

Stand And Be Counted:

Teachers and students debate the pros and cons of cameras on

by Charlotte Fellingham
Lion's Roar Staff

Blank screens and silence is taking over the school atmosphere during online school. It is a weird concept to talk to a group of black squares everyday and call it teaching. Teachers at Lincoln High School have been feeling this way due to the new online learning. Teachers have no idea what students look like that are fully virtual students and never turn their camera on. It is a strange school year but the lack of student and teacher interaction, or even knowledge of each other's personalities are like even more out of this universe.

The debate on whether or not cameras should be mandatory is a big debate lately, and it has its pros and cons. If cameras were made mandatory, the main positives of students having their cameras on are: better participation and attentiveness, more student and teacher interaction, a more "school-like", humane experience, and a way to ensure that students are somewhat engaged. Some cons are: invasion of students' privacy of their homes, some students have insecurities about showing their face, connectivity and wifi issues, and the possible problems of broken or a lack of camera on someones computer.

Principal Mr. Robert Mezzanotte, sent parents and students a newsletter regarding

this topic and addressed possible issues, "Students should keep their camera on during virtual learning, whenever possible. It is understood that, at times, the video feed may be disrupted due to connectivity issues, but in those instances students need to participate via the chat. If your device does not have a camera, the school can provide you with one. We understand that there may be unique circumstances where students wish to not turn on their camera."

Students and teachers have different positions on this topic based on their personal experiences. French teacher, Ms. Hope Evanoff, "I think students should put on their cameras because that's one of the few links of students to teachers. The first reason I think that they should is because I get a sense of what students said. If your camera is one and you are having difficulties or a question I am going to know. It's hard with the chat feature because If I am screen sharing I don't always see it come up. Also, I know that they are trying to participate. It's very discouraging to not know if students are really there are not, because sometimes students aren't."

Students also have mixed opinions and feelings about whether or not their cameras

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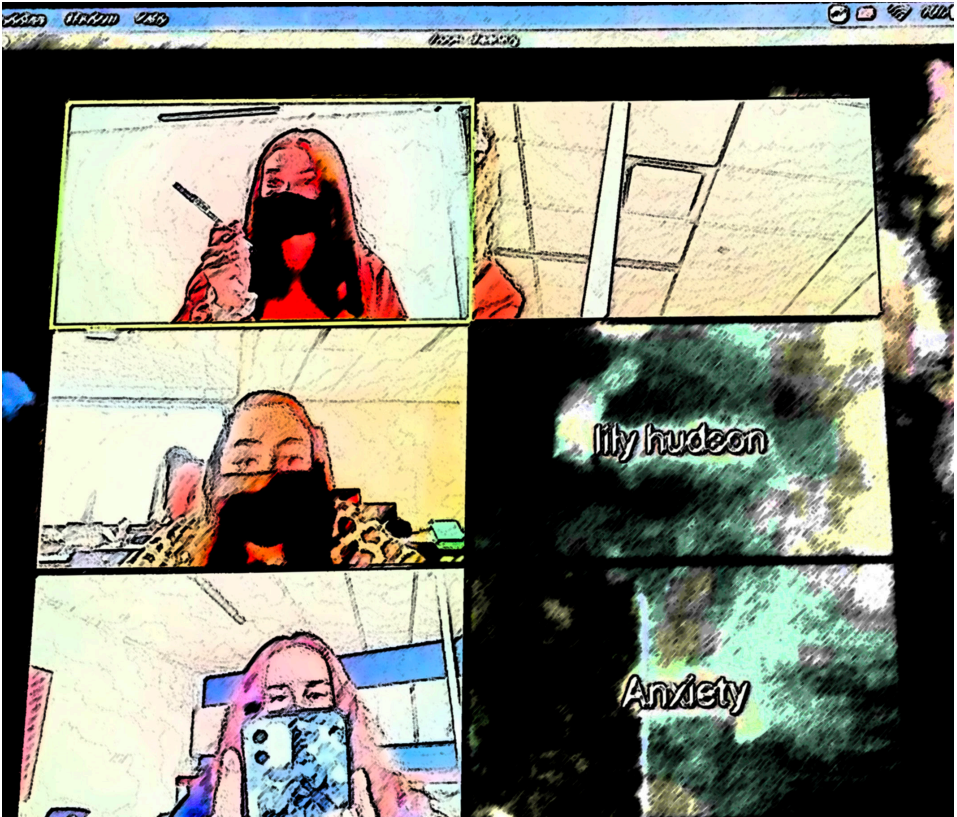


Photo illustration: Charlotte Fellingham

What does the vaccine mean for us?

by Sophia Gaitanis
Lion's Roar Staff

Ever since the fateful March 13, Americans, detached from the warmth of human interaction, have latched onto the idea of a vaccine, in hopes this surreal reality would soon be over. Fast forward nine months and scientists have almost perfected their solution to a world retained under a pandemic, and in record breaking time. Although visions of a maskless society may seem closer in sight, Americans should remember not to get too excited.



PHOTO: PIXNIO

Anyone who watches the news or uses social media could easily tell you that Pfizer and Moderna, two very successful pharmaceutical companies, are winning in the race to develop a vaccine. Since being confirmed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a small handful of Americans have been lucky enough to undergo the needle, but how soon until this vaccine launches us back to pre-COVID days?

Apparently, not soon enough.

It's important to understand that the distribution of the vaccine, does not totally equate to life going back to normal. In order for this to be the case, a large majority of the population would have to be vaccinated, which doesn't look possible for a while.

Of course, healthcare workers and the elderly are the top priority, but there lie many hurdles in the way of a fully vaccinated society. The largest, as with most cases, seems to be lack of funds. Although the CDC has awarded \$200 million to states for vaccine preparation, the large scale distribution and the costly production of the vaccine is enough to make this amount not nearly enough. In addition, the process of distributing vaccines to a population of nearly 330 million people in an instance is nearly impossible, meaning that this process will have to take place in chunks; healthcare workers and those at risk first, then adults, and finally children.

Rhode Island, which may be the state in most dire need of vaccination, has decided to split its process into three phases. The first, which has already begun on a limited scale, includes the prioritization of healthcare workers and first responders, and those with significant health conditions. As the vaccine supply becomes more readily available, the state plans to distribute to teachers, child-care providers, critical workers, incarcerated people, those in homeless shelters, those with moderate health conditions, and all other adults. Kids and young adults, the group of people which may be the most anxious to get back to normal life, won't be offered the vaccine until phase three, which could be a while into the future.

But, what happens after the vaccine turns into a reality for the public? As it turns out, immunity isn't achieved overnight. Not just one, but two doses of vaccination, one month apart, are essential to achieve immunity. On a scientific level, antibodies are injected into the body during the first vaccination, which take about 2-4 weeks for the body to recognize and become adjusted to. However, these initial antibodies, which are not yet strong enough during the first vaccination, require a second dose in the following month. After the second vaccination, an additional two weeks are required in order to achieve the final goal of immunization. This second dose is often followed by flu-like symptoms, such as fever, body aches and fatigue. But fear not! The vaccine

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Hurricanes devastate Mexico, Central American countries



Across seven Central American countries, Hurricane Eta affected about 4.6 million people, including an estimated 1.8 million children, according to UNICEF estimates.
PHOTO: UNICEF, RUIZ SOTOMAYOR

by Celeste Lynch
Lion's Roar Staff

Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua have been hit by two Category 4 hurricanes in the matter of two weeks. Coupled with the global pandemic, these already impoverished countries are facing more adversity than before.

This is the first time in 170 years that two hurricanes have hit the same region in such a short time span. Entire cities have been flooded with people trying to survive on their roofs, sleeping on the side of the street, and swimming in the caiman and disease infested water. Other areas have been destroyed by landslides. Honduras has been most heavily impacted by the floods.

According to the Red Cross, three million people have been affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Hundreds of thousands of people have been evacuated and displaced, many others have been killed or gone missing.

Makeshift shelters are now crowded with people, COVID-19 being the least of their concerns. These shelters are crowded, without food or medical supplies, let alone PPE or social distancing. Many remote areas lack

adequate resources to properly respond to the pandemic, let alone the resources to respond to the 10 billion dollars in damage that the hurricanes have brought about. The main airport in Honduras was underwater twice in a matter of two weeks.

The damage caused by the floods will leave the passenger terminal shut down for over a month. Roads and utilities have been so severely damaged that aid can't get to people who need it the most. Honduran government officials have the reputation of being extremely corrupt and stealing aid meant for the struggling citizens.

Honduras already is one of the poorest, most underdeveloped countries in the world, but the devastation from the hurricanes is said to have reversed twenty years of progress. Twenty years ago, Honduras was hit with another devastating hurricane, which was also said to bring the country back twenty years. Schools have been closed since the beginning of the pandemic, affecting the education of thousands of kids, especially because many homes, especially in rural areas don't have access to reliable internet. Due to the flooding, schools

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Catherine’s Rank & File
by Catherine Hien

Can I have five more minutes?

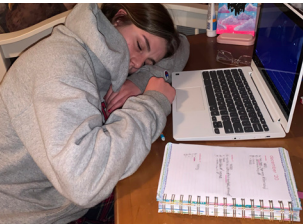
Catherine Hien
Lion’s Roar Staff

I write this as I am literally falling asleep in my seat, which makes me ponder a question: Will I ever get used to this? No matter the amount of caffeine or hydration I absorb, it will never prepare me to get used to waking up at the crack of dawn for school.

The unhealthy habits of hitting the snooze button has become a strict daily routine. Those extra five minutes I receive are crucial but sometimes it stretches to ten, fifteen or even thirty minutes... probably and most definitely not good.

As a hybrid learner, there is an obvious difference of how one feels when waking up. My in-person morning routine is drastically different than my at-home morning routine.

For in-person days, I have to wake up around 6:30 am to leave ample time to get ready for school. As a person who goes to bed at unholy hours watching Netflix, this is an extremely difficult task to do. Fighting the screeching alarm noise, I zombie walk to my bathroom that is less than 10 feet away. Sometimes, I have even walked into my walls, but that is for a whole entire different story.



Photos by Elizabeth Hien

With eyes-half-closed, I manage to brush my teeth (yes, I brush my teeth before eating breakfast, what about it?).

After this, I stumble down the stairs (Story time: one time I literally fell downstairs when I was super tired, this is why I now hold the railing every time I walk downstairs) to eat breakfast and make my lunch for school that day. For breakfast I usually eat an assortment of muffins where I rotate flavors based off of how I am feeling that day.

For instance, if I am feeling wide awake, I splurge for the chocolate chip muffin and if I were to be feeling a little down, I would perhaps choose the classic blueberry muffin. Maybe one day I will go in depth and create an experiment rating flavors of muffins.

To assist my chosen muffin, I wash it down with a cup of iced coffee. When my dietary needs are met, I pounce back upstairs to get ready for school. I pick my outfits out the night before school so I save time in the morning. When I am finally dressed and brush through my hair, I am out the door.

Virtual school day mornings are certainly inconsistent with the mornings I am physically going into school. School starts at 7:40

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A New Room for Zoom

Charlotte Fellingham
Lion’s Roar Staff

In the normal world, a person’s bedroom is an extremely private place that is only seen by the people that are wanted in their room. A bedroom is usually seen as a reflection of the person that lives in it. A bedroom could reflect a person’s interest, their lack of interest, pictures of whom they care about, and many other things that are personal to someone. The new rise in Zoom meetings completely changes that normal privacy.

Usually, our rooms are not on display for everyone to see, but that comforting sense of privacy has completely vanished. When on Zoom, assuming that most people already are familiar with what other people look like, most people would find interest in people’s backgrounds rather than their presence.

You see these people at work every day, or school, or in a commonplace every day, without ever knowing what their personal space looks like. For me, and for most people I



am assuming, I find interest in the person’s background over the person themselves. I already know what they look like, but I don’t know anything about most people’s home lives.

In March, when we first started using Zoom, I had a dark pink wall. I painted my dark pink wall in middle school and I started hating the color a couple of years ago, when I was just beginning high school. It was an aggressive shade that hurt my eyes and didn’t fit me as a person anymore. Having so much

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The power and influence of
nonsense

by Hannah Brouillard
Lion’s Roar Staff

In recent years I have watched my peers grow into a fascination and passion for politics. I have made the same discovery.

As we become more aware of the reality of our own situations, we become more and more aware of the way politics affects quite literally every aspect of our lives. However, with the intensity and polar opposition of the two political candidates in the 2020 presidential contest, I have noticed a concerning trend. This is the idolization of political figures which I believe has also led to the further polarization of parties.

It is fair to say that we are now in a world of social media, and while this has its benefits in politics (encouraging young people to get involved), it also has its obvious downfalls.

Of course, it’s important to fact check everything, but even further, social media has allowed for young people to see the personality of politicians, snippets of their ideas, and form opinions with no further research on their policies. Certain politicians like Donald Trump and Alexandria Ocasia-Cortez have developed celebrity-like status due to the larger than life personalities that they portray on Twitter and Instagram. While being personable with those you represent can certainly be a good thing, it has allowed these politicians to gain large followings for something other than their political ideals.

To put this in perspective Rep. Ocasia-Cortez has over seven million more followers on her personal Instagram account than her entirely government-based Instagram account or “work account.”

For the sake of democracy, we must be able to criticize those that serve as public servants.

What both the left and the right don’t often recognize is that both sides are doing it. The left condemns the idolization of Donald Trump’s personality, the very one that helped him gain such a large following, while also entertaining leftist politicians with the same idolization, and vice versa. The irony is that both groups recognize the danger of this idolization, but continue to do so for their own parties.

The most concerning thing about this, in my opinion, is the fact that young voters that have grown up in the world of social media are no longer criticizing the actions of the politicians they believe in.

It is so important to remember the nature of politics.

Again using AOC as an example, Ocasia-Cortez is a member of the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives has 435 members, and therefore, it is nearly impossible to get legislation passed unless one makes deals -- and forges compromises -- with other members. By this I mean that members of Congress must agree to voting in favor of other members’ policies

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toon
by Mya Miller



A perfect tree for 2020

by Emily Harrison
Lion’s Roar Staff

Nearing the end of a year in the books, a little bit of light has been shed on the tradition of the Rockefeller Christmas Tree in New York. For more than eighty years, a large Christmas Tree has been placed, decorated, and lit up in Rockefeller Center, drawing many people to watch the historic tree lighting. In 1931, the first year the tradition started, Rockefeller Center workers grouped their money together in order to pay for a large Christmas tree while their families made decorations for it. Ever since 1931, New York has participated in this tradition, attracting many people of television and in-person for this annual event.

The abnormally shaped tree stands seventy-five feet tall and holds crooked branches, poking fun at the abnormal year the world has experienced thus far. Many cities that follow similar traditions with putting up large Christmas trees have done similar things by using misshapen trees such as Cincinnati and Boston. People belonging to these cities have quickly shared their opinions, some making the best of it and some wishing for a regular looking Christmas tree.

After seeing this odd tree in the Rockefel-

ler Center, social media has been blowing up with many people responding to this metaphoric tree. Some aren’t as happy with the tree as others are: one tweet by Rex Chapman reads, “Could The Rockefeller Christmas Tree look any worse?” (@RexChapman) and Emily Brandwin making a joke, “Charlie Brown: I have the saddest Christmas tree. Rockefeller Center: Hold my beer.” (@CIAspygirl)

The tree was brought into New York in November but wouldn’t be decorated until a later time, then lit for the first time on December 2nd. Many who want to give the tree a chance want to wait until it is decorated in hopes that it will take on a new and more appealing appearance. One after another, unpredicted events have been the story of 2020, so why not another for an already unpredicted tree!

As for decorations, going to the store and buying the first lights or ornaments on the shelf will not do for these monsters of trees put up every year. The traditional star on top was custom made by Daniel Libeskind in 2018, displaying 70 points, 3 million crystals, all coming together to weight about 900 pounds. Before these decorations were put on

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The Rockefeller Center Instagram account posted this photo on November 14 declaring: “Let the holiday season begin! The 2020 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree has officially arrived at the Plaza.” Photo: @rockefellercenter

An incoming president deals with today, an outgoing president plans for tomorrow

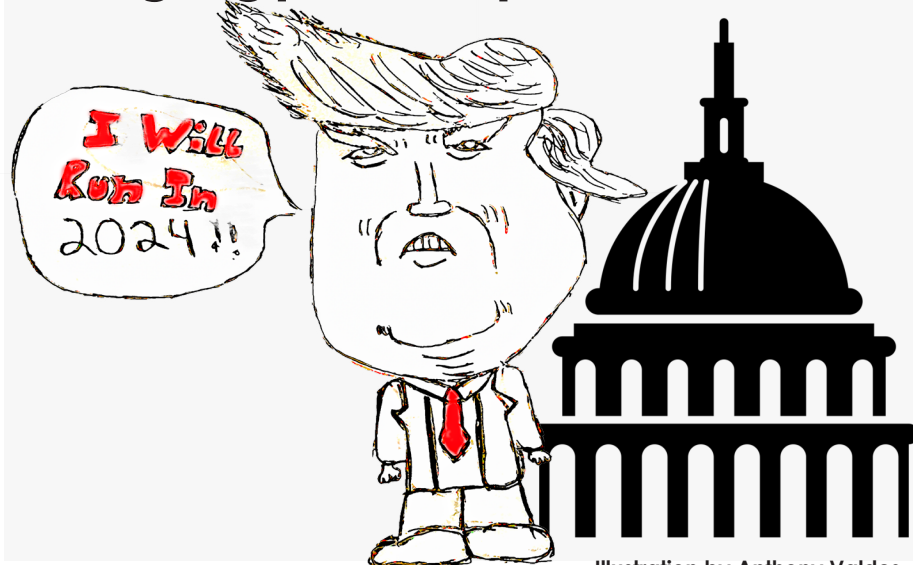


Illustration by Anthony Valdes

by Celeste Lynch
Lion’s Roar Staff

What do Zachary Taylor, William Taft, John Adams, Martin Van Buren, and Donald Trump all have in common? They were all one-term presidents. Since his loss in the recent 2020 election, Despite numerous failed and dismissed law suits, Donald Trump and his supporters have refused to acknowledge the fact that he has lost the election, and many claim that Biden’s win was illegitimate due to voter fraud. However, Donald Trump has spoken of a possible presidential run in 2024.

Despite his refusal to concede the election, Trump has allowed the transition to begin. At a recent Christmas party with Republican National Committee members in the White House, someone who attended posted a video of Trump saying, “It’s been an amazing four years. We are trying to do another four years. Otherwise, I’ll see you in four years.”

In an NPR interview, a member of Trump’s team said, “He is still fighting to uncover the fraud in 2020 and win the current race. However, if he loses, he is 100% considering a run in 2024.” Trump is expected to make the unusual announcement about a possible run the night before the inauguration. Until then, the GOP is frozen, as no Republicans have announced their campaigns. Former presidential aides have indicated that Trump may not attend Joe Biden’s presidential inauguration.

Establishment Republicans were hesitant to embrace Trump in 2016, but there are some Republicans in office that have publicly endorsed a Trump nomination in 2024.

Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) has been very vocal in the press regarding another Trump campaign: “It’d be great if he ran. He’s done a good job. I think he ought to run if he wants to run. Who knows what’s going to happen in ‘24?”

“If he were to run in 2024, I think he would be the nominee. And I would support him doing that,” Montana Senator Josh Hawley stated on the pages of *Forbes*. “He’d have a lot of support out in the country.”

South Carolina’s Lindsey Graham, who ran against Trump in 2016, also said that he would support a Trump nomination in 2024.

“I would encourage him to keep that option open. I would personally support him if he did. Most Republicans believe he’s done a very good job and that his presidency from a conservative’s point of view has been very consequential.”

Although Trump lost the 2020 presidential election, he still has a strong base around the country. Many of his supporters believe the outgoing president’s unsubstantiated claim that he was the true winner of the election and that the election was stolen from him.

If Donald Trump could keep his core base of supporters fired up between now and 2024, there is a high chance that the Republican party may nominate Donald Trump, and even a possible Trump presidency.

However, a lot could happen between now and 2024, and in politics, four years is a very long time. The rate of success of the Biden/Harris presidency could make the difference.

Furthermore, with Donald Trump at 74 and Biden being 78, it is very likely that one or both of them could pass before the next election. Coupled with what will assuredly be a growing number of GOP options, (many Republicans have publicly endorsed a Mike Pence run in 2024), it is hard to say what exactly we can expect from a 2024 election cycle.

The future will always remain uncertain, but the 2024 election will definitely be heated and possibly filled with new faces on both the Republican and Democratic sides.

Renovation continues to slowly transform the building

“It’s been really weird seeing the school change almost every year I’ve been in it.”



The school’s large auditorium, now totally refurbished, opened in the fall.
Photo by Catherine Hien

by Charlotte Fellingham
Lion’s Roar Staff

As of November 30, LHS teachers located in the old 300s, 200s, and some teachers in the new building will be moving to the new “A-wing”. Teachers are now in their new classrooms, unpacking and settling into their new space. The A-wing holds two different floors of renovated classrooms, including two bathrooms. The A-wing differentiates from the new C-wing as the A-wing was only renovated, and the C-wing was completely redone. The renovated A-wing includes new heating and cooling systems, new paint, new desks, and new ceilings.

The new A-wing was formerly known as the old C200’s and 200s, and a lot of teachers are returning to their now renovated classrooms. The new wing is labeled as either A100 or A200.

The newly renovated auditorium and band room are now open and in use. Gym classes have been using the auditorium and cafeteria due to the colder weather. The gym is still not open for use, but it is anticipated to open very soon. Currently the things that are finished are the cafeteria, auditorium, band room, administrative offices, the library, the C-wing, and the A-wing.

Teachers from the 300s and 200s are mostly located in the A-wing due to those buildings beginning to undergo construction and most teachers do not know yet where their final classroom is going to be located. Some teachers are already in their permanent classroom,

while other teachers are still yet to relocate.

Due to the new parts of the building, new parking has been implemented as new parking lots have opened up. Currently, students park in the back of the school, staff members park on the left side and front of the school, and construction workers park in the gravel parking lot to the right.

Senior Amanda Conti talks about her experience with the renovation process, “It’s been really weird seeing the school change almost every year I’ve been in it. I’ve seen all of the changes from the old building, to now the partially new one and I’m excited to see the final product.”

The renovation is now moving into the third phase, which is the final phase, and the whole process is anticipated to be fully



Now that it has been vacated, construction is now beginning on the 200-wing.
Photo: Katie Jahnz

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THE GOVERNOR THREATENS A “TOTAL LOCKDOWN”

What restrictions come next?

by Mikela Picard
Lion’s Roar

On November 19, 2020, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo held a press conference live at 1 pm to address the rising numbers of cases, and deaths, due to Covid-19 and present her plans for the following few weeks.

At the core of her announcement was her decision to put Rhode Island on a “pause” for two weeks starting November 30, and she warned that restrictions could get worse if things did not improve.

During the live stream, a detailed chart was projected on the screen, showing what is staying open, what has limited openings, and what is staying closed. While elementary and middle schools are allowed to stay open, many high schools have been asked to change their in-person plans, limiting schools to 25% capacity. Specifically for Lincoln High School, Principal Robert Mezzanotte decided to continue the current schedule of hybrid learning.

In-person colleges, bars, offices, gyms, and recreational venues have been completely closed and sports events have been canceled according to the new rules. Houses of worship are limited to 25% capacity and restaurants have been limited to 33% capacity indoors, only allowing one household per table and enforcing early closures. In any grocery, and retail store only one person is allowed per 100 square feet, and many stores were closed for Thanksgiving - and even the governor said had the potential to become “super spreader” events.

Raimondo also stressed the importance of cutting down social gatherings by limiting exposure to only people in your household. Raimondo urged the cancellation of any holiday celebrations, specifically stating that Rhode Islanders can only celebrate Thanksgiving with members of the immediate household. She also urged residents to stay home and not travel during the holidays.

The purpose of all these closures is to slow the spread of Covid-19 and reduce the positive test rate. “If Rhode Island cooperates and complies for two weeks.... We have a real shot to temper the rise which would allow us to limit the pause to just two weeks,” Raimondo said. “If we don’t, then I will have to go back

to a total lockdown.”

The “pause” that started on November 30 was ultimately extended for another week as the Governor admonished residents whom she believes are responsible for the growing numbers of cases, making Rhode Island’s cases per capita the highest in the nation, and in fact the world. She also admonished superintendents who decided to “throw in the towel” and transition to full virtual classes after the first week of December.



What, in fact, does a “total lockdown look like? Infographic by Mikela Picard

Telemedicine is booming



Teledoc is one service that provides for virtual doctor appointments, reducing risk and waiting time for patients. Teledoc offers other services as well, including urgent care, mental health, and more.
Photo: Teledoc

by Celeste Lynch
Lion’s Roar Staff

The pandemic has changed all aspects of everyday life, including doctor’s appointments. For instance, policy changes have included the requirement of hospitals and clinics to call ahead before patients are allowed in the building. No one is allowed entry until temperatures are taken, contract tracing questions are answered and, of course, masks are used. All of this is in the interest of protecting patients both inside and outside of clinics and hospitals.

But one of the most remarkable effects of policy changes may have nothing to do with masks. It has to do with your telephone. The 154% increase in telemedicine visits during the last week of March 2020, compared with the same period in 2019, might have been related to pandemic-related telehealth policy changes and public health guidance. But the trend continued, and while it eased some during the summer, it is widely believed that the future promises greater numbers of patients to opt for telemedicine as a matter of routine going forward.

Telemedicine is the practice of remote patient care, through HIPAA compliant conference tools. Instead of risking getting sick at a clinic or hospital, or exposing the medical staff working in those clinics and hospitals, patients are able to secure many services from the comfort and privacy of their own homes.

Telemedicine also helps conserve the PPE (personal protective equipment) that doctors and nurses need on the front-lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Rhode Island, Lifespan hospitals are using telemedicine. Through their portal, patients can set up appointments over video conferencing or phone calls. Many specialized practices are using these services to stay connected with their patients during the pandemic, especially if they are at-risk for getting COVID-19.

Trend indicate that the pandemic has promoted the growth of this industry. There are several different modalities of telemedicine out there. The synchronous modality involves a patient and a doctor communicating remotely through a phone, laptop, or computer. In some cases, medical equipment may be used by a nurse or medical assistant who is in-person with the patient, while consulting with the doctor remotely. Asynchronous modalities allow patients and healthcare providers to send messages to each other through patient portals that protect patient privacy. Remote patient monitoring is another form of telemedicine, where a patient’s clinical measurements can be transmitted to a healthcare provider in real time.

Available to people living in remote areas who need medical services of all

The fallout from COVID: HUNGER

by Olivia Mendes
Lion’s Roar Staff

As the weather is toughening and the holidays are coming full swing, we tend to forget about the members of our community that are struggling to find solace and enjoy these exciting times.

Unsurprisingly, the pandemic has catapulted food insecurity rates in Rhode Island, so much so that the Food Bank had to increase its food distribution by 45%. Furthermore, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s status report and surveys revealed that 1 in 4 households in Rhode Island are food insecure. Alexandria Leslie comments, “Prior to the pandemic, the Food Bank’s network of 159 food pantries and meal sites across the state was serving 53,700 Rhode Islanders each month. Schiff says by April 2020, that increased to nearly 68,000 people.”

Increased food insecurity in Rhode Island is likely the result of a large number of unemployed workers: “Rhode Island’s unemployment rate was 10.5% in September 2020, with 59,000 people out of work. This was up from 3.4% unemployment in February, when just 19,000 were unemployed.”

Ultimately, the pandemic has only intensified rates of hunger and unemployment in Rhode Island, leaving the Food Bank worried about the growing need All of this information leaves us with the question of what we can do from here and how the 3 in 4 households that are not food insecure can make a difference.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank urges Rhode Islanders to contact state legislators and tell them to support the Governor’s call for increased funding for the Food Bank. In addition, we can all do our part by donating to the Food Bank and bringing attention to those in need.



THE LION’S ROAR

Zoom

From page 1

should be on. Freshman Sophia Cavanaugh, sees both sides of the argument,“I am more attentive when my camera is on because I have to pay attention, but I am also more distracted because I’m worried about other people and what I look like.”

Freshman Savannah Astupenas is against mandatory cameras, “I have to babysit while in school, so my siblings come on camera with me, and can be very disruptive so I don’t think that they should be mandatory.”

The controversy of cameras is plaguing LHS, and students and teachers are all infected. This new online learning is a struggle for teachers and students alike, and everyone is trying to make the learning environment as successful and normal as possible.

Tree

From page 3

this year’s tree, an owl was found stuck in the branches unable to escape.

On November 24th, Rocky the owl took flight after being treated at a wildlife rehabilitation facility in New York. Rocky had been stuck in the 75 foot Norway spruce tree for several days including the 170 miles it took for the tree to travel from upstate New York to the Rockefeller Center. The owl had gone days without food or water and was discovered by one of the workers who helped to transport the unsuspected visitor. Rocky went on his way with no problems after he got some food and water.

With a year full of surprises, some good and some not so good, this out of the normal tree has been a bright spot for some in the spirit of traditions. We may be restricted in the traditions that we carry through the holiday season but they will always live on in some way.

Hurricanes

From page 1

have been destroyed, meaning many kids and teens in Honduras will not have proper schooling for over a year.

The corruption, pandemic, and natural disasters have heavily affected some of the most vulnerable people in Honduras, making the nation’s future uncertain. Despite the challenges, people are trying to rebuild and move forward from the devastating hurricanes.

Many humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross and World Vision have sent aid in order to rebuild. The amount of displaced families will inevitably lead to a wave of immigration to the United States, as people have been trying to escape Honduras for the past 20 years due to destruction, lack of opportunities, and political corruption.

How can I help?

If you want to help, your donations will support the organizations that are making the most generous humanitarian efforts in these countries:

American Red Cross provided aid in preparation of the storms, and is currently providing relief efforts and support. Go to redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org.

Unicef provides medical aid and lifesaving services to children and their families in these devastated countries. <https://www.unicef.org/about-unicef>

Food For The Poor (FFTP), is providing emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicine, educational materials, homes, and assistance to people affected. Cash donations can be made to www.FoodForThePoor.org/eta Relief items via FFTP’s Amazon List: www.FoodForThePoor.org/hurricanesupplies.

World Vision Fund: Among the ways to give are cash donations, sponsorship of a child, or donor-selected gifts to affected children and families. Go to: <https://www.worldvision.org/donate>

student life

Having trouble finding gifts during a pandemic holiday season?

You’ve got this!

by Mya Miller
Lion's Roar Staff

Although high school students love to receive new and trendy gifts, DIY and nostalgic gifts are always show-stoppers and adorable presents to give. DIY gifts are potentially a cheaper option that could even bring tears to the gift receiver’s eyes.

One heart stopping DIY gift idea is a Sunshine Box. Normally a Sunshine Box tends to be yellow, but you could instead do the person’s favorite color, or red and green for Christmas. First step is to get a cardboard box and paint it your color of choice. If you want you can even add other cute decorations on the outside of the box that match the color theme. Next fill the inside of the box with tinsel, tissue, or confetti that is the same color. The fun part is picking out the color themed objects to fill the inside of the box. These objects could be things that remind you of memories you have together, their favorite foods and candies, room decorations, clothes, makeup, bath supplies, or stuff from their favorite sports team. If you want you could even scatter sentimental pictures throughout the inside of the box or to decorate the outside. Lastly, tape the box shut and get ready for the reveal!

Another DIY idea that will surely bring tears to their eyes, is to create a scrapbook with pictures. You could make a homemade scrapbook or put one together on Shutterfly and get it sent to your house. The book could be in chronological order from when you were younger to older, which would be absolutely adorable. You could even replace the scrapbook idea with a poster and do a picture collage. It could be color themed to create a cute aesthetic. The pictures could be of the two of you, cute pictures of them, their favorite destinations, food, flowers, etc.

A cute DIY holiday gift is a gift card or candy wreath. First you need a wreath wire outline. The outline could be shaped however you want, a circle, heart, etc. Next you will need to pick out a garland, in any color, to cover the wreath. You could also add to the wreath pom-poms, pictures, pine cones, or bows. Next you need to pick out enough gift cards to cover the whole entire wreath. These gift cards could be priced anywhere from \$10 to \$25. Instead of doing gift cards you could



Memory boxes, scrap booking, homemade ornaments and other hand crafted items make meaningful gifts for friends and family. Photos: Wikimedia Commons

even pick out their favorite candies and cover the wreath in that. To get the gift cards and candy on the wreath you must use clothespins to attach them.

Next idea is an advent calendar that could be used for the to count down until Christmas. To create this gift you will first need a cardboard box that is not too deep. To make the box cute you could even decorate it to make it festive for the holidays. Next step is to hot glue solo cups to the inside base of the box in rows. Each cup equals a day so make sure that it is enough days to countdown to Christmas. The best part of this gift is picking out small presents that they would love. These objects could be things that remind you of memories you have together, their favorite foods and candies, room decorations, clothes, makeup, bath supplies, or stuff from their favorite sports team.

Fill each cup with one to three items. Once the cups have been filled you can place a wrapping paper over the top of each one of the cups. To finish off the gift, place a numbered sticker, or just write the number in marker, on the wrapping paper of each one of the cups. The numbers could go in order, or they could be mixed around so the person has to find each day. Every day the gift receiver will open a



new cup in numbered order, make sure they do not cheat.

The last DIY idea is to simply make a holiday ornament that can be put on the Christmas tree or hung in a home. First get a clear bulb ornament and make sure the top is big enough to fit items through. The bulb could first be decorated with paint or glitter. Next you could tuck a special picture inside, giggle bells, more glitter, or pom-poms. You could also make a special little message and hole punch a hole into the paper and tie some string around it. Make sure to tie the string onto the ornament to hang in on the tree.

A spin could even be taken on this DIY gift to make the person think of summer while still in the winter. The ornament can be turned beach themed. To do this you can fill the ornament with sand, rocks, or seashells. Also to make the string that ties the ornament together to hang it on the tree could be made out of seashells and twine. You must find small seashells with holes in them that twine can be slipped through. Make sure to tie and knot before and after each seashell to keep them in place. Tie the twine to the ornament and it is all complete.

These five DIY holiday gift ideas are hopefully great gifts for any gift receiver.

A season of joy, hope, and good will comes in many shapes and forms

by Grace Miguel
Lion's Roar Staff

With all of the commotion around Christmas, it can become easy to overlook the holidays that other religions and cultures besides Christianity celebrate. In our diverse country, many different religions are practiced. While December is commonly associated with Christmas, it is essential to recognize the other holidays that occur during this season.

In addition to Christianity, Judaism also has a major holiday in December.

Hanukkah, or Chanukkah, is an eight-day celebration of an ancient miracle. Jews believe that divine power helped keep candles burning in Jerusalem for eight days, even though they only had enough oil to burn for one day.

The original Hanukkah celebration took place around 200 B.C., and today the holiday is recognized in over 20 countries around the world. Even though Hanukkah is not the most important holiday in the Jewish religion, its close proximity to Christmas has increased the interest in the celebration that takes place. In 2020, Hanukkah falls from December 10-18.

Traditionally, Jewish families will light one of the eight candles on the menorah each night after sundown. Traditional Jewish foods such as latkes and sufganiyot are eaten, and



Lighting the way: from top, a Christmas centerpiece, a Menorah, a nine-lamp candelabrum used on the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, and a kinara, with seven candles representing seven principles (or Nguzo Saba) of Kwanzaa. Photos: Creative Commons

Make friends, and better decisions, with ATI

by Katie Jahnz
Lion's Roar Staff

The year of 2020 will long be remembered for both its good and bad times. For us, our focus has been on how the whole school environment is affected and changed by the global pandemic.

COVID-19, which forced Lincoln High School to make drastic changes to the overall school schedule, procedures, policies and operations, had to also shutter many clubs, activities, and sports. (Hopefully, this is only temporary and will not extend beyond the 2020-2021 school year.) One of the few LHS clubs that could still maintain an active existence via zoom every other week, was Above The Influence (ATI).

ATI is a club that brings students together after school hours. The group’s mission is to help teenagers make healthy decisions and choices and to establish a better lifestyle for the generations to come. ATI is best known for its specific focus on substance abuse.

This group is good for students who want to choose well and develop friendships with others who want to do better. While learning more about the negative effects of substance abuse, and wanting to become a better influence for the people around them in their community, students club members learn the importance of having a positive impact on others. And they have a good time while doing so.

ATI provides a safe environment and ensures that all students are welcome to have a space where they feel welcome and unafraid to be themselves. Every student is encouraged to open up about issues either going on in the world or occurring directly within their lives. The experience becomes something of a stress reliever for members, as having a group of kids to talk with after school can take off some of the pressure that one sometimes feels in a school environment.

Jessi Ruckert, the advisor of this group at LHS, was previously part of Lincoln’s ATI when she used

to attend high school. She now is in college, and devotes her spare time to give back to the students of LHS. Club members appreciate that she was once standing where they are today. Ruckert understands all the emotions that come with growing up and growing up in high school particularly.

“ATI was a great opportunity for me to get involved in the community,” Ruckert said, “and it has shaped my life for the better.”

Although the group may be different this year due to restrictions resulting from the relentless COVID-19, members still participate in virtual events to spread awareness. Hosting and taking part in functions engages the members of ATI, as well as teens from other chapters outside of LHS. This results in a fun way to get involved, while increase student awareness of various topics.

Armina Parvaresh-Rizi, co-president of ATI, has participated in a number of events. “My favorite event with ATI was RIPCA Youth Force Summer Summit in the summer of 2019,” she said. “We were joined with students from across Rhode Island to learn about the impacts of destructive decisions and were trained through fun events to be good leaders. These events have helped me become a person who advocates for maintaining a good and healthy lifestyle.”

Other events have included holiday ornament decorating in the winter time, bingo, and volleyball tournaments to bring attention to not only the club, but the important topics discussed at the meetings. COVID-19 has put these events on hold for now, but bi-monthly virtual meetings continue.

ATI is extremely supportive of students specifically affected by the uncertainty and fear caused by the pandemic, effects that can pull teens into a dark hole of depression, anxiety, and drug use. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, depressive disorder, a common type of depression, was reported four times more in June 2020 than in 2019. ATI’s mission is to help provide guidance to



ATI Advisor Jessi Ruckert, Alakanda Krishnan, Armina Parvaresh-Rizi and former co-advisor Amanda Oliveira at Youth Force in the summer of 2019. Photo: @Lincoln_._ATI

all who need it during these difficult times, and to start critical conversations about topics that need to be addressed.

Above The Influence is a great way to be a part of something that is relevant, that will improve your life and the lives of others, while giving students some-

thing to do in this strange year of the ‘new normal’.

ATI meets every other week on Fridays from 2:30 pm, to 3:30 pm. Students interested in joining or have any other questions, are asked to contact Jessi Ruckert at runmup99@gmail.com, or Armina Parvaresh-Rizi at armina.parvaresh-rizi@lincolnpns.org.



Ryan Allen
My favorite part of the year was having to do school online.
The worst was having to do in person school”.



Hailie Harris:
Best of 2020- Summer because the numbers went down and I kind of lived normal again
Worst of 2020- Not being able to see my grandparents and friends like usual



Jenny Hayden:
The best part of my 2020 was summer because the numbers were way down and it was the closest we have been to normal all year.
The worst part of 2020 was the 2019-2020 school year turning full virtual in march.



Caroline Bucacci:
My favorite part of 2020: “Getting into PC”
The worst part of 2020: I crashed my car.

The good, the bad, the ugly and t

by Katie Jahnz
Lion's Roar Staff

Living through the maelstrom of 2020, which for many became the year of ‘new normals’, there are a lot of emotions that pertain to the overall lookout of what this year had to offer. From the different movements throughout the world, to the election that will live in infamy, to the global pandemic which has caused millLion’s of lives to be affected in all sorts of ways, the people could all need a little bit of light in this dark year.

Focusing on the good of 2020, forces one to appreciate all of those happy times just a little bit more. With all of the negativity surrounding the world today, it is easy to quickly lose track and slip away from the positives occurring in one’s life. These are some of the best moments of 2020, and a short reminder of the sunshine that comes after the storms.

This school year at Lincoln High School, students have started to see a real change in the build of the school. There were new hallways that had opened up, filled with brand new classrooms, chairs, and desks. On December 7 2020, the new ‘A Wing’, previously known as the ‘C20s’, was open for use. This will include the journalism and broadcasting studio, language rooms, and more. Students also got to experience the new library, cafeteria, parking lot, and the auditorium. This year was a big

step for LHS’ construction plans, and the students are thankful for this experience to be a part of the build of something new.

Thankfully there was a decrease in school shootings for the year of 2020. According to the Columbia Broadcasting System, March of 2020 was the first March since 2002 that a school shooting did not occur in the United States. This is something to be grateful for, but then important to visualize the issue that is within that sentence. Hopefully schools can continue to be a safe environment for children.

Businesses have been working hard to accommodate to COVID-19 regulations so people can still experience the traditions they look forward to. Southwick Zoo, located in Mendon, Massachusetts, had what they called ‘Zoofari Drive Thru Tours’. This is where one could pack the car with as many people that fit into one, and pay a fee of \$60 per car. Then, the car could drive through the zoo, and see all of the animals. This way, people could still see one of the many summer events, while being safe during the pandemic. This was great for children, and illustrated the community coming together during the difficult times.

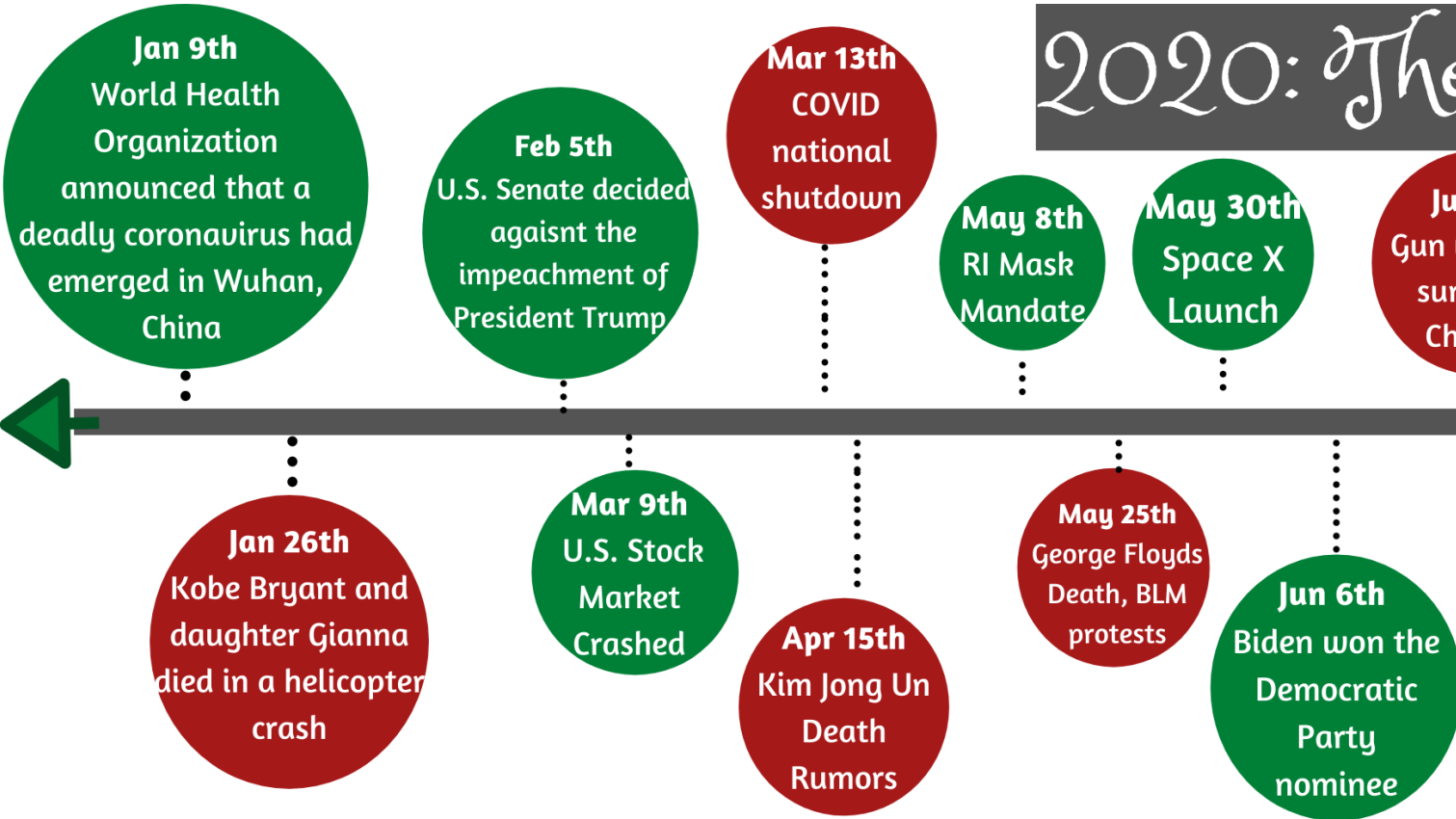
Along with business supporting families as much as they can, drive-in movies have pushed to stay open even with the weather dropping. Normally these types of places close down for the season around October. However, these

businesses are still receiving customers, so they will give to them for as long as possible. Visiting a drive-in movie is safe for the times and brings back old memories. The Rustic Drive-In located on Eddie Dowling Highway in North Smithfield, is open Wednesday through Sunday. The hours open are posted online.

There has been an increase in outdoor activity due to the pandemic. Although the days that turned into months spent inside should not be glorified, the amount of people participating in activities outdoors is a positive. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, in April, May, and June, activities like running, cycling, and hiking, had shot up significantly. Going outside and staying active can improve your physical and mental health. With this, people have also gained the chance to acquire new skills and hobbies. Since there was a period of time that things were unknown, people could discover things about themselves, and about the things that they now loved.

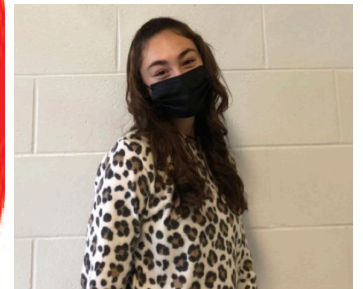
There has seen to be some serious environmental impacts on the world over the past years. When the world was forced to go into lock down, it almost gave the Earth a chance to breathe. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration had stated that pollution of nitrogen dioxide had decreased

Please turn to GOOD, page 11



The life of LHS

20



Sophia Cavanaugh
The best part of 2020 was being on a state championship field hockey team!
The worst part of 2020 was virtual school.

The absurd of the past 12 months

by Catherine Hien
Lion's Roar Staff

Here we stand in December as the world is on its last strides of this horrendous year. From a messy election year to a global pandemic, to tragic celebrity deaths, to even a racial discrimination uproar. This year certainly did not fail to keep us on our toes. We only have a few more steps until we reach the finish line.

Feathers started to ruffle since the very beginning of 2020. Remember the talk of an alleged World War Three? Wow, we were so innocent back then-if only we knew what was coming for us. It feels like a century ago but in January, tensions continued to rise between the U.S and Iran. Also, Trump's impeachment inquiry was long on its way. Along with political troubles, celebrity tragic deaths erupted in 2020. Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, died on January 26, 2020, a day that will forever cast sorrow feelings. Australia pushed itself into the new year with it's deadly bush-fires that burned 47 acres and killed around 40 victims.

Following, in February 2020, marks the first death of COVID-19. As a community across the nation, there were no warnings or immediate action being done to stop the spread of this deadly disease. On February 5, 2020, President Donald Trump was acquitted by the Senate from his charges. Gun violence in the United States also made an appearance

this month.

Next, we have the infamous month of March 2020. What makes this month so monumental is the fact it marks the time the whole world had come to a halt. Corona cases were skyrocketing and schools, work-places and social gatherings were forced to shut down. The great stock market crash of 2020 happened. To this day, life is not the same. The adjustment to this new lifestyle we would go through is one of the hardest things everyone had to deal with in 2020. Sports of all kinds across the nation were put on a long pause and schools had to convert to remotely online. Everyone was caught so off guard from the unexpected conditions of COVID-19.

Just as we thought things could not get any worse, the summer of 2020 happened. Through the course of the summer, Corona cases continued to spiral out of control, a string of intense wild fires on the West Coast emerged, global movements for racial justice surfaced (and continue to) because of the clashes between the police system and black lives, Lebanon experienced a deadly explosion, there was an arrival of the "murder hornets" in the United States, Donald Trump threatened to take away the app TikTok from American users, and actor Chadwick Boseman died in August from a lost battle to colon cancer. The summer of 2020 witnessed

some of the ugliest events in our world of the year.

For the duration of the autumn of 2020, politics intensified and officially took over the United States. One of the more despairing events that happened in the Fall was the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Badar Ginsburg (RBG) who passed away on September 18. RBG spoke out for gender equality and was vital for all women across America. Eight days after RBG's death, Donald Trump quickly replaced her seat with Amy Barret. Before the big day (November 3 - Election Day), Donald Trump and Melania Trump tested positive for COVID-19 soon after he publicly made fun of Joe Biden (Trump's opposer) for wearing a mask. Karma? Perhaps. As the election results were on its way, the credibility of mail-in ballots were questioned as the entire election was as well. Trump's administration called for a recount of the votes as he fell way behind Joe Biden 306 to 232.

Thinking back on it, they were sufficiently much more negative than positive events in the year of 2020. Maybe this year was just a fluke, or perhaps a social experiment. The year of 2020 prolonged and initially taught us how strong we really are. It is our duty as humans to learn from our mistakes and take in what we could improve upon.

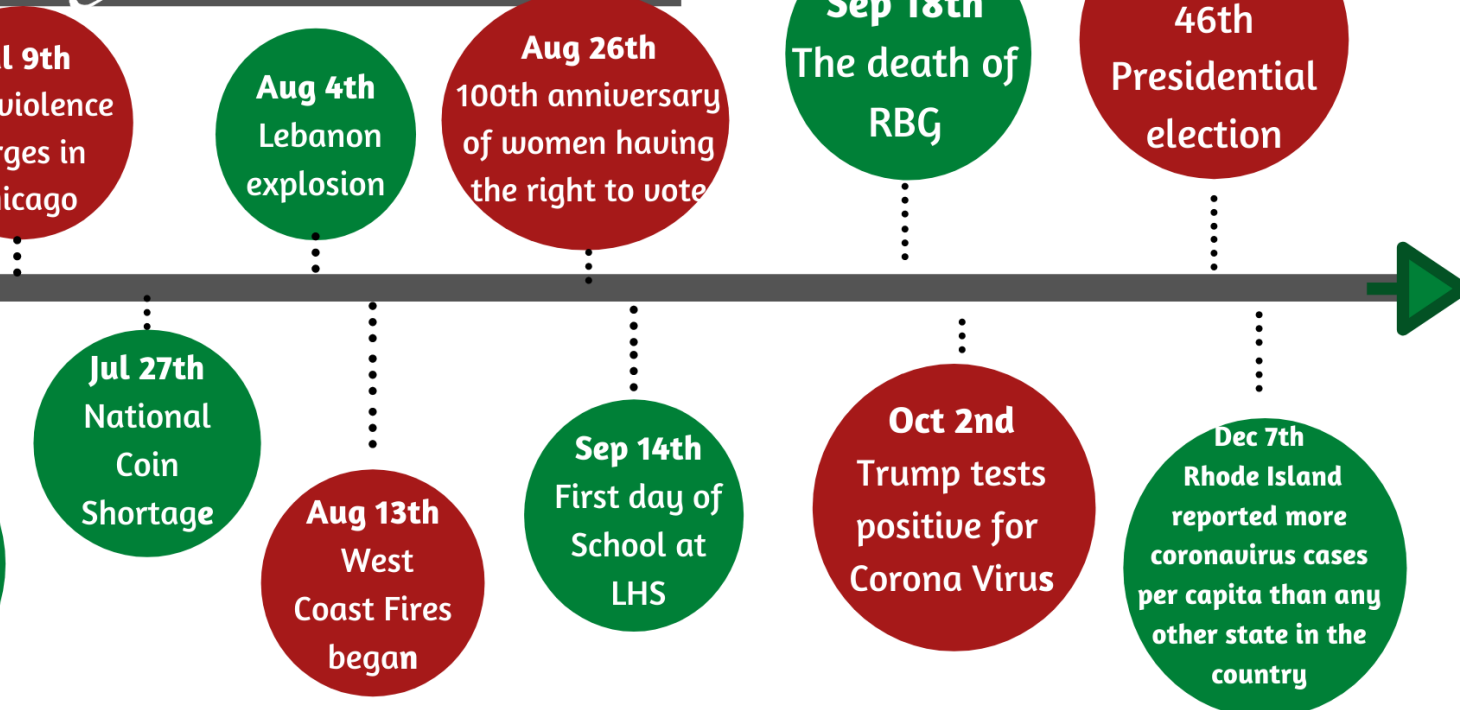


Savanna Atstupenas
Best would be being on the field hockey team.
Worst would be the anxiety of being on camera or when my computer glitching.



Kayla Gannon
The best part of 2020 was winning the field hockey state championship.
The worst was having to wear a mask everywhere we go"

The Year in Review



Lukas Hudes:
My favorite part of the year: Having the ability to get your work done at home.
The worst: Having to wear a mask all day in school.

faculty fast talk by Katie Jahnz



Ms. McIntosh loves this time of year. Photo by Katie Jahnz

Being a new teacher, what is one thing you want LHS and your students to know about yourself?

I would like everyone to know that I already feel so at home here at Lincoln High School, especially because I was a student teacher here last year. I am so grateful and appreciative of the opportunity to officially be a part of the Lincoln community.

it were possible to visit every country, I would do that!!!

Words that you live by? “It’s always raining sunshine”

Do you have a favorite family tradition? Every year, my cousins and I make time

Ms. Kelsey McIntosh
Social Studies

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

My favorite thing about teaching is being able to get to know my students. There is nothing like knowing you’ve made a difference in someone’s life.

Did you always want to be a teacher growing up?

Honestly, no. I had a variety of interests growing up and changed what I wanted to be many, many times (though, I am a third generation teacher and am very proud of that!!!!) I can pinpoint the exact moment that I knew teaching was my “dream job”. At the time, I was a senior and was applying to nursing schools all around the country. I always thought about teaching, but let other people’s opinions influence my decisions. My high school’s chamber choir sang holiday songs at all of the local elementary schools and I was singing a solo. All of the kid’s were looking up at me, doe-eyed and were so excited to talk to me after the concert. At that moment, I said to myself “wow, I could do this forever” and started applying to education programs that afternoon!

Describe in three words how this makes you feel: 2020

Is “is it over?” a feeling? If so I’d say that for sure.

Are you a morning or night person? Before teaching, I’d say that I am a night person without hesitation. But now I can barely stay up past 10!

Coffee or tea? Definitely tea

What is your go to snack? Popcorn, for sure.

Do you have a favorite movie and/or TV show?

Ask any of my students and they’ll tell you that I love *Hamilton*. But for TV shows, I’d say either *Grey’s Anatomy* or *Law and Order: SVU*.

What about a favorite book? *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

How would you describe your style? I would describe my style as very comfortable, but also fashionable at the same time.

Dream vacation? I don’t really have a dream vacation, but if

to decorate our Nana’s Christmas tree. Even though we are all roughly the same age and grew up in the same town, we are older now and are very, very busy. The fact that all eight of us take the time to continue that tradition is so special to me.

Describe your experience at Lincoln High School so far?

The major parts of my teaching experience have occurred at Lincoln High School so far. It has been humbling, exciting, and meaningful all at the same time.

Is it better to be too hot or too cold? Too cold! You can always layer up!

Do you forgive or forget? I tend to forgive

Your biggest accomplishment? So far, my biggest accomplishment has been graduating from RIC and starting a career!

One thing you could not live without? I can’t live without music! Whether it’s on my phone or being played on my record player, I need it to function!

Do you have any special talents? I wouldn’t necessarily call it a talent, but I do like to sing in my spare time! Pre-COVID karaoke nights were the best!

If you could have one talent what would it be? I wish I could draw! I am a TERRIBLE artist and really appreciate people who are artistic.

Do you prefer your hair straight or curly? My hair is naturally curly-ish, so that’s the style I like to go with if I am in a rush, but I definitely feel more put together when it’s straight.

What would be the coolest superpower to have? This is a very good question! I would say teleportation, that way I could cross things off of my bucket list!

Do you prefer zoom or Google Meet? Google Meet, for sure. I really like the way all Google applications can be connected.

What advice would you give your teenage self today? You will find your people, don’t stress over the ones who treat you poorly. Quality over quantity!

Who is your role model/ who do you look up to? My dad has been and will always be my hero. He is the most selfless, giving person I have ever met. He will give the shirt off his back to anyone in need.

Do you have a favorite face mask that you wear out? I received a mask for graduation that says “RIC Grad Class of 2020”. It’s definitely my favorite.

What is your favorite color? Light yellow

Fruit or vegetables? I like them both, but I think I have to go with veggies.

Are you a good cook: what is your favorite meal to make? Cooking has been a way for me to connect with my grandparents, aunts and uncles, and parents. I love learning their recipes. My favorite meal to make is fresh pasta with homemade pesto!

What is your favorite holiday and why? I don’t have a favorite holiday, but I LOVE the month between Thanksgiving and Christmas. During this time, my family will go out of their way to make time for each other. I look forward to that every year.

Decorating your house for the holidays, cute or cheesy? Cute, but only if it’s done right!

What is your favorite season?

THE LION’S ROAR
Fall, for sure!

What was the most memorable experience you had when you were in high school? I have so many high school memories that I cherish. Top three would have to be directing our Variety Show, being the highest ranked choir throughout the entire country, and being captain of our throwing team!

Any bad habits? I am a terrible procrastinator.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Chocolate

Did you grow up in Rhode Island? I did! I have lived in Cumberland for my entire life!

If you could live anywhere where would it be? I would LOVE to live on a lake, doesn’t matter which!!

Do you have any pet peeves? Nope!!

What is your all time favorite word? This one’s easy. My all time favorite word is “phalanges”

What brings you the most joy? It is so hard to pin it down to one. My best answer would be that there are so many things in this life that bring me joy, it’s important to find it in every moment. Thank you so much for asking me to be a part of this, Katie!! I really enjoyed answering these questions!

Just One Question by Katie Jahnz

How do you spend Lion Block on virtual days?



Natalie Daniels ‘24: “I usually just watch TV.”



Richard Gough ‘21: “I either help my friends with their math, do some homework, or if I have work the night before I will take a nap.”



Thomas Zhao ‘22: “I do my homework just like Lion Block in school!”



Paige Moreau ‘22: “During Lion Block at home, I usually lay in my bed and either watch TV or do the assignment given to me in Period B.”



Grace Connors ‘24: “I like playing Among Us.”



Nathan Goff ‘23: “I usually like to sleep, or sometime I take a shower during Lion Block.”

What will become of McCoy Stadium?

Will Denio
Lion's Roar Staff

To a team, a stadium becomes a home away from home. The PawSox know this feeling since leaving their home stadium, McCoy Stadium, after playing ball under McCoy 's lights for 50 years and it has been the home to some sort of pro-baseball team since 1892. However, for their upcoming season, the PawSox are moving to a brand-new, 90-million dollar ballpark in downtown Worcester.

Many RI locals are now questioning the uncertain future of McCoy stadium. At one point in time, there was a proposal to bring in a new professional soccer team and turn McCoy into a full-blown soccer pitch. Speculation over this has hovered but it is very unlikely that we will see pro soccer in Pawtucket any time soon. Many Pawtucket politicians see more potential in bringing in a pro baseball team rather than a pro soccer team. Thus being said, a minor league baseball team is a more realistic possibility that we could end up seeing.

Although it is hard to admit, another possibility that could be pursued is complete demolition. McCoy stadium is very near and dear in many Rhode Islanders hearts and has been the home of pro baseball in Rhode Island for many years. If this were to happen, there have been talks of building a family entertainment center or music center in its place.

Many Pawtucket families and residents could benefit from a family entertainment center, as well as a music entertainment center. However, baseball in Pawtucket has been the main desire amongst Rhode Island residents. It is a possibility that we will see another minor league baseball team playing under McCoy's lights. At one point, it was possible that the Lowell Spinners would be a potential candidate for McCoy's new home team. This possibility is unlikely because the Spinners have been faithful to Lowell and the league they play in is up in the air. The NY Penn, a Short Season A league, is having problems of their own. The league's future existence is very fuzzy, thus making it unlikely that we will see



There has never been a Rhode Island summer when visiting Pawtucket's McCoy Stadium didn't seem like a great idea. Photo: Creative Commons/Pawsox Flickr

the Spinners in Pawtucket.

Polar Park will definitely be a fresh start for the PawSox. The brand new stadium situated on the corner of Kelley Square and Madison Street in downtown Worcester. Worcester officials hope that the new addition of the stadium will increase safety, as Kelley Square

is currently deemed as the most dangerous intersection in the city. Polar Park is part of a multi-million dollar, 18-acre plot of land that will host new restaurants, shops, apartments, and a 150 room hotel.

McCoy's future is still unknown and it is possible we won't know what the future holds for a little while.

There are multiple viable options in which Pawtucket officials can move forward with. Many hope that baseball will remain in Pawtucket given the impact it has had on the city. During a statement to the media, Pawtucket Mayor Donald Grebien said, "The PawSox do not make Pawtucket. Pawtucket made the PawSox."

There are more questions than answers about winter sports

by Katie Jahnz
Lion's Roar Staff

With the student in-school population decreasing more and more as students are switching to be virtual, it is important for teenagers to try and stay physically active and connected within the school environment as best as possible. The activities that currently occur in Lincoln High School for the 2020 year have drastically decreased in numbers due to the pandemic that has forced these clubs and teams to be put on pause. Sports throughout the United States and locally within LHS have taken a major shift in what is normally seen.

On Wednesday, October 28, 2020, an email was sent out to students and parents by the Athletic Director at LHS, Greg O'Connor . Attached in this email was a Google Form that inquired about whether one was interested in signing up to participate in winter sports. They would state their name, email address, grade, guardians name and email address, and the sport that they would like to participate in. The sports as of this date included boys, girls, and freshmen basketball, boys and girls indoor track and field, boys and girls hockey, boys and girls swimming, competitive cheerleading, and wrestling. These sports were tentatively scheduled to begin on Monday November 30.

The winter sports season had been pushed back to December 14, due to the rise in cases of COVID-19 in Rhode Island and the lack of ability to abide by the regulations that are put in place to stop the spread of the virus.

There was not a clear way that seemed best for some sports to take place, so boys and girls basketball, boys and girls hockey, boys and girls indoor track and field, along with boys and girls swimming have the chance to begin



on a new start date. This means that competitive cheerleading and wrestling have been pushed back to later in the school year. Mr. O'Connor wrote in his email that competitive cheerleading was moved to 'season 3' and wrestling was moved to 'season 4'. The different seasons are just different stages that the state hopes to be in so that more sports can begin. Season three would begin at the end of February, while season four would start at the end of April as of December 8.

On Thursday, December 10, another email was sent out to the students and parents at LHS stating that Governor Raimondo had held a press conference and spoke about the start of the winter sports season. Governor Raimondo said in her press conference to Rhode Island, "Due to the statewide pause being extended, RIIL [Rhode Island Interscholastic League] school sponsored sports activities will continue to be prohibited through December 20." So, the original sports that were anticipated to start up on December 14, will no longer be able to.

Michael Lunney who is the Executive Director of RIIL, had come out with a statement in light of the Governor's conference. He had said that the members of RIIL are in close contact with the Governors team to assure how the change of dates may impact the sports within the high schools.

The RIIL will get information from Youth Sports Guidance, a team in place to make decisions for this year's sports seasons, soon. The changes that are made will affect the new date in which winter sports will begin.

This new date is yet to be announced, but more information will be forthcoming as students, teams, and coaches are all in hope for an upcoming season.

Fuller plays like a girl (and makes history)

by Grace Miguel
Lion's Roar Staff

Sara Fuller, a senior at Vanderbilt University, recently made history twice, and national headlines along with it. After leading the Commodores' girls soccer team to a Southeastern Conference title, Fuller was asked to kick for the football team.

After kicking off against Missouri on December 5, Fuller became the first woman to play in a regular-season football game in one of the Power 5 conferences. And one week later, she did it. She became the first woman to score in a Power 5 conference game.

After the football team's kicking squad was required to quarantine due to contact tracing, Sarah Fuller was contacted by her soccer coach who informed her that she could fill in during the game on December 5.

Vanderbilt lost to Missouri 41-0, but Fuller did not have the chance to attempt a field goal. Fuller is eager to return to the football field next week and the coaches attested to her talent, saying they would love to have her back.

Fuller has gained recognition from celebrities and professional athletes all over the country.

She epitomizes hard work and strength. After a soccer injury during her sophomore year, Sarah came back stronger than ever in her junior and senior years.

Her attitude and work ethic serve as an inspiration and a stepping stone for young female athletes all over the nation. Fuller proudly wears the phrase "Play Like a Girl" on her football helmet. She is just one of many more female athletes that continue to defy stereotypes and gender roles.



The historic moment on December 5, when Sara Fuller -- a champion soccer player -- became the first woman to play in a regular season college football game in a Power 5 conference. Photo illustration: Staff

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

An amazing season in a remarkable year



by Lucy Kratman
Lion's Roar Staff

A mob of pink floods onto the field of Cranston Stadium, mouths peeking from behind their masks as the LHS girls field hockey team scream in excitement following junior Grace Miguel’s state-title winning goal from Sadie Brown’s assist.



“When the ref signaled that it was a goal I was so overwhelmed,” Miguel said, “It was an amazing feeling and one of the happiest moments I’ve ever experienced.”

The high school fall sport season, an anticipated one for many athletes, found itself being sucked into the black hole of 2020. Volleyball and football was canceled due to the contact and indoor courts being too high of a risk for COVID-19, leaving soccer, cross country, and field hockey as the only sports allowed.

“I conveyed [that this season was a blessing] to the team often - that they should be grateful for the opportunity we had that some other teams didn’t,” LHS field hockey coach Lea Miguel shared, “We all knew it could be shut down at any moment, so we took each practice session as if it could be our last.”

The Lion’s stunning season, led by captains Drew Swanson, Lauren Rose, and Olivia Mendes, ended 7-1-0. The state final game, held at Cranston Stadium, pitted the Lion’s against the South Kingstown Rebels. In the regular season, South Kingstown was Lincoln’s only defeat, falling 4-1 in Wakefield. It was perhaps that statistic that made the win even sweeter.

“As a team, we knew that [South Kingstown] switched the ball really well so we wanted to disrupt that,” Grace Miguel explained, “I think we ended up executing that really well.”

Miguel scored the game winner in a nail-biting double overtime with four minutes and 54 seconds left. Brown took a rebound, flicked it to Miguel who took a precise shot just inside the circle. Finding the bottom right corner, the referee signaled the goal and the Lion’s were the D-II State Champions.

“I was on the verge of throwing up, that’s how nervous I was,” Captain Lauren Rose spoke about her roller coaster of emotions from when Miguel’s shot hit the back of the net to when the whistle blew to signal the goal, “Grace did a reverse hit, and hearing the ball slam on the board in the net took a huge weight off my chest - I immediately started crying and ran to Grace and Sadie, balling my eyes out hugging them saying ‘We just won state championships!’ over and over again.”

The team now awaits the distribution of their championship rings, leaving behind a legacy of determination, athleticism and sportsmanship and looking forward to the future.



“I was on the verge of throwing up, that’s how nervous I was.”
—Captain Lauren Rose



Top: The team celebrates it’s sudden win when midfielder Grace Miguel scores the winning goal. Second row: Sadie Brown, Sophia Gaitanis, Grace Miguel, Mia Bauzyk, Charlotte Fellingham and Catherine Hien. Right, Drew Swanson plays a fierce defense. Last row: Grace Miguel passes to the forwards. Catherine Hien is a forward on the team. Bottom: Charlotte Fellingham plays defense.

Photos by Ava Bauzyk.



the final word

The good

From page 6

in large cities. New York’s NO2 pollution had decreased by 30% in March 2020, compared to March’s normal average [from 2015 to 2019]. Also, the famous Venice canals, located in Italy, were clear for the first time in years. One could see the bottom, due to the lack of transportation and boating. Many were amazed by these views and shared images for the world to experience as well.

This year, there have been many milestones to be remembered. Women all over the nation got to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the 19th amendment. This gave and protected women’s constitutional right to vote. President of American Bar Association, Jude Perry Martinez states before an interview with Ruth Bader Ginsburg, “[the 19th amendment] paved the way for the largest expansion of democracy in the history of our nation.” The country got to celebrate a momentous occasion that occurred in history, while living through one of its own.

People all over the world have risen. Although this is a battle that people have been fighting for hundreds of years, there have been movements for racial justice and the fight for equality for Black Americans. This will change the course for the next generations to come. The New York Times wrote that the Black Lives Matter Movement, which advocates against police brutality and violence towards African Americans, might be considered one of the largest movements in the United States history. It continues to talk about these protests and says, “...peaked on June 6, when half a million people turned out in nearly 550 places...” The movements have shown the power people can have, and when coming together to stand up for what they believe in, change can occur.

Joe Biden, the president-elect, chose on August 11 2020 who will stand by his side. Kamala Harris was chosen to be his vice president.

Vaccine

From page 1

contains an impressive 95% effectiveness rate, compared with the 67% effectiveness rate of the influenza vaccine. This offers hope that the vaccine may be a one-way ticket to a Covid-less society.

Still, there lies the issue of those opposed to vaccination. About 39% of Americans are expected to deny vaccination due to the overwhelming skepticism concerning the vaccine. This presents a hurdle towards a world free of COVID-19. In order for society to transition anywhere close to normal, herd immunity is necessary. This means that at least 70% of the population must contain antibodies. Without this magic number, continued outbreaks and the continuation of life as it is may be within our future.

Although our future concerning coronavirus is overwhelming vague, one thing is for sure: we are actively taking the first steps to get rid of the pandemic. Until then, we must remain hopeful, and stay on the path to safety. We must continue to wear our masks and stay out of crowds. Considering how far we’ve come, it would be foolish to give up now.

Nonsense

From page 2

so that those members will vote for initiatives that they passionately support.

In other words, politicians unfortunately sometimes must vote in favor of bills that they don’t necessarily 100% agree with for the sake of getting other bills passed that they fervently believe in. When a politician with a celebrity-like status does this, their following will defend their actions and support something that it seems their idol also supports. For this reason, idolizing politicians and forming your own opinions around their views is extremely dangerous. For the sake of democracy, we must be able to criticize those that serve as public servants.

In a world where journalists are being attacked as fake and social media has become a news outlet, it is easy to forget that politicians are not celebrities. However, I have watched typically level-headed and intelligent peers do this and have had to catch myself falling into this trap as well. It is our responsibility to stop this from happening. We are entering the realm of politics in the new technology age and, while that may seem unimportant, it has a huge impact on the way we view things. Since we have the resources to the news of

This is important for the growth of our nation, as not only is Harris the first woman to become vice president, she also comes from a South Asian and Black descent. Astead Herndon and Jonathan Martin reported to The New York Times, “It was more historic most of all, and especially sweet for many Black women.” This ties with how America is trying to focus more on important issues for the nation over all.

On December 8 2020, the Food and Drug Administration authorized Pfizer’s coronavirus vaccine and confirmed it safe and effective. This is huge for the United States as the COVID-19 cases rose to over 15 million. Along with that, Rhode Island has the highest infection rate of COVID-19 in the world as of December 9 2020. It is more important than ever to do your part in keeping everyone around you as safe as possible.

The time of college decisions is always stressful. The time of college decisions while living through a pandemic can make those emotions heighten. However, colleges have tried their best to adapt towards these issues. There have been many virtual tours, which have allowed students interested in that particular college, to see the overall view of that specific school online. This is safe for the current times. Also, some colleges have even made some of their applications free due to everyone experiencing these hard times. This can be very useful for students as the Consumer News and Business Channel illustrated that applications can be around \$43, with some even being approximately \$75 per school. If a student wanted to apply to multiple colleges, this could easily add up to hundreds of dollars for just the chance of getting into that particular school.

These factors are what helps one to keep an optimistic outlook on an overall strange year. Although there may be some major events this year that have caused many to stir away from hope, even the smallest things can be appreciated in 2020. Recalling the good of 2020 is important and can make one stop and think about all of the happy memories that you have made.

the entire world at our fingertips, we must constantly remind ourselves that when we do simple mindless things, like open Twitter, we separate celebrities’ social media accounts from politicians’ social media accounts and view them very differently. It is good to know the character of someone you support, and it is important to have role models. It is not good to stop criticizing people who are voting for things that will have large impacts and consequences on many lives. I hope to see Generation Z begin to view the politicians we support as role models rather than idols so that we can collectively find a way to stop the polarization of the parties and find real solutions to the problems that the country faces.

The good news is, there’s

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Holidays

From page 5

gifts are exchanged for all of the eight days.

Kwanzaa, a holiday recognized by the African American community, is not associated with a specific religion. Instead, it is a secular holiday with a spiritual aspect that celebrates traditional African culture. One of the beauties of Kwanzaa is that it can be celebrated by African Americans of every religion. Whether they practice Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, or any other religion, Kwanzaa is a seven-day celebration of African roots. Its goal is to unify the community, respond to the commercialism of the Christmas holiday in America,

Maulana Karenga, a black nationalist who later became a college professor, created Kwanzaa as a way of uniting and empowering the African-African community following the deadly Watts riots in 1966 Los Angeles. He modeled the holiday on traditional African harvest festivals, taking the name “Kwanzaa” from the Swahili phrase, “matunda ya kwanza,” which means “first fruits.” Kwanzaa is starts on December 26 and ends January 1. Many African American’s Kwanzaa celebrations include traditional song and dance, African drums, a large meal, storytelling, and the lighting of candles on the Kinara.

Similar to Judaism, one of seven candles is lit each night of the week, typically by a child. There are seven principles or values of African culture that are discussed every night of Kwanzaa. On December 31 an African feast called Karamu is held. Recognizing Kwanzaa does not preclude anyone from celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or other religious cel-

New Room

From page 2

time on my hands, I finally decided to change it and I painted it to a cool, calming, gray, which I liked much better.

After I painted my room, I saw it as something I’ve always wanted to do, and something to pass all of the new time that I had. Looking back, I realize that it was more than just passing time. I know now that when my classmates and my teachers saw my room, deep down I was embarrassed by having that bright deep hue of pink as my color. Should I have been embarrassed about the color of my bedroom wall? No, of course I shouldn’t have, but this new, sudden exposure to what had always been my private space scared me, and I wanted to feel comfortable with sharing my space.

I’ve been hearing of many other friends and classmates that are also redoing their rooms, whether it’s painting, or putting up new pictures or art, or taking down certain things that are hung up in their room. Many kids could just be growing out of their old rooms, but the reasoning behind this sudden urge to change is truthfully because their rooms are now on public display.

celebration during December, and all people, of all denominations and races, are traditionally welcome to celebrate.

Boxing Day, while only celebrated in a few countries, takes place on December 26. The holiday originated in the Middle Ages in the United Kingdom. Boxes were distributed to the poor, and servants were given the day off to celebrate Christmas.

Currently, countries including the UK, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, the Bahamas, and Australia celebrate Boxing Day, and each nation has its own way of celebrating, ranging from sports and horse races to parades and festivals.

The Japanese also celebrate an important holiday in December, called Omisoka. On December 31, also New Year’s Eve, the Japanese culture celebrates the end of the calendar year and the beginning of a new one.

They eat traditional Japanese food including long noodles that signify the transition from one year to the next. Often the Japanese visit Buddhist or Shinto temples at midnight. There are different ways to celebrate Omisoka based on what religion one follows, but it is a very unifying day for the Japanese and an important part of their culture.

No matter which holidays we celebrate this month, it is important to remember that diversity is what makes our country beautiful. Accepting others and recognizing what is important to them brings us all closer together, and makes us stronger. The holiday season is one of the best times to do this. Take the time to learn about holidays that others celebrate. If we all make an effort to understand each other more, the world can truly become a better place.


Sleep

From page 2

am, which means, for at-home days, I get to sleep in for at least an hour. I usually wake up around 7:35 am when I am at home. The extra 1 hour and 35 minutes of sleep I gain is an overall blessing. This gives me at least five minutes to clean up and eat a very quick breakfast. Those five minutes go by in two seconds (no actually, it is scientifically proven). After the two seconds of getting prepared for class go by, I sit at my desk in my room and virtually show up to class. Don’t get me wrong, when I am at home, I am still very tired doing my work, but the extra hours I get of sleep are vital.

To wrap things up, sleep is important. It is time to cut it out and go to sleep earlier. Caffeine is not the best way to supplement loss of sleep. The drastic difference between waking up for in-person or at-home school has become too much. I vow to stop hitting the snooze button every morning and try to go to bed at an appropriate time. However it is important to realize that being tired is a part of life and that it is not something that we can turn off with a flip of a switch.





**Even the whispers
behind my back
are painful.**

And I can't get away from them. I just can't. I've tried pretending it doesn't hurt, but I just can't do it anymore. I'm done with this life. Every 30 minutes, a teen like me commits suicide to escape bullying. I don't want to become a statistic, but I have to put this nightmare behind me.