

THE COURIER

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The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

Meet the Student Organization Executive Board

Local News



The S.O. Election

By: Angela Bediako

2020 was a rough year, right? Although there were challenges, we want to begin this issue of The Courier on a high note: for the first time in about three years, Highlands Middle School had an S.O. election!

The process looked different than normal, of course. Candidates made videos and virtual posters and sent them to the S.O. advisor, Ms. Gordon. She compiled all the submissions into a video, which later was shown in class by the advisory teachers. Thank you, Ms. Gordon, for all your hard work!

Votes were counted during the week of December 14th, 2020. Unfortunately, with all the unpredictability of 2020, the results were never announced during school! Don't worry, the Highlands Courier has the scoop. There were four positions in the S.O. Council: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Now for the moment you have all been waiting for...

President:
Karen Gallegos



My name is Karen Gallegos and I am 13 years old. I like listening to music (some of my favorite artists include Arctic Monkeys, Lana Del Rey, Nirvana, and Men I Trust) and in my free time I enjoy painting. I was the secretary at Eastview, so I have some experience in being a student officer. I'm really looking forward to this year!

Vice President:
William McDermott



Hello, Highlands! My name is William McDermott, and I am

honored and excited to be your Vice President for the 2020-2021 school year. I look forward to representing your ideas. I want to help make sure everyone's voice is heard. When I'm not in school, I like cooking, reading, playing sports, and going outside in general. Some of you may know me from White Plains Little League. If you don't, I can't wait to meet you. I love talking to people, so it would be nice to see you in school. If not, you can email me your suggestions. I will do my best to make this school year a great one for everyone.

Treasurer:
Eliana Lieber



Hi! I'm Eliana Lieber and I am this year's Student Organization treasurer. I am in Girl Scouts and on a robotics team. I am on a Battle of the Books team, and I love to read. I also like to sew. I love the Muppets, elephants, the color purple, and sushi.

Secretary:
Ixchel Torres



My name is Ixchel Torres (kind of like ee-shell, I guess)

and I am 13 years old. I like playing soccer and volleyball and I also like to skate. I like animals and my favorite animals are snakes and elephants. I really enjoy traveling; I have been to 13 states, Canada, and Peru. I would say I'm an energetic person most of the time, but other times I'm just too lazy to do stuff. I am looking forward to seeing what happens this especially during these hard times.

Unraveling the Details of Teaching Remotely

By: Isabella Arco and Angela Bediako



Have you ever wondered what hybrid learning was like from a teacher's perspective? Well, we interviewed some of our amazing teachers at Highlands to unravel the details from their point of view.

Question: "How is remote learning going? Has it been challenging, or easier than you expected?"

Ms. Powers explains, "As teachers, we're all used to teaching in our own styles and students have different ways of learning as well. This new way of school has

been challenging, but also rewarding in a way."

In the long run, this experience will help us develop new skills such as independence that will be beneficial in our lives. Overall, it is difficult, according to most teachers. Some classes are easier to teach remotely and some classes are difficult to teach and interact over Zoom.

Question: "What are some things that you are looking forward to in the year 2021?"

Mr. King stated that he is looking forward to the summertime, seeing family,

and finishing the school year with a full population of students in person. Even something as small as a hug makes Ms. Davila excited and hopeful for the new year. Everyone wants things to go back to normal or have a somewhat normal life.

Question: How does it feel to be all by yourself in an empty classroom?

According to most teachers, it is eerie, quiet, and boring. Mr. Veeder claims, "the days last longer and they are not the typical pleasurable and amusing ones. They are sometimes sorrowful. All classrooms have their distinctive qualities meant to be shared in person, not over a screen."

Mr. King commented, "when we are all in a classroom together, we are connecting by sharing a space as a group." Ms. Davila stated, "when students are here, teachers can sense your mood. There is an overall connection that is stronger when in person that can benefit teachers and students."

Question: Are you excited for students to come back full-time?

All the teachers agreed: yes (when it is safe), but the suspense is killing them! Being on Zoom is not the same as being in school because in school you are sharing, connecting, and interacting with other people. For sure, what would be better than having everyone back safely and trying to get back into our old normal routines? You are also more collaborative with other students in person! Zoom is the opposite because you are sitting in front of a screen, where teachers and students do not have that one-on-one connection.

Question: What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Mr. Veeder voiced that the best thing about teaching

is getting to know the students well and helping them grow not only as musicians but as people. Ms. Powers proclaimed, "her favorite thing about teaching is the relationships she builds with her students and nothing is better than a positive, wholesome relationship, especially with times like these."

Of course, we also wanted to ask teachers what life has been like outside of teaching. Just like you have hobbies, teachers do too! Some hobbies include traveling, playing hockey, to meditating, to even being an opera singer or a yoga teacher. Over this whole quarantine experience, you should probably find something that intrigues you and makes you want to explore new things.

For sure, 2020 was not all great shakes but we hope that we can all make 2021 better in our own ways. You can do this by striving for something new, even if it is little. Some of your teachers said to actively practice mindfulness, self-care, eating healthier, and taking some time for yourself. You can also try something like writing in a journal every day or trying something new and outside your comfort zone.



The Joyous Life In: Quarantine

By: Taylor Cutrone

Quarantine: the most likely least favorite thing in the world currently (after the virus itself). We are all stuck doing it, and I think most of us can agree it's an absolute horror. Why not talk about it then? Share our despairs and frustrations over a commonly hated subject? Maybe find a few positives too? We asked a few students White Plains-wide to share with us just what exactly has been going on for these last nine months.

Question: How would you rate your quarantine experience on a scale of 1-10? (one being the worst).

The average response from people all ages was between a five and six. There are some positives and some downsides. Miles Ingram and Carla found it as a generous seven: Miles loved spending time with family and Carla liked the extra TV time. We also had Olivia give it a two, saying she doesn't want to get the virus, but it is hard staying inside all the time.

Question: What were the positive moments of quarantine?

This question certainly made our interviewees think. We know it is hard to find positives through all of this, but the responses we received were reassuring. Many expressed being thankful for life and highlighted the nice moments about being home. You can form your own schedule, it's easier to do things and you have more time to develop your own hobbies. You're spending a lot more time with family, whether it be quality time or constant arguments!

Question: How have you been trying to keep a positive mindset during quarantine?

The mental and emotional parts of quarantine were a huge challenge, as well, but we heard a lot of great, new strategies: keeping busy, cleaning your room, writing music, talking to those in your household, video

conferencing with loved ones, and trying to focus on the future, what good is coming and will come out of the virus. An anonymous source says, "by reading books, I was able to escape from the world as I see it and change perspectives." Sometimes reading somebody else's story and stepping into the characters shoes, can help heal you in an unexpected way.

During quarantine we've all had to keep things close. Whether it is your irritating siblings, or your new puppy, there have been important things happening to people during the pandemic. Being stuck in the house, it could be online chats with friends, family, and electronics.

Something that stuck out to us, is what Shatiek Spencer said about music, "It's always been important to me, but now I have nothing to do so it's one of my only and favorite options." Earlier in the interview he also said he writes his own music sometimes, as well. Music is a universal tool that can have literally any meaning you desire it to, so we thought that answer made a lot of sense.

Change and reflection go hand in hand, so we asked our interviewees to go back and reflect on their quarantine experience so far, and we also asked them what is one thing you would do differently. Most people said they would've stayed off the screen more and went outdoors to play instead of being cooped up inside. Elena Bediako said she would've tried to switch rooms with her sister because her sister Angela's room is bigger than hers. Miles Ingram said he would've changed nothing.

We all know quarantine isn't over, it's still going on as we see cases rise and peak. Here's some quarantine advice that people in your school community want to offer you to keep going on:

"Don't anger anyone you live with." -Elena

"Treat yourself and stay connected to friends and family."

-Carla

"Find something you're passionate about." -Anonymous

"Find things to fill your free time because this is a once in a lifetime event." -Nathan.

SPORTS REPORT

COVID Affects Sports: Advise for Athletes

By: Ava Ritterman



Have you ever thought to yourself: "Why is this happening to me?" Well, with the circumstances of Covid-19, you are not alone! Athletes all over the world are going through similar things with COVID: cancelling games, tournaments, matches, qualifiers, and more.

Being an athlete in these times are tough. Sports are being pushed back and

cancelled for all ages and levels. According to, "ESPN" a ton of major events in professional sports have been cancelled. Here are just a few:

- MLB: Preseason from March 12th canceled
- Regular season due to start on March 26th, postponed
- NBA from March 11th suspended
- South America World Cup qualifying from March 23rd-31st postponed
- NHL from March 12th suspended

All these events have been cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19. Not only have professional sports been cancelled, but so have sports in schools. As you may know, winter sports have been cancelled, and while spring sports are also coming up, there is a real possibility we might not have sports at all this school year.

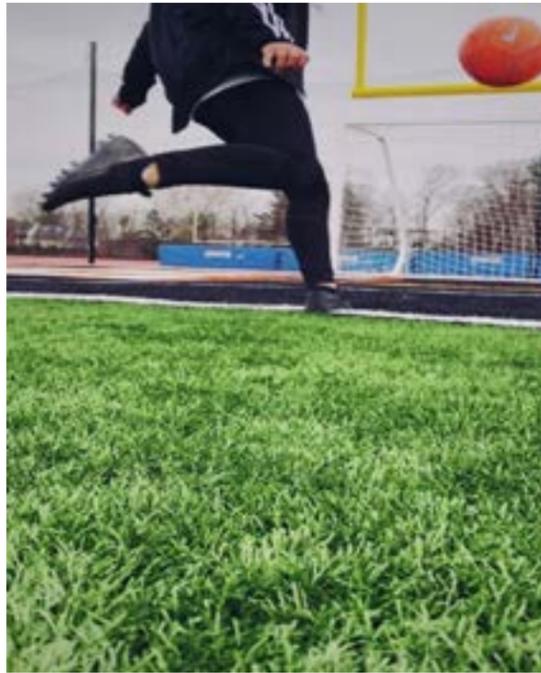
[Continued on page 4]

Now this might seem unfortunate for us who play or want to play sports, but let's take a moment to think about the Class of 2021. There are some seniors at White Plains High School who didn't get to play during their last year of high school, at all.

To get more insight, we interviewed Edwin Robles, a senior athlete at White Plains High School, "[If I don't get to play any sports this year,] it would be pretty awful for me, but life goes on. Like I want to play, but for me it's not the end-all-be-all. A lot of the guys feel the same, but overall, I think everyone just wants to come out and have a season or just a chance to play."

We also asked a coach for their input on the situation. We asked him a few questions such as, "do you think this season might be difficult with all the safety precautions, and do you have any advice for athletes who miss playing?"

Coach Fugarino, physical education teacher at Highlands and White Plains coach advises: "I think that just like school protocols, we will make all the necessary adjustments to help athletes and coaches be as safe as we can while practicing and playing a sport. My advice for athletes who miss playing is to remember this brief moment in time. It feels like an eternity, but it's not. So, when you finally get back to playing your sport, play it like it can be taken away again. Leave all your efforts at every practice and game that you participate in."



Even though going through this is difficult we all have to go through it and eventually things will get back to normal, and it feels like forever until it doesn't, and it'll be great once everything goes back to the way it was.

Photos by: Ava Ritterman, Lily Obligado, and Brooke Thomas



Local Business Spotlight: The Play Group Theatre

By: Taylor Cutrone

We all know local businesses have been suffering, such as restaurants, clothing shops, and much more. I have personally benefited from The Play Group Theatre (PGT), so I would like to say thank you to Jill Abusch and all the other staff who have been working at the theatre to give those who signed up a musical and acting education - and some joy during quarantine.

The Play Group Theatre is a non-profit theatre that does a large range of acting and music programs for all age. Programs range from Shakespeare to Main (Virtual) Stage to Community Cabaret. They offer this for all children under the age of 18 and they offer several scholarships to their program for those who are financially struggling.

When I asked Jill why her business was important, her answer blew me away. "I think that arts education is extremely important, and all kids should experience it at least once in their childhood. To perform theater, you need to step into someone else's shoes, and it enhances



empathy. Every race, gender, and economic standpoint get together and put on a show. They get to meet people who aren't like them, and it builds character." -Jill Abusch.

For someone who is currently in the Young Actors Co. program, every single part of this is true. Most recently, I have played a character who is a phone-addicted drama queen, surrounded by other children acting as emojis with one extreme emotion. Our director Hannah Stephens wrote the script herself. Ever since playing this role, I have a newfound empathy for the world. I have improved my personality a bit by stepping in somebody else's shoes and watching the world around them, and their outlook on their world.

With Covid-19, musical education is not the same and you can hear this from Mrs. Davila (Chorus, General Music, and Select Choir teacher) about this almost all the time. The Play Group Theatre has been doing virtual shows since the spring and programs are hybrid, but you have an option to go 100% virtual. The staff works from home and sometimes in the PGT building, but they always get the job done and fulfill their student's needs and continue to teach us, even if it is through the screen.

If a member of the PGT community tested positive, Jill is prepared: "We have a pretty tight safety protocol in place for the building. Nobody is allowed in the building if they were exposed or a family member was exposed..."

Jill also shared her hopes for the future of the business: "I cannot wait to get back into the theater! I cannot predict the timeline, but I hope we are back in the theater this time next year. I think we'll continue to add an online component because there was a bunch of kids who lived in other places who came on and zoomed in with us." -Jill Abusch

If you are interested in becoming involved in The Play Group Theatre, check out www.playgroup.org for information on their spring programs and summer camps!

WORLD NEWS



Israel versus Palestine

By: Justin Lopez, Francis Fokoue, Aayan Karigar

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has always been a very interesting dispute. As Americans, the presidential debates have always discussed the issue of Israel vs. Palestine, but why is it such an important conflict? Because America has a foothold in Israel, and the Americans see Israel as an important country, to whom if lost, will spiral the Americans out of the Middle East.

1948 involved the creation of the State of Israel, and the State of Palestine. Both sides came in with different goal, and they overlapped with each other, resulting in a conflict that has yet to end to this day. Anti-Semitism (hate and/or fear towards Jewish adherents) mixed in with heavy Islamophobia (hate and/or fear of Muslim adherents) and racism resulted in what we now know today in the United States as one of the most

important conflicts in the Middle East. This article wants to give the reader the most unbiased information, coming from both sides of the conflict to better enhance the reader's knowledge and help them conclude to a standpoint that they can defend.



Dark Green- State of Israel
Light Green- Israeli-occupied territory
Orange- State of Palestine



Painting of British occupation in Palestine, with soldiers marching through. Source- Haaretz

Goals of Each Side of the Conflict

The reason why these sides have yet to come to a consensus is because they are very stubborn and feel that they have a legitimate claim to the land.

On the Israeli side, we must look back to 1948. By this time, the Jewish people just got out of one of the biggest atrocities seen to mankind, which was the Holocaust. The Holocaust resulted in 6 million Jewish deaths, something that the Jewish population has yet to recover from. What the Jews living in Europe decided to do was to establish a state that would: prevent a Holocaust-type event, give the Jewish religion a haven, and bring the Jewish people back to their ancestral and spiritual homeland, the land of Israel. They succeeded in letting

these three things happen, and now the State of Israel has its place in the world, being a very controversial state.

On the Palestinian side, you also must look back to 1948. The Palestinians were finished experiencing a tribulation-filled period of almost 700 years of not remaining in Arab hands, whom the Palestinians subscribe to as an ethnicity. Their first taste of occupation was the invasion of the Mongols, who kept the land for a very short time. They were succeeded by the Mamluk Egyptians, who took the land for about 170-260 years until they were kicked out by the Ottomans. The Palestinians were fine under this occupation until they grew restless along with the Peninsular Arabs who wanted to not be under control. The Peninsular Arabs were successful, as they were able to establish kingdoms that gave them autonomy, but the Palestinians had another route chosen: they had to remain within the realms of direct Ottoman rule. When World War I ended, Palestine came into the control of the British, who let the Palestinians go on as forward. This all came to an end in 1948, when the British started to relinquish control of the land. This is where both sides start to fight, but there is a whole lot more that is contributing to the issue. This all came to an end in 1948, when the British started to relinquish control of the land. This is where both sides start to fight, but there is a whole lot more that is contributing to the issue.

This has always been a very contentious issue, but more will be discussed in future publications of the Courier. The next edition of the Courier will cover the religious background, and it will heavily involve very important and dear figures to many people.

Corona Virus Vaccine: What you need to know

By: Francis Sylvain Fokoue Nkoutche and Olivia Tuzel

2020. A painful and time period that will be written down in history books for eternity. Surely, many of us know about the COVID-19 pandemic that sprouted in the US around the mid-March last year, resulting in the first lockdown. "We'll be back in business by a week or two," everyone said. At first, many of us took this as a chance to sit back and relax, as if it were vacation. In no way were we prepared for what was ahead.

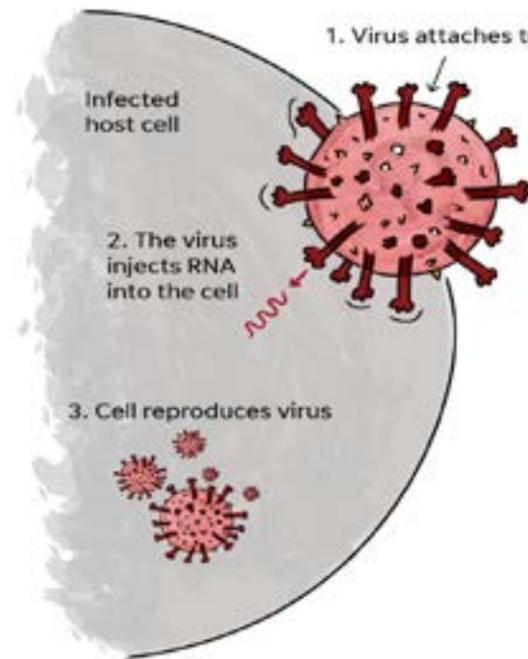
Months gradually went by, and days felt like weeks. Masks were scattered around our homes, and temperatures were taken daily. Eventually, November rolled out and the vaccines for COVID-19 were announced to the public. Alas, many individuals have been pondering on whether these vaccines are safe. Yes, it was produced relatively quickly, but that does not guarantee that it should not be used. Time for a deep dive into the most fascinating parts of the vaccines, their distribution, and more.

Invasion

Before the different types of vaccines are introduced you should be informed on how exactly the Coronavirus invades the cell and replicates. Spike protein is the virus's sole way of entry to the cell. When COVID-19 enters the cell, it sends genetic material into the cell. The Spike protein connects itself to the outside of the cell. When they connect, a change happens, and the cell splits the receptor allowing COVID-19's RNA (code) to enter the cell and replicate. It includes itself with the cell's genetic material making the host cell a factory producing COVID-19. The virus will then keep using that host cell and making new viruses. These new viruses and the original will continue to search for and make more factories.

Genetic-Vaccines

There are many types of Coronavirus vaccines. You will be educated about four ways of targeting the virus. The first is the genetic approach. The spike protein is what gives the virus passage into the cell. The virus needs to be denied



entry into the cell. To be able to do this, the vaccine needs to help develop a strong immune response to stop the virus from entering the cell. This will be done by having these vaccines use mRNA, the instructions for the cells to create these Spike proteins. The proteins themselves are completely harmless. When the spike proteins are created, they should trigger an immune response. When the immune system reacts, it will create antibodies to neutralize the spike protein. At this point if Coronavirus attempts to enter the cell, it will be met with antibodies. This vaccine type was developed

by Pfizer.

Protein-subunit-vaccine

Protein subunit vaccines use small, pieces of the virus rather than using it entirely. These fragments of the pathogen are chosen based on which one stimulates the most immune response. The pieces of the virus that are in this vaccine cannot cause infection. This type of vaccine is very safe. These vaccines do not cause a strong immune response.

Viral-Vector-Vaccine

Viral vector vaccines are like genetic vaccines as they both bring instructions into the cell so it can create the spike proteins. Things change in the way the mRNA is brought to the cell. These vaccines use a harmless virus as a vector to carry the code that makes the spike proteins. Most Viral Vector vaccines use the adenovirus, which causes the common cold, to deliver the mRNA. The benefit of these vaccines is the vector copies a natural infection process. The process is more like the actual infection process, and a stronger immune response will result.

WORLD NEWS

Whole-Virus

The most used method to developing vaccines is using the actual virus. However, there are two different approaches, Live attenuated virus vaccines, and Whole Inactivated vaccines. Live attenuated vaccines use the virus in a weakened state. Whole inactivated vaccines use the virus itself with destroyed genetic material that cannot replicate.

Side-effects

Let us switch gears for a second. Surely many of you know about the influenza vaccine, and it is not the most popular. Many people decide not to take it because of the symptoms that may appear after taking it. For instance, feeling nauseous or having a fever. Returning to the COVID-19 vaccines, they also have some common afterward side effects such as: swelling or pain at the point of the injection, fevers/headaches, etc.

The-Big-Question

Now that an understanding of the vaccines is set, we still have a question, will we ever return to normal? There is no definite answer. So far, 15.4 million doses of vaccine have been shipped in the United States. The main problem is not many people want to take the vaccines, resulting in many available doses. In order to return to our normal lives, we cannot let the vaccines go to waste.

Conclusion

There it is, four different COVID-19 vaccines. Hopefully, these vaccines will make us come closer to the end of this pandemic, but there is something to keep in mind. Although the vaccines can help prevent COVID-19, keep in mind that you can still contract it after taking the vaccines. Stay safe!

Should we trust the vaccine?

By: Sayuri Rojas Flores

As many of you may know, there is a vaccine that will prevent you from getting Coronavirus. There is still no vaccine to cure Coronavirus itself but, taking the vaccine if you already have COVID can possibly reduce the severity of Covid.

Just remember: everybody's body is different. If you take the COVID vaccine, don't expect your body to respond the same way someone else's did. Some people may have side effects after taking the vaccine, and according to www.cdc.gov, this is normal. It just indicates that your body is constructing protection.

Some side effects may be things like the flu, but that should go away in a few days. Again, your side effects will be different than others.

This vaccine will be like a flu vaccine that will be inserted in the upper muscle of your arm, you will need to receive two shots to ensure that the vaccine will work.

Now before the COVID Vaccine was released it was tested because after all this is new technology being used in the Covid vaccine so, scientists want to make sure things don't go wrong. The final answer is yes, the COVID vaccine is safe and we can trust professional scientists to keep us healthy.

Please enjoy some fictional writing from members of The Courier!

MISSING

Chapter one: The Glove

I breathed heavily as I sprinted through the alleyway.

"How could I be so stupid," I mumbled to myself.

I dashed around a corner and hid behind a row of dumpsters, stopping to catch my breath. I was suddenly remembering in my head what had taken place over the last three days. Suddenly, I heard a twig snap. I stood completely still, sucking in my breath and trying not to make a sound. After what seemed like hours, I heard footsteps walking away. I peeked over the dumpsters to get a good look at my surroundings; it was a typical alleyway. The dumpsters I was hiding behind lined the walls, stray animals wandered around, diving to the floor and scratching the trash bags to try and find food. I finally let out the breath I'd been holding... I was safe.

I started to walk out of the alley when a hand grabbed me. I couldn't run or scream as a gloved hand put itself over my mouth. As the man dragged me into his car, I couldn't help wondering how I got into this mess.

Well, actually, I knew perfectly well.

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It was a late summer night, Wednesday, if I remember correctly. Plagued by lack of sleep, I was reading in my bed. I was reading Sherlock Holmes for the hundredth time, because it was one of those good detective books. I had wanted to be a detective.



Little did I know that night would start my detective career.

Suddenly, I started hearing sounds outside my window, so I had bolted to my window. I peered outside at my best friend's house. A tall, thin man with a black hoodie over his face was pulling a bag of stuff out of the house.

"They're being robbed" I thought as I grabbed my phone and started to call 911. "What's in that bag?" I thought then I stopped, my breath hitching "or who?"

As the police arrived I walked up to one of the officers.

"Hello, officer," I told the officer "I'm Quinn. I'm the one who called in the robbery."

The officer looked down on me. Not that she was very tall, I was just very short.

"Miss," she said in a voice that sounded almost robotic. "I want you to tell me exactly what you saw."

So, I described to the officers the man I saw, not leaving out a single detail in my explanation.

I saw Todd Hansworthe walk out of the house. I ran to him.

"Do you know where Gianna is?" I asked him. I was desperate to

see my best friend.

"That's the thing Quinn," He answered, "we don't know."

I stared at Mr. Hansworthe, he looked young for a 40-year-old man, and was quite tall. The thing people first noticed about him was his smile, but today that was covered up by a look of panic. Behind him, his wife, my mom's good friend, Lisa Hansworthe. Beside her ran their

dog, Cade, who looked panicked, as well. He started barking roughly.

Then and there, I realized something. When the kidnapper came, the dog hadn't barked. That's strange, Cade always barks at strangers. He must've known the kidnapper. That left a very limited amount of people. The Hansworthe's had just gotten Cade a couple months ago.

Mrs. Hansworthe walked up to me, "Oh darling Quinn," she cried, "You must be as devastated as we are." After she said what she said, she fell to her knees and collapsed sobbing.

I walked away and slipped on something. A glove.

"Oh, dear," called Mr. Hansworthe "you dropped your glove the other day."

I looked down at my hands. I was already wearing my gloves. I never took them off. Not even in summer, it was my comfort object. I picked it up anyway, it must've been a clue. I ran back to my house and slid the glove under my microscope.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7]

I compared it to my own glove. Slowly taking it off to reveal my hand. Nothing seemed different. I walked back to the scene and gave the glove to the officer that I had been talking to before. While doing that I noticed a tag on the glove. It read "Homemade Gloves. We Make our Gloves For You." I gasped, that was where I had gotten my glove. The police most likely won't think anything about it. They might think it is a catchy slogan. But no. The store makes custom gloves for different people. I knew where that place was. I ran back inside and locked myself in my room. Breathing heavily, I walked to my computer and looked up the address. It was only a half hour away by bike. I could go there tomorrow.

"It's settled," I told myself, "I'm going to save Gianna."

I flopped on my bed trying to sleep. Finally, it came and I drifted off, into my soul's darkness.

See you next issue,  
-A



Characters: X1, X2 X3

Have you ever been left out of a activity? X1: It was a normal day. My family and me were going to an outdoor movie (The house with a Clock in its Walls) with my friends, X2 and X3. It was in the middle of a park. We got there really late.

### New Beginnings

In the sky  
Orange paint spills onto the canvas  
With streaks of pink moving along  
The sunset sinks into the ground  
As night falls  
And when the stars eventually fade  
A new day begins  
And it continues like that  
The sunset gives new beginning's

And everything goes on

### Our Comforts

Sometimes the world is in a rush  
And you struggle to keep up  
When that happens  
When the world moves to fast  
We can escape into the place  
We created  
The world molded just for us  
And when the world seems to crash down  
When nothing makes sense  
Find comfort in the sky  
Because it will never leave you alone

About half an hour into the movie, I whispered hello to X2 and X3. They didn't talk at all. About an hour later, X2 and X3 went to the playground during the movie.

It was already pitch black so I don't know why they thought that was a good idea. Anyway, they "forgot" to invite me. 60% of me didn't care, I was watching the movie. But 40% of me felt like they could have invited me to hang out with them.

I continued to watch the movie. At some point after they returned, I asked them a question and they just completely ignored me, instead laughing at something X2 said. At that point, I had enough. I wanted to go home. It was already like 10:00 at night. I ran to the bathroom to go cry because they completely ignored me. When the movie finally ended, I confronted X2 and X3. They both seemed sorry. But, one of them didn't really apologize. After that night, I was completely shocked on how X2 and X3 treated me. If some one treats you that way, then they are not your REAL friends.

## Movie Reviews

By: Eliana Lieber

Review of Disney's *Soul* (No Spoilers)

This Christmas, released their second movie of this year, *Soul*. It was originally supposed to be released in June, but due to the COVID-19 delay, it was released to Disney+ and in theaters late. But it was certainly worth the wait! This movie follows Joe Gardner, a middle school band teacher whose passion in life is jazz. Suddenly, Joe lands his big break when there's an accident. Joe is transported into a different world and has to help 22, a new soul finds her passion, and he finds out what it means to have *Soul*. This is an amazing movie, with breathtaking animation and story. Pixar blew me away with this movie. I really recommend it. You can watch the trailer [here!](#)

Review of DC's *Wonder Woman 1984* (No Spoilers)

*Wonder Woman 1984* is a great movie, but there are some inconsistencies. I do recommend watching the first movie before you watch this one, because there are some call-backs, but not too many that you can't enjoy the movie by itself. This movie focuses on Diana Prince (*Wonder Woman*) as she lives her life in Washington DC in 1984. She is working at the Smithsonian and performing heroic acts undercover. She must work her hardest, using all of her strength, courage, and wisdom, to beat Maxwell Lord. As I said, there are many questions I had throughout the movie, but it was very good in general. I recommend watching this!

You can watch the trailer [here!](#)

Tell us what you think! Click on [this link](#) and give us some feedback on what the students' choices are!

# MUSIC AND TAINMENT

## What you need to know about Disney +!

By: Kate Abrams

Perhaps one of the most popular streaming services this year was Disney+. It combines a ton of Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic content on one streaming service. Because of the Coronavirus they couldn't film a lot this year but there was bunch of stuff that has been in the making for quite a while that got released this year.

Mulan:

*Mulan* was originally set to release on March 9, 2020 but because of COVID-19 restrictions and the rise in cases they were not able to release it in theaters. In September, they released it for pre-watch for \$30 and they have recently released it for anyone who has Disney+ to watch. It's a live action remake of the popular film *Mulan*, about a girl who goes to war and her father's spot disguised as a man.

Hamilton:

One of the most successful Broadway shows is now available to watch in the comfort of your very own homes! Based on the story of Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant, writer, lawyer, and George Washington's right-hand man, this musical has been anticipated greatly. It follows the life of Alexander Hamilton during and after The Revolutionary War and the show has many, many fans.

*Soul*:

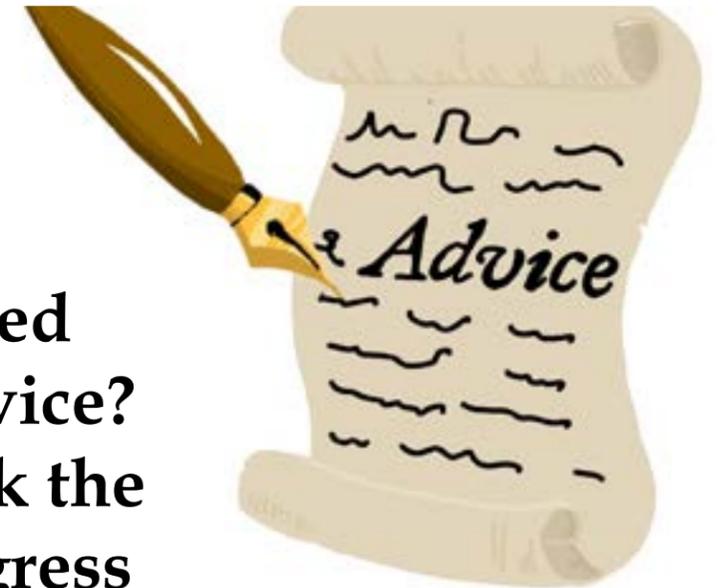
*Soul* was originally supposed to be released this summer but was instead released December 25th, 2020. It is about the life of a middle school jazz teacher and Soul Number 22. He finally gets his dream gig but dies right before and travels to the great beyond, where he meets 22. Together they work to get him back in his body.

The Mandalorian Season 2:

Last October, everyone was really excited for the new season released and the return of Baby Yoda. In this season, they meet many new friends and of course get in sticky situations. In addition, we learn a lot more about the backstory of Baby Yoda and the Mandalorian.

Onward:

*Onward* follows the story of two Elves on a mission to revive their father. Ian and Barley Lightfoot's father died before Ian was born so it is Ian's dream to meet him. For his birthday, he receives a magic staff that can bring his father back for 24 hours, and this is the story of the journey it takes him and his brother on.



## Need advice? Ask the Tigress

Hello, and welcome. Do you have some questions? Do you need advice? I'm a student here and you can get some \*free\* advice from me. Drop down your question in the Microsoft form below, you'll be anonymous throughout the process and in the next issue of the Courier. Who knows? If you submit maybe another student will find the advice that they're looking for too. All questions will be in the paper, I'll be sure to answer them.

If you have a question for The Tigress, fill out the form [here!](#)

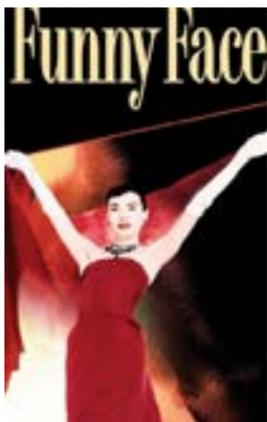
## 10 Old(ish) Movies You HAVE to Watch!

By: Angela Bediako

Movies: there are so many different varieties that are good for all ages. They show the past, present, and future. There are so many to choose from! Now that we are spending so much time at home with quarantine, what better way to pass the time by watching movies?

You'll notice that many of my movies are, let's face it, pretty old! I chose these movies because quarantine is the best time to watch something new...well, new to us, anyway! I could've told you about the newer movies. Or maybe my personal favorites. But that's not what I did. I love older movies! Most younger people don't watch them anymore. I grew up watching these classics. While these may not be as flashy as our Disney favorites, I wanted my fellow Tigers to see that although these movies are old, they have all the things that a newer movie does! They're funny, creative, and have ingenious plots. Maybe you've heard of some of them, or maybe you haven't. Either way, try something new, and sit down for a fun movie. night with your friends or family.

### *Funny Face* (1957)



New York City-based fashion photographer Dick Avery is taken away by Jo Stockton, a shy bookstore employee. They meet, and Mr. Avery convinces Jo to come with him to France so he can continue to take beautiful photos of her in the romantic city of Paris. Of course, they fall for one another, but the journey isn't simple! This is available on Amazon Prime Video with a subscription and YouTube for \$2.99.

### *Mary Poppins* (1964)



*Mary Poppins*, Jane and Michael Banks' new nanny, is far from ordinary. The wealthy family's lives are changed for the better when she brings the children on magical adventures, around their town and even in other worlds! Along with the ever-job-switching Bert, she brings light into their day-to-day lives, along with amazing music and story. There may be some dancing penguins as well... This is available on DisneyPlus.

### *A League of Their Own* (1992)

During the rage of World War II, the numbers young men talented with athletic skills has been diminished. Suddenly, a new opportunity springs up for the sisters, Dottie Hinson and Kit Keller, a professional female baseball league funded by candy maker Walter Harvey! The two sisters, along with scout Ernie Capadino, and retired coach, Jimmy Dugan, make their way to fame. The movie can be purchased for \$3.99 on YouTube.

## The Full List

1. Singin' in the Rain (1952)
2. Funny Face (1957)
3. Twelve Angry Men
4. Mary Poppins (1964)
5. A League of Their Own (1992)
6. The Adventures of Robinhood (1938)
7. The Long, Long Trailer (1953)
8. Meet me in St. Louis (1944)
9. Wizard of Oz (1939)
10. The Princess Bride (1987)

# MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT



## Music of 2020

By: Michael Mark

What is your favorite song? Do you prefer a certain type of music genre more than another? Do you even listen to music? 2020 was a hard year for all of us. One of the things that saved us is the music that was released during our quarantine. Here, I am going to break down the top songs of 2020. So, let's give this a go.

### 1. The Weekend - "Blinding Lights"

"Blinding Lights" is a fun, energetic and artistic anthem. However, it also has a more mature touch. Dealing with issues such as society, alcoholism and being an addict, Blinding Lights really has you blinded by the light.

### 2. Megan Thee Stallion ft Beyoncé - "Savage (Remix)"

"Savage" is another feel good Megan Thee Stallion song that makes you want to get up and dance. Savage is about self confidence and empowerment. Megan and Beyoncé strive to show girls that they are enough and don't need anyone's approval.

### 3. Harry Styles - "Adore You"

"Adore You" is a song about unconditional love for whomever or whatever. In the video, Harry portrays love for a fish, putting it in a teapot, it later becomes bigger so he must put it in a tank. When it becomes too large, he must say his goodbyes and throw it into the ocean.

4. Doja Cat - "Say So"  
"Say So" is a song that is challenging. In some ways, it can be just that typical song about love and lively hood, but it could also be portrayed as a cool 70s funk anthem with bits of flavor from every genre.

5. Lady Gaga - "Stupid Love"  
You might say that Stupid Love is just another song about love and flirtation, but it demonstrates more. Gaga shows that she wants love throughout the galaxy and that war has no purpose. In the Music video, Gaga hints at several LGBTQ references, for she recently has come out as bisexual. Stupid Love is ahead of it's time and in my opinion, the best on the list.

