting? Is my chair comfortable? Am I working in a place other than my desk? Am I trying to concentrate with a lot of noise? Depending on your answers, you would have to change your environment to have good lighting, a comfortable chair, move your work to your desk, and remove noise. If you have things on your desk, non-related to school, remove them because that is not organizational and distracts you.

The last step to being organized during online school is having an effective scheduling system. I am going to explain a system I use. My system is linking one of my goals to something that happens every day. This is a system I use to get better at my guitar. Every night before dinner, I play my guitar for 15-20 minutes. Every day I have dinner at a certain time, so I will know exactly when I should play my guitar. After I work hard playing my guitar, I am rewarded with a relaxing dinner. It makes me want to play guitar more, like Pavlov's Dog. Over time the reward trains and tricks me into the habit of playing guitar. Now imagine this system, but instead of playing guitar you do your homework. School ending is something that happens every day, like dinner, so I link that to when I do homework, and you could too. Once you finish your homework you can treat yourself to playing a game, going to the park, etc.

in the classrooms. All in all, school spirit is important as it can contribute to personal success and to the wellbeing of the school community.

How can we raise and demonstrate school spirit at ESMS? While school spirit is most commonly demonstrated through participation in sports, either as a player or a supporter, participation is any school-related activity or club that can contribute to raising school spirit. In addition, we should recognize and celebrate each other's successes and pull each other up through any setbacks. We should value each other's talents and ambitions, engage in constructive and respectful dialogue, and simply look out for one another. We should motivate each other, be kind to each other, as the school's motto says, and work together to make ESMS a healthy and nurturing environment that we can all be proud of.

Stay tuned for more on school spirit at ESMS. Be kind to each other! Go Tigers, ROAR!

Photo Credit: fairview.echalksites.com

The Monthly Sports Roundup

By: Rhone Galchen

It has been a busy past few weeks in sports.

First up we have the NBA draft. The top ten of the draft. The NBA draft this year was special, as it was online because of COVID, and every time a player was drafted, we saw reaction clips of the families sadly through Zoom instead of in person. There was also a new record in the draft. Deni Avdija, a six foot nine inch giant from Israel who has Serbian roots, is the first ever Israeli player to be drafted in the top 10 of the NBA. Sticking with the international theme, one of the biggest shocks in the draft was seeing French international Killian Hayes drafted in the 7th pick by the Detroit Pistons. Also, everyone should say a big congratulations

wearing masks everywhere we go, the homeless are exposed to germs, are not always able to wash their hands, and don't have access to masks and other protection. Did you know that according to the November 23rd issue of the Wall Street Journal, homeless people in shelters are 61% more likely to contract COVID-19 than people who are not homeless? Because of this, it is extremely important for them to have access to sanitation and protection.

That is why the Helping Homeless Women Committee (HHWC), is organizing a school-wide mask drive and mask-making event. These masks will be donated to Women in Need, a nonprofit organization that provides shelter for homeless women and families.

Starting on December 1, you can mail NEW masks to

Dale Heller - HHWC
35 East 85th Street, Apartment 4F
New York, NY 10028

For the mask-making event, there will be a Zoom meeting with a demonstration on how to make sewn and no-sew masks. Are you interested in participating? Remember to check your email for updates on when the event is happening.



Your donated masks will ensure that many homeless people are safe during the Coronavirus

Tell your friends about this great opportunity to get involved in the ESMS community! And it gets even better! The person who brings in the most masks gets a gift card to Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks! If you want a chance to win, write your



Staying organized during remote learning is extremely important

You have successfully finished reading this informational article! Now all you have to do is try these helpful tips. I hope I have helped you learn how to make an efficient schedule, have a clean environment and a powerful system.

Photo Credit: nbcnews.com

Virtual vs. Blended Learning

By: Maeve Redmond

Are you doing virtual school? Do you wonder what it is like to be actually in school during a pandemic? I assure you that it is a lot different than what ESMS used to be like before COVID-19.

There are many differences between what ESMS looked like during the pandemic and what it looked like before the pandemic. Remember when you used to switch classes? Now the teachers do. For most of the day you are sitting in the same chair.

If you are virtual and you are wondering what it is like to be in the classroom during the Coronavirus, here is a sneak peek.

On the days that you are in school, you walk up the stairs and wait outside your classroom for the teacher to let you in. You go in one by one and sit at a big table made up of multiple desks pushed together. There is only one time during the day when you can take your mask on and that is during lunch. Sometimes it can be

to Anthony Edwards, the former Georgia player and Sec freshman of the year, for getting the coveted first pick, James Wiseman, the former Memphis player and winner of the Gatorade National Player of the year, for getting the second pick, and Lamelo Ball, the former Illawarra Hawks player, (a team in the Australian Basketball League, also known as the NBL), NBL player of the year, and brother of former second overall pick Lonzo Ball for getting the third pick.

Moving on we have college football. It has been crazy. First of all, the former number one ranked team lost to Notre Dame in overtime, however it is very important to note that that was with their star quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, out with COVID-19. In addition, Oklahoma looks like they are back to their winning ways. After losing the two of their first three games, (and the only win does not even really count as it was much less impressive than beating the Jets because the team it was against, Missouri State, plays in the lower leagues of college football,) they have won against rivals Texas, TCU, Texas Tech, Kansas (also less impressive than beating the Jets), and most recently, a crushing of their biggest rivals Oklahoma State, (41-13). This run of form may lead Oklahoma to win the Big 12 conference yet again, that is if Iowa State slips up. In other news, Ohio State has had games postponed and canceled due to COVID-19, and were able to fend off a late comeback from Indiana. Lastly, with the end of the season closing in, my prediction for the Top four is One: Alabama, Two: Norte Dame (Although I think undeservedly), Three: Ohio State, and Four: Clemson (who I think should be higher)

Another sport that has been busy recently is NFL Football, and so far my prediction of the Jets going 0-16 remains intact. The Jets however, have given me a few scares. They were able to get within one score against the Chargers, but I got a mighty scare when they played against the Patriots. The Patriots were only able to tie the game with 1:50 to go and only got the win thanks to a 51 yard field goal with time expiring. My advice for the Jets is to try

name and homeroom on the envelope containing your masks.

Do you want to help organize future events?

Join the HHWC! You can email HHWC.LEADERS@ESMSNYC.NET for information. The Zoom meetings are on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. Even if you aren't available then, you can still get you involved. The HHWC is a lot of fun, and very fulfilling. Just ask member, la Sofocleous, who says, "I look forward to HHWC meetings every week. The meetings are a great time to get to know new people, and help the less fortunate in my community." Or Orya Shusterman-Bachi, an HHWC leader, who feels, "The HHWC is a great place to make friends, even though we can't see each other in person." Overall, In a year when it is easy to feel isolated, the HHWC is a little bit of normalcy, and a great way to meet others.

Photo Credit: pinterest.com



COVID-19 Update

By: Dimitri Hanjris

Since March we have all been waiting for the day to come when the efficacy of a COVID-19 vaccine would be announced. Well on November 9th, 2020, Pfizer, one of the front runners in the race for a COVID vaccine, shared their data from the Phase III clinical trials. According to Pfizer's website, this vaccine achieved 90% effectiveness in Phase III clinical trials. This study enrolled 43,538 participants, from which 42% came from diverse backgrounds. This is very important because it ensures that this vaccine will be effective across all age groups, regardless of your background.

This vaccine is an mRNA vaccine. That means that it utilizes mRNA to create

hard to keep a mask on your face for a long time, but it is necessary.

I interviewed 6th grader Sabella Faccio, who is doing fully remote school. I asked her how she liked being virtual, and she said, "I like it because you can be a lot safer and you can be at home. I also like the flexibility." In my opinion, if I asked most of the people who are doing virtual school, they would give the same answers because the pandemic is not only spreading us apart, but it is bringing us together in ways that are new and different. Even though there are upsides to virtual learning, such as the comfort of your own home, there are downsides. Some reasons that Sabella doesn't like virtual learning is that it can be harder to socialize with other people, and the internet can be slow or unstable.

I also interviewed 7th grader Charlotte Kuchinad, who is doing hybrid learning. I asked her what she liked about in-person learning and she said that she liked that there was more of a chance that the teacher would call on her and that helped her participation grade. She also said that she liked in-school learning because she could have gym. Some of her dislikes were that you couldn't really interact with other people that are in your class or the whole school in general, and that you would have to wear masks and social distance all throughout the school day. Everyone has things they would like to change about our situation, and what Charlotte wants to change about in-school learning is she would like to have breaks in between classes.



Life right now in general is a little hectic, and adjusting to the new school routine is not making things any better,

and win one game (like everyone else says, and also for the Jets, that's easier said than done) and then lose the rest because the Jaguars don't look like they are going to win a game any time soon so in order to win the battle for worst team in the league and to get Trevor Lawrence, a person who can completely transform the team (although it would be weird to see the Jets in the playoffs). In other news, The Pittsburgh Steelers are 10-0, the biggest number of games they have ever won whilst being undefeated in franchise history, and that record only looks like it will go up. However, they were given a good scare by the Cowboys. The Cowboys may have even won the game were it not for a Garret Gilbert (oh god) interception with 12 minutes to go on Pittsburgh's 5 yard line. However, I do have to give credit to the Cowboys. They were able to beat the Vikings with Andy Dalton, almond considering his performances before this game, that is a huge achievement. To end the NFL talk, the Chiefs were able to beat the Raiders and go 9-1, justifying the claims of them being Super Bowl contenders.

Lastly we have soccer. To start off, luck is not on Liverpool's side. Naby Keita, Mo Salah (who will return shortly), Jordan Henderson, Joe Gomez, Trent Alexander Arnold, Virgil Van Dijk, Thiago, and Alex Oxlade Chamberlain are all injured. I don't know if they broke a mirror or something, but that is just horrible luck. However, even though they had all these injuries, they were still able to beat Leicester City 3-0. Sticking with the Premier League, Tottenham Hotspur beat Man City 2-0, announcing Tottenham as contenders for the title, and adding on to further worries on Manchester City. Switching to La Liga, and what has happened to Barcelona and Real Madrid. Real Madrid has been wildly inconsistent and have had some disappointing results, the most recent one being a 1-1 draw to Villarreal. However, the situation at Barcelona is much worse, as Barcelona is now in the bottom half of the league, and they are a team in crisis and a team with financial instability. Now going to the Bundesliga, Erlind Haaland, what a player he is. After winning the Golden Boy

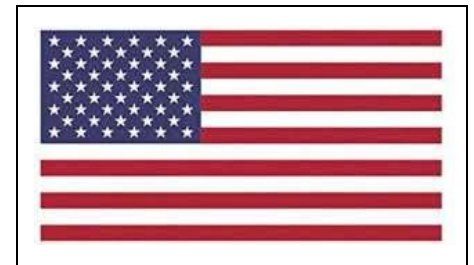
isolated S proteins, or the spike on the COVID-19 virus, that allows it to bind with our cells, which in turn signals the body to produce antibodies to recognize COVID-19 when it enters our body. This is a similar technology to Moderna's vaccine, a vaccine that has been covered in past Tiger Times issues, and is 94.5% effective. While this technology appears to be extremely effective and easy to create, it is a double-edged sword. What I mean by this is that both of these vaccines need to be refrigerated to stay effective. Moderna's vaccine needs to stay at -20 degrees celsius, whereas Pfizer's vaccine needs to stay at -70 degrees celsius to remain effective. This is in large part due to the fragility of mRNA, because it can be broken apart by a large number of enzymes, as such it needs to be preserved in some way. Due to this need for refrigeration there has been some concern over how effectively this vaccine can be distributed. However, a refrigeration level of -20 degrees is a more standard level of refrigeration and this may hinder the distribution of the vaccine less.

As we move closer to a vaccine, there are still events that are being affected by the continuing, if not increasing, strength of the pandemic. One of the more prominent events that has been effected by the pandemic is the SHSAT. This test, which determines which specialized high school a student will attend, is taken by nearly 30,000 kids all over NYC each year. This test was on the brink of cancelation due to Mayor Bill de Blasio's and Chancellor Carranza's effort to diversify schools. Recently, Mayor Bill de Blasio stated that the SHSAT will occur. While the date is not finalized, it is likely that it will be sometime around March. In the meantime, I suggest that all 8th graders continue to do as many questions and review as much as they can per day to stay ready for this test.

It is important that we continue to wear masks and socially distance, because although the vaccines are in sight, the pandemic is still raging through the country.

but maybe it will help you learn that many people are going through the same things that you are, and that there are a lot of differences between the normal and the now. Sometimes you need to see things from another person's point of view and realize that your experiences are different from other people and that is okay. That's all you need to know!

Photo Credit: Springfield Public Schools



The 2020 Presidential Election

By: Darragh Boyle, Rhone Galchen, and Dimitri Hanjjs

It is official. Joe Biden is the president-elect of the United States of America. While some people may have been taking a deep breath, others are going to be pretty upset considering the animosity between the two sides. Joe Biden has made it one of his main running points that he does not see red states or blue states but the United States. He has repeated many times that he is running as a Democrat but he will govern as an American. This idea may put to ease some of the animosity between the two sides. Now, we are going to look into the future of our country with a glimmer of hope, not only for our nation but for the world. However, before we do that, we will look into why Joe Biden is the president-elect and where Donald Trump may have gone wrong.

The race started out with the ballots from Florida coming in. In the early hours of the election, they were evenly matched,

award, (the award for the best soccer player under 21) with a stunning four goal display against Hertha Berlin. Bayern Munich, who were weighed down by having some players who may have been mentally unfit due to the fact that some of the players participated in the 6-0 drubbing that Germany suffered against Spain, had a disappointing tie to Werder Bremen. Lastly, in Serie A, Milan is undefeated and is at the top of the league with 8 wins and two draws, and Sassuolo is the surprise package and are second in the league, and are also undefeated with a record of 5 wins and three draws. However, just like many overachieving small teams in the past, they may be susceptible to regression. The Serie A is extremely close, with seven teams being within at least 7 points of overtaking Milan at the top of the table.

That is all for this month, I hope you enjoyed it.

Art Projects To Do at Home

By: Anna Hsu

Are you struggling to find things to do at home? Here are some fun art projects to keep you entertained while at home. Art is a way to express yourself, art is also a way of expressing your emotions. According to "The Healing Power of Art" expressing emotions through art can help people dealing with depression and anxiety. It is also proven that art can improve one's memory.

One of the art projects to try is splatter paint. This technique requires a sheet of paper (any size you'd like) and paint (this can be oil paint, acrylic, and watercolor. If you use watercolor I suggest using a thicker piece of paper, so the paint doesn't bleed). I would also recommend using acrylic paint, because the paint is thicker and not as translucent.

Steps for making splatter paint artwork:

1. Place paper on top of newspaper or other scrap paper, (so that the paint does not go everywhere).

Photo Credit: theguardian.com

Meet Claude - ESMS's Only Class Pet

By: Tali Ben-David and Siroos Pasdar

Claude - he wonders through his cage. He stands in the back of his enclosure, observing homeroom 601. He munches on lettuce and bathes himself in his bowl of water. He bangs on the glass of his enclosure when he is hungry. This is Claude, the unique, magnificent, tortoise. "He is a presence that I look forward to when I come into the classroom," says Ms. Grippo.

Backstory

Claude is the class pet for 601. He used to be taken care of by our principal, Mr. Getz, but now he is in classroom 601, and has been fed, hydrated, and taken care of by Ms. Grippo, for the past nine years. Ms. Grippo wanted Claude because, "life tip: when your boss asks you to do something, say yes." She states that she likes tortoises, so it worked out well for her. While he's the same size, Claude doesn't have as much energy as he did when she first got him. Nobody knows exactly how old he is, but he has not changed much according to Ms. Grippo. Claude used to have another tortoise with him, but they passed, so Claude is alone. It is uncertain if Claude will have another tortoise with him again. Like most reptiles, Claude is most likely colonized with a bacteria called salmonella. This means students can't pet or touch him.

Nine years may not seem like that long of a time, but it really is. Just like any other animal, you gather moments that are sentimental, and build memories. She says she enjoys watching the kids' reaction when he eats, drinks water, goes on his back or side, and when she came home once to see her son on the floor playing with Claude. He is a hungry, sometimes energetic, resilient, insistent, tortoise. Seeing Claude is something Ms. Grippo and students look forward to. Now

but as Miami Dade county started to pour in, we saw President Trump close the margins dramatically there, due to an overwhelming number of Hispanic voters. These were voters that were largely ignored by the Trump campaign in the 2016 election. Miami Dade has a very large number of Cuban and Venezuelan immigrants, the Trump campaign targeted these communities with advertisements claiming that Biden was a socialist. This struck the Cuban and Venezuelan voters because they had just left a system of socialists and they did not want to enter another one as the Trump campaign suggested would happen. As the votes continued coming in, we saw that although the early and absentee ballots were skewed towards Biden, something that would eventually become a target of the Trump campaign, Donald Trump was winning the same day votes which would eventually lead him to victory in the state of Florida. That result made the Trump campaign more optimistic as many thought that the Trump campaign would pull the majority of the Hispanic vote and that would put them over the 270 mark.

As the night wore on, there was not much of a change, and neither campaign could pull away from the other. Once it got later in the night, and some slept or at least tried to sleep, the states that were projected went the way that they were expected to. Additionally, Texas was called on that night, which would have left, along with Florida, a sense of disappointment amongst the Democrats, as they were hopeful they could flip it. However, the bright spot for the Democrats and the worrying moment for the Republicans was when Texas was called by a closer margin than what Trump won by in 2016. Biden took an early lead in Ohio via a large advantage in early and absentee votes going in his favor, but just as was the case in states like Florida and Texas, President Trump was able to overturn that lead through a larger advantage in the same-day voting. In addition, on that night, the second congressional district of Nebraska was called in Biden's favor, which, despite the fact that it was one point, could potentially

2. Dip paint brush or toothbrush into paint. If you want thicker spots then add more paint, for smaller dots add less.
3. Run your finger along the bristles so that they get pulled back and forward, flinging paint onto the paper.
4. Repeat steps two through four as many times and/or with as many colors as you would like.

Tip: If your paint is not leaving your brush try watering down the paint a little, so the paint appears as a thinner consistency. Here are video instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJqO2Pp4o2Y>. Note that you don't have to follow all the instructions in the video. You can change and tweek it anyway you want!

Here is an example of splatter paint. Note that there is no right or wrong when making art!



Photo Credit: The Artful Parent

Another fun activity to try is origami. Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper into shapes, objects, and even animals. Some origami can move while others are built for decoration. No worries if you struggle with drawing or writing because origami just requires folding. To make origami all you need is a square sheet of paper. There are many different levels of origami so origami can keep you entertained for hours.

Here are instructions to make an origami crane. There is a myth where if you make one thousand origami cranes

let's hear the student's perspectives on Claude.



"He is a presence that I look forward to"
- Ms. Grippo

What Do Student's Think?

What are kids thinking about Claude? When students walked into the classroom, they were all surprised, and some were excited to see a tortoise in their classroom. Here is one of our classmate's first impressions on Claude: "I was really excited because we have never had a class pet before, and I've always loved, and been interested in animals," Emerson Dennis told us. Since then, we have been invested in this tortoise.

For some, the most surprising thing about Claude was that he was quite large for a tortoise. "I thought tortoises were small, so I was surprised to learn Claude was a tortoise," said Avery Traub. Most tortoises would just hide under or behind something, but Claude has been near 30 or more students almost everyday, all day, for nine years. It's amazing how Claude has adapted to being in a room with so many humans near him, constantly talking. He used to just sit in Mr. Getz's office, which definitely didn't have that many people in there all day, all the time.

When asked if she could rename Claude, what would she name him, Emerson responded by saying, "I really like 'cl' names. I think that he's a good 'cl'

have been significant because it meant that Biden would only have to win Nevada, Arizona, and two of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, or Michigan, instead of all three of the rust belt states mentioned above. However, at the end of the first night, the election was still very much up for grabs, with both sides probably having a sleepless night as did the rest of the American population. As more and more votes came in and more states were called it became clear that the election would come down to the states of Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nevada.

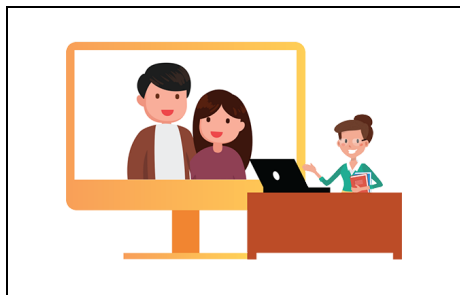
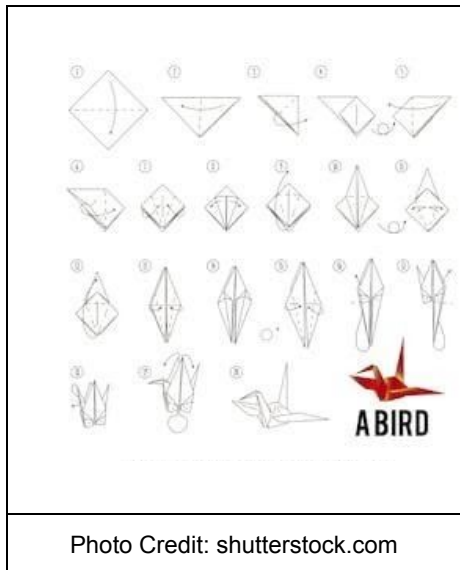
On the second day of this extended election, Biden was projected to win Michigan and Wisconsin, which meant that he would only have to win Arizona and Nevada, or Pennsylvania to be declared president-elect of the United States. As the days went on, the votes started looking better and better for Biden. But this did nothing to change the fact that the election had not been called. Then on Saturday, November 7th, at around 11 A.M (the day the SHSAT was supposed to be on) many parts of the country went into jubilation. In New York City's own Central Park, there were people shouting and dancing, and all over the country, we could see on the news that people were celebrating on the streets.

However, through all of this, there was the truth that the president would not give up his power without a fight. On the night of the election, President Trump gave a speech in which he said, "We were getting ready for a big celebration. We were winning everything and all of a sudden it was just called off". He went on to proclaim how many states he had "won" and by such a "large margin" before he stated that. "This is a major fraud in our nation. We want the law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the US Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop. We don't want them to find any ballots at four o'clock in the morning and add them to the list." President Trump made an attempt here to delegitimize and throw out the legally cast ballots which, whether Republican or Democrat, one

then you can make one wish and it will come true! In Japan a crane represents good fortune and longevity. The crane is often referred to as "the bird of happiness." Here is video instructions (youtube): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfnyopxdJXQ>

There is also a flying version of the crane: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD1M3VrNSI4> (To watch the videos, copy the links, and paste them into an internet search)

These art projects and several more can help lower your stress levels while staying at home!



Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

By: Alexis Choi, Olivia Choi, and Nicholas Oh

While many of us have had Parent-Teacher Conferences previously in our lives, this year has obviously been different due to COVID-19. Firstly, the conferences were not in person but were

sort of guy. So maybe, I don't know, like Clarence."

Claude is cherished by students and teachers amongst 601. He is a unique tortoise, and a part of the ESMS community.

Theater and Improvisation At ESMS

By: Athena Shevorykin

Do you want to sing, act, dance, or be able to say things on the spot! I sure do, and that's why I joined theater and improvisation. Theater is every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30, and if you can, you may stay until 5:00! This is a super enjoyable class, where we can learn, and by the end of the year, perform a play! We learn techniques to help us audition and perform, we improve on our skills, and most importantly, have a ton of fun!

We open our class with a greeting and check in, then we move on to dancing with Delilah where we learn moves, skills, and a dance! Our dances are for beginner level, with variations for harder versions, and sometimes we also get to choreograph the dances ourselves!

Afterwards, we have singing with Min, and we warm up with some quick vocalisations where we can make sure our voice is ready for singing, just like you would warm up or stretch before a sports event. Then, we can learn about our voice, for example, what our range is, and what your vocal cords are. To end singing, we practice a song! The songs vary from difficult to easy, from high notes to low notes, so that there is a song for everyone!

Lastly, we practice a scene or prepare for an audition with the leader, Elena, We work on how you say your lines to make them believable, and what you can do with your body to help the audience understand the story. I wanted to learn more about theater club, so I interviewed

must know is morally wrong and in defiance of the constitution. However, many of President Trump's supporters believe that there was major fraud in the mail-in ballots, and thousands of people voted multiple times, even though there is no proof. The president asked his controversial lawyer Rudy Giuliani to carry out a series of lawsuits against various states. President Trump has refused to concede that Joe Biden won the election fair and square.

This election will have a significant impact on voting in the United States. This proves to people that their vote counts as Joe Biden has won the popular vote by 6 million votes. This is important because some feel like their vote doesn't count, because the popular vote can say one thing, but the electoral college can say another. This also could be the end of the electoral college, as Biden will most likely be pressured by the more prominent progressive members in his party to end it, especially if the Georgia runoff ends up going to the Democrats. This election likely will decide the direction of the Republican party since Donald Trump has become his party's leader, meaning that many Republicans are asking us to humor him so he can drum up his supporters in Georgia to go vote for the Republican candidates. Some believe Donald Trump should end the lawsuits to help the country come together, especially since we are in probably the most deadly time to have discourse in the United States. Others believe that cycle was unfair even though there has been no proof of rampant voter fraud. People have suspicions since there was such a high turnout for voting and of high mail in ballots, but these are mostly conspiracy theories that have been quickly proven wrong.

on Zoom. The parents were asked to book an appointment with the teachers using an app called SlyReply. Any parent who didn't schedule a conference wouldn't be admitted. They were informed that the conferences would run smoothly and efficiently if they joined five minutes earlier than the conference was supposed to start, though they would be allowed into the Zoom close to their allotted time. It was requested of parents to join with their child's name so that they could be recognized instantaneously, and that parents in the same room who both wanted to come would be using the same device.

The conferences took place on Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 19, with the exception of one of the 6th grade science teachers, Ms. Grippo, who held conferences on Friday, November 20. We also anticipated moderate complications, but it appears that the obstacles were undercalculated. A parent who came to the conference commented that his conferences were "on average, six minutes, but sometimes longer. I had to wait three to four minutes for the first Zooms, but 30 to 60 for the later ones." This resulted in some parents waiting for longer than expected, which led to confusion. The meetings kept on getting pushed back until the point where parents had their meetings much longer than scheduled. Others came late to their meetings when they stayed on too long for a different conference. Some meetings were eclipsed by other conferences, meaning that some parents had to show up for two or more conferences at the same time!

We interviewed some parents about their experiences in the conference, and although all enjoyed meeting the teachers, there were multiple who had Wifi or internet connection issues, or other problems. One parent was having a conference with a humanities teacher when suddenly, his internet lost connection. He had to wait almost 1 hour to settle everything and reschedule a conference. When asked what the most difficult part of the conference was, the

Elena, the leader. I asked her what her favorite part about theater was, and she said, "My favorite part is watching people explore their ideas and make artistic discoveries. Also, a lot of people carry limiting beliefs about themselves psychologically, and they think they cannot do something 'well' like sing or act. But then, I give them a little instruction or direction, and they soar to new heights and surprise themselves. I like witnessing that." I also wanted to know if taking theater class could help someone in their day-to-day life, and Elena answered, "Yes, the ability to see from another person's point of view is very important. Theater builds empathy and it teaches you to look at the same idea from a variety of ways. It expands your imagination. It builds confidence and public speaking and poise. It is also a really wonderful way to create art." Lastly, I wanted to know why others should do theater, and she said, "It is the ultimate builder of resilience, confidence, and communication skills. Whether you want to be a performing artist, a lawyer, a teacher, a scientist, or anything in the world, theater skills will help you."

Now that we know a bit about theater class, let's talk about improv! This class is every Monday from 4:45 to 5:45, and is led by David. Here, we learn how to act on the spot, trusting yourself to say the right thing, and letting your mouth speak. We open the class with some warm-ups that get your mouth talking on the spot without stopping, during this you are supposed to keep talking for some time, as this will help your creative mind flow. After a warm up, we would learn a skill or technique that can help us. This can be a rule of improv, or a tip that can help you continue the scene with your partner. Lastly, we practice and improvise different situations! We find a partner, and someone starts the scene, and the other person has to continue it on the spot.

To be able to look more detailed at what it is like to be in this club, I interviewed Daria. I asked what her favorite part about improv club was, and she answered, "Playing games and

Free Chess For ESMS

By: Nicholas Oh

Thanks to the parents and staff who wanted a chess team this year, we were granted a free month of virtual chess through Impact Coaching Network for all of November. We were lucky enough to have a team, as many other schools did not have this opportunity. Games were at 4:30, and all you needed was a USCF membership, with nothing else required.

If you decide you want to play in December, email ICN at impactcoachingnetwork@gmail.com, give them a link to your United States Chess Federation (USCF) profile and tell them that you attend ESMS. They are offering discounted memberships to our school. If you want a fun and easy way to represent your school you can do this and enjoy the game!



Photo Credit: chess.com



The ESMS Debate Page

By: Liya Choi and Gail Tromer

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

questioned parent stated, "It was staying in the waiting room and wondering why I wasn't being let in. I had to write multiple emails asking when the conference would start."

Overall, although many parents had difficulty with their internet or the schedule, they learned more about ESMS's curriculum and student's process. You can never sacrifice too much for the sake of our wonderful school!

Photo Credit: River Mill Academy

The ESMS Riddle Page

By: Alexis Choi and Olivia Choi

1. What is a room that you cannot go inside?
2. I am light as a feather yet no one can hold me for long. What am I?
3. How does a leopard change its spots?
4. You bought me for breakfast but you don't eat me. What am I?
5. I have keys but no locks. I have a space but no room. You can enter, but can't go outside.
6. A word has six letters, but if you take one away, there are twelve left. What word is it?
7. A barrel of water weighs 100 pounds. What do you have to put in it to make it weigh less?
8. What kind of cake can you use for cleaning?
9. Inside a blue house, there is blue paint. Inside the yellow house, there is yellow paint. What is inside the green house?
10. A woman was inside her hotel room

having fun." Then I wanted to know why Daria wanted to start improv, and she answered, "My parents mostly encouraged me, but I also don't really like the stage, and I thought I can get used to it by doing improv." After, I was interested to find out if improv was more difficult online through Zoom, and she said, "Well, [Zoom] doesn't allow us to play some games. I also think that it is harder to interact with the teacher and other students." Lastly, I wondered why others should try improv, and she said, "I would recommend improv to others, because it's fun to do it, and even if you're not a big fan of improvising and saying what comes to mind. This class still teaches you how to express your emotions better, and it is also a lot of fun!" I hope you enjoyed this article, and maybe, even decided that you want to sign up for one of these after school classes! If you do, you surely will see me there!

Gaming At ESMS

By: Athena Shevorykin and Anna Rodriguez

While there are many clubs at ESMS, Gaming is truly special. Here, we get to have a ton of fun, hang out with other students in the club, and play Among Us (or other games). Gaming happens every Friday from 4:45 to 5:45. It is very enjoyable and convenient for everyone, because when you are playing a game like Among Us, you talk a lot about the game and communicate with your teammates, which is difficult to do in the in-game chat, so it helps to be in a Zoom with everyone in the game. Also, while we play, we get to learn a lot of things about other students at ESMS.

Games Today

Today there are many different games. Board games, video games and card games, to name a few. Some of the most popular games right now are Among Us, Minecraft, and Roblox.

Among Us

Among Us is a game that only gained popularity recently. You are placed onto one of three maps and given a role, either

page do not necessarily represent the opinions of the writers themselves. This month's topic: should students doing hybrid learning be allowed to use balls during P.E.?

Yes - Liya Choi

P.E. is one of the most favored subjects in school. However, the debate of being able to use balls is a long going argument. During P.E., the time that is most looked forward to is when you can play different sports. Although balls can be dangerous because of accidents, like hitting your head, there may happen there are alternatives. Many schools have been using soft balls instead of hard ones. Also, now with the Coronavirus and the fear of germs spreading faster, people don't think that using balls is realistic. If you are careful and responsible, there aren't as many things to worry about.

Soccer can be played with foam balls instead of tougher ones made of plastic or some other material. Students who attend schools that do not allow balls often complain because it isn't as exciting as with them. Some types of balls can be restricted to a certain extent. Soccer can be played by only kicking the ball. With masks on and not touching anything germs won't spread as much as playing a sport like basketball. With the necessary precautions, germs won't be traveling around everywhere.

The children in the lower grades who might not be as responsible about not touching balls can stick to using other things to play and exercise. Right after playing kids can quickly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer just in case. If people don't go near each other or touch each other, germs won't be spreading. Also, if you are very careful and responsible, it's not likely people will get sick or infected.

Overall, hybrid students should be allowed to use balls during PE because it can make it more exciting and fun. If kids are responsible about this, then germs will most likely not spread as much as you imagine.

when a knock came on the door. She opened the door to see who it was and it was a man she had never seen before. "Oh, I'm sorry, I thought this was my room," the man said, and he went away. The woman phoned security immediately after he left. What made her so suspicious of the man?

11. A person is trapped in a room, and they are given the option to choose between three doors to escape: One filled with poisonous acidic gas, another with lions that haven't eaten for two years, and the last with fire. Which is the safest option?

12. A man wants to enter an exclusive club, but doesn't know the password, so he listens to what the club members say. When one man walked to the door, the doorman said 12 and he said 6, and was let in. A different man is told 6, and is let in when he responds 3. The man thinks he knows what he has to say, and when he goes up to the doorman, the latter says, "10." The man responds and says 5, but is not let in. What should he have said?

13. In 1639, a student was accused of cheating on a math test, but they didn't find a calculator. Why?

14. What animal jumps higher than a building?

See the bottom of the issue for answers!

The ESMS Joke Page

By: Skyler Cheng-Chapman

As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field.
But hay, it's in my jeans.

What's a pirate's favorite letter?
You think it's R but it be the C

crewmate or impostor. If you are a crewmate, then your job is, along with your fellow crewmates, to complete all of your tasks around the ship before the impostor kills you or gets down to an even number of crewmates versus impostors. If you are an impostor, then your job is to kill crewmates and sabotage the map, all without being caught. The impostor's job can be hard, but vents make it a little easier. Vents are a direct link between certain rooms that only impostors can access. This can make it easier to kill someone and then vent away to avoid suspicion. The way to get rid of an impostor is to either report a body of a dead crewmate or call an emergency meeting. After a discussion everyone will have a chance to vote. If there is a majority against one person then they will be thrown out and we will see if they are the impostor.

Roblox

Roblox is an online community filled with all types of games. There are tons of different games in so many different genres that everyone can find something they like. It would be impossible to describe every game so I selected a couple of games to tell you about.

Flee the Facility

Flee the Facility is a game where you can be placed into one of five different maps and be given a role, either beast or survivor. If you are a survivor, you must find and hack computers to override the system and unlock the exit before the beast finds you and puts you in a freezer pod. But if you mess up your hacking, it sends a beacon to the beast, allowing them to track you down. It is best to have a partner with you so if you are captured, they can save you. If you are the beast, then your goal is to capture all of the survivors before they hack into the system and escape. You have a hammer to smack them down and drag them to a freezer pod. There are tons of collectible hammers and gems (to light your way) to acquire. There is a trading post to trade hammers and gems with your peers.

Islands (Formerly known as SkyBlock)

No - Gail Tromer

The best part about ball games is that they are a team activity. The ball connects people and helps people to create and make new friends. When playing with balls we have a common goal. Each of the players wants to achieve something with his or her team. For example, to bring the ball into the basket, or to get it in a net of the other group. For getting to these goals, teammates must work together, in partnership, to pass the ball between them, one to another, until they find a good position in which they can succeed their goal from.

Hybrid students have two different situations, one is alone in online learning, and the other in school with the other students during the pandemic. A hybrid student can't use a ball during P.E. in Zoom because they have no way of being with the other students personally. Being on Zoom means you don't have a team and no way of playing.

A hybrid student also can't use a ball in school during the pandemic because they might get infected by COVID-19. While playing with the ball, the ball can serve as a vehicle for the COVID. It can bounce off the ground, then off someone's face, then on the ground again, and then onto someone's face. The ball is actually the vehicle of the COVID, bringing it from one place to another, and the players are filling this vehicle with energy, or gas. What can also happen is that you can touch the ball and then forget that you can't touch your face and accidentally touch it.

As you see, a hybrid student can't play with a ball either in school or at home. We all very much hope that the crisis will soon be over, and we all will be able to use balls again.

What do you think? Should hybrid students be allowed to use balls during P.E.? Send in your answer to jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net, and the results will be shown in the next issue!

Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes.
That way, when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their shoes.

There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator.
Only a fraction of people will understand.

Did you hear about the fire at the circus?
It was in tents!

Why is Peter Pan always flying?
Because he Neverlands.

I took the shell off of my racing snail, thinking it would make him faster. But if anything, it made him more sluggish.

My teachers told me I'd never amount to much since I procrastinate so much.
I told them, "just you wait!"

I've been trying to make a sarcastic club, but it's been really hard to tell if people are interested in joining or not.

Answers To The Riddle Page

1. A mushroom
2. Your breath
3. By moving from one spot to another
4. Silverware
5. A keyboard
6. Dozens
7. A hole
8. A sponge cake
9. Plants
10. You don't knock on your own hotel room door

Islands is a game, where as the name suggests, you are on an island where you can mine resources and build your very own island. To get more materials, you can build your way to the supply island where you can buy and sell all sorts of things. The best way to make money is by selling crops and other natural resources. Islands is a pretty unstructured game, but I think it is pretty fun.

Welcome to Bloxburg (or just Bloxburg)

Bloxburg is very similarly structured to Islands, but all the building materials are already there. You get about 5,000 dollars to begin to build your house. Anything beyond that you either have to work for or buy with Robux. Like Islands, Bloxburg is pretty unstructured, but building houses anyway you want is pretty cool.

Minecraft

Minecraft is a video game in which players create and break apart various kinds of blocks in three-dimensional worlds. The game's two main modes are Survival and Creative. In Survival, players must find their own building supplies and food. They also interact with mobs, or moving creatures. Mobs can kill you in various ways so it's best to be prepared. In Creative you have instant access to all of the blocks, you are unable to die, and you don't require food. But it can lack the thrill of having to survive. I like both modes a lot but it depends on your preference.

Games are very fun and have such variety nowadays, everyone is able to find something they like. At Gaming, you can play whichever game you want with the added bonus of playing with someone else. Gaming is a fun and interactive experience and we hope you will consider joining for next semester.

Photo Credit: amazon.com

ESMS Book Reviews

By: Lola Kravitz

Welcome everyone, this is a place where popular books are reviewed to see if they live up to the hype, and slightly more obscure books will be recommended for your free time!

First on our list is *Simon vs. The Homosapien's Agenda* by Becky Albertalli. This book came out in 2015, so it's fairly new. It has gained even more attention since it was developed on the big screen into the popular romantic comedy, *Love, Simon*.

I rate it 3 stars out of 5, all in all. It is the story of Simon Spier, a closeted gay teen in his junior year. To put it simply with no major spoilers (or at least not telling anything you'll find out after the 1st or 2nd chapters), he has been keeping up an email correspondence with someone in his school, an anonymous student who goes by the alias Blue. Simon falls deeper in love with each message, but Blue is secretive about his true identity, although Simon has his suspicions about who he is. His classmate Martin discovers those emails, and threatens to expose Simon, and send them out to the whole school if Simon doesn't help him win the heart of one of Simon's best friends, Abby Suso. And from there, a story full of drama, angst, comedy, mistaken identity, emails, and love ensues.

It does have some rather iffy moments, that are not good reflections of the LGBTQ+ community at all. For instance, Simon says in one chapter that lesbians and bisexual girls have it easier when they come out, because boys find it hot. That is completely inaccurate and for those boys to "find it hot" is not a good thing, and disrespectful. Also, crossdressing is frequently referred to as this ominous,

11. The second door. If the lions didn't eat for two years, they would likely be dead
12. 3, because that's how many letters are in ten
13. Calculators weren't invented yet
14. All animals jump higher than a building, because buildings don't jump!

evil, lurking thing, that he would rather forget.

The romance in the book is sweet and heartwarming, and it builds up slowly before it culminates in the explosion of feelings that are the last couple of chapters. The humor is endearing, and although I was not a teenager during those years, and I am still not, it doesn't read as an adult trying to be hip with the youth by inserting several unnecessary "bros" and "dudes" into conversations.

I also think that the anxiety that Simon feels in coming out even though he knows his family will be fine with it is fairly accurate. This book is written by a psychologist (former now that her writing career took off) who worked with LGBTQ+ youth and their experiences are what inspired the novel.

This is not a kid friendly book, and there are many good reasons. In fact, it is listed as a young adult novel. It cusses a lot, using not only the f word but the f slur once in a while, used towards Simon, and in Simon's thoughts as he thinks of it. There is some underage drinking. If you do not wish to read more mature subject matter, I suggest you skip this book, and look elsewhere.

Overall, it is a satisfying story that leaves you guessing and shows the intricacies of relationships - those of families, friends, enemies, lovers - and how they can be affected by anything. It does have its fair share of moments that make you raise an eyebrow at the page and reread the sentence, but I personally enjoyed it.

If you purchased it or are planning to purchase it, feel free to share your opinions with the Tiger Times! Remember, don't take my word for anything I said, and formulate your own thoughts on the story! You might have a completely different view on it, and I'd love to listen to it.

Email
jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net to
share your thoughts on the

book!