

The Tiger Times

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Thirteenth Edition

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

See this issue for jokes, riddles, quotes, interviews, a comics page, unanswerable questions and a list of weird facts!

The End of the School Year

By: Jacob Abroon

The end of the school year is here at last. We have made it through almost 10 months of school, and all of us have gone through a great deal during the entire year, and especially the past few months. From students, to teachers, to the administration, we have all done a great deal of work. All of East Side Middle School's teachers have done an incredible amount of work. Our principals, Mr. Getz and Ms. Hyman, have also done a great deal of work, and many of us do not even know about everything they have been doing for the school behind the scenes while schools were closed. I interviewed Mr. Getz to see firsthand information on what it was like to be a principal during Remote Learning. Here are the questions, with his answers:

Q. How has the Remote Learning experience been for you as principal?

A. I think this is a complex answer, and I am wondering if I will need time and data and reflection to figure out that answer. It has certainly been a mixture of frustration, surprise and discovery. It is frustrating not being able to visit physical classrooms and sit next to students as they are learning. It is inspiring to see wonderful student work still being produced. It is frustrating to not be able to sit down at a table with teachers and plan and reflect and wonder aloud. But it's been wonderful seeing what the staff has been able to do under these conditions. And I think



The Newspaper
For
East Side Middle School

2020: The Year in a Close

By: Jacob Abroon

For most of us, 2020 began just as any year. Many of you probably were watching the ball drop from your homes, some of you might have been out of the city, and some of you might have been asleep when our city entered the new decade. No matter where you were, none of us were expecting a year like this. Thinking about it, 2020 held some historic events. Below is a list of everything that has happened in 2020 so far:

1. The Donald Trump Impeachment and Acquittal
2. Australia Wildfires
3. The Death Of Kobe Bryant
4. The Kansas City Chiefs Winning Super Bowl 54
5. The 2020 Democratic Primaries and Caucuses

A Teacher Article:

2020: My Year So Far

By: Mr. Durante

The year 2020 is something I will never forget. January 2nd was my first day as Mr. Lyons', may he rest in peace, substitute teacher. This year I taught some of the most phenomenal students. My students went through one roadblock after another. Nothing about the 2019-2020 school year was consistent for them. For the first few months they had one substitute teacher. Then, after winter break I came in and only a handful of students knew my name. We believed Mr. Lyons would be able to come back in March and be able to meet his new 7th graders. Sadly, that did not happen. This was only temporary and Mr. Getz informed me and 701/703 that I would remain the rest of the year as their humanities teacher. This did not last too long because COVID stripped them of their "normal" in-class learning.

I want to use the last issue of the Tiger Times this school year to show my appreciation, my thanks, and to commend both of my classes for finishing this year strong and the staff of ESMS. 701 and 703 proved to me that no matter what was happening at the time, you can always find a smile and have fun. Thank you to 701 and 703 for making my first real teaching experience at East Side Middle School such a wonderful experience. I hope you all learned as much from me than I did from you this year.

we've learned and are learning a great deal about the needs of our students and teachers. A crisis tends to highlight our fundamental needs and values, and this is doing that.

Q. From what you know, when we return to school in September, how do you think we will learn? Will it continue to be virtual, in person, etc.?

A. I really don't know. We are waiting on the Chancellor, and he is probably waiting on the Mayor who is waiting on the Governor, who is probably waiting on data and the CDC and the economy.

Q. How has ESMS continued to perform and hold some of its special events such as International Night and 8th grade graduation while we are doing Remote Learning?

A. I think we really haven't held these events. We've replaced them with something that we hope is true to their spirit. Our teachers have done a lot of work on graduation along with Beth and Ms. Hyman. And the student council has done some great work as well.

Q. Would you say that ESMS's transition to and experience with Remote Learning was successful? Why do you think so?

A. I think we did a great job under the circumstances. But we cannot compare our performance to what we would be doing if there was no virus. Our teachers have been working incredibly hard during these times. They have worked long hours under crazy conditions and have kept the emotional well being of our students in the forefront of their minds. So I have nothing but praise for them.

Q. If a situation similar to this were to come up again, would you handle it differently? How so?

A. Yes, I would. But that is what this summer is for: to reflect and evaluate and plan. I think hearing from students and parents will strongly inform our future remote learning.

Q. How do you think Remote Learning affected the ESMS staff and students?

6. The Coronavirus Outbreak

7. The Death Of George Floyd and The Protests Afterward

8. The N.A.S.A. - SpaceX Launch

9. The 2020 Summer Olympics Being Postponed

And it is only June. Midway through the year. For many of you who have been reading the Tiger Times in the past few months, we all know that this is a historic time. How many times will you live during a pandemic? How many times will you be able to see a protest going right by your apartment building? How many times will you see a historic space launch? 2020 can be described in one word: interesting. While many of the events this year have been tragic, they are interesting. We have never seen anything like any of these events, and they are all happening simultaneously. This year, and this school year has been undoubtedly interesting. Two months ago, Times Square, a place known for being crowded, was deserted. You couldn't walk into a room without having your temperature taken. We will always remember this year. No matter what happens, this year will stick in our minds.

If we were to compare these events to similar ones in American history, it is incredible what we are going through. Going down the list of events in 2020, here are events that can be compared to it:

- The Impeachment and Acquittal of Bill Clinton
- The California Wildfires just a couple of years ago
- Super Bowl XXXVI, when Tom Brady won his first Super Bowl and a legend was born
- The 2016 Presidential Election
- The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic
- Vietnam War protests and Civil Rights protests
- The Apollo 11 launch, taking Neil Armstrong to the Moon
- Canceling of the Olympics during World War I and World War II

Thinking about it, the events in 2020 so far

Lastly, I want to thank the entire staff at East Side Middle School for showing me just how beautiful this school really is. You welcomed me into this community with open arms and I hope I was able to repay your kindness this year by being there when the school needed me. Again, thank you all for the kindness you have shown to me and thank you for the faith you have given me this year. I will never forget it.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and please stay safe!

All the best,
Mr. Durante

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ESMS Virtual Spirit Week

By: Jacob Abroon

In the middle of March, ESMS was supposed to host its annual Spirit Week. Many 7th and 8th graders can remember Spirit Week from last year, where everyone wore East Side Middle merchandise, and showed pride in their middle school. However, the anticipated Spirit Week was canceled due to the Coronavirus. The original Spirit Week would have been as follows:

Monday: SPIRIT DAY: Wear blue, white, ESMS merchandise or tigers.

Tuesday: TWIN TUESDAY: You and a friend dress alike.

Wednesday: WACKY WEDNESDAY: Wacky outfits, wacky accessories, and hats are allowed and recommended.

Thursday: THROWBACK THURSDAY: Dress like you were from the 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's or 1990's.

A. I think it made us very frustrated and at times overwhelmed. I think the problem for teachers (and for all of us) was that while the conditions for teaching changed, our standards did not. So while we know what good teaching is all about, and what good learning looks like, we were often incapable of replicating those standards. I think that was difficult for all of us. I think we should all take pride in what we did accomplish and the kindness and compassion and humor we brought to our work.

Q. If we continue to have Remote Learning in September, what will your plans be for classes such as Dance and P.E., and activities in other classes that need to be done in person?

A. Great question! We are going to work it out this summer. These are essential classes, and if I could, we would be doing dance and PE everyday for an hour. I don't know what they will look like in the fall yet.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to say or share?

A. I feel very honored to be working with such a wonderful and resilient community. I hope we all learn from this experience and become a better society because of what we've learned. A kinder more compassionate society, and more equitable.

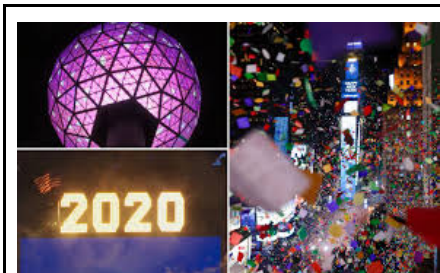
There are still many unanswered questions, and as Mr. Getz said, summer vacation is going to be a time for planning, and deciding what will happen in the fall. There are hundreds of different solutions to solving the issue of the Coronavirus at schools, and you may have thought of one yourself. However, the governor, the mayor, and our principals have to decide what method is going to be the safest. Will we continue to be doing Remote Learning in September, or will we have to wear masks and gloves in school? The answer is that there is no answer. Whatever may happen in the fall, we know that we can push through it. We have spent the past three months learning from computers, laptops, phones, and iPads. We are all in this together. We all went through similar

are nothing short of extraordinary. Some of the events that have occurred cannot even be compared to events in the past.

No event other than a World War has ever cancelled the Olympics until now. No space launch since Apollo 11 has ever been so monumental. No pandemic has ever been so life changing in, arguably, world history.

We are primary sources. We are witnessing history in the making. Who knows what affects the events today will have on the world in five years? Will people be wearing masks whenever they go out from now on? Will airplane travel dramatically decrease? These are all questions we will have to answer at one point or another, and they will be answered eventually.

As 2020 goes on, we will continue to remember this year, and the events that it held. It is great and horrible that we are experiencing all of these events in just a matter of months. Whether the events were positive or negative, 2020 has been nothing short of incredible.



When the New Year's ball dropped in Times Square, no one was expecting what would follow

Photo Credit: dailymail.co.uk

A Special Goodbye and Thank You to Mr. Durante

From January 2nd to the last day of school this year, Mr. Durante has been an incredible part of the Newspaper, and an incredible teacher. He has allowed the Newspaper to use his classroom for meetings, and he has written great articles for the Tiger Times. Since

Friday: PAJAMA DAY: Wear pajamas. Be comfy! You can even wear your ESMS PJs!

Obviously, this was not possible with schools closed. For the rest of March, and all of April and May, East Side Middle did not have Spirit Week. Then, on June 15th, it began once again.

Dale Heller, one of the organizers of Spirit Week, sent out a school-wide email, containing the activity for the first day of Spirit Week. Every day of that week was supposed to hold an activity for Spirit Week. On that Monday, the activity was a 30 question trivia quiz. The quiz covered a variety of topics, from animals to countries. It was a great quiz for anyone who participated, and many of the quiz takers (including myself) learned a great deal from it. The participants that answered the most points correctly and did it in the fastest time would win. The next day, the list of winners was sent out, and here are the results:

1st place (With 135 points):

Emma Bell
Nora Cassetta
Amanda Cisse
Zachary Semple

2nd place (With 130 points):

Dimitri Hanjis

3rd place (With 125 points):

Elana Koenig

Congratulations to all of the winners, who won the grand prize of bragging rights! Of course, it was difficult to award the prize, so all of the winners won pride. By the time the results were sent out for Day 1, Day 2 had already begun.

Day 2 of the Virtual Spirit Week was International Afternoon. For Tuesday's activity, all students were provided with a link to a Padlet, where they could post recipes from their country, fun facts, and more! Many students at East Side Middle posted on the Padlet, showing a variety of different information. International Afternoon was a great way to replace International Night, which had been canceled due to the pandemic. All of ESMS loves International Night, so

experiences, and we all have done an incredible amount of hard work. As Mr. Getz said he is "honored to be working with such a wonderful and resilient community." These have been rough times, and we can still overcome that challenge. After all, we are all tigers.

So the end of the school year is near. Report cards are given out electronically, and we are going through a different way of saying goodbye to teachers and friends. This is a different end of the school year, and yet it is still very similar to past ones. We still are receiving our report cards, we are still going to have a chance to say goodbye to friends, and we will still be able to say goodbye to teachers. So as the end of the school year is officially declared, and summer vacation officially starts, we will remember this school year, and we will remember that year of middle school where we were at home for a whole trimester. Whether you are in 6th grade and you are missing out on your June Dance performance, 7th grade and you are missing out on your Constitution Works field trip, or 8th grade and you are not having the graduation you expected, we will always remember this year, for we were able to make it to the other side. From me, and everyone at the Tiger Times, have a great summer vacation East Side Middle.



When NYC Public Schools Were Closed For The First Time, Our World Was Turned Upside Down, And We All Had To Push Through

Photo Credit: Youtube

Hi ESMS students! Have been reading the Tiger Times? Do you want to join the team? Email jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net and you can be a part of the Newspaper for the 2020 - 2021 school year!

the New Year, Mr. Durante has taught 701 and 703, and has faced incredible circumstances. He had to teach a class four months after the first day of school, and the students he taught barely knew him. Then, less than three months later, he had to face the impossible task of being a teacher during Remote Learning. Mr. Durante has been an incredible teacher and part of the Newspaper. However, we do not know if Mr. Durante will be a teacher at ESMS in the fall. In the case that we do not see Mr. Durante next year, from everyone at the Tiger Times, we would like to say thank you and (hopefully not) goodbye to Mr. Durante.

COVID - 19 Vaccine Trials and the Science Behind Them

By: Dimitri Hanjiss

In the race for a COVID-19 vaccine, there are some especially promising vaccines that have emerged. Out of the 135+ vaccine trials that are going on right now, there are a few that have been given special funding from the U.S. in a project called *Warp Speed*. In this article we will go over: two of the six vaccines included in *Warp Speed*, how the trials work, and how the vaccines will actually work.

There are five vaccines that are being given billions of dollars in funding from the U.S. government. These vaccines include the Moderna mRNA-127 vaccine, AstraZeneca and Oxford University's AZD-1222, a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, a Merck vaccine, and a vaccine made by BioNTechs, BNT-162. I will be focusing on the first two of these vaccines because they are the most promising at this point in the process.

The trials are staged in the following fashion: the first step is to manufacture a vaccine. After you have done this you begin preliminary testing on animals. You do this to test for safety and to see if it elicits an immune response. After you have finished the preliminary testing you go to phase I trials. In these trials you give the vaccine to a small number of people to

International *Afternoon* was a great way to be as close as possible to the International Night many 7th and 8th graders can remember. After that, Spirit Week continued, and the next day had an activity that no one was expecting.

On Wednesday, Day 3 of the Virtual Spirit Week, East Side Middle was able to participate in a scavenger hunt. The hunt was a race to find certain items throughout your home in the shortest time possible. You were able to be in a team with up to five other people, and theoretically, that would increase your odds in finding each item by fivefold, because each team needed to find one of each item. The list of items to find included:

- Something triangular
- The hottest spice in your house
- An image of the oldest piece of ESMS artwork you can find
- A picture of you jumping
- One red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple item (6 in total)
- Something you can easily lose

Those were not all of the different things you had to find, but it clearly covers a variety of topics. Anyone who participated would say that it was a difficult scavenger hunt. The next day, the last day of ESMS's first Virtual Spirit Week, was an activity that held a chance at fame.

On the final day of Spirit Week, all ESMS students were given a challenge to complete a dance routine suggested by Ms. Deneroff, or they could try to break a world record (or get as close as possible to doing so). Some of the possible records included:

- Most M&Ms eaten with chopsticks in 60 seconds (the record was 65)
- Most t-shirts put on in one minute (the record was 26)
- Most coins stacked with one hand in 30 seconds (the record was 51)

People have often wished they could beat a world record, and this was their chance to do so. While some of the records did not seem completely logical (I would not suggest eating 66 M&Ms in 60 seconds), there are other records that a person

Quote Of The Month



How To Enjoy the Summer While Social Distancing

By: Nicholas Oh

In light of the recent circumstances, we middle schoolers have a choice to make. How will we spend our summers? I, personally, would love to hang out with friends, play pick up ball, and even go to the movies. Unfortunately, seeing classmates is not part of phase two NYC reopening. Instead, we have to stay masked - literally - and follow social distancing regulations. I can only imagine how hard it might be for a bunch of kids to play around... and manage to stay six feet apart. However, it is not completely hopeless. There are still many ways to have fun while remaining physically distanced.

First of all, use the resources the city has available. For example, sign up for a Citibike account. Meet up with friends and bike in Central Park! Not only will this give you time to socialize, but you'll get a fair amount of exercise too. Other amenities like parks and beaches will hopefully open up as well, as long as you respect everyone's personal space you can get your tan and play around.

My personal favorite activity thus far has been socially distanced picnicking. All you have to do is find some grass, call some friends, and bring your own blanket and food. By taking care of your own materials, this picnic is the ultimate corona-safe activity.

On that note, go out and get some sun. Social distancing CAN be fun. Have a good summer ESMS!

test for safety and dosage and to test if it elicits the same immune response as animals in the preliminary trials. Phase II of the trials includes giving it to hundreds of people of all age groups to see if it elicits the same immune response as in the animal and small group trials. Up until phase III, no phase has tested the effectiveness of preventing the virus. However, in phase III, the vaccine undergoes a clinical trial.

Doing a clinical trial is a topic that all 7th graders should be familiar with. If you are not familiar with a clinical trial here's how it works: thousands of people sign informed consent forms to allow themselves to be tested upon after acknowledging the risks. Half of the people will be put into a placebo group, which is a group that receives a fake vaccine that the people believe is the real thing. Meanwhile, the other group receives the real vaccine. The idea behind this is to see if the actual vaccine works better than the placebo effect. The placebo effect is when you think you are getting something that will work and do what the real medication is supposed to do, and your body improves because of this mindset. If the rates of prevented infection for the clinical trial are high for the vaccine and the same for the placebo, then you know that the vaccine does not work.

After you have compared the effectiveness of the vaccine to the effectiveness of the placebo and have found that the vaccine is significantly more effective than the placebo, you can move on to approval. This would normally take a large amount of time, but since we are in a pandemic the vaccine may receive emergency authorization. Something else that is happening is that phase I and II trials are being combined into phase I/II where the vaccine is being tested on hundreds of humans instead of small groups for the first time. No vaccines are in the approval phase of the trial currently, but the Oxford vaccine is in phase III and the Moderna vaccine is in phase II.

The Moderna vaccine works by using mRNA, a topic that again all 7th graders should be extremely comfortable with, to produce proteins that inhibit the ability of the trimeric spike to fuse with the host cell.

could have tried, such as saying the periodic table the fastest, amount of times you can bounce on a trampoline in one minute, etc. For anyone who tried to beat these records, they would know that while doing these challenges, they would have to be videoed, and then send in their video. Challenge Day was the last day of Spirit Week, and was a great way to top it off.

Overall, the Virtual Spirit Week was a great success, with great activities to entertain us while we are at home in the June heat. Many students enjoyed the four days of fun, and East Side Middle School's first ever Virtual Spirit Week.

Photo Credit: motchart.com



A Letter To The Class Of 2020

By: Hana Jang

The school year is quickly coming to a close, and with the happiness of moving on, comes the sadness that we couldn't properly say goodbye to our friends, to our teachers, and to the school before summer vacation. For the 8th graders, it is their last year of being students at East Side Middle School. This year, the 8th graders were supposed to celebrate their graduation with the graduation ceremony and the graduation cruise. However, the graduation cruise was canceled and the 8th graders are unable to have an on-site graduation ceremony due to social distancing guidelines. Instead, 8th graders had a pre-recorded graduation celebration.

While this may not have been the kind of end of the year they had been looking forward to, we should all take a moment to reflect on these trying times and



While social distancing during the summer, try to stay active by bike riding in Central Park!

Photo Credit: citibikenyc.com

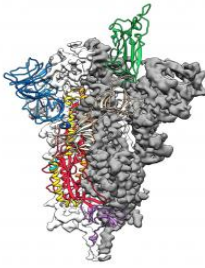


Pride Month

By: Darragh Boyle

June is a special month for many people in the LGBTQ+ community, and the month is celebrated all over the world in many different ways. In New York, every June we hold a pride parade which is attended by many different people from the tri-state area and beyond. The annual pride events in NYC originally started with a riot. In the 1960s police frequently raided gay bars and arrested their patrons. On June 28, 1969, people who were sick of being beaten up and arrested fought back against the police. Protests went on in the West Village until July 3rd. One year later, an assembly on Christopher Street commemorated the first anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The same day, Los Angeles and Chicago held the first Gay Pride marches in United States history.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of NYC Pride. Due to COVID-19, New York City is unable to have Pride events this year; however, NYC Pride is hosting a number of virtual events. Every day last week, in partnership with God's Love We



Trimeric Spike

The trimeric spike is the mushroom-shaped protrusion you see on the outside of the viral cell. It is through this spike that Coronavirus was named (the spikes looked like crowns), and how the virus binds to the host cell to inject its RNA, my personal favorite type of nucleic acid, into the cell. There is a very interesting article on the structure 2019-nCoV spike in the profusion conformation by Daniel Wrapp and Nianshuang Wang among others. The link is: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6483/1260>. (To access the article, copy the link, and search it up).

This spike is densely glycosylated and undergoes a massive transformation where it swings like a hinge when bonding to the host cell. The virus hopes to use the host cell as a center for replication. In other words, once the virus is attached to the host cell it injects its RNA into the cell, takes control of the cell by breaking up the cell's DNA and uses the cell's replication capabilities to replicate its own RNA. The virus also takes control of the ribosomes to make new viral proteins. Once this is done the new viral particles lyse the cell open causing the cell to die. It makes sense therefore to stop the virus from even bonding with a host cell.

This Moderna vaccine hopes to use messenger RNA to build proteins that the virus uses to cause disease, thus eliciting an immune response without any chance of causing a real infection. It does this by using sophisticated technology to create an mRNA sequence that codes for a specific protein. The protein is coded for by nitrogenous base pairs such as Adenine and Guanine (both purines) and Uracil and Cytosine (both pyrimidines). The strand of mRNA has a large number of these base pairs which bond in groups of three called codons to a complementary tRNA anticodon which, based on the base

remember that no matter how hard things get, we all have each other. In 10 years, we will be remembering this school year as one that was out of the ordinary, but also one that we should acknowledge forever. Congratulations to East Side Middle School's 8th grade students and we wish you the best of luck in the years going forward!

Photo Credit: seattleu.edu

The ESMS Riddle Page

1. A wealthy father had three sons. He told his sons that he will give his fortune to whichever son can fill up a single room with something they bought with \$20. The first son bought wood, but his \$20 could not buy enough to fill the room. The second son bought glass, but could not fill the room. The third son bought something with \$20, and was able to fill the room, therefore allowing him to inherit the fortune. What did the third son buy?
2. People can find me anywhere on the planet, and I am faster than almost everything on the planet.
3. What drink went to medical school?
4. Turn me on my side and I am everything. Split me in half and I am nothing. What am I?
5. You are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove, and a gas lamp. You only have one match, so what would you light first?
6. I allow you to see behind yourself and you won't have to turn your head. What am I?
7. A wealthy father had two sons. He gave each of his sons a horse, told them to race to a

Deliver, they hosted an “immersive culinary fundraiser” called “Savor Pride”. On Thursday, June 25, from 9:30am-6:30pm, there was a human rights conference. NYC Pride hosted a virtual rally on Friday, June 26 from 5-8:00pm. Transgender journalist Ashlee Marie Preston and transgender actor Brian Michael Smith hosted a livestreamed rally against police brutality and discrimination. The first “rally” happened one month after the Stonewall riots, when 500 people gathered for a “Gay Power” demonstration in Washington Square Park, followed by a candlelight vigil in Sheridan Square. Nycpride.org has details of all of the events..

ESMS usually celebrates Pride Month with help from the GSA, who hang posters and set up Purple Day. On Purple Day, students wear purple to show their commitment to the anti-bullying movement. Unfortunately, this year the club was unable to celebrate pride month at school. ESMS students can celebrate pride by registering for any of the NYC events, by raising money for an organization that supports LGBTQ+ people, or by wearing purple and asking family and friends to wear purple in honor of anti-bullying for LGBTQ+ youth.

Photo Credit: awarenessdays.com

The ESMS Joke Page

By: Skyler Cheng - Chapman

What type of building is the tallest?
The library because it has so many
STORIES.

Two goldfish are in a tank.
One looks at the other and says, “You
know how to drive this thing?!”
Two soldiers are in a tank.
One looks at the other and says,
“BLUBLUBBLUBLUBBLUB.”

How does NASA organize a party?
They planet.

I couldn't believe that the highway
department called my dad a thief.
But when I got home, all the signs were
there.

pairs that it has, carries a specific amino acid. The chain of amino acids at the end is called a protein and it is what Moderna hopes will elicit an immune response.

Another kind of vaccine, which is the most promising vaccine to date, is the AstraZeneca and University of Oxford vaccine. This vaccine utilizes a chimpanzee adenovirus called ChAdOx1. The researchers take this relatively harmless virus and inject the COVID-19 genes into the virus. Then they inject this virus into the cells eliciting an immune response. This vaccine has already been proven to work in Rhesus Macaques and is entering phase III of the vaccine testing process. Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the NIAID, has said that even if these trials go smoothly, it could be 12 months to 15 months before a vaccine is ready for the public. Vaccines usually take 10 to 15 years to make so this progress is astounding.

On a more uplifting note, a cheap steroid, at an average price of \$46.90, has been shown to reduce death from patients on ventilators by 1/3. This drug, Dexamethasone, has been given to 2104 patients in doses of 6 mg and was compared to the regular treatment of 4321 patients. Among the 4321 patients, 28-day mortality was highest in patients on ventilators at 41%. This number was greatly reduced by a cheap accessible drug preventing large numbers of deaths. All in all, vaccines are on the way but not in the near future. So keep your masks on, stay inside, and stay safe.

Photo Credit: science.sciencemag.org

Sources: Moderna, NIH, AAAS, New York Times, The New England Journal of Medicine, Oxford University and the Moderna clinical trial PDF.

ESMS List of Unanswerable Questions

By: Myles Coven

1. If ghosts can walk through walls, why don't they fall through the floor?

certain place, and whichever one had the slower horse would inherit the money. Both sons went on their horses at the start line, but neither moved, because they wanted to have the slower horse. The sons asked their father what they should do, and when he told them, they both then began racing to the finish line at top speed. What did the father tell them?

8. I allow you to see through walls. What am I?
9. I can survive a fall from the tallest building, but put me in water and I die. What am I?
10. Which person has a heart that never beats?

See the bottom of the issue for answers!

If you have a riddle you would like to submit, email jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net, and your joke could be in the next issue!

ESMS List of Fun Facts

By: Jacob Abroon

1. The temperature of a typical lightning bolt can reach 50,000°F. Five times greater than the surface of the Sun.
2. The kitchen dishwasher was invented by a politician's wife who was fed up with servants breaking her expensive dishes.
3. The first Rolls Royce, marketed in 1906, sold for about \$784. Now it would be about \$295,000.
4. In the 1700's, barbers not only gave haircuts and shaves, but also pulled teeth, performed minor surgery, and did bloodletting.
5. Due to the amount of mercury in Lake Michigan, more than 40%

Q. Why do the French like to eat snails so much?

A. They can't stand fast food

Why do some people love snails?
Because they can't stand FAST food

A guest complains: "why aren't there chairs at our table!?"
The waiter says: "well you only booked one table..."

I asked my daughter if she had a newspaper, she replied "no, we use tablets and apps to read the news" and she handed me her iPad.
The fly didn't stand a chance, but neither did the screen.

Me: I have a doctor's appointment but I really don't want to go.
My friend: Well, call in sick then.

Why couldn't Mrs. Dracula sleep well?
Because of Dracula's COFFIN

"Mom, don't be alarmed, but I'm at the hospital right now"
"Son please. You've been a surgeon for 8 years now, can you start calls differently?"

Young child: My parents taught me to speak and then they say to be quiet.

I named my dog "I know what you did"
I love how people jump when I call my dog back.

Why was the toilet paper complaining?
Because people keep ripping him off!

My friend: Drops tomato sauce on her shirt.
"oh no now I look like a pig."
Her sister: "And you've spilled some sauce on your shirt."

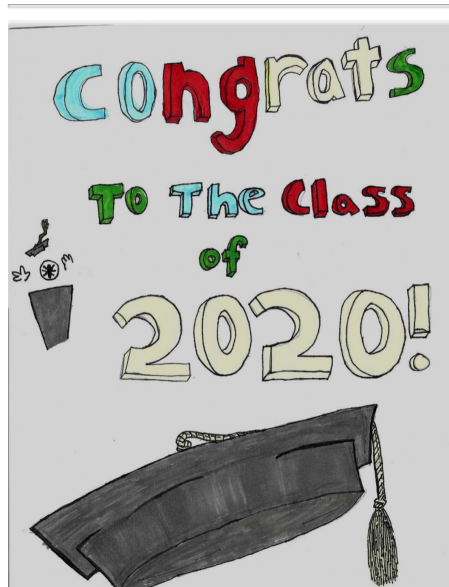
My friend and I both own different companies.
My friend: "how do you get your employees to arrive early?"
Me: "It's simple, I have 30 employees and 25 parking spaces"

I heard that 9 out of 10 people with a new virus suffer from diarrhea. I lay awake thinking about the 10th person who enjoys it.

2. Why does quicksand work slowly?
3. If parents say, "never take candy from strangers" then why do we celebrate Halloween?
4. Why do we call earphones, earphones, and headphones, headphones when they both go on your ears?
5. Why do people say someone was IN a movie, but they were ON a show?
6. Why do people say an alarm clock is going OFF when it's just turning ON?
7. Why is a person that invests your money called a broker?
8. Can you cry under water?
9. If someone owns a piece of land, do they own it down to the inner core?
10. Is your answer to this question "no"?

ESMS Comic Page

By: Hadrian Berenson



of fish are born autistic and don't survive past their first year.

6. The brain uses more than 25% of the oxygen used by the human body.
7. Brazil is larger than all of the 48 contiguous United States combined.
8. It would take more than an hour for a heavy object to sink to the deepest part of the ocean.
9. Any free - moving liquid will form itself into a sphere in outer space because of its surface tension.
10. All of Earth's continents are mider at the north than at the south.
11. The word "robot" comes from the Czechoslovakian word "robotovat" which means "to work very hard."
12. Monaco has the highest per capita ownership of Rolls Royce cars in the world.
13. Each year the Moon's orbit moves about one and a half inches farther away from Earth.
14. It takes 75,000 crocus flowers to produce 1 pound of saffron, which is why it is the most expensive spice in the world.
15. There are over 60,000 acres of shopping malls in the U.S.
16. McDonald's is the largest toy distributor in the world.

Quote Of The Month Photo Credit: thequotes.in

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

I told my therapist I feel like curtains
He said: well pull yourself together man!

My doctor got angry one time.
I think he lost his patients

The longest I've gone without making a
pun was 7 days.
I'm pretty week

This gravity joke is getting a bit old but I fall
for it every time

I was gonna take some leftovers at a party,
my plans were FOILED

I was becoming lonely so I decided to
become a boss.
I have to say it's nice having some
company

**If you have a joke you would
like to submit, email
jacob.abroon@esmsnyc.net,
and your joke could be in the
next issue!**

Answers To The Riddle Page

1. A flashlight. With that, he could fill the room with light.
2. The wind
3. Dr. Pepper
4. 8
5. The match
6. A mirror
7. To switch horses
8. A window
9. Paper
10. The King of Hearts (in a deck of cards)

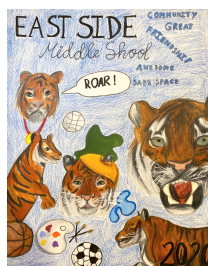
Yearbook Cover Contest



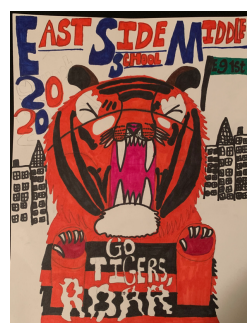
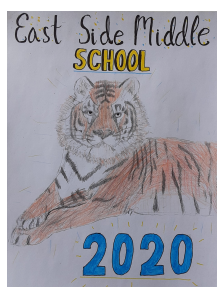
Yarden Reynolds



Alina Khilchenko



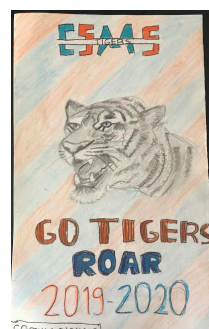
Anna Hsu



Siena Meehan
(front and back)



Eda Ekinici



Camille D'Silva

Thank you to everyone who submitted artwork to be considered for this year's yearbook cover. The cover selected by ESMS staff and teachers was by Eda Ekinici – here is a look at all of the artwork: