



## Welcome POBJFK's New Assistant Principal: Dr. Stergiopoulos

By Jake Feldman  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I enjoyed speaking with Dr. Matina Stergiopoulos, the newly appointed Assistant Principal of the ninth grade. Through our discussion, I learned about the riveting path that led her to undertake this position. Dr. Stergiopoulos began her educational career 16 years ago as an English Literature and Language Arts teacher in the Bronx, where she also served as the Yearbook and Newspaper advisor. A few years later, Dr. Stergiopoulos moved to Greece, where she worked at a private school, the American Community School of Athens; she served as the Discipline Coordinator and an English teacher. At this student-centered international school, Dr. Stergiopoulos taught American educational values to students, including children of American military personnel stationed in Greece, and cultivated the responsibilities inherent to an Assistant Principal position. Dr. Stergiopoulos moved back to New York and began working as an English teacher at the NYC Department of Education while attending the Educational Leadership program at Stony Brook University. While working in the NYCDOE, she was promoted to the Assistant Principal role and served for five years in this position. In January of 2020, Dr. Stergiopoulos received her Doctorate of Education from Johns Hopkins University.

When asked what sparked her passion for education, Dr. Stergiopoulos explained that English Professor Stuart Sherman, from the Fordham University at Lincoln Center, inspired her to become an English teacher. Dr. Stergiopoulos shares, "He made English literature come to life; I felt like I was traveling the world while just

reading the words on a page." This experience led her to pursue a Master's degree in education at George Washington University.

In her personal life, Dr. Stergiopoulos is a mother of two boys and married to her husband since 2004. Additionally, Dr. Stergiopoulos loves traveling, especially to European spots, such as London, Paris, Rome, Milan, and Madrid. She is also trilingual, speaking fluently in Greek, Spanish, and English. Dr. Stergiopoulos is 100% Spartan; in other words, she has a warrior heritage. Dr. Stergiopoulos comments that "Like a warrior, I fight for student equity."

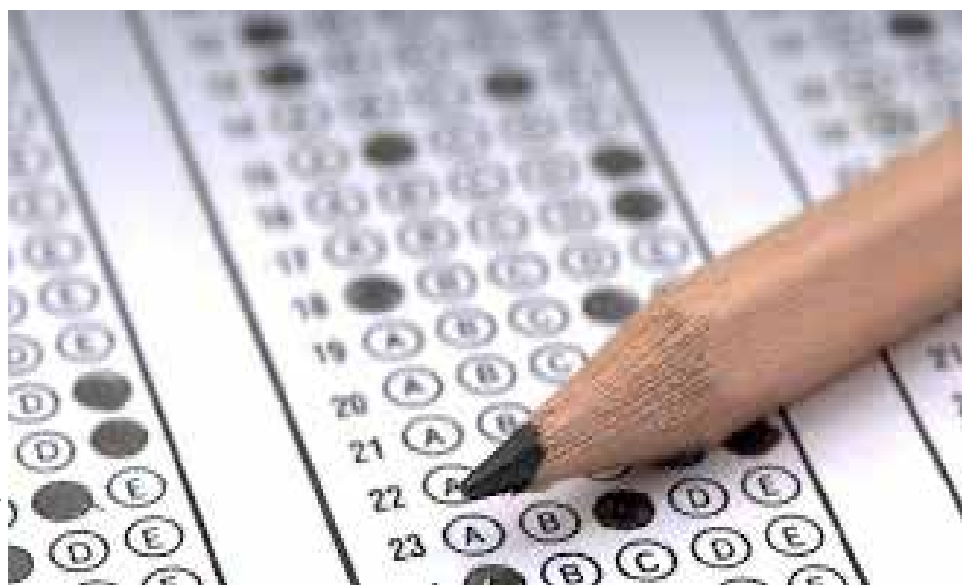
Dr. Stergiopoulos has enjoyed her time at POBJFK thus far. She loves how "the staff and community come together to put the children first" and appreciates "the cohesive team," as well as experiencing the school's tight-knit culture firsthand, which provides her with a new sense of inspiration. Moreover, Dr. Stergiopoulos savors the collaborative nature of supporting a child's future endeavors, whether it emanates through the superintendent or school aid.

Dr. Stergiopoulos ended by explaining that she hopes students "always feel comfortable to speak with me. I am a warm and welcoming person. Please don't be intimidated by my height and the fact that I am an AP. I absolutely love what I do. I was put on this earth to do this job. Please feel comfortable to welcome me into your world." I am excited to welcome the newly appointed Assistant Principal, Dr. Stergiopoulos, to POBJFK, where I know she will enjoy a long and illustrious career.

## No Midterms for the 2020-2021 School

By Justine Choi  
Staff Reporter

When students at POBJFK think of the month of January, there is usually one thing that instantly comes to mind: midterms. Usually, these cumulative assessments of the material learned during the first two quarters count for 5% of overall class grades and are a significant stress source for students. Studying for midterms for multiple subjects ranging from math to foreign languages can be time-consuming and tiring. But this school year, students can breathe a sigh of relief when they learn that POBJFK will not be administering midterms. This good news comes in the middle of an already stressful time, when the coronavirus pandemic has forced students and staff to adjust to the difficulties associated with hybrid or remote learning. These unprecedented circumstances have made school much harder in general and balancing homework, tests, and



Source: [topuniversities.com](https://www.topuniversities.com)

extracurriculars in a different environment can be a challenge. No midterm examinations this year means one less thing that students will have to worry about on top of everything else that is going on. Ashlyn Woo, a Junior, expressed relief toward the lack of midterms: "Although I won't get to make those small memories with my friends in between exams, I'm glad that I don't have to cram so much information at once." Most students at POBJFK, whether they are Freshmen or Seniors, would likely agree with her. It is important to note, however, that although midterms are canceled, some teachers will still be giving period-long cumulative assessments that will count as normal tests. There is also no word yet on the status of finals and Regents examinations scheduled to take place later this year.

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# WELCOME!

The Hawk Eye is  
always accepting new  
members and entries!

Please listen to the  
announcements for the  
time and locations of  
our weekly meetings!  
Thank you for reading!



### THE \*HAWK EYE

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### THE \*HAWK EYE

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# National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Scholars

By Tarunika Sasikumar  
Secretary

This past fall, 19 students were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. There were 14 Commended Scholars and 5 Semifinalists, each exhibiting an outstanding performance on the Preliminary Student Aptitude Test (PSAT). “These students have admirably displayed their scholastic talents through their National Merit Scholarship accomplishments. We applaud their use of skills learned in our classrooms to help procure their spots among the best of the best,” says Dr. Mary O’Meara.

To be considered a Commended Student in the competition, a student must have taken the October 2019 PSAT, which includes a reading, writing, and math component similar to the SAT, and score in the top 3-4 percent of test-takers nationwide. That student must also have a high Selection Index Score based on their state that ranks them among the top 50,000 test-taking students across the country. This year, approximately 34,000 students received this honor. Commended Scholar Hephzibah Yoo was pleasantly surprised that she received recognition for her score and remarked, “Being a commended student will definitely open up opportunities for me in the future.” She added that she could place her title onto any resumes for college, work, or internship opportunities. Congratulations to our Commended Students: Ronald Cheng, John DiPierri, Justin Feiner, Jake Feldman,

Aaron Gardos, Ziv Granov, Samantha Hesekiel, Joseph Kim, Rachel Koppelman, Aashi Mehta, Daniel Reilly, Ethan Straus, Benjamin Yacht, and Hephzibah Yoo!

To be named a National Merit Semifinalist, one must place in the highest rank of test-takers, in this case, the elite one percent, and must cross the Selection Index threshold for their state. Unlike the Commended Scholars, these students must subsequently move on to compete for one of 7,600 National Merit Scholarships that provide \$2,500 for the student’s freshman year in college. Semifinalist Ian Irushalmi says, “I was super excited to find out that I was a semifinalist and am grateful for the opportunity to compete for such a prestigious scholarship.” In addition to having a high PSAT score, these students must also submit the National Merit Scholarship Application, which includes writing an essay, showing proof of high academic excellence throughout high school, and a recommendation for the school principal’s scholarship. Semifinalist Ishaan Jhawar remarks, “Finding out I was given this title was an exhilarating experience for me and showed that my hard work during SAT preparation paid off.”

Nevertheless, he ensures his peers that, “While being named a semifinalist is nice to put on future applications, finding opportunities in the future isn’t determinant on titles, but more on your overall communication skills and experiences.” This year there were roughly 16,000 students who were named Semifinalists. Congratulations to our Semifinalists: Elijah Blum, Ian Irushalmi, Ishaan Jhawar, Brian Lee, and Dylan Rubin!



Source: POB Schools

## Virtual Fall Play

By Annie Heischober  
Staff Reporter

In the theater world, the show must always go on! With many obstacles in their way, the POBJFK Drama Cadets put together an outstanding virtual performance of the play, *Metamorphoses*, originally by Mary Zimmerman. The students and directors worked together to ensure that the drama program remains successful and uses the magic of theater to fill the hearts of those who always enjoy our annual fall production.

Since in-person rehearsals were not possible due to the pandemic, the cast used Zoom as a platform to rehearse. After the school day, the dedicated actors of this production logged onto Zoom, ran through their lines, and wrote down director’s notes in their scripts. Breakout rooms through Zoom were conducive to rehearse the separate scenes that students had. Senior student directors Christian La-

mantia and Rebecca Prisant worked alongside Ms. Muller, the director, to bring the story of *Metamorphoses* to life. The cast continued to execute their dramatic performances differently. One of the Thespian Honor Society’s Presidents, Kayla Kirchenberg (senior), shared her thoughts on the virtual play this year. She says, “Although doing the show virtually wasn’t ideal and wasn’t what the cast had in mind, everyone adapted to the virtual platform very well. It took some getting used to working over Zoom with the virtual

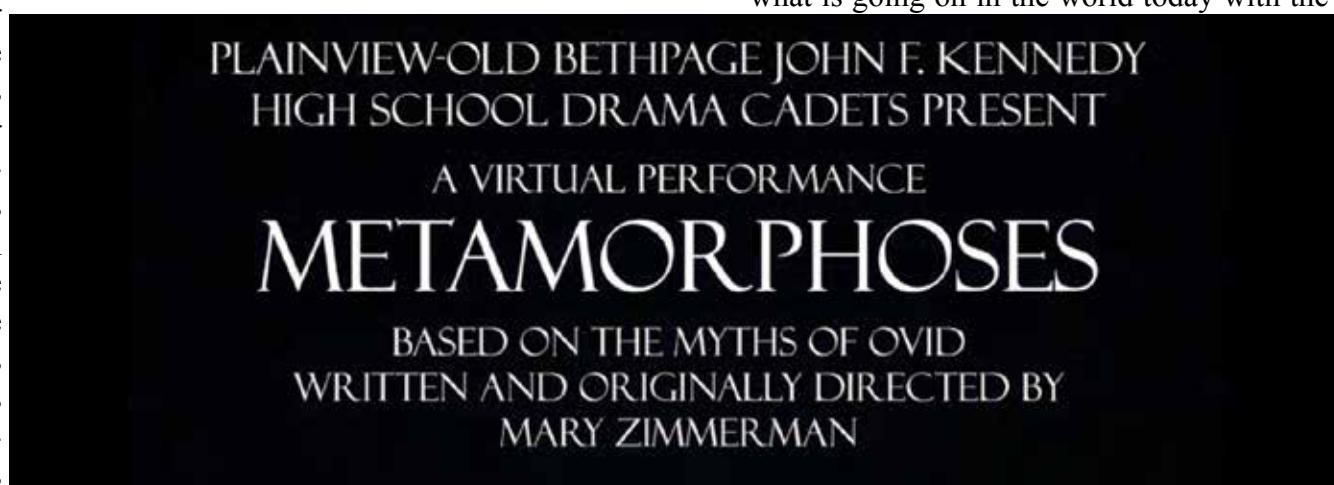
backgrounds and breakout rooms, but the cast was so dedicated and motivated to make the play the best that it could be. The rehearsal process was very different but just as special and rewarding. This makes me even more excited about the spring musical!” *Metamorphoses’* actors were not on their traditional stage but still dressed in costume and used video technology to create backgrounds that enhanced their final product. As well as technological developments, the students went above and beyond with visual and emotional interpretation to keep the audience intrigued.

The play’s stories, “*Metamorphoses*,” deal with the themes of tragedy, love, and change. These subject matters deal greatly with what is going on in the world today with the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, “*Metamorphoses*” is defined as a change of physical form, structure, or substance, especially by supernatural means, humans’ metamorphosis into animals. Our lives at this moment can be considered a “*Meta-*

*morphoses*,” as we have all endured a huge change to our daily routines. As a community, we have had to transform our day-to-day lives to think differently to keep ourselves and others around us safe. COVID’s enormous impact on our lives is reflected in the students’ performance because it was a virtual performance for the first time.

Stay tuned for the Drama Cadets’ spring musical!!



Source: POB Schools

# CHAPS

By Ava Matlin  
Staff Reporter

Chemistry Honors Advanced Placement, also known as CHAPS, is a pilot program in which students are taught Chemistry Honors and AP Chemistry in one year. The class is two periods per day and is not considered an elective. To be a part of the program, you have to be selected to take this course and be enrolled in LEAPES (Living Environment Advanced Placement Environmental Science) in the prior school year. Mr. Adelberg teaches this class, and there are currently 20 students enrolled. A current student taking the course

this year reported that the class is quite difficult. She stated that the given information is fair, but the tests usually are very hard. The difference between a Regents/Honors Chemistry class and CHAPS is that Regents and Honors Chemistry is taught just their Chemistry course. In CHAPS, you learn AP in addition to the regular course. So far, CHAPS has been a successful program and will hopefully continue and grow over the next few years.

## New Year's Ball Drop

By Ellisa Lee  
Treasurer

The year 2020 was a bundle of chaotic and unexpected events, and everyone was eagerly awaiting a fresh start for the year 2021. Unfortunately, for the first time in history, the New Year's Eve Ball Drop, an iconic event located on the roof of Times Square, was not open to the public this year. Due to the coronavirus, everyone had to keep in mind that the continuation of wearing their masks and following social protocols was for the benefit of everyone's safety. However, this event was live-streamed on multiple websites, including TimesSquareNYC.org, NewYearsEve.NYC, Livestream.com/2021, and TimesSquareBall.net. I hope you kept your party hats nearby as you began the countdown! Ten..nine..eight..seven..six..five..four..three..two.....one- Happy New Year everyone!



Source: US News

## COVID-19 Medical Update

By Jesse Ray Sheps  
Managing Editor

The year 2020 saw the explosion of the Covid-19 pandemic. To date, nearly 20 million Americans have battled the virus, and the tragic death count is closing in on almost 350,000. Life this year has been altered significantly for most Americans on many different levels. As we start a new year, however, there is growing hope that there is an end in sight for this deadly pandemic.

With record levels of infections and deaths, the United States government has rolled out two different vaccines to protect individuals from the Covid-19 virus. Vaccine supplies are being shipped expeditiously from pharmaceutical company warehouses to thousands of medical distribution centers around the country. Distribution is not without some degree of uncertainty, as many trucks have to be accompanied by security details to avoid black market theft. Likewise, the vaccine must be stored in locked, ultra-freezing refrigerators so that the medicine remains stable. Twenty million frontline health care workers who are at the largest risk of coronavirus infection will receive the first injections. There are over 330 million Americans, and each person needs to receive two doses for the treatment to be effective. This creates a substantial demand for the number of injections and an added complexity in the swift distribution of the vaccine to the average American.

Pfizer created the first vaccine approved by the FDA. Fortunately, to help with the tremendous demand, the FDA has now authorized a second Covid-19 vaccine for use, this one manufactured by Moderna. The two-prong vaccine attack that permits millions of more Americans to become immunized at a faster rate. Both

companies expect to manufacture over one billion doses worldwide in 2021. The timing needed to create a vaccine to battle this deadly virus was much quicker than many experts would have ever imagined.

Initial vaccinations are already underway, although it could realistically take until deep into the summer of 2021 until all Americans receive the vaccine. Adding to the complication of full protection for the country is a segment of the population vocally refusing to take the vaccine, citing unscientifically supported concerns

as to the vaccine's long-term safety. However, the vaccine is considered safe for the general population and will keep individuals from getting seriously ill if exposed to Covid-19. Eventually, the vaccine will be made available at doctors' offices and pharmacies, just like the Flu vaccine.

The good news of the distribution of the vaccine could not come at a better time. Thousands of Americans are dying each day due to Covid-19 complications. In many respects, the immunization process is truly a battle against time to minimize the daily number of growing deaths.

Likewise, the vaccine comes just when the United Kingdom is now reporting a new strain of the virus that spreads more quickly than the original. As a result, there are numerous lockdowns in the U.K. and other countries closing their borders to avoid the spread of this variant, which reportedly spreads 70% faster. In the end, we are all left praying that the vaccines can be distributed at a rapid pace so that we can save lives and hopefully resume a normal life by the time school starts back up in the fall of 2021.



Source: The Guardian

# Public Bathrooms During a Pandemic: Are They Safe to Use?

By Connie Choi  
Staff Reporter

To some, the thought of using public bathrooms can be quite unappealing by itself, but with a deadly virus added to it, the terror magnifies. Using the same toilets and touching the same surfaces as strangers in a poorly ventilated and humid environment isn't exactly what most would consider hygienic. When hygiene is such an important factor in our lives, some start to worry about the potential risks of using public bathrooms during the time of a pandemic. Some studies show that these concerns may be necessary.

Flushing the toilet is a significant contributing factor to the spread of germs and bacteria. A 2006 study with the title, "The Potential Spread of Infection Caused by Aerosol Contamination of Surfaces After Flushing a Domestic Toilet," concluded that "some enteric viruses could persist in the air after toilet flushing, and infection may be acquired after inhalation and swallowing." In simpler terms, this means that some intestinal viruses can linger in the air and possibly infect someone by breathing in the aerosols.



Source: New York Times

The study also stated that "closing the toilet lid had little effect in reducing the number of bacteria released into the air." Additionally, according to a different study published in June 2020, toilet plumes, or aerosol particles from the toilet bowl, can rise up to three feet in the air and contaminate nearby surfaces. If germs and bacteria can spread from the toilet, can the novel coronavirus do the same?

The CDC explains, "Infections occur mainly through exposure to respiratory droplets when a person is in close contact with someone who has COVID-19." In other words, the virus is mainly spread through the droplets of saliva and mucus produced by coughing, sneezing, talking, or even singing. However, recent studies have discovered that the virus can be found in the feces of the infected. The 2020 study titled "SARS-CoV-2 Productively Infects Human Gut Enterocytes" concluded that "the virus has been detected in anal swabs, and cells in the inner-gut lining express the receptor that SARS-CoV-2 uses to gain entry to cells." After a person infected with the virus uses the bathroom, the virus in their fecal matter can spread through the toilet plumes, making it possible to contract the virus from the public restroom.

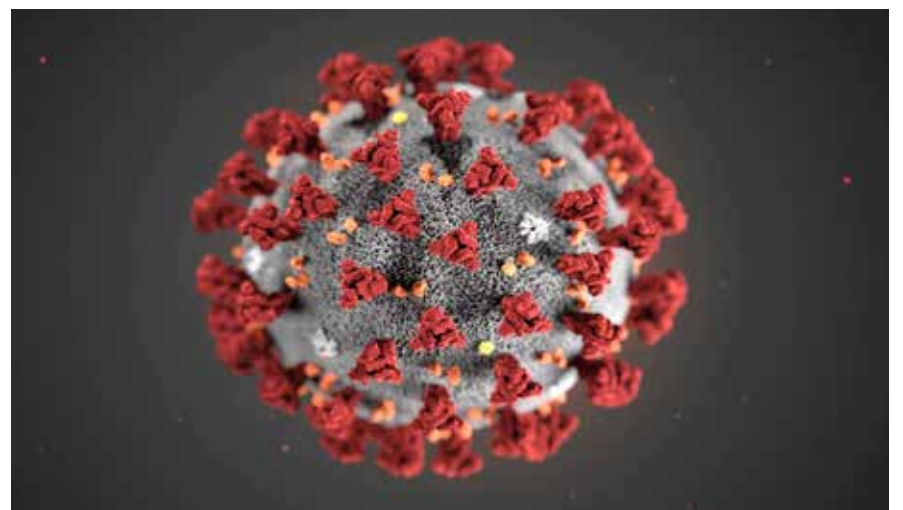
This leads us to the question: Are public bathrooms safe to use? Despite the virus being regularly found in the feces of the infected, the CDC reports it is "unclear whether the virus found in feces may be capable of causing COVID-19." Some research even claimed that "shed virus is rapidly inactivated during transit through the colon, strongly suppressing the potential for further spread of the infection through a fecal-oral route." Many related studies also state that the virus is less infectious after it passes through the intestines. The real threat of



Source: Cape Cod Health

contracting the virus comes when interacting with an infected person, unmasked, and within six feet, where coughing or sneezing is present. In summary, it is far less likely that one would be infected through breathing in the bathroom than through respiratory droplets coughed or sneezed by a person with the virus. Nevertheless, there's still a risk.

So, how do we avoid the small yet existing risk of contracting the virus in public bathrooms? The Washington Post says, "The director of infection prevention at UNC Medical Center, told The Post that regardless of how the virus may be transmitted — either through aerosolization or via surface contamination — preventive measures remain the same: Wear a mask and practice good hand hygiene." Avoiding the virus requires the same preventative measures as what we usually follow in the time of a pandemic. Therefore, the same guidelines apply. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines say we should wash our hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. There are various hand sanitizing locations in POBJFKHS which students can use. The CDC also recommends



Source: Washington Post

limiting the number of people who occupy the restroom at a time to allow for social distancing, another regulation being followed by the school. The virus has yet to die down, so we must continue to practice social distancing and wear our masks, not only for our own safety but for the well-being of everyone around us.

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# A Vaccinated Future

By Alison Chertoff  
News Editor

Beginning in early March 2020, social distancing and mask-wearing became the new normal. Millions of lives have been changed forever due to the global pandemic. Medical professionals have been rapidly looking to discover the light at the end of the tunnel, the COVID-19 vaccine.

After less than a year of research, the vaccine is approved for the public. Vaccines typically take between 10 and 15 years to develop; however, due to the exigent circumstance, the research and development time was cut to nine months. Researchers worldwide collaborated their data to create the most beneficial vaccine in record time. Their data, collected through genome sequencing and several clinical trials, included thousands of randomized individuals. They researched people who were infected with the virus to see if they still had antibodies, as well as others who had not contracted the virus to observe the body's reaction when it came into contact with COVID-19.

On December 1, 2020, the FDA announced the first recipients of the vaccine would be health care workers and residents at long-term care facilities. On December 14, 2020, the COVID-19 vaccine was administered to one of its first recipients. The recipient was an intensive care nurse given her first dose of the vaccine at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens. After this significant milestone, many people have been left wondering when they will receive the life-changing vaccine. Healthcare workers have been putting their lives on the line, working tirelessly to save others' lives, which is why they were chosen to be the first to receive the vaccine. Providing

the 21 million US healthcare workers with the vaccine ensures that frontline workers remain safe during their efforts to help their patients battle the virus.

I had the privilege of speaking to a COVID 19 vaccine recipient, Myat Lee. She is an operating nurse at North Shore Manhasset Hospital. Ms. Lee told me that "at first, I was skeptical about getting the vaccine. After speaking to many physicians, I realized how beneficial it could be and how much safer people will feel once they receive it. The side effects people are worried about pale compared to the detrimental effects of COVID-19." After getting her first dose of the vaccine, Ms. Lee did not report feeling any side effects. She said that she now "knows she made the right decision." Although the vaccine has many positives attributed to it, some people are still skeptical. The rush in vaccine production has led some people to believe that it may not be entirely safe. The long term effects of the vaccine are still unknown. In addition, since the vaccine is still so new, many people do not want to be the first to receive it. The COVID-19 vaccine's approval has provided people with hope that the global pandemic will soon come to an end. Although we are still unsure of the effects of the vaccine, many Americans expect a rapid change in their daily lives, knowing that the vaccine could be the solution we have been searching for. People are continuing to hold high hopes for a safer and mask free 2021.

## The Holidays

By Victoria Lee  
Staff Reporter

Seasons greetings! We are now entering the year 2021 and saying goodbye to 2020. The holiday season is ending but let's take a minute to appreciate some of the good things from the year 2020. The first of these good things was that there were fewer animals in shelters according to Shelter Animals Count; there were less shelter intake and an increase in adoptions. Another positive was that the World Health Organization announced Africa was finally free of the wild poliovirus.

Additionally, carbon emissions dropped by about 2.4 billion tons this year, a 7% drop from 2019. According to new research from the University of East Anglia, the University of Exeter, and the Global Carbon Project, this is the largest decline on record. Lastly, according

to the Washington Post, 2020 had the highest voter participation in the past 120 years.

As for Christmas, there were plenty of Covid-19 safe events that made the holidays special. There was the beautiful Magic Light Show at Jones Beach that ran from November 12th to January 10th. Other fun activities many participated in was watching Christmas movies and baking with their family. Some of the things one could have baked include cookies, cakes, gingerbread houses, and pies. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and made safe memories with your family and friends. Good luck and wishes for the New Year!



Source: iStock



Source: News Spectrum

# The Highlights (and Lowlights) of 2020

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

While many of us were excited to welcome 2020, the new year had many surprises (both good and bad) awaiting us. The year 2020 passed in the blink of an eye, so let's rewind and go through the events that unfolded this year.

## January

3rd: Fear of World War III

Trump authorizes the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani, the second most powerful man in Iran. After the successful U.S. drone airstrike, many U.S. citizens fear his death will trigger another world war.

15th: Donald Trump's Impeachment Trial

After being accused of abusing his Presidential power, Trump is impeached by the House of Representatives (Democratic majority). The month-long impeachment trial conducted by the Senate begins.

20th: First Case of the Novel Coronavirus in the U.S

A patient in the state of Washington is diagnosed with COVID-19 after returning from China.

26th: Kobe Bryant's Death

The legendary basketball player, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and seven other passengers lose their lives in a helicopter crash.

26th: Billie Eilish Becomes the Youngest to Win All Top Four Grammy Awards

30th: Coronavirus is Declared a Public Health Emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO)

## February

5th: President Trump is Acquitted

9th: Parasite Becomes the First Non-English Film to Win Best Picture at the Academy Awards

23rd: Ahmaud Arbery is Shot and Killed

Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old unarmed black man, is shot while jogging in Glynn County, Georgia, by three armed white residents. Travis McMichael, one of the shooters, is not arrested until 74 days after the event, which has also been one of the foci of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.

## March

2nd: Australia's Black Summer Finally Ends

New South Wales reports the absence of fire for the first time in 240 days, marking the end of one of the most devastating fire seasons in Australia.

11th: WHO Declares the COVID Outbreak a Pandemic

13th: The Death of Breonna Taylor

Breonna Taylor, a black woman, is shot six times in her apartment when officers Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove of Louisville Metro Police Department (LMG) make a forced entry.

12th: Plainview-Old Bethpage School District Shuts Down

16th: Schools Close Down in New York

There are 950 total cases in the U.S and seven deaths in New York. In addition to schools, many businesses also close down.

24th: The Tokyo Olympics Get Postponed to 2021

27th: Trump passes CARES Act

Stimulus checks pay up to \$1,200 to each American tax-paying adult (under a certain income). This provides economic relief for many families.

## April

1st: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle Officially Resign from the Royal Family

Rumors About Kim Jong-Un's Health Spread

In mid to late April, social media and journalists spread the rumor that North Korea's dictator is in critical condition.

The U.S Hits One Million COVID-19 Cases

## May

3rd: The Panic Over Murder Hornets

25th: George Floyd's Death

George Floyd, a black man, is killed by a cop after having his neck pinned to the ground by Officer Derek Chauvin's knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds. His death instigates the BLM movements across America. Past events of police brutality and racially-motivated crimes are uprooted and brought into the public light as many seek justice.

## June

15th: Supreme Court Rules that Workers Cannot Be Fired for Being LGBTQ+

15th: Tensions Between India and China in the Himalayas

## July

3rd: 2020 Kyushu Floods

8th: Naya Rivera Passes from Accidental Drowning

## August

4th: Tropical Storm Isaias Hits Long Island

This storm results in blocked roads, a temporary shutdown of the Long Island Railroad, and the loss of power for hundreds of thousands of homes.

4th: A Devastating Explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, Kills More Than 200 People

28th: Black Panther's Star, Chadwick Boseman, Passes from Colon Cancer

28th: Japan's Former Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, Resigns

## September

18th: Supreme Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Passes from Pancreatic Cancer

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, dies at the age of 87 after battling pancreatic cancer for over a year.

7th: A Gender Reveal Party Causes One of the Western Wildfires

The El Dorado Fire sparks in California as a result of pyrotechnic devices, spreading across 10,574 acres.

19th: TikTok Averts a Ban in the U.S

27th: Trump is Accused of Paying \$750 in Taxes

New York Times reporters find tax return data and state that in 2016, Trump only paid \$750 in income taxes. They also uncover that he paid no income taxes in the previous ten years.

28th: The Coronavirus Claims 1 Million Deaths Worldwide

## October

2nd: President Trump and First Lady Melania

Trump Test Positive for COVID-19

Both are immediately put into quarantine but do not stay in isolation for the full 14 days.

27th: Judge Amy Coney Barrett is Sworn into the U.S. Supreme Court

Despite the controversy, the Senate votes 52-48 in favor of confirming Barrett. This skews the political party distribution by forming a Republican majority.

6th: Eddie Van Halen Passes

## November

3rd: The Presidential Election of 2020

The nation votes, subsequently leading to President-Elect Joe Biden's victory. Kamala Harris will make history by becoming the first Black and South Asian female vice president.

A record voter turnout is also achieved in this election.

8th: Jeopardy Host, Alex Trebek, Passes Away From Pancreatic Cancer

## December

2nd: COVID-19 Vaccines are Released

The much-anticipated vaccine is released by Pfizer for those over 16 years of age. It is intended to be given to essential workers first, like doctors and nurses, but politicians also receive the vaccine.

27th: Trump Signs the COVID-19 Relief Bill (\$600 per person)

29th: Croatia is Hit By a 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake

29th: New COVID-19 Strain Found in Colorado

A more infectious COVID-19 strain had appeared in the U.K a few weeks before the case in Colorado.

2020 every second



Source: Pinterest

# U.S China Trade News

By Mark Altstaedter  
Staff Reporter

The United States and China have been engaged in trade disputes for the last few years. Reducing the trade deficit with China and the United States has been a top priority of the past couple of administrations. Many tariffs have been placed on Chinese goods to counter what some consider unfair trade relationships. To combat this, China began devaluing its currency with its financial institution, the PBOC (People's Bank of China). It is worth stating that even though the current administration labeled China a currency manipulator, there are other standards that should be consulted. By means of the Trade Enforcement Act passed in 2015, a country must have "a bilateral surplus with the United States, an overall current account surplus, and one-sided intervention in the foreign-exchange market to suppress the value of its currency" according to Brad Setser at the Council on Foreign Relations. The second act considered when labeling a country a currency manipulator is the Omnibus Foreign Trade and Competitiveness act of 1988.

According to this act, the criteria define a currency manipulator as a country that alters its money's value to gain an unfair advantage in international trade. Two factors determine the Yuan's value. The rate at which it is exchanged and the daily reference set by the central bank. The PBOC set their daily reference for what the yuan should be worth far lower than expected. Subsequently, the value dropped to a decade low. A devalued yuan is beneficial to the Chinese government because it makes their exports cheaper to other countries. This makes their goods more desirable for those consumers. However, this action is not without its setbacks. Domestically, this makes imports more expensive, forcing people to rely on internal manufacturers. Without the threat of losing market share to foreign companies, Chinese corporations have no incentive to cut expenses resulting in goods costing more money for Chinese consumers. Cheaper Chinese exports make American goods less competitive. As a result, interest rates will begin to rise. This is because banks incur more risk of lending money during a recession.

This would cause the American economy to slow as fewer people have the opportunity to buy things they would have taken a loan out for. Examples of this include cars, houses, or even starting a business. The effects of this would be felt nationwide as businesses across the country struggle. If the Yuan were to continue to devalue, it could potentially put the U.S economy at significant risk.



Source: USC News

## Elon Musk: Space Exploration

By Michael Khalfin  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On January 7, Elon Musk became the world's richest person, accumulating 185 billion dollars. He took the top spot from Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who was considered to be the wealthiest person since 2017. When asked what he will do with this abundance of money, Musk said that half of his money would be intended to help problems on Earth, while the other half will establish a permanent settlement on Mars. While this was an unconventional way to donate his money, his dedication to space technology is commendable on all counts. Musk had demonstrated this commitment since 2002 when he founded Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX), an American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company.

Musk's principle goal with SpaceX has been to reduce space transportation costs to enable the colonization of Mars. In 2018, he sent a Tesla into space on top of the world's most powerful rocket (Falcon Heavy). The Tesla has remained in an Earth-Mars elliptical orbit around the Sun. Moreover, he accomplished an unprecedented feat by re-landing two rocket cores from the Falcon Heavy back on Earth. This was a significant step towards maximizing the efficiency of space travel.

This year, Musk has done the impossible once again. On June 30, 2020, SpaceX launched its first mission for the US Space Force – they put a new GPS satellite into orbit on top of a Falcon 9 launcher. The GPS satellite (GPS 3 SV03) followed the first two items' placement in the series. The GPS network was created to provide positioning and timing services worldwide for military and civilian users. It

is now being used in airliners, ATMs, drivers, and smart bombs.

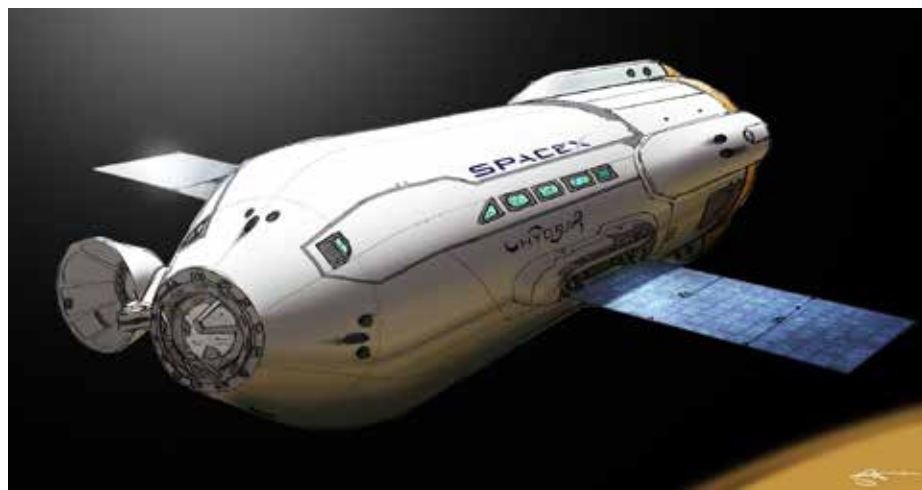
The placement of the GPS 3 into space was not SpaceX's only notable accomplishment in 2020. The Dragon 2 spacecraft is capable of carrying up to 7 passengers to and from Earth orbit and beyond. On May 31, 2020, it became the first private spacecraft to take humans

to the International Space Station. For the first time since the Space Shuttle's retirement in 2011, human orbital spaceflight capability became a reality.

These are just a few of the notable accomplishments made by SpaceX to further space travel. In the future, there are many more opportunities for space science and technology to thrive. notable accomplishment in 2020. The Dragon 2 spacecraft is capable of carrying up to 7 passengers to and from Earth

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Source: The Wall Street Journal



# Interview with Joon Lee

By Seth Schlank  
Sports Editor

The 2010s were arguably the most glorious decade in sports history if you were lucky enough to root for any Boston-based sports teams. Joon Lee happens to be one of those lucky fans growing up in Brookline, Massachusetts, during Boston sports' glory days. In the 2000s and 2010s, teams from the Boston area- the New England Patriots, Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics, and Boston Red Sox- won their league championships a combined 12 times in the span of twenty years. In 2004 and 2018, the Red Sox and Patriots both won in their respective leagues. The Patriots were champions in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2014, 2016, and again in 2018. Having not won the World Series for 86 years, the Red Sox ended their drought and won four times in the 2000s including 2004, 2007, 2013, and 2018. The Celtics won the NBA crown in 2008, while the Bruins were the NHL champion in 2011.

Joon Lee is currently the ESPN staff writer, but he received his start at the Boston Herald, a newspaper based in Boston, Massachusetts, where he had his first internship. I enjoyed meeting with Lee over Zoom to discuss his sports journalism journey back this past December. Mr. Lee explained that one of his friend's fathers happened to work at the newspaper, and after a high school baseball game, he approached his friend's father to ask if he could intern at the Boston Herald. Once he joined the Herald over the summer, Lee became engrossed in the world of Boston sports. Around the same time, Lee was writing for sports blogs across the web and making his impact in the community of sports journalism. Lee was fortunate enough to have this summer internship during his Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years in High School. During his first summer, he would take calls from not only writers but also from Boston sports fans who had called in believing they called one of the sports radio stations in the Boston area. From this experience, Lee grew as a writer and experienced what it felt like to be in a newsroom daily. Being able to open the Herald to the sports page and find his name in the byline was one of the highlights of his first summer there. After spending his first summer at the Herald's offices, Lee spent the next summer shifting over to shadow sportswriters at the ballpark on game days. He went to the Red Sox games and transcribed quotes for writers after the games in his role. However, the most exciting part of the job was walking into the clubhouse for the first time and seeing David Ortiz. At that very moment, Lee first realized he was able to make a career in sports journalism and succeed in it.

After his freshman year of college at Boston University, Lee interned for WEEI, a Boston sports radio station. Guided by some of his top mentors, Lee spent time working on press conference write-ups and

feature stories, spending time with Xander Bogaerts and Mookie Betts while they were with the Pawtucket Red Sox, the Red Sox' Triple-A team based in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. However, at the time, Mookie was not receiving much attention, unlike later in his career when he became a multi-time All-Star, the 2018 American League MVP, and multi-time World Series Champion. Lee's experience at WEEI allowed him to realize how much people can grow over the years, going from a "no-name" to someone that is continuously in the media spotlight. Shortly after his internship ended at WEEI, Lee transferred to Cornell University, where he took communication classes and studied how the media works and serves to influence people's views. At Cornell, Lee was fortunate enough to cover multiple sports seasons as the Daily Sun's sports editor. Lee was able to spend many seasons with the football, baseball, and hockey teams.

This past year, Lee, along with Clinton Yates and Gary Striewski, hosted the ESPN program "Baseball Tonight Live," intending to have as much fun as possible and bring fun to the sport of baseball. Guests included Tim Anderson and Lucas Giolito, two stars of the Chicago White Sox who truly embody the new generation of baseball. Lee mentioned that Giolito has a Twitch channel and said how Anderson is such an incredibly colorful individual both on and off the field. This past year, Lee has also been a guest commentator for the Korean Baseball Organization on ESPN, speaking to a national audience about his Korean heritage, which he described as "so surreal." He had the opportunity to speak about his favorite Korean foods and BTS, which he previously found unimaginable. Amidst all of the awful things that have happened this past year, spending time with Joon Lee was an unforgettable experience. For myself, and I believe that I speak on behalf of the entire POB Schools community, being able to see our friends, classmates, coworkers, and teachers both online and in-person has been incredibly important and a light amidst a sea of darkness.



Source: Joon Lee

# The New NHL Season

By Benjamin Kule  
Staff Reporter

While the NBA season has been underway for a few weeks, POBJFK hockey fans rejoice as the 2021 NHL season begins Wednesday, January 13th. Usually, the season starts in October, but COVID-19 delayed the season for a few months. Instead of the regular 82 game season, the late start will only allow for a 56 game season. However, that isn't the only difference about this season.

Firstly, the divisions have been realigned. To restrict international travel, the Calgary Flames, Edmonton Oilers, Montreal Canadiens, Ottawa Senators, Toronto Maple Leafs, Vancouver Canucks, and Winnipeg Jets have formed the North Division. These are the seven NHL teams that play in Canada, out of the total thirty-one. The other twenty-four teams have made three different divisions. The Boston Bruins, Buffalo Sabres, New Jersey Devils, New York Islanders, New York Rangers, Philadelphia Flyers, Pittsburgh Penguins, and Washington Capitals make up the East Division. The Carolina Hurricanes, Chicago Blackhawks, Columbus Blue Jackets, Dallas Stars, Detroit Red Wings, Florida Panthers, Nashville Predators, and defending Champions Tampa Bay Lightning make up the Central Division. And in the final division, the Anaheim Ducks, Arizona Coyotes, Colorado Avalanche, Los Angeles Kings, Minnesota Wild, San Jose Sharks, St. Louis Blues, and Vegas Golden Knights make up the West Division.

Secondly, teams are restricted to intra-division play. Although each team can host games in their respective cities, the only places they will travel to are to play other teams in their division. Usually, a team plays every other team at least twice, each team hosting at least one. The magnitude in which teams play each other increases being in the same division and/or conference. This year, though, teams only get to play six to seven different teams. But, since there are many games to play against so few teams, each pair of teams will face one another eight to ten times.

Third, the playoff picture is slightly altered. The regular sixteen teams will compete in the playoffs to win the Stanley Cup, but there are no

wild cards. Since no two divisions are linked to the same conference, the four teams in each division who finish with the most points will qualify for the playoffs. This makes it impossible for five teams in the same division to make the playoffs while using the NHL's standard wildcard rules. Also, since there are no conferences, the final four teams will be matched up based on their regular season performance, and each semi-final winner will compete for the Stanley Cup.

In POBJFK High School, most students and staff root for either the New York Islanders or the New York Rangers. The Islanders will continue to play in the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale while their new stadium in Elmont continues construction. The Rangers will continue to play in the ever-so-famous Madison Square Garden in Manhattan. Neither team will participate on the first day of the season, as the only East Division game is a Pennsylvania battle of the Flyers and Penguins.

On Thursday, January 14, however, the Rangers host the Islanders to kick off their respective seasons. Fans of both teams are already eager to see the teams back on the ice. Islander fan and 10th grader Matt Becker says, "I'm really looking forward to finally getting back to hockey and seeing more of the exciting rivalry. It's the best thing to go into school and taunt your friends that are Ranger fans." On the other side of the rivalry, 11th grader Lucas Diaz replied, "It's exciting just to watch the two teams go against each other. I'd say if [Ilya] Sorokin and [Igor] Shesterkin start, we'd see one of the most competitive games in New York sports history." Ilya Sorokin, an Islanders

goalie, and Igor Shesterkin, a Rangers goalie, are highly-anticipated rookies who previously had a rivalry with each other in Russia, bringing it to the United States. It's safe to say the two teams are at quarrel, itching to beat the other on Thursday night.



Source: NHL

## Animal Shelters vs. Pet Shops

By Nicole Graubart  
Staff Reporter

There has been a considerable controversy over the simple statement, "Adopt, Don't Shop," for several years. So, why does this phrase prompt disputes? By purchasing a furry friend, you are supporting various inhumane puppy mills. These animals live in poor conditions and receive improper medical care. Most importantly, they live in cages for the majority of their lives. Not to mention, dogs at puppy mills are at a higher risk of obtaining congenital diseases, including hearing impairment and loss of sight. You know what that means: more medical bills!

I surveyed 22 POBJFK students on whether they got their cat or dog at a breeder, shelter, or pet store. The results showed that 12 students adopted their pets from a shelter, four got their pets from a breeder, and six got their pets from a pet store. All in all, the results aren't too far apart, but let's get that pet store number down!

Numerous benefits are in store for people who adopt rather than shop. Many shelters will offer less money to adopt an animal since they may take vet expenses (spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines, microchips, fleas, etc.) into account. The best aspect of adopting is knowing that you've just saved a life. In the United States alone, over three million dogs and cats are euthanized a year. By taking home a rescue pet, an animal's life has been changed forever.

Now, many people may refute these facts and ask, "But what would happen to all of the animals at pet stores and breeders if all of the shelter animals are being adopted?" This is an entirely valid question; however, if we simply stop shopping, puppy mills will lose their revenue and be forced to shut down.

So, next time you meet a rescue parent, make sure to congratulate them! Finally, you all shouldn't forget -- don't shop, adopt!



Source: Star Tribune

Opinion

# Ways to be Healthier During Online Work and a Pandemic

By Jessica Levy  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As the global pandemic has continually progressed, there has been an increase in online learning and working. This has led to a deficit in physical activity, weakening physical and mental health. With an increased risk of catching the deadly Coronavirus, the need to keep up healthy habits is more difficult and increasingly more critical. While the task of healthy living may seem impossible in times where masks and social distancing are mandated, there are a few simple healthy habits that can ensure a well-balanced life during a pandemic more attainable.

One way of staying healthy during a time of online work is exercising. Although gyms have begun to reopen, this may not be the best exercise option for people at high risk of catching COVID-19. Not being able to use the gym might be an inconvenience; however, there are other ways to exercise. If there is a break during the day, it is easy to find an activity that involves exercise. It can be going for a run, a bike ride, or a short walk. Even if it is just five or ten minutes long, any sort of physical activity will get the blood pumping and endorphins flowing through the body. If there is no break during the school or workday, exercising before or after may be a good option. There are Youtube videos with tutorials for beginners looking to exercise or for advanced athletes. There are workouts that require no equipment and are made specifically for trying to stay fit at home.

Another component of staying healthy during online learning

is a well-balanced diet. It may be tempting to eat junk food or bake some tasty desserts during online learning or work. This is okay when done in moderation; however, they are usually not part of an everyday balanced diet. Eating three full meals a day can do wonders for health during online work. Trying to keep a similar food routine to a “regular” day will keep a person feeling full, satisfied, and have long-lasting energy.

Lastly, doing activities and finding new enjoyable hobbies will keep a positive mindset. Many activities may be out of reach during the pandemic, but there are always options for new hobbies. Picking up a new instrument, writing poetry, or even having a movie night would be successful ways of mentally coping with online working struggles. Luckily, this generation has access to advanced technology that makes it easy to communicate with friends and family through zoom, google meet, or facetime. This will make mental health easier to keep afloat through face to face communication.

There is an expectation of health struggles during this unprecedented time; however, with exercise, good eating habits, and communication, people can live a happier and healthier life during the pandemic.

## The Foils of Fast Fashion

By Amanda Kang  
Co-Managing Editor

Chances are you have seen ads pop up on your phone advertising very trendy, affordable clothing from popular websites like Uniqlo, Fashion Nova, or Wish. Maybe you have even bought a shirt from one of these sites only to find that the one you receive is itchy and ill-fitting and not at all like the pictures you saw online. So you toss it aside and check back online to find something else. Here lies the issue with “fast fashion.”

Fast fashion refers to clothing made very quickly, relative to the time the design is seen on the runway to the instant it is first released in stores. Your parents are not wrong when they say, “they don’t make ‘em like they used to,” because this clothing is not made to last. The nickname for fast fashion is “disposable fashion” since it creates a “throw-away” attitude, where consumers are quick to buy new styles only to cast them aside for even newer ones in a brief period. Moreover, this production generally occurs in developing nations, where companies can use cheap labor and maintain poor working conditions for their employees. This clothing is also made with very inexpensive synthetic materials, like polyester, nylon, or elastane. These synthetic materials are made from fossil fuels treated with toxic chemicals instead of naturally grown materials, like cotton.

The biggest issue with fast fashion is that it is unsustainable when it comes to the environment. Remember what I said about synthetic materials? Well, because of the way that synthetic fabrics are made, they are not biodegradable. This aspect is extremely problematic since about 60% of the fabrics we use today are synthetic, and approximately 85% of textile waste in the U.S. is either dumped into landfills or sent to the incinerator. The World Bank reported that at this rate, the fashion industry’s greenhouse gas emissions would surge more than 50% by 2030, and by 2050 it is anticipated the fashion industry will use up 25% of the world’s carbon budget. This would make the fashion industry one of the most polluting industries, finding itself second only to oil. It is not just the up-and-coming web-based companies that are contributing to these issues. In fact, many popular stores that you may frequent in-person are considered fast fashion, such as Zara, Urban Outfitters, and even Nike.

So what can be done? Well, I am not expecting you to boycott

all of your favorite brands after reading this article. Still, I encourage you to think about the purchases you make and try some more sustainable shopping methods, perhaps. There are plenty of ethical and sustainable brands out there, like Patagonia, Levi’s, and Athleta, which will provide high-quality clothing meant to last. There is also the option of buying secondhand clothing, which is a very affordable way to shop sustainably and still keep up with the newest trends. Websites like ThredUp and Depop are great online options, as well as local in-person thrift stores. In the end, you have nothing to lose from making informed decisions while purchasing your clothing. It could help save you money in the long run and, more importantly, protect the planet for your future.



Source:

The Prospect Journal of International Affairs

# Among Us: The Game of 2020

By Elif Koch, Isabella Chen, and Christen Song  
Layout and Opinion Editor

Though initially released on June 15, 2018, by InnerSloth, Among Us rose to popularity around September of this past year, with nearly half a billion users reported as of November 2020. This explosion of popularity, first in South Korea and then shortly after that in the United States, is credited to Twitch streamers. Streamers like Sodapoppin and Youtubers, such as Corpse Husband, Disguised Toast, Sykkuno, 5up, xQc, and Yeti, have boosted the popularity of this game, along with their channels. In PBJFKHS, out of a sample of 58 students, a whopping 87.93% have played Among Us at least once. Even politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar have played and streamed with other popular gamers to attract younger audiences to vote in the 2020 election.

Among Us is a multiplayer game that can be played privately with friends or with other online players. It shares similarities to the card game Mafia, an old favorite played by many in their childhood. Each game in Among Us is short, lasting around ten minutes, making it easily addictive without too much of a time commitment. There are 4-10 players playing simultaneously, and these players are divided into crewmates and imposters. There are typically two imposters, but the number can easily be adjusted and many other features in the game.

Imposters can win the game by “killing” all of the crewmates or successfully sabotaging the ship. Meanwhile, the other crewmates work to repair different parts of the ship by playing simple mini-games. To win the game, crewmates need to finish all of these tasks or vote out all of the imposters. Throughout the game, the crew can report “dead bodies” to start a meeting or call a limited number of

“emergency meetings” to start discussions with one another. After these discussions, a player can be voted off if they are found to be suspicious. Afterward, the players return to gameplay. This process continues until the number of crewmates equals the number of imposters, the crewmates finish all their tasks, or all of the imposters are voted out.

The game’s simple design makes it easy for people of any age and varying gaming experiences to enjoy.

Although violence and murder are depicted in this game, it is suitable for younger audiences because of the cute animation style. It is not an extremely graphic game. Tasks are also cute, taking the form of simple mini-games that are easy to understand. One of the critical aspects of this game, however, is manipulation and deceit during meetings. These meetings serve as a crucial but limited time for voting out potential imposters. Imposters can use this time for placing suspicion and blame on the innocent, drawing attention away from themselves. Crewmates have to do their best to deduce and convince others to vote out the imposter.

Furthermore, the game’s low price makes it affordable for many people. It is free and easily accessible on iOS and Android, and only \$5 on platforms like Steam. Overall the game has 437,130 positive reviews on Steam and has a 4.5/5 rating on the App Store. Since the beginning of this pandemic, many people have been left searching for a new source of entertainment with all of their extra free time. Among Us has become one of these games many were looking for, providing them with a welcome distraction, and helping them connect with others during these lonely times.



Source: Steam

## Spotify Wrapped

By Fiona Wu  
News Editor

On December 1, 2020, Spotify launched its annual Wrapped experience. Throughout the course of the year, Spotify tracks each consumer’s listening habits to personalize an end-of-year review.

In previous years, Spotify users could view their most listened to artists, songs, genres, and podcasts. This year, however, Wrapped implemented some new features such as in-app quizzes, a “Story of Your 2020” dedicated to users’ top song of the year, new Wrapped badges, personalized playlists, and customization options for social sharing. Additionally, this year’s Wrapped is displayed in a fashion similar to that of Instagram stories.

Although Spotify Wrapped can only be accessed through a mobile device, the web version will show more general listening trends, such as most-streamed artists, top three podcasts, and other popular music insights. Here are some of those insights:

Most streamed artist: Bad Bunny

Most played song: Blinding Lights by The Weeknd

Top three podcasts: Joe Rogan Experience, TED Talks Daily, and The Daily

Other insights, such as top tracks of 2020 and top artists of 2020, can be found in a public playlist, created by the Spotify company itself for the listening pleasure of Spotify users. Spotify Wrapped is just a little something to look forward to at the end of every year.



Source: Spotify

# Review of Tom Petty: Wildflowers & All the Rest

By Jesse Ray Sheps  
Managing Editor

I have a dark family secret to confess here in the confines of the POBJFK Hawkeye. My father is a fanatically obsessed fan of rock singer Tom Petty's music. My father's office is a shrine to Tom Petty, containing many more pictures and tributes of the late great singer than of me or any of my siblings. One ride in my father's car during a lift to a friend's house, and you will hear there is nothing else ever playing on his car radio other than Tom Petty. My father has named multiple business companies he works with after some of Tom Petty's songs. At this point, I am fairly convinced my father pushed my older sister towards attending the University of Florida only because the college is located in Petty's hometown of Gainesville, Florida. He wanted a reason to attend the annual Tom Petty three-day tribute concert every October. When Tom Petty died unexpectedly back in 2017, my house went through a deep and dark mourning period.

While I had no choice in my childhood but to listen to Tom Petty's music in the background, I have honestly never taken the time to sit on my own to listen, absorb, or analyze his body of work. Interestingly, I recently noticed many current popular music stars paying tribute to Petty, naming him as their largest musical influences. Some of the musicians included Post Malone, Miley Cyrus, Taylor Swift, and Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters. I thought to myself, maybe Petty's music has much broader and universal appeal, beyond my father's peculiar obsessiveness, and that I needed to explore independently.

Tom Petty's 1994 album *Wildflowers* is generally considered his greatest collective body of music. Although it was a huge musical success, Petty always felt some remorse since the record company forced him to trim down his original artistic vision of a 25 track double album to only 15 tracks. Petty always wanted to release the full version, including the ten abandoned songs. Now, three years after his death, Petty's family made this dream a reality for his fans - releasing a 60 plus track album, including original home recordings, live versions, and alternative takes of the original 25 songs. Three years after his death, the newly released "Wildflowers & All the Rest" album hit number one on the Billboard Charts.

The music on the new album is nothing less than fantastic and a must-listen. The most famous song on the album is the self-titled "Wildflowers" track. Petty wrote this huge hit in one take over four minutes. He recorded this song with his guitar with nothing written down in advance on paper. He simply turned on a tape recorder, and the lyrics and music poured out from his heart and soul. Ultimately,

not a single note or word in the album recording was changed from this mystical musical experience Petty had in the song's magical creation- and the original home recording is included on this album. Other classic songs from that album, such as "You Wreck Me Baby" and "Good to Be King," definitely survived the test of time, as did the chilling lyrics from the richly beautiful song "Crawling Back to You." One verse in, that latter song hits home deeply and is instructive for overstressed high school students. Mr. Petty croons in this song that "I'm so tired of being tired, sure as night will follow day, most things I worry about never happen anyway."

However, perhaps the most fantastic part of this newly reissued album is the stunning music that Tom Petty created but left behind never to have released before his death. Two particular gems that stand out in the album are the songs "Leave Virginia Alone" and "Something Could Happen." Both of these songs could on

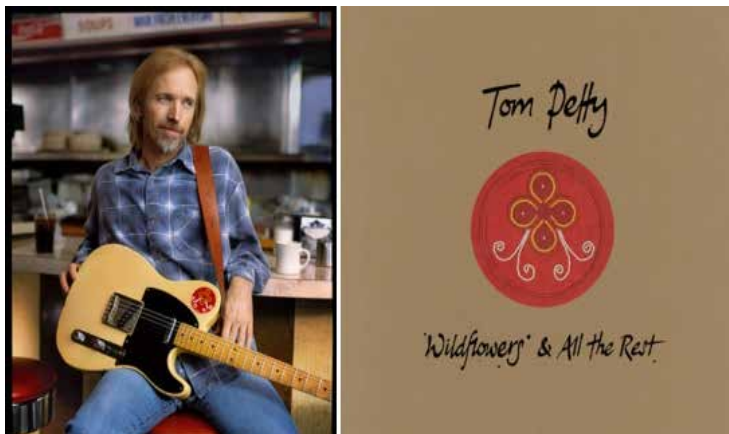
their own be the greatest hit for most musical artists, but the prolific Petty just put these songs aside for everyone savor sentimentally in the years after he was gone. Twenty-five years later, these songs are finally released, and they are inspiring, catchy, and nearly impossible to get out of your head.

*Wildflowers & All the Rest* is a fantastic work of art and an immersive lesson for anyone who wants to both "hear" and "feel" what truly inspiring songwriting and music is all about. It is no wonder that the best musicians of

our generation find Mr. Petty to be such an inspiration.

Even though writing a negative review of Tom Petty's new album would undoubtedly result in an automatic ejection from living in my house, I have to truthfully report I was really blown away by the music's melodic genius, the deep complexity of the songs, and the most beautiful poetic lyrics one can imagine - all in one single album.

Petty was a rebel, an icon, and his "new" release of the entire *Wildflowers* album showcases why he was the most incredible and iconic American composer and lyricist of his generation. This is why most of our parents probably get a little excited when they hear his song being played in the background over a family dinner at a local restaurant. I finally understand my parents as I am now a big fan too. However, I will say that I hope for your sake when a Tom Petty song is playing in a restaurant that your parents do not actually go and embarrassingly sing that Petty song like my father does at the top of his lungs with a fake deep southern accent.



Source: Mark Seliger

## Cobra Kai

By Samantha Graf  
Staff Reporter

Cobra Kai is a drama tv series that helps reconnect people with the classic movie they love. Cobra Kai is a reboot of the film that came 34 years before the show's opening, the Karate Kid. The difference between the show and the movies is that the show is from Johnny Lawrence's (William Zabzka) point of view, that of the protagonist, than from Daniel Larusso's (Ralph Maccio), the antagonist. The cast consists of Ralph Maccio returning as Daniel Larusso, William Zabzka also returning as Johnny Lawrence, Xolo Mariduena as Miguel, Martin Kove returning as Sensei Kreese, Mary Mouser as Samantha Larusso, Tanner Buchanan as Robby Keene, and Jacob Bertrand as Hawk. This show is heartfelt and exciting, making you bite your nails and sit at the edge of your seat as you wait in suspense.

Cobra Kai helps you connect with the bad guy from a different perspective as he explains his side of the story and how he saw things, proving that we shouldn't view things in a one-sided manner.

I recommend this show. The third edition of this series came out on January 1st and became #1 on the Netflix charts overnight. This show definitely helped me connect with my inner karate. This show is full of drama, excitement, and teen love triangles/squares. The excitement in this show had me pumping my fists in the air or crying hysterically. This show is now available on Netflix, just enough to binge-watch! GO STREAM NOW!



Source: Redbubble