

# The Bulldog Bark



Advisor: Mrs. Dunham

Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain *Your Middle School News Unleashed!*

Spring/ Summer 2020

## Transitioning into Online Learning

*Keeping the Doors for Learning Open Amidst a National Crisis*

By Lauren Nichols,  
Jasmine Silvestri, Haven  
Moore, and Delaney  
Szwast  
*Seventh and Eighth Grade  
Barkers*

We are living in unprecedented times. Almost overnight, all of our lives had changed drastically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students, teachers, staff members, administrators, and parents all had to adapt to a new way of envisioning school. Although challenging and seemingly difficult to muster, we all have worked together well to keep the doors of learning open. Luckily, technology and pure grit has allowed our school district, as well as others, to continue to provide an education.

In this article, we interviewed students, teachers, and parents to gain perspective of the challenges and successes of online learning. I think most of us agree that traditional schooling is preferred, but we have made great strides in tackling this pandemic. Here are the thoughts of the people of our



community.

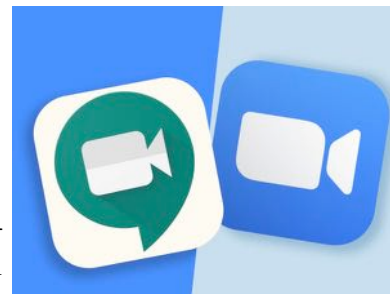
Haven Moore asked these two questions, “What do you think will happen in the future of schooling, and how are you coping with doing school from home currently?” She has three students and one Northern Lehigh Parent.

**(Anonymous) 3rd Grader:**  
I think we are going to stay home until fall, and then return to school. I would say there would be no recess to not let any touching others happen. Right now, I like doing school from home because the time is condensed, and a real school day is 6 hours while at home it is more like 2 hours. I miss school a bit, but I am still enjoying my time at home.

**(Anonymous) 6th Grader:**  
I think it will become more serious or more protective, and I feel that the teachers will definitely... you know... permit more things to school, such as wearing masks, gloves, coats, etc., to prevent the spread of the virus. I think that there would be

more security and rules to follow. As of now, I feel as if school work is more laid back. On the other hand, special (Gym, Art, Technology Ed., etc.) teacher’s work is put to

the test (more of a challenge, more work). On a positive note,



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# Online Learning (Points of View)

having more time to spend with my family is more important as long as our education is fulfilled.

**(Anonymous) 8th Grader:** I can honestly say that I have no clue what will happen in the future. I think that going back to school sounds awesome (I miss it a bit), but I also feel like it may feel like I am in a correctional facility with how secured, and watched everyone will be. More students might be separated, and classrooms might look more spaced out. Online school might be another good option since this time, it would be more organized and prepared (not that it isn't now; the teachers are doing so much). For now, I am doing better than I thought doing school from home. There is a lot more free time (which is good to spend time with family and enjoy the outdoors), a bit less work, and a lot more virtual meetings. For the most part, the work is easy, but sometimes I miss the atmosphere at school, and especially the teachers.

**(Anonymous) Parent of NL Student(s):** I think that the administrative staff is more than likely scrambling to come up with safe and effective plans to have the students return to school. I think some of these ideas may include staggering students, taking temperatures, wearing masks, redesigning classroom areas, etc. I also think a lot of parents may opt. For online schooling for a good amount of time. Personally, I have found

that schooling from home has been working for my family. Although, sometimes it can be challenging when my children need assistance and I simply don't know how to come up with the answer (i.e. math). In that case, we have been fortunate that my children's ages and experiences vary so they are able to step in and assist each other. I have also found that the teachers have been a great resource for when we do reach out they have been quick to respond.

Delaney Szwast interviewed her sister, **Andi Szwast, a fifth grade student from Slatington Elementary School**, who is enjoying online learning. She understands that the teachers are all trying to create new ways to educate the students, and she believes they are doing an excellent job. Andi claims that online learning is fun, and that she is still continuing to learn new things. If Andi could change anything about her online education, she would eliminate having to watch all of the videos that introduce and explain the lessons. She would prefer if the videos were optional to use as a reference for anyone who is struggling with the new material. Andi considers online learning beneficial because it will prepare her for her sixth grade year where she will be taking seventh grade ELA online. She now has a better understanding of what it would be like to take a class online. This will make the transition to online ELA next year

much easier for her than it would have been if she had not had online classes this year. Andi concludes that online school "opens up a new world of possibilities." She exclaims, "There are so many things that teachers are now doing that I never knew existed when we had our previous lessons. There is so much more to this than I first saw." However, when asked which version of school she preferred, Andi decided that although she is having more fun completing her online work, she still prefers "regular" school because she loves socializing with her teachers and peers.

Lauren Nichols interviewed **Sam, a 6 year old boy who typically attends Peters Elementary School**, but for now he is learning from his house. He prefers learning from home more than learning in class. He says some of the reason that learning from home is better is because Actual school takes longer, and this way he also gets to sleep in more. A few other reasons He prefers learning from home are that he gets more time to play video games, and watch TV, and he enjoys that he now gets more time with his dog, Della. Although Sam thinks learning from home is great, there are a few things he misses about school. Some of the things he misses about school are friends, he especially misses Robbie, he also misses the playground, and classroom toys.

Jasmine Silvestri interviewed her father to ask about how he feels about coping with online learning from a parent's point of view.

**Northern Lehigh Parent  
(Jasmine Silvestri's father):**

As far as I am concerned, I have absolutely no issue as long as the material and time given to my child regarding school work is adequate.

The only issue I have with the online schooling is the lack of social interaction,

the lack of physical activities i.e.. sport, and additional school activities such as music, theater, etc.

**Mrs. Tiedeman, Middle and High School Librarian:**

Online teaching has been a struggle for me, but not because of the technology. I don't mind sending more emails, logging in to more accounts, or hosting more GoogleMeet sessions. I actually like the opportunity to find creative ways to offer students activities and events virtually, like using Minecraft: Education Edition to host Game Nights or having meme scavenger hunts. The part I struggle with is not seeing my kids every day. I miss fist-bumping students as they enter the library, seeing what kind of

new sneakers they got, being able to see how their morning is going just by how their shoulders slouch or their smile brightens the room. I miss having the chance to help them turn their day around by letting them vent or helping them get their homework done before the bell or tossing them an extra granola bar. I miss bringing in surprise donuts or pulling out the griddles for our

homeroom breakfast. I miss random student visitors who need to grab a new book or print something or just want to take advantage of the com-

fortable couches in the library. I miss being there when a student needs a shoulder to cry on, someone to cheer them on, or an advocate to mediate a problem. I miss the opportunity for life talks about the important things outside academics. I miss watching students support each other and hearing them laugh and learning

when we get off-task, their celebrations when they finally "get it". I miss... my kids. We can do our best in online classrooms to teach and learn content, to connect and communicate, but there are some things you can't replace with distance learning.

**Mr. Merkle, 7th and 8th Grade Emotional Support Teacher:**

I have mixed feelings about an online platform. A part of me views teaching online from a negative aspect as I feel the sharing of feelings and emotions are critical to the development of our students. To contrast that, our society is rapidly moving towards utilizing technology in nearly every aspect of our lives. The skills and tools that we are providing our students through the various online platforms will prepare students for our ever-growing society and employment in the future. It will be great to see both online platforms and traditional methods mesh as we move forward in the future.

All of us are ready for schools and our lives in general to return to normal. It is evident through these interviews that there are two common threads: a reminiscing for what school was, but a general sense of positivity and resiliency in dealing with this difficult situation. We have embarked on an incredible journey together, and will continue to thrive despite the challenges that come. We are Bulldogs!



from them. I miss their groans at my terrible jokes, their gossip

# Mrs. Raber's Retirement!

By Kaitlyn Stock  
Eighth Grade Barker

This year, Northern Lehigh Middle School has one teacher retiring, Mrs. Raber. As per usual, I set out to interview her, as we remember her time in the building.

**How many years have you been working at Northern Lehigh?**

I have worked at Northern Lehigh since January 1991 until June 2020, which is 29.5 school years.

**What was your favorite thing about teaching?**

I loved helping students learn new sports skills and new health information, especially CPR and First Aid.

**Do you have a catch phrase?**

I have a couple! "The early bird gets the worm." "Don't procrastinate!" and lastly, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

**What are your plans after retiring?**

I will watch my five grandchildren play their sports, and I will get to play my sports during my leisure time. I will also take this time to get the opportunity to travel.

**How would you say your teaching has changed over the years?**

Instead of having students read the book and answer questions, I made it come alive and fun with projects done by groups of students, activities, guest



speakers, healthy food tastings, and so on.

**What was the best thing you have seen throughout your time teaching?**

Working with the BEST teachers who care and love to help students like I do, plus watching my students grow up to successful adults.

**How was the staff you worked with?**

They are terrific, outstanding, always willing to help each other, wonderful, and fun to be with!

**Why did you start teaching?**

I was the oldest of five children, and I always taught my siblings sports growing up like swim-

ming, badminton, and tennis. My mother said when I was young, I lined up dolls on our front porch and taught them (not sure what - I don't remember). Plus, my gym teachers at Whitehall beginning in MS had me help them and encouraged me to go into this career

**What do you feel you have accomplished as a teacher?**

I have left NLMS a better place than when I came. For example, we have a state-of-the-art Cardio Room from all the donated exercise equipment; Mr. Reinhard and I were awarded the Fit America Equipment outdoors that very few middle schools in America have. The Lehigh Valley Hospital with a special grant paid for this!

**How do you feel about retiring?**

I have mixed feelings. I will be sad to not see my students any more daily, but hopefully with more time on my hands, I can continue the push to finish the NL Community Center that has been my passion for 23 years, and when it opens, see my students there once again!

As the virtual school year sadly comes to a close, we take this time to remember all the amazing things she has brought to the building, staff, and students. She will always be remembered through the accomplishments in her life.

**"A Parting Poem"**  
by Mrs. Raber

*To all my students who are the **BEST!**  
As you go on your lifelong fitness **QUEST,**  
Don't forget at the end of each day you need your  
**REST.***

*As I get ready to retire and the Raber sun sets in the **WEST,**  
I leave you one last message...  
To stay fit and eat healthy for your last **TEST!***

# Coronavirus: Its Origins and Latest Information

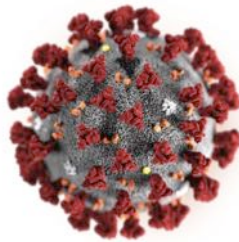
By **Jasmine Silvestri**  
*Eighth Grade Barker*

If you haven't heard about the Coronavirus, then you definitely have been living under Patrick's rock. You may have heard your parents and friends talking about it, but do you really know how it started, and what the latest information we have is on how to protect ourselves from it?

The first case of the Coronavirus was reported from Wuhan, China, on 31 December, 2019. The Coronavirus is zoonotic, meaning that it can be transmitted between people and animals. Since the first case, the virus has spread rapidly throughout the world. On December 31st, 2019 China reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia in a number of people associated with the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province. On January 7, 2020, Chinese health authorities confirmed that this cluster was associated with a novel Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Although the first few occurring cases of the Coronavirus where to have affected only those who reported to have had exposure to the seafood market in Wuhan, current epidemiologic data indicate that person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 is occurring. So in basic terms, it means that it wasn't because of

the seafood market, it actually started because of person-to-person transmission.

As of May 28th 2020, there is a total of 5.8 million cases, with 2.4 million who have recovered, and 360,000 deaths. The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 213 countries and territories around the world and 2 international conveyances. Investigations are underway worldwide to better understand transmission dynamics and the spectrum of clinical illness.



You might be wondering, why is everyone making such a big deal about this? It's not like lots of people have died from it, and it's not really killing us? Well no, technically that isn't correct.

So far (this may not be up to date by the time it is published) more than 45,693 lives have been taken due to this Coronavirus. And the worst part is that we don't have a vaccine for the virus. Though scientists are working on finding one, there isn't a "cure" so to speak that could prevent or help you if you get it.

The common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death. The Coronavirus attacks the lungs, and it takes on average about 5 days (it can take longer) for you to show any of the symptoms above. Then if you are diagnosed with the virus, the incubation periods can last up to 14-24 days, but it varies on the severity of the case.

Most countries are practicing social distancing or are on complete lockdown. The safest thing for you and your family is to stay home. Staying home and away from others can help prevent spreading of the virus. But if you are planning on seeing someone or going out, stay at least six feet apart at all times! And traveling at this time isn't really the best idea, and

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# Coronavirus, continued

most flights have been cancelled or postponed.

Though many people have been told to wear a mask, research has shown that masks hygiene needs to be factored in. After 40 minutes of wearing the mask, bacteria can start to build up. If you have a mask that can be washed, it is a good idea to get in the habit of washing it immediately.

The mask also only covers your mouth, so if you touch an object that was contained by the virus and then touch your face, you are now exposed to the virus. After taking off your mask at home, wash your hands and take proper precaution.

There are ways to help prevent from getting the virus. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-

based hand rub. Maintain at least 1 meter (6 feet) distance between



you and people coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching your face. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Stay home if you feel unwell. Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs. Practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.

Human trials on a vaccine against the COVID-19 epidemic

are due to start in April, with British scientists competing with dozens of laboratories around the world to be the first to develop a drug. Researchers have been working against the clock to produce a preventative jab or pill since China first genetically sequenced the virus in January. Several labs now have prototype vaccines which they are trialing in animals, with many confident that they will move to human testing next month.

There is still a lot happening with the COVID-19 situation, but we just have to remain positive. Remember to wash your hands and practice social distancing. Stay home and spend time with your families. Be safe and wash your hands!

## 2020 Election: How Will America Vote?

By **Jasmine Silvestri**  
*Eighth Grade Barker*

As we all know, this year is the 2020 election for our president. But with the current situation of COVID-19 and the possible risks, how exactly are we going to vote? Will it be declared cancelled or postponed? Or will we have to electronically send in our vote?

As the Coronavirus pandemic upends the presidential

campaign, states across the country have postponed primary elec-

tions and expanded vote-by-mail options, citing the difficulty of holding elections during the outbreak. But not every state has given this option. One state, New York, canceled its already-postponed presidential primary after the Democratic presidential race was settled, but a federal judge has now ordered that the election go forward in June. State officials have announced plans to appeal that decision.

Fifteen other states and two



territories -- Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia and Wyoming, and Guam and Puerto Rico -- have either pushed back their presidential primaries or switched to voting by mail with extended deadlines.

But Wisconsin forged ahead with its elections on April 7 after state Republicans blocked efforts to postpone voting there.

Three other states -- Arizona, Florida and Illinois -- held elections on March 17, as the Coronavirus crisis was beginning to mount in the United States.

But there are still lots of questions concerning if President Donald Trump can cancel or postpone the November elections due to the Corona outbreak. According to the Business Insider article, "Trump cannot, however, unilat-



erally decide to cancel or postpone the November 3 general election by an executive order, under the parameters of a national emergency or disaster declaration, or even if he declared martial law. After all,

Americans don't directly elect the president. Instead, states send designated electors to gather and vote in the Electoral College, which convenes, per federal law, the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December. The electors submit their votes to elect the next president and vice president to the president of the Senate, a role filled by the presiding vice president."

"The process by which states appoint those electors is laid out both in Article II of the US Constitution, which requires states to appoint a number of electors equal to the number of their representatives in the US House and Senate "in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct," and in Chapter 1 of Title 3 of the United States Code, which sets the timing of that appointment. To change the date of the election, Congress would have to vote to alter Section 1 of the code, which stipulates: "the electors of President and Vice President shall be appointed, in each State, on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in every fourth year succeeding every election of a President and Vice President.", which is also stated in the article explaining that the president cannot in fact change the date.

So we are still left with the question, what are the elections going to look like? Are we going to be sending emails, or will we be able to go to and vote regularly?

## Social Responsibility with COVID-19

By Delaney Szwast and  
Abigail Peartree  
*Eighth Grade Barkers*

During the COVID-19 outbreak we, as citizens of the United States, have been set several social responsibilities to slow the spread and prevent as many cases as possible. One major social responsibility that people are unfortunately not taking very seriously is social distancing. While many people are taking it to extremes buying a year's sup-



ply of necessities others are not paying attention to the many risks they put on themselves and others by not participating in social distancing. For example, while

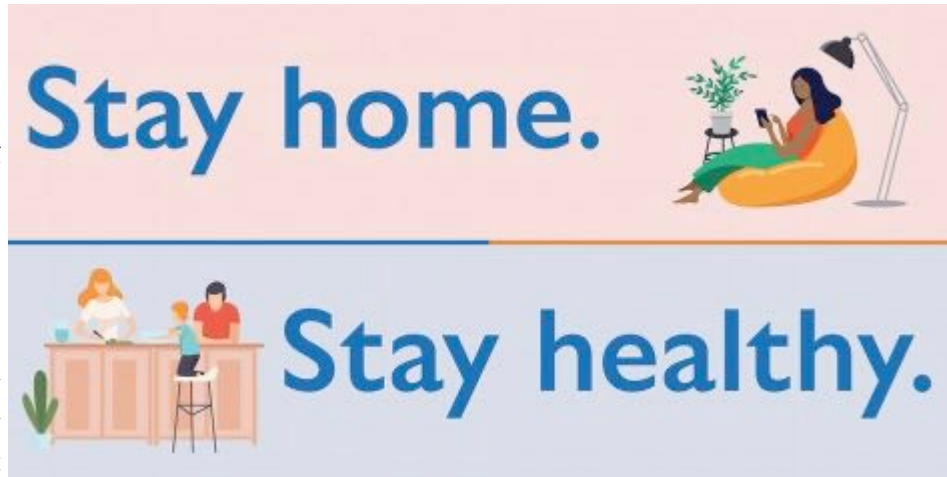
most people are staying home to try to prevent the spread of COVID-19, some people are traveling to beaches where they risk infecting others. Due to the declining travel costs, many people are going on cruises and flights which put them and everyone else on the excursion at risk. Although it is tempting to travel while almost everyone does not have to work, traveling can affect those around you.

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You may be asking why this is so important anyway. This can be explained by the RO pronounced as R “naught” this is the number of cases a person infected with the virus causes on average. The RO is situation-dependent meaning it can vary depending on someone’s health, climatic factors, and socio-economic factors. The virus can be easily spread, especially if you do not know you are infected or if you do not have any symptoms. By the time you realize you have it, it will be too late. By traveling, you could put a family member’s health in jeopardy, especially if they already have a critical health condition.

Since the virus affects the respiratory system it can easily be spread through coughing. Many people have chosen to wear face masks to protect against any possible trace of the virus in the air. People can minimize these traces of the virus in the air if they cover their mouths when they cough. Also, to reduce the spread of the virus, people should practice good hygiene and wash their hands more often than they normally would. People should wash their hands for at least twenty seconds, and they should vigorously scrub their hands while

washing. People should also make sure to wipe down any surfaces in their house that may have come in contact with the virus. We are also encouraged to leave shoes at the door of our houses before enter-



ing the premises.

Schools are encouraged that, despite the situation, all students must be provided equal access to education. Many schools are doing this by providing a computer



or written work for students to pick up at the school. In addition to providing online education, Northern Lehigh is also offering breakfast and lunch to students.

Students need to take their online education seriously and complete all of their assignments to the best of their ability. Students should manage their time responsibly to ensure all of their assignments are submitted on time. Also, students should remember that the transition to online classes was just as hard for the teachers as it was for them. Teachers are trying their best to make everything as normal as possible.

Everyone needs to adhere to social distancing, practice good hygiene, and remain at home during the COVID-19 outbreak to minimize the spread of the virus. If everyone is socially responsible, we, as a society can help ensure more people will remain safe and

healthy. Your actions can affect another person’s health, please make responsible decisions and be sure to stay safe.



# Xenophobia and Racism from COVID-19

By Ashley Moyer  
*Eighth Grade Barker*

As most of our articles this edition are about Covid-19, we decided to talk about something very, very important. Racism and Xenophobia. For those not familiar with Xenophobia, it is basically fear of foreigners. People mistreat others because of where they come from. Because Covid-19 stemmed from China, people are going around and mistreating all Asians, not just Chinese. This is not only happening in America, but in other affected countries as well. These people are being verbally and physically mistreated, some people ending up in hospitals. On March 16th, President Trump even referred to the virus as the “Chinese Virus.” Most people cracked down on him for saying this, but one Texas senator replied with this, “China is to blame because the culture where

people eat bats and snakes and dogs and things like that ... that’s why China has been a source of a lot of these viruses.” This is not the only time when racism rose out of fear. During and after 9/11, people attacked Muslims and during the attack of Pearl Harbor, people turned towards Japanese-Americans. If this has



happened so many times before, and we learned that it was wrong, why are we still continuing to do it? Many Asian-Americans are being insulted and hit for wearing masks or just being out in public. A woman in New York City was assaulted and called “diseased.” A

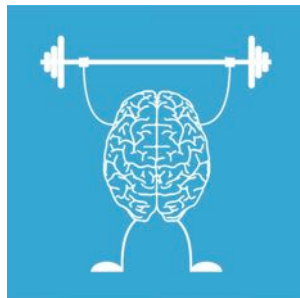
middle school boy choked and coughed on water, his teacher told him to go down to the nurses office and when he asked the teacher why he didn’t tell other non-Asian students that, he was told to, “let it go and move on.” Another attack happened to a woman, Yuanyuan Zhu, in San Francisco. Zhu was on her way to a gym when a perfectly “normal” man started shouting Asian insults and shouting at a bus to, “run them over.” Not only did the man do that, but when stuck at a crosswalk with the man, Zhu accidentally got too close to him and he spit on her. She then found a private street corner and cried. These people are just like us trying to stay healthy and out of harm's way and just because of their race, we think it's okay to treat them like this? When will we learn that this is not? Our entire world is in this pandemic together; we cannot be torn apart through hateful words, especially now.

## Need for Activity During COVID-19

By Skyelar Horack and Lauren Nichols  
*Seventh Grade Barkers*

While it is important to stay physically active during this new and unsettling time, it is also important to stay mentally active. This means keeping your brain active. You don’t have to do anything crazy to achieve this (unless you want to), this can just be as simple as reading a book or doing a puzzle.

It is important to stay mentally active because lack of mental and physical activity can cause Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, heart disease, depression, and stroke.



All of the 5 diseases can cause brain damage. Alzheimer’s disease

is a disease where you have complications in memory, thinking, and behavior. Some may experience memory loss, unable to solve problems, difficulty completing familiar tasks, confusion with time and/or place, trouble understanding images and relationships, problems with words in speaking or writing, and misplacing or losing things.

One of the most important things you can do right now is to create a

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routine. Some people lay in their beds until 1:00 pm either because they are on their phones or because they stayed up late the night before. The first thing you should do every day is take a shower. Next, you should always change your outfit. Staying in the same outfit for a few days can start to smell. I'm sure no one would like to smell. Then you should do daily chores. It would help



chores. After, do your homework. It would help your teachers if you did your homework on time and not 3 days past the due date. Finally, have some fun! Do a board game with your family or do a puzzle. Don't sit on your electronics or gaming systems. Stay active and

your parents a lot if you did your

have fun!

# Coronavirus Blessings

*People Coming Together and Valuing Family*

**By Delaney Szwast and Jasmine Silvestri**  
*Eighth Grade Barkers*

As the COVID-19 issue continues to rise and progress shutting down business and sending loads of panic throughout the world, people and families have shown that they are stronger than the virus. Countries have gone into lock down, schools have been closed, events have been cancelled, millions have been forced to work from home and even emergency funds have been released due to this epidemic. Even through all of this, people have shown that you can make the best out of situations as grave as these ones. Famous influencers, actors/actresses, and companies have been helping to raise money to help support hospitals with the

epidemic. Take famous Tik Tok influencer, Charli D'amelio. Her and her family are constantly expressing how important it is to stay home. Charli even made a dance to an ad stating that people should just stay home. An actress

tients that are affected by the Coronavirus. There are even some reports of "common" people helping to support the cause of COVID-19. Though these rough times that society and communities world-



wide are facing, there is no shortage of help from people. Due to the large amount of face masks that are being used, there has become a shortage of them to distribute to others. To help with this problem, communities have been making their own face masks and giving them to local hospitals.

named Emilia Clarke, known for her role in "Game of Thrones", is helping to raise money for the SaveYou's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The money goes towards getting more beds and supplies for the hospitals to treat their pa-

Families have been staying at home and finding alternatives to having fun. A father found a way to turn his house into a mini Disney World attraction for his daughter. Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, Disney World shut down and their family had to cancel their trip. So a father decided

to decorate his house and take his daughter for a day of fun.

In addition to people coming together, families around the world are also coming together. Stay at home orders, social distancing requirements, and the closing and cancelling of many places and events have created more time for families to spend

desserts, and they can all enjoy eating the food that is made together. Family members can also take on each other's responsibilities. Children may now have more chores to complete to help around the house. While many children will not enjoy this, it will allow them to understand how much work around the house their parents do.

lings of young athletes can help them train for their sports, and they can even exercise with them. Parents can also challenge their children, and themselves, to do something beneficial that they are not able to do often with their busy schedules. For example, family members can race to see who can clean a messy room in the house the fastest, or they could compete to see who can read the most books during the shutdown.

No matter what they decide to do together, it is important that families take advantage of the extra time they were given by COVID-19 by spending more time together and communicating more with each other. Families should remember to spend time communicating with members who do not live with them, such as grandparents, and they should continue to support each other during the shutdown. Remember to value your family members and the moments spent together during the shutdown, safe and healthy, because the future is still uncertain.



together. By spending more time together at home, families are now able to do things together that they would not be able to do normally. For example, a busy family may now have time to cook homemade meals and bake

With the extra time to spend together, families will also be able to do more fun things together. Even if they cannot leave the house, families can watch movies together and play board games and card games. Parents and sib-

## Unintended Climate Benefits

*COVID-19 Unwittingly Improves The Environment On A Global Scale*

**By Ashley Moyer and Haven Moore**

*Eighth Grade Barkers*

Since establishments, schools, and services all around the world, which we previously depended on, have closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, some as-

pects of our world have benefited, despite the suffering. Most of society is in quarantine and shut down, so how could the world possibly advance without us humans, active and about? The climate can, for sure. From air pollution decreasing due to fewer people being out, to gas emissions

being reduced by almost half, Mother Nature has sprung to a healthier existence. For instance, in Venice, Italy, the murky canals have begun to clear, with fish actually visible at the bottom and other wildlife taking advantage of the difference in water clarity (not dolphins, however; this is a myth).

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Residents say that this is the clearest the water has been in 60 years! Italy's efforts to enforce isolation practices for limiting COVID-19 spread means less boat traffic along the city's famous canals, allowing the sediment on the bottom to stop

churning and giving the canal a murky appearance, thus resulting in clearer waters. Within little time, changes became easily visible. Note that in Italy, air pollution has dropped, similar to the rest of the world's decrease in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, likely due to the lockdown and slowness of people and factories instilling bad environmental practices. China is even



experiencing a large nitrogen dioxide drop due to its COVID-19 quarantine: Harmful pollution

clouds have seemed to fade away from just January to February of this year. Other countries have faced similar effects, making for an amazing environmental transformation in just a short period of time. This shows that if we give Mother Earth time to heal, she will get better. We just have to fix our mistakes and improve our environmental mindset/habits. We can only hope that these changes in our ecosystem and beloved Earth will spark more of an environmental interest among people even after the COVID-19 virus has been dealt with, showing people all over the world that their habits make all the difference in living in a healthy atmosphere.

## Grab-N-Go Meals for Students

**By Haven Moore**  
*Eighth Grade Barker*

The notorious COVID-19 has taken control and spread virally around the world which has led our school district to being closed for an indefinite period of time, and leaving us students and teachers at home in quarantine. This is solely for the purpose of using safety protocol, and restraining the amount of physical contact to prevent any more germs spreading among people. But for many of the people in our local community, schools

were not only places for education, but they are also necessary sources of food. In spite of the pandemic, our school district has



generously opened a daily Grab-

N-Go program. This program comes to no cost for all students of the district. In order to get your meal, you must simply drive by the middle school starting from 11:00 to 1:00 on weekdays, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. You will receive a bag of food, consisting of two well-balanced lunches, and two breakfasts for the next day, and the day after. I have tried this, and believe that this handout is a very good idea for all students in the district. During these unprecedented times when we have all been home-bound, I have also

enjoyed having a reason to leave the house, and go out just for a little to grab a meal. The first week of this program, every principal in our district has come together, along with the superinten-

dent, Mr. Link, to attempt to bring the community together, and feed our students. The week after, some teachers and staff in Northern Lehigh's district made an appearance to wave a warm

hello to the students, and hand out food. This shows how dedicated and giving they are, and they set an amazing example of how we should all be supporting each other in the midst of this pandemic. I cannot express how well organized this service is. From clever, creative signs that line the road, to a super efficient hand-you-a-bag curbside, the system seems flawless. I believe that this is the highlight of some students' days, and will bring out many thanks in the future for all of the work the staff does for the benefit of the students.



## Choosing Electives in Middle School: A Good Idea or Not?

By Ashley Moyer and Abigail Peartree  
*Eighth Grade Barkers*

Our years in Middle School are pretty much pre-determined, but what if we had the option of choosing our own classes from an earlier age, like the older students do at the High School? Would it be a better learning environment for ourselves, or would we feel pressured to make the right decision to ensure we are not disinterested in our courses? Below, we have listed some of the pros and cons of choosing clas-

ses. Is allowing students to make this choice for their Middle School good strategy to apply in the future, or is it a setback in a student's academic career? Let's see:



**Pros:**

• If you choose your own MS classes, you have a choice so you don't have to

take classes that bore you. And, in the event that you don't like it or you change your mind, you now know what not to choose in high

school.

- There would be a better learning environment/kids are more attentive and learning more.
- Kids would learn to make bigger decisions at an earlier age to prepare for high school and college. If major colleges look back on middle school courses, it raises your chances of getting in.

**Cons:**

- If you make a wrong decision and end up bored or failing, it is a waste of your time and a setback in your academic career.
- You may feel too much pressure to make your own decisions, especially at this

**See Electives, Page 14**

younger age.

- You could end up being disappointed if you don't get into your chosen elective.
- Some courses may not get as many applicants to function.
- In Middle School, you are even less mature and certain than at the High School, so your interests can change during this time and the Middle School classes you took will have felt like wasted labor.

As you can see, there are varying components incorporated into making what seem like big



decisions that may determine your high school experience. Overall, this thought will linger on, and students in the future may ask the same question: Is allowing Middle School/younger students to choose their own classes an idea waiting to succeed, or fail?

## Potential For Martial Law in the United States

By Ashley Moyer  
Eighth Grade Barker

As the Coronavirus epidemic spreads, our President has declared for a National Emergency. Declaring this means multiple things, but with this, leads to another thing to think about, Martial Law. With writing this article, I don't wish to make anyone fearful. This may not happen and is not currently put in place. So, what exactly is Martial Law? In simple terms, if our President declares for Martial Law, it basically means that the military replaces civil law.

This also means that Constitutional freedoms and liberties, refer to the Bill of Rights, are suspended. Why would we declare Martial Law? Well, there are multiple

different reasons, but as of right now, the reason we would declare Martial Law would be to enforce the stay at home orders. Currently, not all people are following the stay at home orders

and going out anyway.

If they declare martial law, they'd probably put military checkpoints up and it would make it easier for them to control us. So, please if you don't

want this happening, follow the stay at home orders and only go out when needed!



# International Spring Traditions

By Ashley Moyer  
*Eighth Grade Barker*

With winter's end, spring is literally right around the corner. Although, it's not quite as warm as we hoped, so here are some international spring traditions to keep you warm on the inside. First up, we have Hanami in Japan. For people not familiar, this is a Cherry Blossom Festival. These beautiful trees bloom around the end of March, welcoming April in a festively pinkish way. Sakuras, Japanese for cherry blossom, symbolize time of renewal. They are also known by many as the flower of spring. Starting as early as the eighth century, people have picnics underneath the trees and enjoy the beautiful blossoms. And at the end of the night, festivities continue in romantic custom, called Yozakura. They even illuminate the trees! If you wanted to see this, but don't have the time to go straight to Japan, you're in luck! Along with Japan, Washington D.C. also celebrates the blooming of Cherry Blossoms. Along with Japan, the festival starts in the middle of March and continues on for 4 weeks! Speaking of trees, we'll head over to Bulgaria now where they celebrate Baba Marta Day or Grandma March Day. This tradition originated from an old folklore. It has various versions but it all comes together at the

end; An old lady who was always snappish and grimacing smiled and it made the sun come out. Because of this, the Bulgarians celebrate on March 1st. They wear traditional red and white colors and wear little Martinitis or bracelets in the same colors. Red symbolizes blood and life, whereas

does include giant, papier-mâché statues! Our next tradition comes from the region of Valencia, Spain. This tradition is formally known as Las Fallas, which honors Saint Joseph. It officially starts on March 1st with a beautiful and spectacular firework show, which goes on every afternoon until March 19th. There is more to this celebration, do not fret, for the last week of this tradition is celebrated with traditional outfits, music filled streets, and parties in the streets ending at sunrise. The preparation for this festivity takes months, for every neighborhood makes giant, papier-mâché statues called fallas, to put on display. These fallas, which, on the final night, are burnt down during yet another firework show, usually satirize politics and social customs. Our last tradition cannot be one without flowers because, what is



white represents purity. The Martenitsa is worn until about the end of the month and most Bulgarians tie them to fruit trees longevity, good luck, and a prosperous season. Continuing on a little more with the tradition, Bulgarians also tie Pizho and/or Penda wooden dolls to the trees. They are for the same reasons and have the same meanings. Our next celebration isn't exactly dolls, but it

spring without beautiful, blossoming flowers? For our next tradition, we head back over to North America for Canada's Annual Tulip Festival. This Festival started in 1945, originating in the Netherlands when Princess Julianna gave Canada 100,000 tulip bulbs to show her appreciation for the asylum the members of Holland's exiled royal family were granted during World War II. This exchange continued every year until the first Canadian Tulip Festival in 1953. The festival starts in May in the National Capital Region where over a million tulips bloom. I hope hearing these international traditions warm you up until summer, cause I know it surely did for me.

# Spring Musical Review: Urinetown

By Haven Moore  
*Eighth Grade Barker*



On Saturday, March 6th, I had the pleasure to watch and enjoy Northern Lehigh High Schoolers perform their annual musical of choice, "Urinetown". Even though

the title may not seem that appealing to the ears, the same cannot be said

for the level of sheer genius, talent, and charisma put forth into the play. "Urinetown" is a satirical comedy that showed what life was like in the mid 1900's, and not having the privilege to urinate in bathrooms, due to water-shortage. If they were caught peeing in public, they were arrested for being unsanitary offenders. Officers told them that

they were going to "Urinetown", but it was as a disguise that was actually referring to death. Being that these people maintained a



low-class existence, they were hopeless for justice fighting against higher-class, rich businesses for water, and the rights they felt they deserved. The story begins when a man named Bobby Strong rebels from the laws that were set about peeing in public and protests against the authorities. Mr. Cladwell, who ran the water usage of the area,

refuses to give any slack for the amount of money being let go for water to flow. His daughter in training to be a business woman to take over for her father, Hope Cladwell, is oblivious to what a monstrosity is being held upon the poorer life downtown.

One day she meets Bobby, and instantly falls head over heels for him, same as he did over her. Together, they learn the truth about the injustices to urinate in town, and

fight for the right everyone deserves, to pee freely. I have to say, overall, the whole cast did amazingly well portraying the story, and told the everlasting moral that love and justice conquers all. I thoroughly enjoyed this production, and feel that the entire cast and crew should be proud of their dedication and hard work.

## Screen Time Challenge of 2020

By Lauren Nichols  
*Seventh Grade Barker*

Can you put down the screen? Over the course of one month, all of Mrs. Dunham's ELA students had the opportunity to participate in the Screen Time Challenge. Her students

were given a calendar and marked down how much time they spent off of their cell phones (and other screens,



like gaming systems), and then they had an adult sign it. Students could earn points by reading, being active, cleaning, and spending time with family, and so on. Towards the end of the challenge, students could turn their phone in for the day for bonus points. But students





The competition was fierce! This was a class challenge and the winning class, Period 2 was rewarded with a party, and Period 7 did almost as well and got some leftovers. Also, Gabriella Hanna achieved the most points as an individual and received a \$50 Visa gift card! Way to go! Put down that screen this summer and get outside!

also had to put down how long they were on other screens, too. Classes and individuals received extra bonus points if their screen time on their phone went down (the percentage down by 10--so 40% = 400 points).

### #SCREEN TIME CHALLENGE

#### HOW TO FIND YOUR SCREEN TIME

**FOR IPHONE USERS:**

- STEP 1: OPEN YOUR SETTINGS APP.
- STEP 2: TAP SCREEN TIME (IT HAS A PURPLE HOUR-GLASS SYMBOL).
- STEP 3: TAP THE GRAPH TO SEE A DETAILED BREAK-DOWN ON WHAT APPS ARE BEING USED AND AT WHAT TIME. TOGGLE BETWEEN SEEING TODAY'S USAGE AND THE LAST SEVEN DAYS AT THE TOP. YOU CAN ALSO SET TIME LIMITS ON THIS PAGE.
- STEP 4: PRESS THE LOCK BUTTON AND HOME BUTTON SIMULTANEOUSLY TO TAKE A SCREENSHOT.

**FOR ANDROID USERS:**

- STEP 1: OPEN YOUR SETTINGS APP.
- STEP 2: TAP DIGITAL WELLBEING.
- STEP 3: TAP SCREEN TIME ON THE CHART FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT APPS YOU HAD ON SCREEN AND FOR HOW LONG. YOU CAN ALSO TAP UNLOCKS FOR HOW OFTEN YOU UNLOCKED YOUR PHONE AND OPENED CERTAIN APPS, AND NOTIFICATIONS FOR HOW MANY NOTIFICATIONS YOU'VE GOTTEN AND FROM WHICH APPS.
- STEP 4: TAKE A SCREENSHOT BY PRESSING YOUR PHONE'S POWER BUTTON FOR A FEW SECONDS, THEN TAP SCREENSHOT.

\*THE 'DIGITAL WELLBEING' FEATURE MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO ANDROID USERS USING A GOOGLE PIXEL DEVICE.

## Volcano Day with Mr. Meixsell



# Foreign Language Club: Multicultural Dance

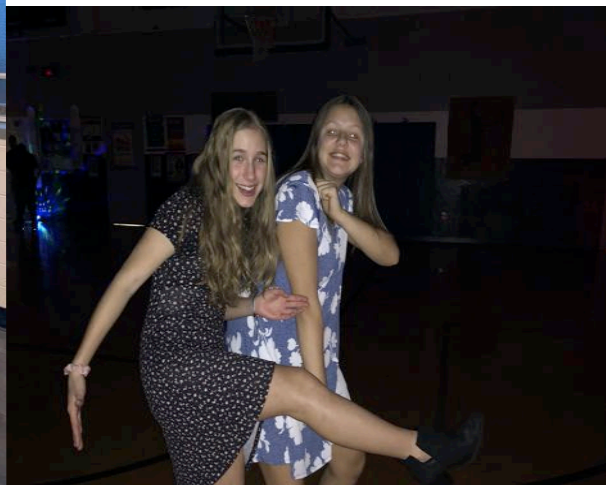
By Ashley Moyer  
*Eighth Grade Barker*

On Friday, February 21st, NLMS' Foreign Language Club hosted their very first Cultural Expressions Dance. Not only was it a dance, but it had multicultural foods too! They had four tables, each table hosting food from a different country. Just to name a few; Italy had

Cupcakes, and Spain had Burritos/Tacos and Empanadas. As yummy as the food sounds, the dancing was just as fun! With popular, upbeat songs playing, people danced all throughout the night! That was until the TikTok

and had one person in the middle doing the dance, whoever's shoulder got tapped, got out. The winner was Jackie Richards, 7th grader. And the rest of the night continued to be a memorable one. To seventh graders who didn't come this year and wanted to, we hope you get pumped for

next year because this will be a lasting tradition! Come next year!



Pizza and Tiramisu, France had French Macarons and Croissants, Germany had Potato Pancakes and German Chocolate

dance competition. Everyone gathered round in a big circle

# Northern Lehigh Middle School's Accent Poll

By Ashley Moyer  
Eighth Grade Barker

At the beginning of March, the *Bulldog Bark* sent out a poll asking students what their favorite accents were. In this article, we tallied up the results and now we present them to you, the student body. Enjoy! So in total, we had 97 responses and 15 choices. Those choices are as follows: Canadian, Mexican, Colombian/Brazilian, Spanish/Portuguese, Italian, Greek, Nordic, German/Dutch/Swiss/Austrian, French, British, Polish, Ukrainian/Belarusian, Russian, Asian, and Australian. Now, we'll jump



into the results! Honorable mentions include Polish with 2, Asian with 3, Russian with 2, Nordic with 8, Greek with 14,

Australian with 15, and Mexican with 17. Our top results do not, however, stop at 5... it stops at 6! Too many votes to leave it out. Starting with that number is German/Swiss/Austrian,



with 26 total votes! Next in place is Colombian or Brazilian with only one point up, 27! Getting closer to the top 3, we have French in 4th place with 28 votes! 3rd place goes to the UK accents; including Irish, English, Scottish, and Welsh. The total votes was 37! Getting closer to first, we have the North American accent, Canadian! Total is 38 votes. And the moment you've all been waiting for, the most obvious winner, **the best accent, Italian with a whopping 58 votes!** We, the *Bulldog Barkers*, would like to thank you for taking the poll and reading the article!

## School Closures: Plan Beyond the Snow

By Kaitlyn Stock  
Eighth Grade Barker

Before the widespread closure of schools due to COVID-19, many people were shocked about, yet anticipating, a school year without any snow days. Most thought we were on track for the perfect year with no missed days and a normal end-of-year date... No one suspected a major disruption of life across the country and world, but it came: The Coronavirus.

Yes, there were no closures due to inclement weather, but that didn't mean students and faculty were safe from time off, delaying the start of summer vacation. Our school, let alone our world, didn't account for one thing: a virus ravaging the

course of routine as we know it.

Thus, I believe schools should take into consideration other events that can implement school closures, and what could possibly affect the school year.



Maybe it wouldn't be as accurate to call school days off, "snow days". Instead, the school could refer days off as something else, perhaps a more general label. After all, nobody could've seen this pandemic coming from the beginning of

the year, so we were still relying on our days to be off from school as only "snow days". That seemed to be the only circumstance to have off from school. But taking in what events we are facing globally now, there are other reasons or ways we can be off from school for a period of time. Therefore, "snow days" wouldn't seem as the correct term to use, especially when referring to days that would have to be made up at the end of the school year. There are many other reasons that could cause school to be cancelled periodically, not just a snowfall. Hopefully, this is something that we can all learn and grow from, particularly, when just assuming what could happen, until it does.

# Which NLMS Teacher Are YOU?



Take the online quizzes and find out!

By Avery Diaz and  
Haven Moore  
*Eighth Grade Barkers*

Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Bariana, or  
Mr. Reinhard

Click on the **hyperlinks** to take you to the BuzzFeed quizzes. All the possible descriptions are included on these next two pages, but you'll need to take the quiz to find out who YOU truly are! Mark the answer for all questions with what you think is the most accurate representation of your personality and how you would respond to the given situation.

Click [HERE](#) for the  
**Summer Edition  
Personality Quiz:**

Possible Choices:

**Ms. Fleming, Mr. Hamm, Ms. Hannon,  
Mr. Reinert, Mrs. Raber, Ms. Case**

Click [HERE](#) for the  
**Spring Edition  
Personality Quiz:**

Possible Choices:

**Mrs. Filipovits, Mr. Meixsell,**

Thank you to the teachers included in this edition's quizzes for taking the time out of your day to allow us to include your responses in the newspaper. You all have amazing personalities, and we appreciate you guys allowing us to not only learn more about ourselves, but the lives and personalities of you guys as well. Thank you!

## Spring Edition Teacher Personality Descriptions:

### *Mr. Meixsell:*

You're Mr. Meixsell, the 8th Grade Earth Science teacher! You know what? You're a nice guy. You have a very unique personality, based on integrity and humor. Although initially, people take notice to your quick-witted, comedic charm, the more people are around you, the more they see the amiable, compassionate qualities you also possess. Yes, your lively humor can occasionally poke fun at certain individuals, but your sense of respect towards everyone always makes sure you know when to stop and clarify your appreciation for them... You tend to have a nostalgic approach to life, which sometimes makes it hard for you to understand why people act or do some of the things they do today, but that's okay, because you are very forgiving and still try to teach

valuable things to better those missing out, such as how to survive quicksand and earthquakes. And to those who aren't as good-hearted or dependable as you are? They can get eaten by a Bearshark. Not literally, but you get the point: you are admired by many, and with good reason. Some may say you're "old-fashioned," but really, you realize you don't need fancy computers to do something as simple as reviewing for a test: A cardboard wheel and some high-decibel excitement will more than suffice. Despite your lenient nature, you have a way of describing ideas and information that intrigues even the most unlikely people at times, causing people willing to pay attention to gain and understand knowledge and concepts that would otherwise be hard to grasp. You care so much about those around you, whether they realize it or not. After all, would you provide us with such silly, theatrically presented jokes and run the risk of dislocating body parts during your

animation and inflection-filled teachings if not?

### *Mrs. Filipovits:*

You're Mrs. Flip, the 8th Grade ELA teacher! You're like the mom of the friend group: You put those close to you above all else and take pride in the accomplishments of those that you help/nurture. Although some may hear things that make you out to be a bit intimidating before they meet you, once people are surrounded by your loyal, cheerful, protective self, they realize that those rumors are false and that you are very supportive of others, within good reason, of course. Your optimistic nature occasionally allows for feelings of disappointment when others don't use the same outlook on life, but you make up for it with your ability to see the best in students, friends, and family alike, and use those observations to allow everyone to become better people. You're a very orderly, structured person, but that

but that doesn't stop you from trying to find creative, impactful ways to express ideas and get your point across. That being said, you're a very practical, resourceful person, as made clear in your preference of cooking and exercising as forms of entertainment. You thrive on being social, whether that's with your beloved family, or friends of the past in which long relationships allow you to encourage and support each other. Also, you pride yourself on the fact that you were "hip" and "in on the trends" way before we were, especially when it comes to VSCO-esque outfits.

### ***Mrs. Bailey:***

The results are in! You are Mrs. Bailey, the 7th and 8th Grade ELA Teacher! You take pleasure in the simple things, from helping people you meet to taking time to explore the outdoors and immersing yourself in the various dystopian worlds provided to you by your favorite novels. You come across as a person who values being true to oneself, hence your independent nature. You are usually very quiet and reserved, unless you feel quite comfortable around someone. Thus, your social circle tends to be pretty small, aside from a few close friends and family members. But don't worry, you make up for this by establishing close bonds with those you do interact with, whether it be through the tradition of tacos after biking, or bonding over activities collectively enjoyed, such as visiting car shows. In most situations, you hate being the center of attention and tend to stay in the background: you keep to yourself and prefer to ignore drama in your life. You make sure to focus on what you truly love, which is expressing your inner explorer and sporty self. Four Wheeling, biking, hiking... You name it, you do it. Typically, you don't elaborate on the experiences you have, you just enjoy the simple gifts life has to offer. Staying comfortable in your own skin is all that matters to you,

and being a little lazy cozy on a couch from time to time doesn't make you feel any less productive. You can be quite a deep thinker and like to take moments to philosophize and examine many aspects of life... Reflecting on your horoscope, Aquarians are said to want to make the world a better place. That is true of you and explains your desires to try and make a difference in the world, whatever it takes. Like, oh, I don't know... Becoming a teacher? All in all, you strive to expand your knowledge of the natural world every day and value every bit of time you have to do whatever you please.

### ***Mrs. Bariana:***

Congratulations! Your results have shown that you are Mrs. Bariana, the 7th Grade Math Teacher! You are an optimist who always sees the potential for growth and opportunities. Hardworking and focused, you never want to waste time and always want to feel accomplished and productive. You are a go-getter who often takes leadership positions wherever you go and inspires many. Those around you enjoy your company and your outgoing personality. You always appear happy and content! Just like the food you're constantly adding hot sauce to, you spice up the lives of people who are closest to you. You have strong family values and enjoy spending time with them often, especially on your frequent family vacations and gatherings. You also love your pet like family and can't get enough snuggles on the couch. You have an obsession with being organized at home and at school. In true math teacher fashion, your life is very much calculated. You are very well-planned and logical. Calculators and Chromebooks must be put away correctly or else! You love binders, clipboards, color-coding--anything else that helps keep good structure. In addition, your tech-savviness and willingness often draws people to call for your help. Those who know you best know that you have a very

sweet and caring disposition. Your approachable personality lets others feel comfortable around you. All of these qualities prove you are reliable, helpful, and passionate in everything you do.

### ***Mr. Reinhard:***

Congratulations, your results have shown that you resemble Mr. Reinhard, the 7th and 8th Grade Health and Phys. Ed Teacher! You come across as a booming, energetic, and humorous person. At times, you may even come across as a class clown (except the good kind, the kind that actually runs the class). Your jokester personality results in funny jokes being constantly produced, some more repetitive than others. Some people may find you "annoying" for this, but deep down, they know they love it, and you know they do, too! You are the type of person who is very patient with others, yet pushes them to unleash their true potential as they harness their natural abilities. You are also a commandeering figure that walks down the hallways full of confidence and swagger, so you know how to get along with even the most difficult people while still keeping them in line. Seriously, when you raise your voice, you instill the Fear of God into people. But that's okay, because we know you just want what's best for everyone, due to your father-like nature. No matter what happened previously, you always seem to be focused on the present and ensuring that everyone is safe and able to have a good time. The kind-heartedness in you often goes to great lengths to try and cheer a person up if you sense that they are down. The natural-born leader in you is always willing to take charge of a situation and steer it towards the positive. The encouragement and care you display to all of those around you is what truly makes an impression and encourages people to reach beyond their perceived limitations.

## Summer Edition Teacher Personality Descriptions:

### **Ms. Fleming:**

Congratulations, you're Ms. Fleming, the 7th and 8th grade science teacher. You are a very down-to-earth individual who likes the simple things: nature, exploring, and so on... Some may be discouraged or overlook you due to your quiet nature, but those who know you appreciate your patience and willingness to help, especially when it comes to your knack for technology. You enjoy traveling, with road trips being enjoyable to you, as well as wanting to achieve the goal of visiting all the National Parks one day. Until then, you have to make use of your patient side, teaching people about the aspects of science you oh-so-love. You love the outdoors and all things nature: the color green, hiking, gardening, even your pet frog! It doesn't take much to please your sweet, gentle self: A day spent outdoors followed up with a dinner of your favorite food (Tacos!) is a good day in your eyes.

### **Mr. Hamm:**

Congratulations! You are Mr. Hamm, the 7th and 8th Grade Performing Arts and Chorus Teacher! You have a deep passion for learning new aspects of life, and you enjoy exploring the beauty of the world around you. You can be the life of the party at times, but you also have a firm sense of yourself that others admire. Your occasional sternness is what gets business taken care of, for you're a hardworking individual who often puts others' needs before yours. At no cost, you would do literally anything for someone you care about. As nice as you are, you know your boundaries. When someone crosses your path in a bad way, doesn't abide by the rules, or is just a plain hater, you steer clear of that negativity. That's not what you thrive off of! In your work, your motivation is to tell a story, and bring people together to

create something truly enchanting. Whether it be a theatrical play, a concert, an opera, a singing gig, or just a chorus practice, you put effort in making people realize their abilities, and make magic happen on stage. By now, you probably know that you're a tell-tale performer. Not only on stage, but all throughout your life. Some may say you're dramatic, but given your job, that's a good thing. Inspiring people and showing them not to let their struggles hold them back drives you to connect and unite everybody. Overall, you wish the world was a better place. But with your charming performances to enlighten the spirits of others and adventurous taste, you do your part in making that change.

### **Ms. Hannon:**

Congratulations! You're Ms. Hannon, the 7th and 8th grade History Teacher! You find pleasure immersing yourself into the beauty of nature and the past! The simplest of things will make your day. After all, you have the reputation of always being in a good mood. Many people feel comfortable around you, probably because you're such a good-natured person. When you're not teaching, you find relief and contentment in outdoor activities (gardening, watching the beautiful butterflies, biking, etc.). Just being in the middle of your backyard sounds like a wonderful time to you! At times, you crave the adventure and interest of discovering the past. Whether it be studying ancient artifacts, visiting a museum, or just listening to other people's stories of back then, you love to feel like you're living in previous times. As someone who spends a lot of time gardening and viewing artifacts of the past, you absolutely hate not being organized and like things structured. Your motto is "you work for what you get," which is why you treasure all you're grateful for and live in the moment. In summary, your fun, enthusiastic, adventurous self continues to push you to explore more everyday.

### **Mr. Reinert:**

Congratulations! You're Mr. Reinert, the 7th and 8th grade Mathematics Teacher! You're a very sporty person who has all of the greatest pep talks memorized. You run off the fuel of perseverance and hard work. "Work Hard, Not Hardly Work" is your motto. Yes, many people's work ethics differ, but when you see someone being just plain lazy, you don't understand what the heck they're doing. You strive hard to accomplish what you set your mind to, and you do it with pride! Yes, you can be stern at times, but when it comes to coaching your players during a game, teaching algebra, or even helping someone in need, you do it out of love for bettering those around you. Your sarcasm alludes to your lively, focused self. When it comes to athletics, you know it all. You take pride in what you instill in your players, and treasure all the moments you have spent together as a team. No matter what, in the end, you always have a hand to lend help, and you care deeply for your loved ones.

### **Mrs. Raber:**

Congratulations, you're Mrs. Raber, the 7th and 8th-grade Health and Physical Education Teacher! You are a very eager, giving person who thrives on helping others in many different ways. Your attentive nature means you're always on the lookout for ways to improve others' lives or make people smile, like by turning a pile of fabric into a banana costume everyone wants to try on. Yes, your generous nature sometimes allows people to take advantage of you, but that's okay, (But still not an excuse. Be nice, people.) because you find comfort in the happiness of others, deserving of it or not. You strive to be nice and save a smile for everyone, for you are aware of the fact that your kindness can be the light in someone's otherwise bad day. Despite your humble, gentle qualities, you have an athletic side that inspires you to share the glory of fitness to all, from the seat of a bicycle

or behind a tennis racket, of course. Perseverance is key to your productive lifestyle. After all, without your confidence and determination (And your dislike for procrastination: You strongly believe the early bird gets the worm) in seemingly impossible situations, you wouldn't get nearly as many things accomplished, like your passion for giving the community a safe place to convene (The NL Community Center!) Although you know the importance of discipline, your sweet, enlightening side takes full precedence, fueling your determination to get people to try new (healthy) things, whether that's peppermint, kiwi, plain popcorn, or intramurals. We appreciate you Mrs. Raber, and we wish you the best upon retirement!

### **Ms. Case:**

Congratulations! You are the one and only Ms. Case! Everybody knows you, and everybody loves you, mostly for all the hard work you do to keep things running smoothly, but also for your caring, always happy disposition. Of course, things don't always work out the way we want them to in life, but your positive attitude never fails to find a silver lining in any situation,

and with the help of (trumpets)- caffeine - You really can accomplish anything you put your mind to. But seriously, you have so much energy, you may just want to put down the Coca-Cola every once in a while. Some call it your favorite drink, others call it a straight-up addiction to caffeine. You decide for yourself. (Notice a pattern among teachers? Hmm...) Now, despite how much time and dedication you put forth in your work to help others, you still make it a priority to spend time with your beloved friends and family. Life just wouldn't be the same without them! In your own time, you find joy in popping open a box of chocolates, playing with your dog, or drinking 6 or so sodas. Very rarely are you not on your feet! Your spontaneous personality makes you crave an adventure... From skydiving with fellow teachers to running around town with the Track team, a lot goes on in one day for you. You're in one room and out the other (With a trail of soda cans left behind, of course)! You have a soft spot for animals of all sorts, which explains how spoiled your own pets are. But you can't help it, you just love them that much. A source of distraction occasionally messes with you

a bit, but someone in need, pleading your name (most likely a help-seeking student) will snap you back in the moment, for you will drop everything and do anything to help anyone. In a way, you're a superhero to all!



By Jasmine Silvestri

*Team 8 Barker*

### **TikTok**

If you aren't familiar with what TikTok is (but I'm sure you are), TikTok is a Chinese video-sharing social networking service owned by ByteDance, a Beijing-based company founded in 2012 by Zhang Yiming. It is used to create short dance, lip-sync, comedy, and talent videos. The app was launched in 2017 for iOS and Android in markets outside of China. ByteDance first launched Douyin for the Chinese market in September 2016. It became available in

## **Spill The Tea!**

the United States after merging with Musical.ly on August 2, 2018.

TikTok is a platform for anyone to show off talents or share certain things with their virtual audi-



ence. Even celebrities have downloaded the app and created ac-

counts to post things! Users can go into the app and post things such as dance videos, "storytimes", makeup, art, etc. The more entertaining the content, the more likes, right? More likes usually mean more followers, and more followers equals clout. The ending result is fame and popularity, resulting in an app drawing people of all ages and backgrounds to attempt to get their chance in the spotlight.

Having an app that can help people, especially young people, showcase their talents can be very



**See Tea, Page 24**

beneficial. I mean, look at young TikTok star Charli D'amelio: As many of you may know, she is a dancer on the app and in real life, as well as an uploader of funny content. Suddenly, she got mass attention and followers. You would think that sudden fame would be amazing, to wake up one day and see that thousands of people suddenly followed you, but not in her case. Sadly, D'amelio faced and continues to receive hate for her work.

So, sure, having this platform may be a good thing, but it also has its downsides. Lots of bullying can take place on the app, and this can have a big emotional effect on a person. There are also lots of potential predators on the app, forcing users to carefully review what they plan to post. Making sure that you stay safe and not posting anything that you will regret later is important, for your posts can be viewed by anyone and everyone.

Besides the safety issues of the app, it has also become a known fact that the app can become addictive. It can be very hard to put your phone down after being sucked into the world of TikTok. Most users lose track of time on the app, allowing hours to pass without realizing it. In addition to “addictions” surrounding watching TikTok, creating them can lead to unhealthy habits as well. Getting likes can become obsessive, causing you to doubt yourself and others’ opinions of you if you don’t feel the numbers are good enough, negatively impacting mental

health.

However, as long as TikTok users are responsible, the app is beneficial in the way that it has been a very helpful contributor to launching trends. TikTok has helped to popularize certain songs, such as “The Box” by Roddy Ricch. If you remember the whole VSCO trend, well, that was mainly popularized on TikTok. Artists such as Doja Cat have gotten more exposure since their songs became hits on TikTok, and even dances were created to go along with the songs. There are so many popular creators that a house was even created specifically for them. It’s called the “Hype House”, and it was created for creators to meet and collaborate in videos with each other.



### *Hype House— Daisy Keech*

Hype House drama doesn’t come as a surprise. Usually, where there is fame, drama comes along with it. Not even three months after the purchase of the Spanish-style L.A. mansion, it’s concept started to crumble to pieces. There were three main co-founders of the Hype House: Daisy Keech, Chase Hudson (Lil Huddy), and Thomas Petrou. (Alex Warren and Kouvr Annon also contributed, but weren’t recognized) Sadly, Chase and

Thomas shut Keech out and didn’t give her any recognition for having a major part in paying for the house. Keech made a Youtube video explaining the whole situation on her account and she is now filing a lawsuit against the two.

In her video, Keech explains how the Hype House was formed. She starts by saying that she wants to speak openly and tell her side of the story and that she wishes everyone in the Hype House the best. She then goes on to explain that she met Thomas Petrou at a photoshoot, but he was shortly fired thereafter. Since he didn’t have a job, Keech offered for her to hire him as her personal photographer and editor. She and Petrou became very close friends, and he conjured the vision to create a “content house” for creators to collaborate and make videos. At that point, Petrou had just met Chase Hudson while doing a photoshoot, and he also spoke with him about making the “content house” a real thing. The group began looking online for houses that they liked, and found one with a deposit of about \$400,000. Keech claims in the video that she

“believed in this idea so much” and was willing to put down as much as possible. In the end, she and Chase put down \$18K while Thomas, Kouvr, and Alex all put down \$5K. Eventually, the house started to get lots of press and they were asked to be interviewed by the New York Times. Thus, Keech claims that this was her first time encountering this type of attention and that she was intimidated. She didn’t have a manager like Chase, so she was scared to speak up. She said that she assumed that the two would speak up and say that she



was also a co-founder and give her the credit she deserves, as well as the two other co-founders who weren't present at the time. "I assumed Thomas and Chase would have given the other co-founders, not just myself, the other co-founders credit. Out of integrity, that's just what you do."

Down the line, there were more and more interviews. Though she wasn't at the interviews, Keech thought that Petrou would give her the credit she deserves and recognize her as a co-founder. Later, Keech's lawyer and the manager contacted her asking her as to why only Chase and Thomas were the only ones being given credit. She then goes on to say that she was "disappointed" and "confused" because no one spoke up for her and gave credit to everyone that helped. She then confronted Petrou once again. He responded that because she wasn't there, he didn't say anything.

After that, Keech explains that she found herself locked out of not just her email and social media accounts, but also potential deals. Her suit cites "agreements with various brands such as Bang Energy, Chipotle, GOAT, Flight House, Beauty Blender as well as with a musical artist named 'Mosey'". She was completely powerless and clueless as to what was going on and why she had no access to her accounts. She claimed that he was the only one with complete access.

But that wasn't the only thing that seemed off to Keech. Petrou asked Keech to pretend to be a very popular creator's best friend to help persuade her into joining the Hype House. In other words, Petrou wanted Keech to manipulate this person into joining by lying to her.

This got Keech wondering if Petrou was doing the same with her; his morals were so "loose" to use someone for publicity. She states, "Yet, this entire time, I would defend him to my friends and be like, no, like, he's just really stressed, he has so much on his plate. Like, he's one of my best friends, I know he'd never purposely leave me out, or screw me over." And even after her friends tried to tell her that she is being used, she continued to believe that Petrou wasn't this bad person/friend and that he would never do that to her.

Petrou wasn't just causing problems with Keech, however. Another co-founder (their name was not mentioned) found out about a press opportunity and then went to Petrou to ask if they could do it. He responded that he didn't want to do it because "the press keeps making me look bad, it makes me look like I'm forcing people to make videos," even though the opportunity could have helped to promote the Hype House brand. Petrou still refused to say that he was in charge and that he was the one that made the decisions. She goes on to say that they never had any group meetings to discuss the business and that Petrou acted like he had this authority over them the entire time.

Petrou then started making decisions that Keech could have been legally liable for due to her name being on the lease. After that, she started to speak what's on her mind and stand up for herself. At this point, Petrou had crossed the line and Keech couldn't take it anymore. Slowly, Petrou cut Keech out of things because of her new confidence in expressing her input. He stopped ignoring her when cer-

tain events were taking place for his own convenience, but like an adult, she handled the situation once more. She went to him again and asked why she was being left out and explained her feelings. He told her that it wasn't intended to make her feel that way and that he was sorry. However, Keech has heard similar "apologies" before. While Petrou and Keech's lawyer/manager discussed some matters related to "internal structure of the Hype House," Petrou said to her lawyer/manager: "You know what, I'm just more of a businessman, and, girls like Daisy, she's just another hot Instagram model with a shelf life." To hear that from someone that claimed to be her best friend was game-changing.

Like a mature person, she once again went to Petrou and directly questioned him about the situation, but she was met with more lies about being a friend who would never say such things, the last straw for Keech. She realized that, from that point on, she had to "strategize" and get to the bottom of these legal and moral issues. She filed for a trademark, because none of the other members had filed for one in the first place. She informed Petrou of her action, and he tried to tell her that she filed for it incorrectly in an attempt to degrade her and make her feel like she wasn't capable of running part of the business. Keech then went on to say that she felt like Petrou was putting off creating a board and having a board meeting.

Keech started messaging him about her percentage of the company; her lawyer contacted Petrou, but he ignored them both. He had her confused because she and

Petrou would have conversations about her playing a very important role in the company, but now he was completely dodging her messaging and not answering her when it was time to allocate their percentages.

Then, when Keech went home to the Hype House, she walked in on a music video shoot set up. Considering Keech is on the lease, you would expect Petrou to ask her first, but that's not the case. He then claims that he put it on the group text. Then, once she gets into her room, it is full of people and clothing racks. Once again, she confronts Petrou about the matter. He says he put it in the group chat, but no time or no date was informed when the moving would take place, and he never spoke with the leaseholders or the landlord about hosting a music video. Keech went on to ask him about the percentages. He responded that the 18K that she put down was just so that some friends could live together and had absolutely nothing to do with the Hype House itself. To Keech, this didn't make any sense because she claims that she had just met the majority of the people that were a part of the Hype House, so for her to put down that much money for some friends to live together didn't make any sense.

After that confrontation, Petrou unfollowed Keech off of all social media accounts to make it look like she wasn't a part of the Hype House any longer. Even better, he hosted a team meeting and asked

the members of the Hype House to unfollow her and block her.

She goes on to say that she feels "disrespected", "degraded", "used", and most of all, she feels "disappointed" in Petrou and his poor show of character. Keech explains that it took her best friend to sit her down and talk to her to tell her that she needs to speak up for herself. Because Keech wanted to believe that Petrou wasn't the person he had become, she ignored the behavior at first, but finally, she realized that it was time to tell her side of the story and stand up for herself.

Nearing the end of her video, she goes on to say that she forgives him and that she wants to end on a positive note: She explains what she learned from the experience; She says to listen to "red flags" and your intuition because, if you don't, bad things are likely to hap-



pen. Keech says always stick up for yourself and your beliefs. She explains how she wants to become a role model for young women.

And, from an investment standpoint, she says that it's safer to dial down your percentages in a company before you contribute any of your assets. She then thanks Petrou for "showing me and

teaching me to stand up for myself". This experience taught her to be an example for younger women in the business world. She claims to have learned a lot of things about said business world, such as to not let people walk all over you. Overall, she thanked Thomas Petrou for teaching her a valuable life lesson.

### *Thomas Petrou*

On April 2nd, Thomas Petrou came out with a Youtube video titled "The REAL truth about The Hype House". In the video, the Youtube and TikTok star goes through Daisy Keech's story, pointing out, what he asserts, are inaccuracies. He also claims that Keech was not very social with the other members of the House: she never posted content on the group's TikTok and she mostly stayed in her room. "I'm just here to give the full story of what actually happened and to give you guys the real truth about how the Hype House came to be," he began.

One of the first things Petrou addressed was Keech's claims she hired him as a photographer and editor after he was fired from Jake Paul's YouTube collective, Team 10. "I shot for Daisy from July to September for free," Petrou clarified. He claimed Keech first started paying him on Sept. 15, 2019, and it was only \$250 a week for "full YouTube editing, Bang video editing, and shooting all of her branded content for Instagram." Petrou also commented on Keech's claim she put down \$18,000 for the security deposit on the

on the Hype House mansion. While he confirms she paid that much money, Petrou claims it was initially only him and Chase Hudson who put the total \$46,000 deposit down.

He says Keech reimbursed him and Hudson \$18,000 once the funds became available in her bank account.

Next up, Petrou addressed Keech's claim that he didn't give her credit for

being a co-founder of the Hype House in their *New York Times* interview. "I never once in that interview said that it was me and Chase who were the only cofounders," Petrou said. Petrou then claimed

he noticed Keech was pulling back on doing anything related to the Hype House and was barely promoting the brand in the following weeks. Keech, however, claimed she was purposely left out of brand deals.

In her "Truth about the Hype House" vlog, Keech claimed she filed to trademark the Hype House name after she realized Petrou was cutting her out of opportunities. But Petrou revealed a legal document seemingly showing Keech filed on Jan. 7, just three

weeks after they started the collective. Petrou said Keech did this behind everyone's back, and that's when members of the Hype House began to stop trusting her.



Petrou denied Keech's claim that he asked her to "manipulate" another content creator in hopes to get them into the house. He says he simply asked her to be nice to her because Keech can be

the other house members. While Petrou admitted he does make a lot of the Hype House's decisions, he claimed he doesn't make any without talking to the team first.

As for Keech's claim that Petrou booked a music video at the house without approval from other liable-for-damage leaseholders, Petrou claims that Keech moved out two weeks before the shoot.

Keech, who has since started her own collective called "Clubhouse", claimed she felt like she was going to be forced out of The Hype House, but

Petrou said it was ultimately her own decision to move out of the house, after which the members "voted" to unfollow her on all The Hype House's social media accounts.



"standoffish." Petrou also denied he turned down press opportunities without consulting Keech and

## Which Stores Are Open?

By Joshua Haldaman and  
Stephen Berry  
*Seventh Grade Barkers*

Right now, due to the ongoing Coronavirus, most stores are shut down. Since the start of this virus, things around here have really changed, including the closing of a lot stores and shopping areas. Normal things we were used to doing, going to the mall, buying video games, getting new clothes, and playing at the VR center have all stopped. All gas stations and grocery stores are staying open



for obvious reasons. All of those reasons contribute to the main point that they are necessities. On the other hand, a huge controversial bubble surrounds the fact that the GameStop franchises when the pandemic first began refused to close down, while stores such as important car dealerships and repair shops shut themselves out of the equation. Meanwhile, these are some of the stores that if very needed, can be visited for crucial reasons only. Charlotte's Web Antiques,

Kmart, Huckster's discount, Market, Dollar Tree, Enchanted Meadows, the Slatington Market. We hope that these stores mentioned above can give you a little bit of insight on what is happening outside of our quarantined homes, and can provide with it, some safe, enclosed, and quick visits to these places. But be warned, these stores are only remaining open for dire necessities they one may need to get a hold of during the outbreak of the virus. Many counties are moving into the yellow phase soon, which is a sign of hope. Hopefully, we will be in the green soon. Please stay safe and be responsible.

## Interesting Facts!

By Skyelar Horack  
*Seventh Grade Barker*

Do you ever read an interesting fact and want to learn more? Well, if so, you came to the right place! I'm going to be telling you 6 interesting facts about animals, Disney, sports, celebrities, and food.

### Animals:

- A heart of a shrimp is located in its head.
- A snail can sleep for 3 years.
- Koala fingerprints are so close to humans' that they could taint crime scenes.
- Kangaroos can't fart.
- Around 50 percent of orangutans have fractured bones, due to falling out of trees on a regular basis.

### Disney:

- Frogs cannot vomit. If one absolutely has to, then it will vomit its entire stomach.
- There is a secret suite inside Cinderella's Castle that's only open to contest winners and special guests.
- Disney world constantly pumps scents into the parks, like the smell of baked goods.
- There are secret tunnels underneath the Magic Kingdom that are only open to employees.
- If you pick up the old fashioned telephone inside the hat shop on main street, you can hear a secret conversation.
- There is an abandoned water park hidden in Disney named

River Country.

- In 1971 you could get into Disney for \$3.50.

### Sports:

- Adidas spent 2 ½ years designing the soccer ball for the 2014 World Cup.
- A Spalding basketball has a lifespan of 10,000 bounces.
- The world record for the most consecutive push-ups was set in 1980 by Minoru Yoshida from Japan who managed to do 10,507 in a row.
- Professional US swimmer Michael Phelps has won more gold medals than 80 percent of all countries in the history of the Olympic Games.
- Australian rower Bobby Pearce won the 1928 Olympic

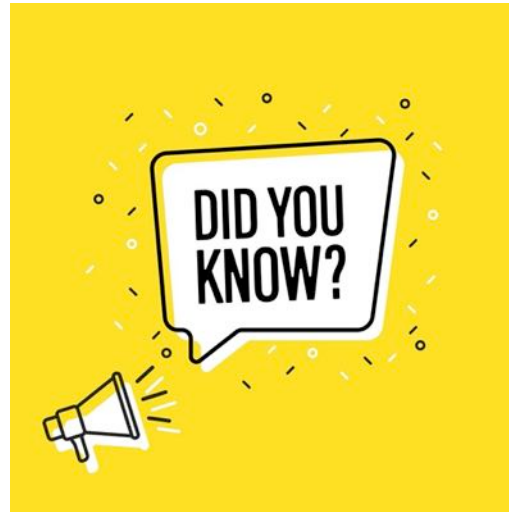
Games against eight other competitors, even though he stopped during the race to let ducks pass in front of him.

- Archer Matt Stutzman holds the world record for the longest shot with a bow and arrow under Olympic conditions. He hit his mark at a distance of 930 feet. What makes this so special is the fact that due to a disability, Matt Stutzman has no arms and therefore uses the bow with his feet.

### **Celebrities:**

- Paris Hilton built a dog mansion in her backyard.
- Tom Hanks is obsessed with typewriters.
- Jennifer Lawrence has a tattoo reminding her to drink water.

- Oprah has a bathtub that's shaped like her body.
- As a child, Johnny Depp was allergic to chocolate which is surprising because he played Willy Wonka in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



- Three weeks before they started recording *The Walking Dead*, Andrew Lincoln (who plays Rick Grimes) went out and practiced his accent by ordering coffees & fried chicken.

### **Food:**

- Grapes will explode if you put them in the microwave.
- A typical ear of corn has an even number of rows.
- Scientists can turn peanut butter into diamonds.
- Ripe cranberries will bounce like rubber balls.
- Potatoes can absorb and reflect Wi-fi signals.
- Honey will never ever go bad.

## **End of The Year Questionnaire**

**By Haven Moore**

*Eighth Grade Barker*

As the long, who-knows-what-day-days carry on, we all have been at the comfort of our homes, hopefully continuing our school work. I mean, the end of the school year just wouldn't be that special without the hard work put into it, am I right? Not all of you probably feel the same way, but no big deal. I just had some free time at home in quarantine, and decided on a whim, to ask some current 7th (almost 8th) grade students, and some 8th (almost 9th grade students) about how they feel about the end of the year coming near. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge all of the hardworking teachers

who stop to no extent to assist their students with their work, and to the students who persist to do the best they can, and felt they made a positive difference this school year. Not only publicly, but in their own selves. I would also like to give a word of appreciation to the people who agreed to partake in this interview. Here are the interview questions and their answers:

**How do you feel about entering eighth grade next school year, and how do you feel after your almost full first year of middle school?**

**Seth Schaeffer (7th Grader):** So, although my seventh grade experience was cut a bit short, it was

really fun to be in a new school with new rules and teachers. My thoughts on going into eighth grade, from what I can tell, not much will change other than the seventh graders and teachers. If eighth grade is as refreshing as seventh I'm sure it'll be fine, my only concern is being so close to high school after only 2 years in a school.

**Lola Millroy (7th Grader):**

I'm excited to go to eighth grade and hopefully be able to spend a whole year in the actual building. The first year of middle school was fun and it was weird at the same time because there were only two grades in one building.

**Sarah Garcia: (7th Grader):**

I feel a little nervous about entering eighth grade next school year, dealing with new teachers and more advanced work, but I also feel really prepared for what will be assigned to me while in eighth grade. And after my almost fully first year of middle school, I felt like I accomplished a lot and proved myself to be a hard working, educated student and I am proud of that. School went by so fast, but I felt like I gained enough learning to help me start eighth grade off good!

**Can you explain how you feel about moving on to high school this Fall (fingers-**

**crossed)? What will you miss most about middle school, and what are you most excited for in high school?**

**James Stock (8th Grader):**

Honestly I'm not that worried about it. Sure we will have new responsibilities and all, but I'm okay with that. However, one thing I will miss is Mr. Davis's and Mr. Meixsell's fun classes, but I guess that's part of moving up every year. The thing I'm most excited for next year is going to LCTI. The class I'm taking seems really fun, yet also somewhat challenging, so I hope to learn all that I can.

**Aricka Creyer (8th Grader):**

Before the whole pandemic I wasn't too worried about going to high school, but now I'm kind of nervous. I have heard rumors of other schools thinking about starting the first semester online. The thing I'll miss most is probably the teachers. I am most excited about trying new things, as well as experiencing new activities.

**Brayden Arnold (8th Grader):**

For high school, I feel that it will bring new opportunities to my life. The thing that I will miss the most is all of the teachers. For high school, I am looking forward to meeting new people.

By Stephen Berry  
*Seventh Grade Barker*

# Pictures During Quarantine!



## Rare Sports...Try These For Size!

By Skyelar Horack

*Seventh Grade Barker*

Have you ever become bored and started making up games? This is basically what happened when these “sports” were invented. Almost any game you can think of is probably played professionally.

**The first extraordinary sport is Quidditch.** Quidditch is a sport made famous in the Harry Potter book and movie series. There are 4 balls played in Quidditch being a Quaffle, 2 Bludgers, and a Snitch.

There are 8 players needed for this sport. There is 1 Keeper, 3 Chasers, 2 Beaters, 1 Seeker, and 1 Snitch. The Keeper wears a green headband and guards the three hoops on the playing field. The 3 Chasers wear white headbands and they try to

score points by getting the Quaffle through the hoops of different heights. The 2 Beaters wear black headbands and they throw Bludgers to knock out opponents. The Seeker wears a gold headband and they try to catch the Snitch. The Snitch wears a sock on their back with a tennis ball in it. The Seeker has to grab the sock, just as they are trying to pull a flag in flag football. Only the Keepers and Chasers can handle the Quaffle, only the Beaters handle the Bludgers, and only the Seeker handle the Snitch. The team who has the most points wins. The

teams can get points by throwing the Quaffle through the hoops which is 10 points and catching the Snitch which is worth 30 points.

**The second unusual sport is Hobby Horsing.** When you were a child, did you own a horse head on a stick that played horse sounds? Did you run around your house annoying your parents while riding your “horse”? The object of this sport is to ride your horse over jumps, run barrel patterns, or compete in dressage tests. The jumps can become higher than 4 feet and you can win ribbons in different classes. This sport ages from 10 to



18 years old

and is more affordable than owning a horse itself.

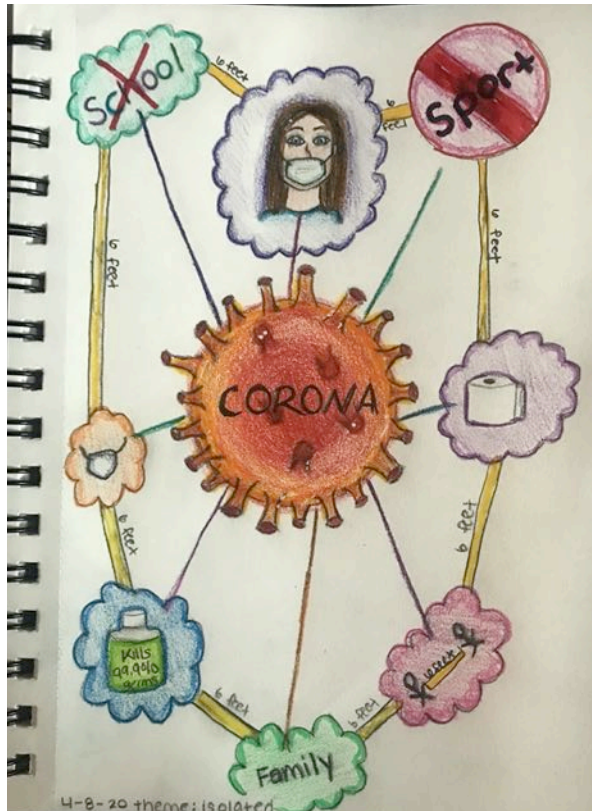
**The third bizarre sport is Lawn Mower Racing.** Lawn Mower Racing is popular all over America. The races are held at fairs, festivals, car shows, and charity events. The lawnmower engines are kept, but the blades are removed for safety purposes. It is required for the rider to wear a helmet and body gear for safety precautions. The tracks are made of dirt or clay and are typically a tenth of a mile around. The mowers are split into different classes ranging from super-stock and su-

per-modified. The mowers can reach up to 60 MPH! The racers aren't just in the race for money, they do the sport because they love and enjoy it.

**The fourth unusual sport is Wife Carrying.** Wife Carrying is a 254-meter/278-yard race. The course's main design is one dry land obstacle and one water obstacle, however, this design may vary. The male teammate can carry the female teammate however they would like. The most used carry is Piggyback, Fireman's Carry, and Estonian Carry. The Fireman's Carry is over the shoulder and the Estonian Carry is where the wife hangs upside-down with her legs around the husband's shoulders, holding onto his waist. If the husband does not carry his wife, the team will be disqualified. If the husband drops his wife, they have a 5-second penalty added to their time. The two fastest teams qualify for a final heat, with the winner of the final heat being the winner of the event. Additional heats may be run for third place, and on.

**The fifth and final rare sport is Kaninhopping.** If there are any bunny owners, this is the exact sport you and your furry friend should practice and participate in. Kaninhopping (bunny showjumping) originated from Sweden but has recently become popular in America. These bunnies jump over miniature fences like the ones equestrians jump over with their horse. A fence for a bunny that is not trained can jump over 2 feet. The highest ever recorded for a bunny to jump is 3.25 feet high! The height of the jumps depends on the breed of the rabbit. Some rabbits have more agility in them than others. The bunnies can earn ribbons for first, second, and third place.

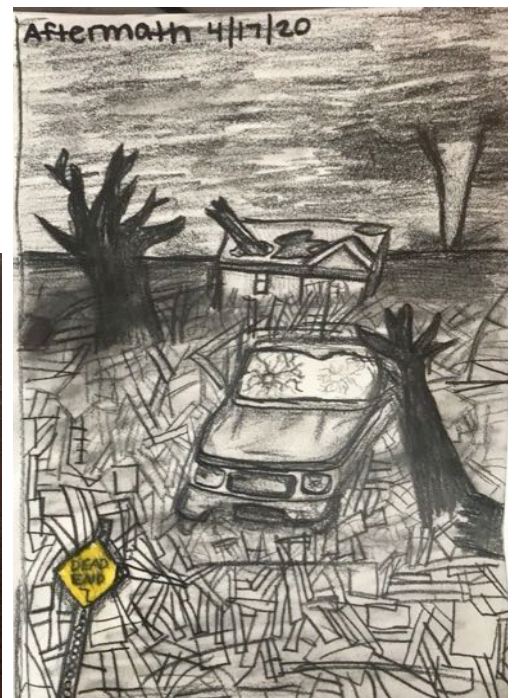
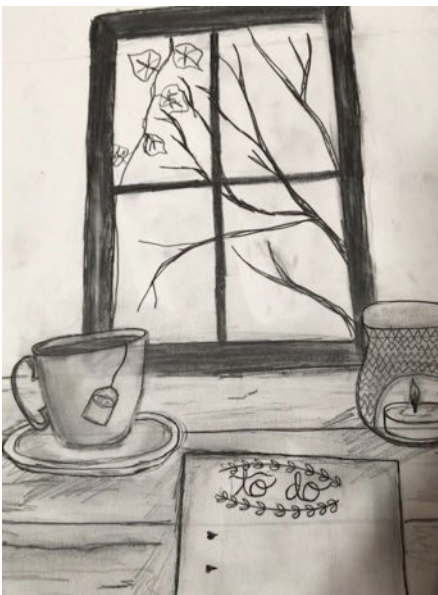
# BULLDOG ART!



## “Isolation”



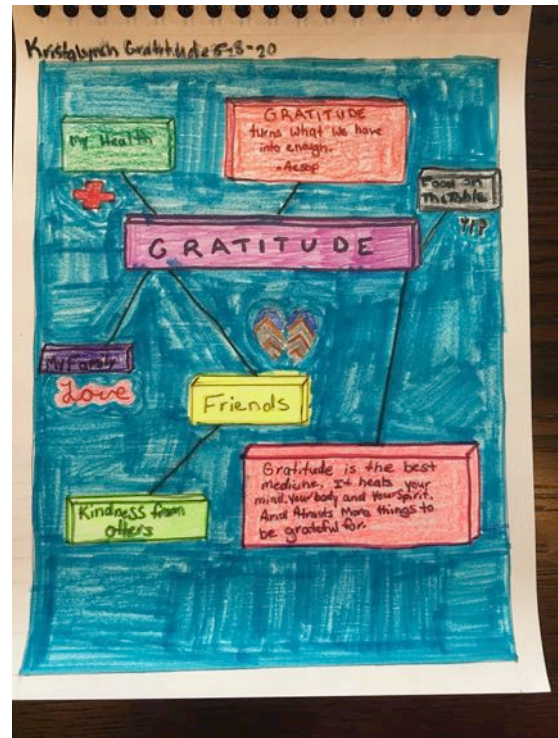
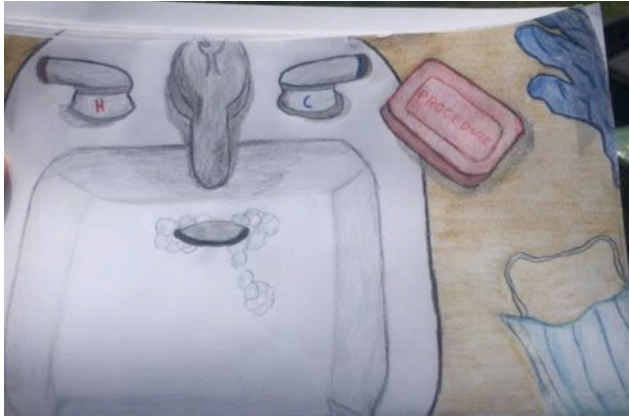
## “Windows”



## “Aftermath”



# “Procedures”



# “Gratitude”



# “Shipwrecked”



# “Nature”

# “Heroes”

# doghouse fiction



## “The Nishi” inspired by a Bengali urban legend

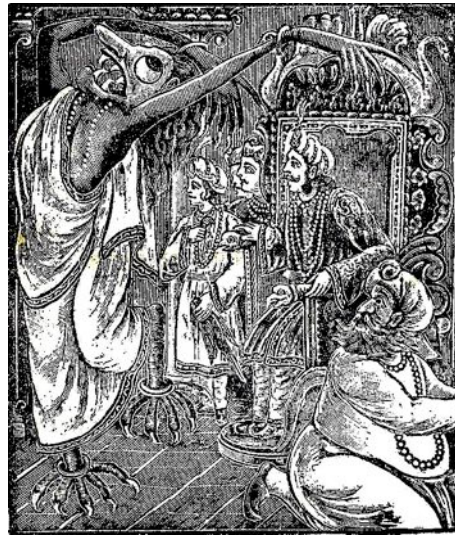
By Joshua Haldaman

*Team 7 Barker*

Growing up in India, I heard many stories of terrifying creatures and ghouls that lurk around every corner. None of the stories ever seemed real to me, and I just blew off most of the warnings, so when my mother ridiculed me for not being careful about the Nishi, I didn't pay attention. The Nishi is a creature from Bengali folklore. It stays in dark alleys, forest paths, etc. It is said that the Nishi will recreate the voice of someone you care about and call out to you. If you respond, it will viciously attack until you have vanished.

It had been a long night, my friend Adra and I had been out watching a movie at the local theatre, and we

needed to take a shortcut through an alleyway in order to get home before curfew. “Hey Amna,” said my friend worriedly, “



“Aren't you worried about the Nishi?” the question came out of nowhere, and the moment became inexplicably awkward. “Come on Adra.. You can't actually believe that!” After I said that, time seemed to slow, we saw her brother behind us.

“Adra? Is that

you?” She looked at me and my heart stopped. We ran until we physically could not anymore. Adra looked at me and said, “I can't take it.” my face turned to instant sorrow, I should have believed her.

“Yes, just leave me alone!” Muhammed's figure deformed into a horrible being with huge, exaggerated features. It's massive, knife-like claws buried into her torso, pulling her away. It looked at me, and smiled. At home, my mother asked me how the movie was. I said “Good,” when I heard a horrible noise behind me and a sharp pain in my sides, like flaming spikes, flying into my ribs. I dropped to my knees and everything went dark. “You should have listened.”

# Bulldog Poetry



## "Pennsylvania Nights"



My ceiling fan  
circles round and  
round.

A small breeze  
swings around,  
Cooling off my  
warm skin.

I hear the clinking of the fan chains  
and the woosh of the wings.

It is well past midnight,  
On a warm, Pennsylvania night.

The window is not open,

But yet I hear the chirps of crickets as  
if there was a cage of them inside my  
room.

And if I were to open my window,  
The smell of fresh, wet grass would  
waft up through my window.

And the sound of cars driving by on  
the rain soaked pavement would lull  
just about anyone to sleep.

The distant lights of a small town  
in the mountains,

The on and off and on again  
flashing of the fireflies,

This is a peaceful, Pennsylvania  
night.

By Ashley Moyer

*Team 8 Barker*



## "Stuck"

Songs stuck in my head,  
I listen to as I lay in my bed.

Do you hear them?  
They go on and on, for miles  
and miles.

Do they stop?

I don't know.

You get tired of one song,  
And throw out another.  
So you pick up the other.  
Get tired of it and repeat.

The words repeat,

The melody repeats,

Nothing is new

Nothing has changed.

Do you hear the songs?

## "Phase"

i want to be perfect in so  
many ways.

i want to love you,  
cause it's all just a  
phase.

make me feel special.  
and please don't delay.

i don't want to beg,  
but it may come that  
day,

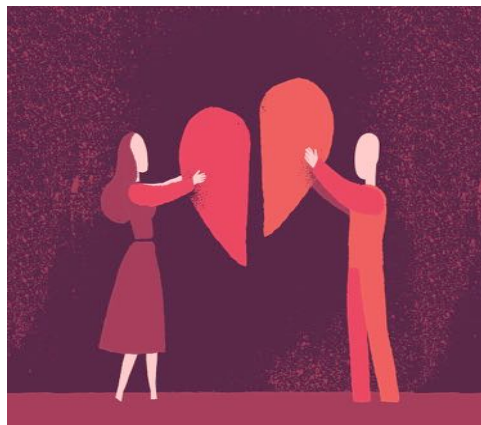
that Spring day in May,  
when we say,

"It was all just a phase."  
and some time soon,

we'll all have to pay.  
so our days get shorter  
and playing gets harder.

and we'll all just want to daze.  
but I look into your gaze,  
and get lost in,

what was not a phase.



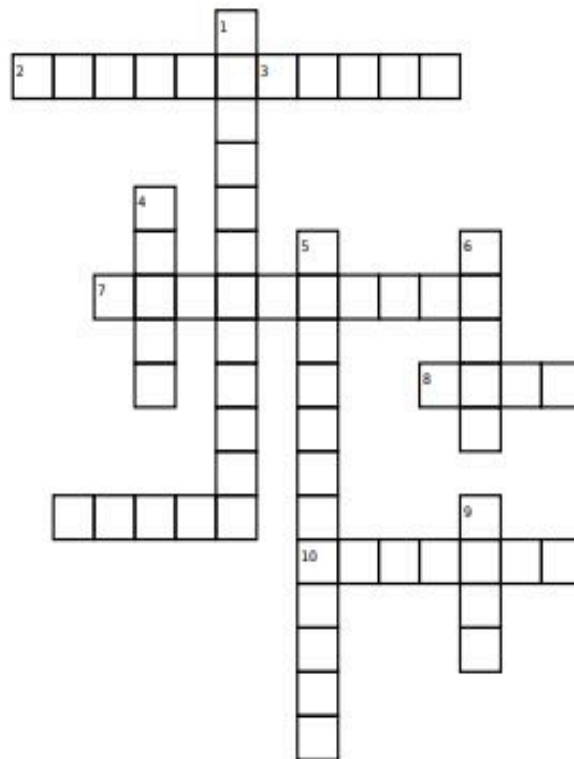
# Crossword Puzzle



By Haylie Fenstermaker

*Team 8 Barker*

## Covid-19



### Down:

1. what we should be doing frequently
4. cover your mouth when you \_\_\_\_ or sneeze
6. you may have a \_\_\_\_ if you have Covid-19
9. we have to wear this so we don't give the virus to anyone if we have it

### Across:

2. another name for Covid-19
3. they can make you severely sick
5. what we are doing because we can't go to school
7. this pandemic caused everyone to go into...
8. how far we should stay away from each other
10. try to avoid making \_\_\_\_\_ with other people

# Word Search



By Haylie Fenstermaker

*Team 8 Barker*

## Northern Lehigh Middle School

B S T C O X L C L H B V V S R  
 W N B U L L D O G B A R K P E  
 T S O L Z U U R B U M T H J D  
 G X T L M B Z H Z P K R N H S  
 U X B U L L D O G B O W L O C  
 S D O H D H M T E S J Y F M H  
 C C I G R E C D B N G Y K E O  
 P M I U C A N T H L K Q H W O  
 E L A E G P M T E H U F D O L  
 V Z U Q N A K A S A D E N R H  
 B U W Z X C D H T O C G N K O  
 N W O H N K E W M H G H R F S  
 V X B E I H I S T O R Y E X Z  
 L B N R V T U L K K U V C R M  
 W S J U H H E B U L L D O G S

bulldog bark

bulldog bowl

teachers

bulldogs

students

homework

science

history

white

blue

math

ela

school

pack

dnn

# Letter from the Advisor

By Mrs. Dunham

First and foremost—I want to directly thank all of my *Bulldog Barkers* for an amazing year, and for especially working hard on our most recent edition. Despite having a global pandemic, you have remained committed. You all have worked tirelessly to make this edition happen. From actively attending various Google Meets, collaborating on Google Docs to edit one another's writing, to being focused enough to meet pressing deadlines, I am more than impressed. I am so proud of all of you for making sure that the newspaper can continue despite the challenges we had to face for the past ten weeks.

This year's *Bulldog Bark* crew is exceptional, and I am sad to see my eighth grade Barkers go on, but I know they are bound for greatness. They're all yours now, Mr. Barnes. You have some great minds coming to *The Slate* in the next few years, and I am looking forward to seeing their contributions. I treasure all the time we spent together, the pizza, the laughs, and the ways we all inspired one another. You all have helped shaped the *Bulldog Bark* to evolve to fit the interests of our student body, from fun BuzzFeed quizzes to "Spilling the Tea."

I would like to take this time to especially thank the following Bulldog Barkers for helping not only contribute to the content of the newspaper, but also took time out of their day to help with organizing and proofreading for the paper. This takes hours of work and plenty of tedious attention! This edition's VIPs are:

**Avery Diaz**

**Haven Moore**

**Jasmine Silvestri**

**Ashley Moyer**

**Delaney Szwast**

For all my other students—it's been very difficult to not be able to see your faces in the hallways. I know I am not alone in saying how truly missed each of you are. We are all saddened that our time was cut short. We all feel disappointed about all the events that were canceled, like our annual Talent Show, and our Senior Citizen Prom, the Farewell Dance, *The Hunger Games* Field Day, and so on. I know all of us working at Northern Lehigh are doing our very best to make the most of this challenging situation. I've seen creativity and ingenuity like no other—so many of us have risen to the occasion to make learning and student engagement continue. Technology has allowed us to keep our classrooms open, and although there are certainly experiences that cannot be replaced, we are putting a tremendous amount of effort to keep our school running strong, whether it is brick and mortar or through a screen.

On a positive note, the past ten weeks has helped many of us grow and gain perspective. Some of us are forging stronger bonds with our families, friends, neighbors, and community. I've also seen some of the most beautiful forms of self-expression: poetry, art, music. I've been blown away by our student art (have you see Mrs. Frank's sketchbook assignments on Page 32 and 33?) and other forms of expression. I would like to quote Toni Morrison who has once said, **"This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."** This summer will be a good time to restore, reset, and recharge ourselves, so we are ready for fall.

Feel like joining us next year? *The Bulldog Bark* serves to represent students' voices at Northern Lehigh, so speak up! *The Bulldog Bark* is always looking for more Barkers to add to the pack; even if you would like to contribute to just one issue. Also, I do provide snacks/pizza at physical meetings, if that's what will motivate you to join us!

If you have any article ideas or are interested in writing at any point, please see me in Room 30 (when we return) or send me an e-mail: [bdunham@nlsd.org](mailto:bdunham@nlsd.org). Also, if you are a talented artist, I would love for you to feature your artwork! We have plenty of room to show off your skills.

**Have a great summer! Be ready for the fall! :)**

