



POBJFKHS Honored as a National Blue Ribbon School

By Tarunika Sasikumar
Secretary

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a U.S. Department of Education award. It honors up to 420 public and private schools serving grades K-12 for their academic superiority and/or capability in sealing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The schools given this distinction possess a multitude of characteristics that distinguish them from other educational institutions. Namely, they have administrators and teachers who are primarily focused and devoted to elevated learning standards for their students, who conduct and analyze data that assists in the verification of the efficacy of instruction and assessment, and most notably, train students that demonstrate academic excellence and undertake professional development to ensure that they are doing the best that they always can. This year, 372 schools nationwide were granted this prestigious award, including our very own Plainview-Old Bethpage John. F Kennedy High School. Along with two other Long Island high schools, POBJFKHS was placed in the top 3.5% nationwide. Dr. Mary O’Meara, Superintendent of the POB district, expresses this honor as “a direct result of the dedication of our students, teachers, and families that helps ensure our District maintains strong academic excellence.”

After the official acknowledgement of the award, student Michael Khalfin sat down with Mr. Murray to chat about the achievement. According to our principal, he never anticipated turning out victorious with this award at all. As a matter of fact, Mr. Murray almost didn’t finish the application. He stated that almost all of his focus was on the creation of valuable education for students during quarantine. He also pointed out that the application itself was exhausting, demanding “hard facts in sections with limited word counts.” The evaluation of the applications is carried out by examination for completeness, quality, and accuracy. Assessment is based on measurable characteristics that not only search for schools with high achievers but also those that have performed exceptionally despite difficult odds (like the coronavirus). Moreover, as Mr. Murray puts it, the program looks past the tiny details and instead focuses on the overarching picture that the school displays. What made our school, in particular, stand out arises from the various educational courses across many disciplines that have been made available for our students, our diverse extracurricular

activities (such as clubs and sports) which offer something unique for everyone, and the accomplishments of teachers. The teachers of our high school managed to utilize innovative strategies and technologies to deliver complicated and comprehensive course material to our students. The application of data performance results, which help modify a teacher’s approach, also aided our school to deliver exceptional results in the realm of education.

There are tremendous benefits that come with this honor. First of all, as most people know, when moving to a new town or city, what school district the children of the family will attend plays a big role. Mr. Murray expounds that now that our school has won this prestigious award, people will want to move to Plainview. Additionally, for students graduating in the next few years, during their college application process, they can express that their school had won a Blue Ribbon Award in turn informing colleges that the particular

student had learned in and graduated from an honorable school, “and that they played a role in creating this successful environment.” By identifying the highest achieving schools in the nation, the Blue Ribbon Program formulates a criteria that can be made available to all schools nationwide to help calculate and compare schools’ current methods in teaching and administration and improve them in areas where it is possible.

Additionally, the exchange of information between honored schools and other schools is greatly increased, which helps various districts find solutions for obstacles that they are facing. Finally, recognition of a school can encourage students and administration of other schools to achieve the same high standards as well. By clearly outlining which schools are excelling, lower-achieving districts and institutions can emulate them and raise their standards so that they can strive for the award in future years.

When Mr. Murray looks back at the reception of the award, he says that he is beyond proud of our school and community for their consistent hard work. Mr. Murray said he wanted to leave his mark on the high school before his retirement (whenever the time comes), and with this award, he has definitely accomplished that. The 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Ceremony, which is hosted by Betsy DeVos and the U.S Department of Education, will take place virtually on November 12 and 13.



Source: pobschools.org

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WELCOME!

The Hawk Eye is
always accepting new
members and entries!

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Thank you for reading!



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The Freshman Guide to the Highschool

By Victoria Lee
Staff Reporter

Starting high school is scary. There are so many new things to learn: from where all your classes are to Trigonometry. With all the pressure regarding grades and turning in your assignments on time, you now have the additional stress of COVID-19. The big transition from middle school into high school may be nerve-racking, but it is a good experience to have. Remember, highschool grants you the opportunity to discover many new things about yourself, including your interests.

One thing that may help with the change is learning how to manage your time effectively. Using your school-given agenda and writing down all the work that you have to complete is something that can help you accomplish this goal. After seeing all your work, strategically plan out how much of the assignments you should do each day before the due date. Another tip to remember is that your grades in Freshman year do matter, so try your hardest on assignments. Your grades from now on are being recorded on transcripts and weigh into your GPA (grade point average). However, if you don't do as well on a test, don't get too down about it.

The number of assessments you will take throughout your high school experience is more than enough to bring your average back up. In addition, try to stay as organized as possible. When trying to keep organized, make sure to put all the worksheets you receive in your binder right away. If you shove the work in a random folder or stuff it in your bag, it could easily get lost or ruined. It is also helpful to mark the date on all your assignments. If, for instance, you are in a situation where your binder falls apart, you can easily put all your notes back in order, which may help you study in the future. Of course, enjoying your Freshman year is another priority! Your year as a Freshman flies by so fast, so it's important to make lots of memories with your friends. Lastly, the thing that I find the most important is making sure to stay safe during this pandemic. Be sure to wear a mask whenever you can and stay socially distant from other students. Always err on the side of caution with the coronavirus, and I hope you have an amazing Freshman year!



Source: Study.com

Music Program Vs. Google Meet

By Annie Heischober
Staff Reporter

The music education program at POFJFK HS is of tremendous value to the people who participate in it. The students look forward to their music classes during the day because they can showcase their talents, enhance their musical skill set, and, of course, see their friends. Being back in the classrooms this fall, musicians have learned to adapt to the new changes while following all safety precautions. The music teachers and their students have navigated through technology and found ways to get the same exceptional products that represent our school's music program.

Rehearsals of our musical ensembles are still running, taking measures to ensure that all students are staying safe during the pandemic and the hybrid learning environment. The choir, orchestra, and band are advantageously using Google Meet as a synchronous learning platform. This means that when one cohort is physically in school, the other remains at home and logs on through Google Meet during their class period. The students will sing or play their instrument on mute while hearing their fellow classmates that are actually in school. The main focus of the teacher is on the students in the classroom, but those at home are listening, following the same direction, and participating to the best of their ability. Although it is a different experience, the cohorts still feel as if they are joining the class every day! This system is very beneficial for music classes because the ensemble can, for example, start learning a piece of music on a Monday and continue it on a Tuesday. The material does not need to be taught twice and can continue each day.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person rehearsals look a little bit different, and the students have to adjust to this modification.

The orchestra room is fortunately still used while keeping all students six feet apart and masked. It looks different in that there is only one person on a music stand when there would previously have been two. The choir has moved locations and is rehearsing in the LGI, where the singers are all 12 feet apart and masked. A positive that comes from singing under these conditions is that each student must sing out and be confident in themselves in order to fill the space around them with sound. All music is digital as well. The band has some limitations, but they are making the most out of it.

Another important aspect of our music program here at POFJFK consists of lessons. During a regular school year, students are pulled out of class for a smaller, more individualized rehearsal. They will miss one period per week on a rotating schedule. Even though each cohort is only in the building twice a week, the musicians are happy that lessons are continuing, as they are essential to the success of our programs!

As of now, Google Meet technology is not strong enough for all students to rehearse together because of the time/sound lags, but everyone is making the best out of the situation and seems to be benefitting from the way that the music program is using synchronous learning. As Mr. Bartley, the orchestra teacher, says, "This allows them [the students] to be ready to jump right in without missing a beat when they are back in school." There is hope that ensembles can still perform together, whether that means virtually or in-person in a non-traditional setting. There is no doubt that the POFJFK music program is maintaining its standard of excellence through virtual learning.

The Results Are In- Meet Your Freshman Board

By Mark Altstaeder
Staff Reporter

There are many exciting things taking place as we transition into a new school year. This is a time for people to meet each other and become more involved in the school community. This year all of the Freshmen, myself included, were given the opportunity to participate in student government. The Freshman class elected Lauren DiPierri as president, Samantha Graf as vice president, Connie Choi as treasurer, Devin Silberman as a recording secretary, and Annika Raj as public relations manager. I spoke to Lauren and Annika last week about this exciting moment. Lauren said, "I am honored to represent the Freshmen class as president. I take seriously the trust my classmates have placed in me to positively impact their high school experience." When I reached out to Annika, she stated, "I am excited to be a part of the student government Freshman board, and I can't wait to help our school and be an active member of the JFK High School community. I plan on helping the Freshman class raise money for our prom, and I am looking into creating a social media account to help spread information about school events and to increase participation in those events. I look forward to an amazing year!" We are in great hands being represented by Lauren and Annika, and I can't wait to see what this year will bring!

Impact of No Sports Until 2021

By Ava Matlin
Staff Reporter

This year, our school's 2020 fall sports have been postponed by the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents until January 2021. The fall sports offered include Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys and Girls Volleyball, and Girls Swimming and Diving. All of these sports will be restricted to COVID-19 guidelines, such as requiring wearing of a mask on and off the field or court (besides swimming and diving). If there is another outbreak, sports will most likely be canceled. As a three-sport athlete myself, I was extremely upset when I discovered that fall sports were postponed. Having school sports affected my mental health, as well as my academic performance. I sent out an anonymous poll to 42 students to see if they wanted fall sports and how they felt after they were postponed. 39 of

42 students were not happy that fall sports were canceled, and 32 of 42 students said that having sports canceled affected their mental health and academic performance. Most students in POBJFK high school want fall sports to be back up and running. Right now, our school is slowly returning to fall sports by allowing students to attend training for their particular sport. During training, students will be required to wear masks throughout their entire practice, besides water breaks. Although there aren't actual games against other schools yet, it still gives students the opportunity to be active after school. Returning to sports in 2021 is very exciting and we all hope that there isn't another COVID-19 outbreak.

Athletes Helping Athletes club

By Benjamin Kule
Staff Reporter

Plainview Old-Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School is known for having many great opportunities for students, especially through its clubs. One of the new clubs joining the list this year is Athletes Helping Athletes. In this club, students come together to help other schools or facilities run the sporting events that they should be allowed to run. With COVID-19, lesser-fortunate schools were hit hard and struggled to provide things like sports for kids. So, I interviewed the teacher of the club, Mr. Jones, to help get the best understanding of what the club is all about.

Question 1: What is the goal of the club and why was it created?
Mr. Jones: "This is a newly founded club that works to raise money and awareness for low-income schools that are unable to participate in school sports or buy sports equipment. We plan on helping out as much as possible due to the current circumstances of COVID-19. Throughout the year we will do activities like collection drives, virtual guest speakers and virtual fundraising."

Question 2: How do the members participate in the club?
Mr. Jones: "We have Google Meet meetings every other week. The executive board meets on the off weeks. We are planning on collecting equipment for low income schools hosting clinics for the youth programs in our area."

Question 3: Why should people be interested in the club?

Mr. Jones: "It's a new and exciting club. Many of our students have played sports throughout their lives and there aren't really any clubs focused on the student athlete. We invite all athletes to join the club whether they play a school sport or a sport outside of school."

Question 4: When does the club meet?
Mr. Jones: "Every other Wednesday. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 4."

Question 5: Who are the board members and what are their jobs?
Mr. Jones: "Co-Presidents: Alexandra Whitmore and Elisa Pappas.
Public Relations Secretary: Emma Kimmel.
Treasurer: Hunter Scott.
Recording Secretary: Mason Garvey."

Question 6: Is it too late for new members to join the club?
Mr. Jones: "No. New members are welcome!"

After the interview, I realized how impactful this club will be, not only for the kids being helped but for club participants as well. I am a member of this club, and if you have any experience with sports or have at least played a sport and what to help those in need, the Athletes Helping Athletes club is for you. To join, feel free to email Mr. Jones (cjones@pobschools.org) or any of the board members and they can direct you to the Google Classroom.

Book Fairies

By Jake Feldman
Co-Editor-in-Chief

For the first Issue of the 2020-2021 school year, the Hawkeye Newspaper club has organized a fundraiser towards promoting reading literacy. In New York State, there are over 3.4 million individuals who lack English language proficiency, and this number is only rising due to the onset of the obstacles associated with Covid-19.

With schools reopening during a difficult time, we decided to partner with Book Fairies, an organization that collects reading materials for people in need throughout metropolitan New York. These reading materials foster literacy and academic success and nurture a love for reading/writing. I am proud to report that the club will be donating \$800+ towards this worthy cause.

Battle for the Presidency

By Jesse Ray Sheps
Managing Editor

By the time you read this article, the United States will have already elected its President for the next four years. Presuming there are no ongoing legal challenges when this newspaper hits the halls of POB JFK High School, our bitterly divided nation will have voiced its decision in one of the most contentious Presidential races of all time. This election has been considered so important that over 80 percent of senior citizens, polled in a recent YouGov survey, have said the 2020 election has the “highest significance” of any election in their lifetime. The battle during the unusual year of 2020 leaves the American people with a decision between the incumbent Republican President Donald J. Trump and his Democratic opponent, former Vice President Joseph Biden.

At the time of the writing of this article, the election is still up for grabs, although Joe Biden is leading most polls, and millions of votes have already been cast by mail. With only days left before the 2020 Presidential Election, there are many issues facing the American people, but the primary focus remains on who can best manage the COVID-19 pandemic and the particular temperament of both candidates.

Only one debate between the two candidates has taken place so far. The President’s contraction of COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the second debate, and the third is still being scheduled at this time. The first debate was a true battle with great attention paid to the constant bickering and interruptions between the two candidates. Vice President Biden survived questions revolving around his physical and mental stamina and whether he would be able to go the distance with the President who has a tough debate style. The President himself received some strong negative reviews stemming from his overly combative nature and his unwillingness to talk directly on the major issues. There was no certain knock out blow by either candidate.

Polls seem to show that President Trump is trailing in two crucial voting blocs—the elderly and suburban women. The elderly vote was crucial to his 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton. Polls also show that suburban women are abandoning Trump in larger numbers due to his often controversial and divisive personality, as well as his perceived relaxed attitude towards COVID-19, which has many elders quite upset. The President’s recent contraction of COVID-19 himself, after his many non-masked public appearances, combined with the death of over 220,000 Americans due to the virus, has created a huge challenge for the incumbent. The President appears at times overly focused on only reaching out to his already supportive base, rather than trying to bridge the gap to win over the important “undecided” voters who appear to have more concerns about his

personality than his policies.

Joe Biden has his own mounting challenges. Trump has branded the former Vice President as “Sleepy Joe,” trying to tap into fears of his diminishing mental capacity due to his advanced age. The Vice President’s many gaffes and blunders on the campaign trail, including recently announcing to a large crowd that he was running for Senate rather than President, certainly did not help his defense to these attacks. Mr. Biden has also had some missteps trying to walk the delicate balance of satisfying the vocal liberal base in his party, who are seeking more social justice and environmental advancements, while also trying to rest the fears of the more moderate electorate who are concerned about the country shifting too left. Recent attacks involving the Vice President’s son, Hunter Biden, have also made the path to victory a bit cloudier.

Many nationally respected experts have provided their own forecasts for this election, and the majority seem to suggest we will have a new President in office on January 20, 2021. However, this time around, there is no accurate study guide or predictor for making the right call. With a deadly pandemic, economic turmoil, and ongoing social unrest, this 2020 race could fall in either of the candidates’ favor.

As always, I have more faith in the predictions of our own POBJFK students to make the proper call for this November election. We have asked students to provide their prediction as to who will win this election without providing any personal opinion as to whom they want to win. Tenth grader Jordan Goldklang says that Donald Trump will become our next President. He believes that “Trump will win as he already has four years of experience in office, while Joe Biden has never held the presidential position.”

Tenth grader Sarah Plutzer has also predicted that Donald Trump will be the victor of this tight Presidential election. She stated that “Trump will win cause he’s a bully,” highlighting his aggressive tactics as a reason for his potential victory. Another tenth grader, Abby Ostrager, agrees that Trump will win. She says that “he has many supporters, and there are a lot of people in between who would rather play it safe and vote for Trump because they are not sure about Biden.” Of course, other students may have varying opinions.

As you sit back reading this column right now, you probably have the answer to the questions we are all asking here. No matter who wins, we trust that the American democracy will survive this bitter 2020 campaign season and that the United States will continue to provide great opportunities and prosperity for all of her citizens.



Source: WWAY TV

Changes in the Supreme Court

By Fiona Wu
News Editor

With the recent death of beloved Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a spot has become available on the Supreme Court. To fill this position, President Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett, an appeals court judge and mother of seven. By the time this article is out, the nomination will either have been confirmed or rejected. For now, let’s take a deeper look into the controversy surrounding her nomination.

Barrett is a devout Catholic, though she insists her faith doesn’t interfere with her work. She graduated first in her class at the University of Notre Dame. Barrett has a record of favoring conservative policies, so her nomination has caused a lot of commotion among liberals. If Barrett is confirmed, conservatives will be the majority of the Supreme Court, 6-3. This shift of power will have great implications for a variety of issues regarding the 2020 election, such as affirmative action, labor regulations, personal privacy rights, etc. During confirmation hearings, Barrett refused to speak on many of the controversial topics the Supreme Court could face, such as the Affordable Care Act, Roe v. Wade, and the

legalization of same-sex marriage. Though she didn’t speak on these topics, she has shown signs of opposition to these in the past, which has led many to believe that her appointment may cause a devastating blow to human rights in America.



Source: Vanity Fair

The Senate recently advanced Amy Coney Barrett’s Supreme Court nomination in a procedural vote, leaving only a final confirmation vote to take place Monday evening, a week before Election Day (November 3). In the procedural vote, two Republican senators sided with the Democrats and voted in opposition of Barrett’s nomination. Some senators believe that the nomination should be postponed until after the presidential election

but there’s no forecast of a postponement as of right now. If Barrett is confirmed, her extremely conservative ideologies may prove to change the course of American politics and future laws.

A Conflict in the Caucasus

By Joshua Feller
Staff Reporter

On September 27th, 2020, at 8:03 am, Azerbaijani armed forces launched an artillery and aerial strike on the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The region has been a major issue of conflict since the Armenian-Azerbaijan War of 1988-1994. The Nagorno-Karabakh region was given to Azerbaijan during the breakup of the Soviet Union, but the region was mainly inhabited by Armenians. The war of 1988-1994 led to the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh by Armenian Militian Men, and constant fighting has occurred since the ceasefire. This constant fighting eventually broke into an undeclared war, which has been escalating over the last couple of years due to an increase in military capabilities for Azerbaijan.

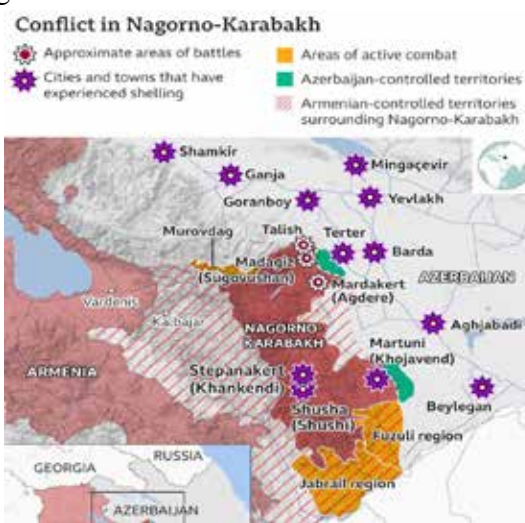
The Azerbaijani forces began to move into the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and on September 28th, Armenia began to mobilize forces and launch artillery attacks against Azerbaijani positions. The fighting continued with mixing intensity through October 10th as casualties began to increase along with the destruction of nearby villages. On October 10th, Moscow released a public statement calling for a ceasefire between the two nations, which was ultimately agreed upon. This ceasefire was also supported by the United States and the EU.

Unfortunately, the ceasefire was broken by October 13th with the resumed shelling of several villages. On October 17th, a new ceasefire was agreed upon near midnight, but this ceasefire was broken by the next morning with both sides claiming the other had

launched an offensive. The fighting increased as planes were shot down, and tanks moved in.

As of right now, the Azerbaijan military has been able to advance heavily into the Nagorno-Karabakh region as the Armenian military slowly retreated from the region, losing several important towns. The reason for this success can be laid at the hands of Turkey, which is providing hundreds of military advisors, mercenaries, and other forms of equipment in support. Some suggest the reason for the huge Turkish support results from hate stemming from the Armenian Genocide, which took place during WW1, and ongoing conflicts with Turkey who refuse to acknowledge responsibility for 1.5 million deaths, instead of blaming internal conflicts and famine. Meanwhile, Iran has begun to mobilize its own troops on the border near Nagorno-Karabakh, stating that if the crossfire continues to affect them, Iran will join into this war. While the fighting continues, a video has been released that led to a probe by the United Nations for potential war crimes. If these allegations prove

true, this conflict may turn even nastier, as the United Nations may have to get involved. Russia also technically has a defensive pact with Armenia, and while so far they have claimed the conditions on the ground have not been met to warrant its involvement, Russia may soon have to get directly involved in the war, further destabilizing the region.



Source: BBC

Virtual Education: A Technological Feat Or a Student's Worst Nightmare?

By Amanda Kang
Managing Editor

By now, we have all had a chance to experience the joy of online learning. Some of you probably read that sentence sarcastically, but for others it really resonated. This goes to show that there are two distinct ends of the spectrum when it comes to opinions on virtual learning. The opinion that you possess may well depend on the kind of learner that you are.

You will probably notice that those who loathe the days when they have to log onto Google Meet for class are the ones that long to be back in a real classroom. They miss the close communication and social interaction that they used to enjoy. These people are considered interpersonal learners. On the other hand, some students are perfectly fine with reading notes, watching videos, and doing practice problems on their own. In fact, they may even prefer this method to live instruction. These students would be considered intrapersonal learners, students who prefer a more independent form of learning.

This is not anything new. I have just provided vocabulary words for education concepts that you were probably already aware of. However, it is most interesting that no matter how different these types of learners may seem, research indicates that both groups can

both reap immense benefits from virtual learning. A study published in the Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences found that learning style had no significant impact on students' engagement or their ease of learning. Furthermore, recall and retention rates were found to be higher for those students learning in a virtual environment.

On top of being a necessity, virtual learning has increased flexibility and accessibility in education. While our current situation may make it

seem as if intrapersonal learners are at an advantage, virtual learning truly has the potential to benefit both types of learners.



Source: ViewSonic

Coronavirus and Its Impact On Businesses

By: Michael Khalfin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Last spring, we all felt the effects of the coronavirus disease outbreak. Sitting at home during quarantine was not easy. Personally, I found that life became monotonous and lonely. FaceTiming friends was always an option, but it was not the same as seeing them in person. Since there was so little to look forward to on a daily basis, it felt like the hours were dragging by. That being said, my experience was not nearly as bad as other peoples' experiences with isolation. By June, a survey released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that out of 5470 U.S. adult participants, one-third reported symptoms of anxiety or depression. Also, according to the American Medical Association, more than 40 states reported increases in opioid-related deaths since the pandemic struck.

What exacerbates the issue of mental health is the toll that the coronavirus has had on the local economy. Business closures – especially mom-and-pop shops – have been on the rise since the coronavirus hit. The New York State Restaurant Association recently polled 1042 eateries, and 64 percent said that they were likely to close by year's end. Only a few months before the coronavirus, I made an acquaintance with the owner of a local burger joint called Dirtyburger. He was generous enough to contribute an advertisement and article for our paper. The restaurant was always packed and seemed to be favored by many locals, but because of the coronavirus, it had to shut down. Restaurant closures leave families without income. This is just one of the tragedies of the coronavirus pandemic. With no end in sight, more and more people may develop mental and psychological issues.

Another impact of business closures across New York is that there won't be enough money to fund crucial social programs. The impact on our schools, daycares, and elderly facilities is still under deliberation but will definitely be devastating for years to come. Already, there is a projected drop off in revenues of 14 billion dollars.

New York is known for its cultural life. However, theaters and old tourist attractions are essentially at a standstill until sometime in 2021. Furthermore, museums are only open at 25% capacity. At this point, the hospitality industry in New York is barely surviving. With the coronavirus surging once again, the futures of our local businesses remain at risk. Hopefully, as we find a way to fight and conquer this pandemic, we will return back to normal and save as many jobs and lives as possible.



Source: AARP

Masks

By: Arielle Greenberg
Staff Reporter



Source: Loma Linda University Health

As of March 2020, the entire world seemed to have turned upside down in terms of social interaction, education, and individuals' general well being. The novel coronavirus quickly became a pressing threat to the United States, and the country was almost immediately ordered to go on lockdown. Consequently, restaurants, stores, schools, houses of worship, and many other public works were forced to shut down. On top of the mass closures, masks suddenly became a necessity for those wishing to enter places such as pharmacies or grocery stores. Now that many schools in the United States, including

POBJFKHS, have reopened for the 2020-2021 school year, it is now more important than ever to wear a mask at all times.

What is the Function of a Mask?

The masks that POBJFKHS students wear to school every day are a security precaution for everyone in the school. These face coverings trap and prohibit infectious respiratory droplets from traveling into the air. However, it is also important to know what kind of mask you are wearing to school and what additional precautions you may have to take to stay safe. If you use a cloth mask, it is crucial that you exercise more caution around people not wearing masks. This is because cloth masks are less effective in terms of keeping the germs out. The same goes for paper masks, although they are slightly more efficient in keeping out virus particles. The most effective mask is the N95, which filters out 95% of germs. Unfortunately, these are harder to find, as they are currently in high demand from front-line workers.

Why Masks are so Important?

It is critical that social distance is maintained during this time in order to stop the virus. However, it is an arduous task to maintain this distance in schools due to the crowded hallways. Masks create an extra barrier between people, which is why they are efficient in preventing the spread of the virus. If someone at POBJFKHS has the coronavirus, but they, along with their peers, wear masks, the probability of the virus spreading is very low. According to research performed by the CDC, wearing a mask decreases one's chance of contracting the virus by 65%. Therefore, you should always be careful of your surroundings at school and wear a mask whenever you can!

Reopening of Schools Amidst a Global Pandemic

By Elif Koch, Christine Song, and Isabella Chen
Layout Editors and Opinion Editor

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic swept through the world in an alarming manner. Since the Spring of 2020, most of the world's schools have shut down to prevent the spread of the virus. However, in recent months, millions of students have begun to return to school. How are different countries around the world handling this mass reopening, and what guidelines have some put into place to ensure the safety of both school faculty and the students?

Europe

Due to the resurgence of the coronavirus cases, Europe has been struggling to contain the infections. Nations are taking more action to prevent the cases from rising while students simultaneously return to school.

Italy's students are expected to be seated 1m (one meter) apart, so the size of classes has significantly shrunk. CNN reports most Italian schools still use benches "to save space in their cramped classroom[s]." Some school districts were prepared to saw tables apart just in case newly ordered individual desks did not arrive on time. To make up for this lack of space, lessons are held outside the building or in large areas, such as theatres or museums. Teachers and students are also required to wear masks, with teachers being expected to have additional face shields on at all times. Highschoolers are given the option to attend school virtually.

Even with the risk of higher rates of infections, Madrid's regional leader stressed the importance of returning to school. Students in Spain are expected to maintain a distance of at least 1.5m (around 5 feet). These criteria differ for younger children, who will be divided into "bubbles" of 15-20 students without being required to socially distance.

France was already reopening schools in May (for those who wished to return) but abruptly closed them after a string of school-related COVID 19 infections. Districts opened again in late June after the French President declared attendance at schools compulsory. Masks have been made mandatory for those who cannot socially distance in both France and Spain.

Interestingly enough, Sweden never closed their schools. Face masks are not mandatory, and there is no option for remote learning. Unlike other countries, even if a family member tests positive for COVID-19, the student must return to school. Unfortunately, the government has also neglected tracking the infections among students.

Asia

As the continent in which the virus originated from, Asia has been suffering under the hands of the COVID-19 pandemic as well.

South Korea attempted to reopen schools in May, but they quickly closed down due to a spike in cases. By the time June 2020 arrived, schools gradually started reopening up once more. For South Korea, Taiwan and China, the sizes of classes are reduced, and masks are strictly required. Plastic barriers have been put into place on desks and are used as a method of separating children during lunchtime. Similar to our school, their system revolves around a hybrid schedule: with in-person and online classes.

The Indian government has made no formal announcements regarding the reopening of schools until quite recently. Schools have been closed since March and students have been participating in online learning. Much of India has been plagued with infections, and therefore many states, such as Uttar Pradesh, Pujab, and Uttarakhand, have set a later date for the resumption of live school.

Iran has reopened schools after seven months, but returning in-person is optional. Prior to this decision, education and exams were given virtually. Its Ministry of Education separated the appropriate measures taken into three situations. Based on the severity of the situation, procedures will be put into place to control and reduce the interactions between students. Constant disinfections of facilities and virtual opportunities are also being implemented as school policy.

Africa

COVID-19 has spared the majority of Africa in terms of the death toll. Scientists believe this is due to the fact that Africa has the world's youngest population. The climate of Africa is also less favorable for the spreading of the virus. In Cameroon, a country between Western and Central Africa, schools have begun to reopen after seven months of

closure. Typical preventative measures include face masks, limiting the number of students in each classroom, and daily temperature checks.

South Africa has the highest number of recorded cases and deaths in Africa, which poses a problem with the reopening of its schools. UNICEF has pushed for schools to reopen in Eastern and Southern Africa, but attempts have been unsuccessful. Schools in Southern Africa have been opened and closed multiple times since June due to different outbreaks. In September, schools in some countries reopened again, despite concerns spreading as the number of cases in South Africa continued to rise. Countries with greater populations, such as Kenya, have opened their schools as recently as in the middle of October.

Oceania

The reopening of schools was a heated debate between Australia's federal government and its state leaders. Federal government leaders aim for the reopening of schools while state leaders claim that at-home instruction is safer. Research conducted by the Lancet Child and Adolescent Health Organization found that the COVID-19 transmission rates across schools in Australia have been low. However, precautions are still in place, and in-person schooling will begin sometime this month. If a COVID-19 case is identified, the school is closed for investigation, and the DHHS will decide whether the school is safe to reopen.

New Zealand has successfully handed coronavirus cases with just below 2,000 total cases and only 25 deaths. Despite this success, some people are still not comfortable with going to school. Like our school, New Zealand has offered a "transition arrangement" where students take remote classes. There is a four level alert guidance that schools must follow to ensure the safety of all students and staff members. These alerts increase in severity starting from Level 1, where schools are fully opened with very few health guidelines, to Level 4, which requires a lockdown and closing of schools.

South America

All in all, South America's schools have been more hesitant to reopen due to the high number of cases. In Colombia, schools have closed indefinitely after an initial hybrid plan failed. Economic situations and structural deficiencies have made it harder for Venezuelan schools to promote proper sanitation measures. To make up for the prolonged closure, classes in Venezuela have been broadcasted via radio/television, and educational material has been posted online.

Eight out of 27 of Brazil's states have set a date for the reopening of schools, with three announcing they will stay closed and the others remaining unsure as to their final plan. Brazil's largest city, Sao Paulo, has begun large-scale testing to determine whether schools can reopen in November. Schools in Argentina have reopened after eight months of closure. The usual health precautions are taken, and some classes have been held outside. In countries with more rural areas, like Uruguay, schools focused on returning students to the classroom due to insufficient access to remote learning resources. They were able to return by late April. Uruguay has also dealt with COVID-19 impressively, effectively stopping the spread of the virus.

North America

Most schools in North America have reopened but operating under the typical health guidelines. In most states, rules for reopening are decided by the district. Iowa, Arkansas, Texas, and Florida have been ordered to fully open by their state's government. States including Hawaii, California, and North Carolina have been ordered to operate in a hybrid or fully-online model.

The reopenings of schools in Canada are operating under less restrictive health guidelines. Masks are still required in most schools, but some provinces, like Newfoundland and Labrador, do not require students to wear masks at all. Schools are more lenient about social distancing and almost all students are returning to full-time in person classes.

Puerto Rico has required the continuation of online learning and schools are fully closed until further notice. Mexico's government has not allowed the reopening of schools. Remote learning was also not an option, due to the fact that almost half of Mexico's population does not have access to the internet. Their solution was to broadcast lessons over the television 24/7, divided by different grade levels at different hours.

Thanksgiving: Coronavirus Edition

By Jessica Levy
Arts & Entertainment Editor

With the holiday season right around the corner and Coronavirus still a threat, families all over New York are trying to find alternative ways to celebrate without putting anyone at risk. Previously, friends and families have been able to meet outside for special events, but given that Thanksgiving, the first holiday of the season, is in late November, it will most likely be too cold to sit outside. Plus, I don't know about you, but I like my turkey hot.

Even though the Coronavirus is an ongoing threat, some families may actually feel that it is the best option to celebrate inside. However, there are some precautions that they should consider taking in order to maintain safe pandemic practices. You should consider inviting fewer people to celebrate with you this year. A smaller number of people inside will make it easier to practice social distancing and will make it less likely that anyone at the event will spread the virus. Now I know, I know, you are going to miss Great Uncle Tom and fifth cousin Sue (twice removed), but that's the price you have to pay for some warm stuffing in a COVID-ridden world. While I understand that wearing a mask during a Thanksgiving get together is not ideal, it could be

one of the most effective safety precautions available. Obviously you have to take your mask off during the actual meal, but while you are chit-chatting with your family about school and avoiding the topic of politics, you could leave your mask on.

All jokes aside, eating inside with your loved ones may not be an option if someone is immunocompromised. In this case, the easiest option may be to celebrate with only the members of your household. But there are still many options to brighten everyone's spirits. You could have a family Zoom call, where you are secretly texting your favorite cousin. Or you could deliver yummy foods to your friend's doorstep. There are many options to show the people you care for that you appreciate them.

Personally, Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because you get to show and tell everyone why you are grateful. This holiday is going to look different from the past, but as long as Thanksgiving holds a special place in our hearts, the celebration will be spectacular no matter what.

Life on College Campus Fall 2020

By Alison Chertoff
News Editor



Source: NY Times

As colleges around the country opened for fall 2020, they were faced with unprecedented challenges. Inviting students and faculty back to safe campuses was a huge undertaking. Colleges have suffered financially as they prepared their campuses to meet CDC guidelines. In New York, Governor Cuomo made the decision to close colleges and universities in March. Students living on campus were sent home, and all learning was done virtually. The anticipation of what college would be like in the fall was on the minds of many students, especially Freshmen.

Throughout the summer, colleges prepared classrooms with new ventilation systems, cleaned and sanitized along with installing plexiglass shields. New restrictions had to be put in place. This included a smaller class size as well as limiting the size of social gatherings, seating in dining halls, and access to the student resident halls. Many students have the majority of class instruction done remotely. Social distancing of six feet is a must. Face coverings also have to be worn anytime you are outside of your dorm room.

Governor Cuomo created guidelines for New York colleges to determine if remaining open is safe. The current criteria for SUNY schools are based on 100 students that tested positive in a two-week span or ten percent of the student population living on campus. Each school has a "dashboard" that is updated daily with information on testing and positivity rates. Students and parents can access this dashboard.

In an effort to control a spike in cases, many colleges choose to go on a "two weeks pause." This means that all classes are virtual, dining halls only offer take out, and social activities are canceled. Many of the SUNY colleges have implemented this pause with success. Oswego, Cortland, and Binghamton have all been on pause at some point. In addition, random testing is being done for students living on campus. If a student tests positive, they are required to isolate in a separate dorm. Students that came in contact with the person that tested positive are asked to quarantine for the required 14 days. They can remain on campus to do so or return home. I had the opportunity to speak with Emily Wolfe, a sophomore at Cortland. She expressed her frustration that the students who don't follow the rules make it difficult for everyone. In terms of academics, "every class is online, and some classes are very hard to complete online. For example, my science lab is supposed to be in person, and now we are using websites to get information instead of doing the hands-on activities."

Here on Long Island, three colleges have been free from outbreaks. They attribute the low positivity rate to "online coursework, limited in-person meetings, intense cleaning regiments, dividers made of acrylic sheets, and rules which restrict how many students can gather socially," according to Adelphi president Christine Riordan. As students struggle to adjust to this "new normal," they are still faced with the stress of academic success. Holidays and many breaks were taken away this fall semester so that students can return home before Thanksgiving break. It seems that looking forward to a much needed "snow day" will be part of the new age of remote learning.

Bigger Than Basketball

By Jake Feldman
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It was an NBA final that everyone expected: Antetokounmpo vs. Leonard. That is Kostas Antetokounmpo of the Los Angeles Lakers vs. Meyers Leonard of the Miami Heat. That's right, the Lakers and the Miami Heat battled their way to the NBA finals, both defeating tough teams along the journey. The Heat upset the 1st-seeded Milwaukee Bucks, and the Lakers defeated the seemingly unstoppable Denver Nuggets, who beat the 2nd-seeded Los Angeles Clippers in the round prior. Multiple POBJFK students, including myself, were surprised at the actual finals matchup.

However, LeBron James strove to become a four-time NBA champion as his Los Angeles Lakers squared off against his former squad, the Miami Heat, led by all-stars Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo. All-stars LeBron James and Anthony Davis powered their team to the best record in the Western Conference and led them to an NBA championship after six games against the Miami Heat.

The Miami Heat was still a forceful team in the NBA playoffs, entering the finals series with a 12-3 record. The Heat was the fifth seed in the Eastern Conference, which would have been the lowest seed ever to win the NBA Finals.

An intriguing element of this matchup was the vastly different composition of these two teams. The Lakers were stacked with star power with two max contract players controlling the majority of their scoring. In contrast, the Heat had just one max contract player, Jimmy Butler, but a far more balanced squad overall. They had several versatile players who could lead their team in any given game.

In a surreal and abnormal 2019-20 NBA season that tragically included the horrific and sudden death of Lakers superstar and fan-favorite Kobe Bryant, an NBA championship means much more than just a trophy to the Lakers organization and fanbase. Lakers all-star power forward Anthony Davis states after their NBA title win, "it sucks that we didn't go undefeated [in the Mamba jerseys], but I know he would rather take this championship than a loss in a Mamba jersey. We miss him, and this is definitely for him." He adds that "I know [Kobe's] looking down on us super proud."

Furthermore, that LeBron James was able to raise the Larry O'Brien trophy at all is a testament to how the NBA rebounded in the months following the shutdown resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak. The NBA crafted a plan for a Disney-hosted "bubble" in Orlando and worked out an arrangement with the players to restart play with 22 of the league's playoff contenders. The NBA Bubble proceeded to host 172 games over two-plus months without a single player, league official, or team staffer testing positive for the deadly Coronavirus.

The NBA scrambled to formulate their health protocols during the unprecedented pandemic, creating a daily testing schedule at the cost of more than \$100 per test for those who lived on campus. In the presence of others, anyone not playing, coaching, or officiating games had to wear masks, especially because support staff left the bubble after their shifts.

Restarting a season is all the more remarkable considering that it came about during a generational social justice upheaval that profoundly affected the players of the NBA and threatened to torpedo the season at several junctures. Following the tragic killing of George Floyd by police officers in late May and the surge in demonstrations calling for justice, the league's stars were uncertain if they should resume the season. They feared distracting from the national conversation about racial equality. However, the players also recognized the tremendous platform they would have by returning. "We understood the economic ramifications and the financials of not returning," says Andre Iguodala, the Miami Heat forward and first vice president of the players' union. "But the political landscape of the country and what was happening with race relations made it bigger than money. And I think that's what made it special for a lot of us to say, 'Let's do it for a bigger reason than just us going out and getting a check.'"

Therefore, they negotiated to have approved messages—like "Vote" and "Say Their Names"—associated with the Black Lives Matter movement printed on the backs of their jerseys. In addition, the players protested the national anthem, kneeling in solidarity against racial inequality plaguing America. The NBA stars played for something bigger than basketball.

With the end of the NBA bubble, there's plenty of work ahead for the players, the owners, and league officials as they plan for the 2020-2021 season. Basketball brings to life fantastic energy from both the players and fans. Hopefully, we can all resume enjoying this great sport live and in person soon.



SCREEN TIME: To bring fans into the mix virtually, the league installed giant video displays in the arenas. Among the fans "attending" Game 1 of the finals were TV anchor Robin Roberts, retired NBA star Shaquille O'Neal, and former President Barack Obama.

DAVID DOW—NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

An Interview with Brendan Burke

By Seth Schlank
Sports Editor

The fascinating thing about life is that everyone has shared experiences that nearly everyone can relate to, and then there are others who have had certain other experiences that many simply dream about. I have grown up on Long Island as a fan of the Yankees, Jets, Islanders, and, recently, the Knicks. The closest I have ever been to stepping on a professional sports field was the May 2017 Yankees game I attended with my cousin, aunt, and father. Our family sat in the front row, and although the Yankees ultimately ended up losing the game by a final score of 4-1, I still had a phenomenal experience receiving two baseballs that had been used during the game. I was blown away by the massive size of the players that stepped on deck in the batter's circle about 20 feet in front of me, and the amount of power these players were able to use to their advantage in order to hit a baseball 400 feet from home plate. However, while many fans, young and old alike, are blown away every time they step through the front gates of the stadium, for Burke, it was just another day at work with his father.

Burke grew up in a household where attending sports events was quite normal. For the Burkes, not doing so was more out of the ordinary. Burke spent a lot of time at sporting events as a result of his father's occupation as a sportswriter for *The Record* and *The Ledger*, covering both the Yankees and Mets. Burke attended countless games, spoke with hundreds of professional athletes before he graduated high school, and was able to have the entire 1994 Yankees sign his cast after an injury. To boot, Burke recalls attending an All-Star Game with his father, announcing the game into a tape recorder. All of these experiences were nothing out of the ordinary for Burke, yet these all are things the rest of us could only dream about.

The majority of Burke's childhood was spent in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. Burke attended high school in nearby Paramus Catholic High School, where he played hockey. After graduating, Burke attended Ithaca College and played on the club hockey team there. Burke was fortunate enough to attend a smaller college, which provided him with many opportunities to announce collegiate sporting events. Burke even recorded a tape for his prospective employers while attending a Cornell Women's Hockey game. Being selected as the youngest broadcaster to announce an ECHL All-Star Game was exciting for Burke. He felt comfortable from day one and did not believe that his age would be a factor when it came to his job. From 2008-2013, Burke broadcasted games for the Peoria Rivermen of the American Hockey League. While he was the lead broadcaster for the Rivermen, Burke was able to add to his resumé and fill in for the Rivermen's National Hockey League affiliate, the St. Louis Blues, as their broadcaster for select games. While Burke wishes that an unfortunate event was not the reason for his call-up, he credits this as a time in which he was able to gain a lot of play-by-play experience and create a reputation for himself in the NHL sphere. Following his tenure with the Rivermen, Burke made the move with the Rivermen to Utica and became the play-by-play man for the Comets, as well as the head of the public relations department, succeeding

in both roles. Since 2013, Burke has called outdoor high school hockey for Fox Sports North in Minnesota and has called both college hockey and college football, too. To boot, Burke has begun calling both Premier Lacrosse League games and nationally televised NHL games for NBC Sports Network.

In August of 2016, Burke was named the New York Islanders' lead broadcaster, adding to the very short list of Islanders play-by-play people, and has held the role ever since. The list also includes Jiggs McDonald and Howie Rose. During his tenure as the Islanders broadcaster, Burke has been on air during many fantastic and memorable games. However, Burke does not have one particular game that sticks out most to him since they all feel like another day at the office. Burke's phrases may not be as memorable as his colleague Butch Goring's, which includes "shopping in the toy department," or Mike "Doc" Emerick, who notably had more than 100 words just to describe a pass. However, during the NHL's playoffs recently held amid the pandemic, Burke's quote "Game one to the Island", initially used to describe the Islanders' win over the Florida Panthers in the "Play-In Round," resonated with many Islanders' fans, creating a great sense of unity for all of them. While Burke does not know what the future holds, he certainly enjoys spending time with his two children, his daughter Quinn, his son Liam, and his soon arriving third child with his wife, Mary.



Source: msgnetworks.com

Art/Entertainment

Hubie Halloween (2020)

By Samantha Graf
Staff Reporter

Cast: Adam Sandler, Noah Schnapp, Paris Berelc, and Julie Bowen
Director: Steven Brill

Synopsis: Adam Sandler stars in this new Netflix original movie as Hubie Dubois, a Halloween fan who monitors his hometown of Salem, Massachusetts, to make sure everyone is safely trick-or-treating. Most people in Salem look down on Hubie; however, it is all up to him when a kidnapper comes to town on Halloween night.

Review: This film can be described as a funny, goofy, Adam Sandler horror movie. Adam Sandler's movies are often enjoyed because the plot usually shows that anyone can succeed no matter the disadvantages. This film portrays the same message. I asked twenty people to rate the movie one to ten, one being the worst ten being the best. The average of the twenty people was a seven. I would rate Hubie Halloween a five out of ten; the storyline was okay, the acting fair, the special effects were pretty good along with the soundtrack. At least I laughed a few times. Most enjoyed the movie because of its humor and silliness, but not everyone was a big fan. Even with my relatively low rating, I would recommend you to watch this movie because it was cute for a not-so-scary Halloween movie.



Source: slashfilm.com

Kiss the Ground: A New Hope for Our Climate

By Jesse Ray Sheps
Managing Editor

Kiss the Ground is a new, optimistic climate documentary narrated by Woody Harrelson that is sure to open your eyes to the environment. It provides thought-provoking information on creating an Earth with a sustainable future. The film has an important message and is incredibly insightful. It provides watchers with a view of the dangerous path our Earth is currently on while painting a possibility for a bright alternative future. It is said that this can be done through the change of world farming methods to a process known as “regenerative agriculture.” This form of farming seeks to reverse the damage done to our fragile Earth’s climate by balancing the failing climate, purifying our water sources, and creating ways to better feed the world’s growing population. By pulling down high levels of atmospheric carbon (literally) to breathe new life into our soil, the filmmakers explain that we have the immediate power to replenish the earth for a better tomorrow.

The film starts by painting a dire and immediate picture, creating doubts about our future. Woody Harrelson warns us about the historic overuse of pesticides that have destroyed critically important microbes that rejuvenate the planet’s soil, damaging the planet’s delicate ecosystem. Despite that bleak warning, the tone of the film is largely inspirational and focuses on already existing solutions, showing viewers that we not only have the power to stop climate change, but we can take steps today to actually reverse its damaging effects with already known methods. The film’s Directors expertly use helpful graphics and other stunning visuals to prove how the reduction of atmospheric carbons is a workable solution and is already an available cure to the world’s devastating current climate crisis.

The documentary does a fantastic job of keeping the message not only inspiring but also entertaining by using the star power of Woody Harrelson, Gisele Bündchen, Tom Brady, David Arquette, and Ian Somerhalder to question current damaging environmental policies. These celebrities are used to tell environmental farmer’s success stories

to paint the bright future our world could have if we adopt already available regenerative practices in our farming by harnessing the healing power of soil to capture carbon in the atmosphere.

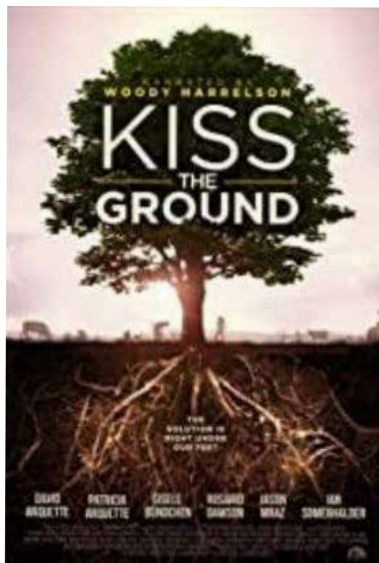
Viewers will learn how current farming practices have led to earth damage through the use of tilling and pesticides. The film questions the ethics of this practice and shows you real examples of how the healing countermeasure of regenerative farming has already restored existing deserts into lush green fields.

As individuals, we learn that we too have the power to heal the earth by eating a more plant-based diet, starting to compost, and

growing our own gardens. The film also does a fantastic job of explaining how government subsidies in farming are literally destroying our farms, soil, and earth. When asked if he would switch to a more plant-based diet, 10th grader Josh Leffel from P.O.B.J.F.K. high school said that “although I understand a plant-based diet is best for me, it isn’t in my best interest.” Josh also said, “I don’t know much about climate change.” This goes to show that an educational movie like this one is necessary, in order to increase our knowledge on such topics.

Rehabilitating the planet while inspiring a new sense of hope in our young generation is the message of this movie, and it wisely avoids getting overly political. The film reminds us that we can control the future health of our planet if we demand policies of change so we can avoid a future of a dried-up dusty desert and instead live together in a future world that better resembles the Garden of Eden.

The film is entertaining, inspirational, thought-provoking, and one that I strongly recommend for everyone, including those who previously have not spent much time thinking about the environmental challenges facing our earth. The film was an official selection of the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. With its star-studded lineup and incredibly important message, it is a movie that you need to stream as soon as possible- and think about including your parents as well, so they also get to hear the urgent message being told.



Source: IMDB

Celebrity Birthdays November to December

By Ellisa Lee
Treasurer

November:

David Schwimmer: November 2
Kendall Jenner: November 3
Kris Jenner: November 5
Emma Stone: November 6
Lorde: November 7
Leonardo DiCaprio: November 11
Ryan Gosling: November 12
Whoopi Goldberg: November 13
RuPaul: November 17
Tyga: November 19
Scarlett Johansson: November 22
Miley Cyrus: November 23
Bill Nye: November 27
Chrissy Teigen: November 30

December:

Janella Monae: December 1
Britney Spears: December 2
Jay-Z: December 4
Walt Disney: December 5
Nicki Minaj: December 8
Ian Somerhalder: December 8
Raven Symone: December 10
Mo’Nique: December 11
Frank Sinatra: December 12
Taylor Swift: December 13
Vanessa Hudgens: December 14
Billie Eilish: December 18
Samuel L. Jackson: December 21
Louis Tomlinson: December 24
John Legend: December 28
LeBron James: December 30



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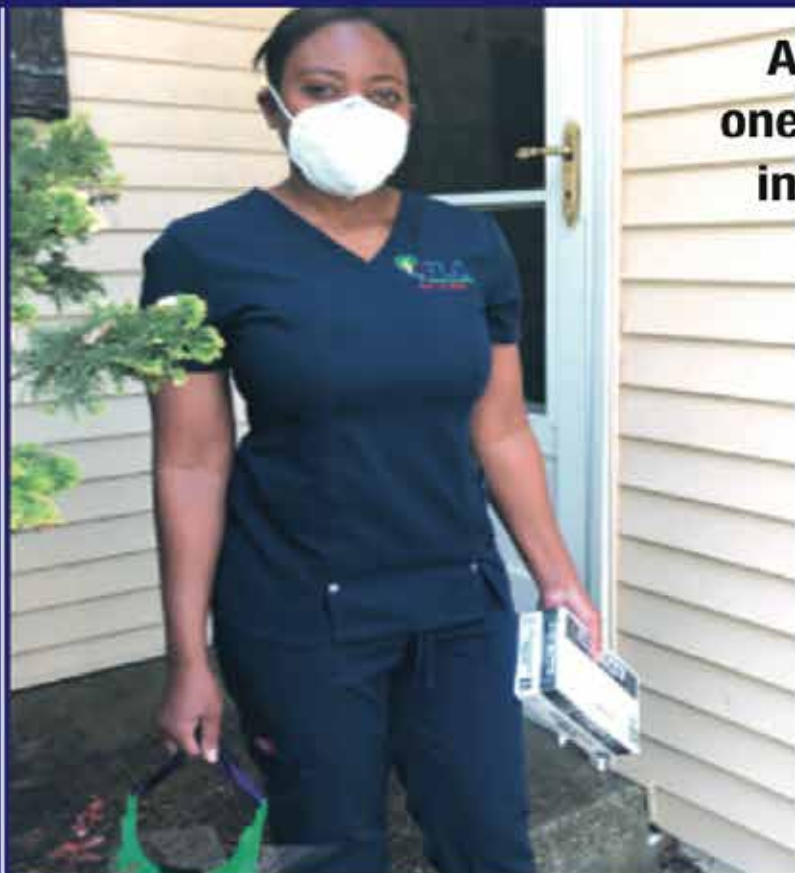
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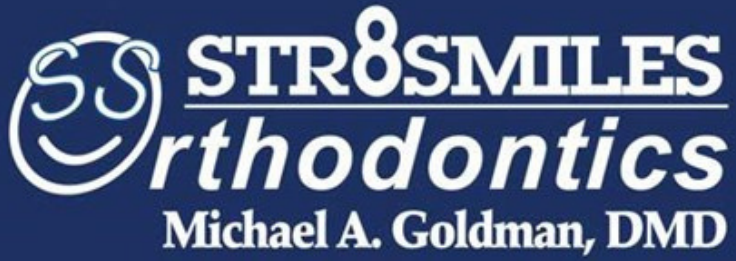
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
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