Wake Up Everybody - Brandy, Mary J. Blige, Missy Elliott, Wyclef Jean, Ashanti (Official Video)

I ain't here to take up yall time
I came to shake up y'all mind it's everybody's wake up call time
I can't sleep to long why they do the people wrong
Let's clean the world up before they sweep you gone
This is real talk so you can peak through songs
So when you feel weak these words will keep you strong
And help make a change for the betta

It's hard for one to do it but we can make some changes together!
Fear- The New Normal
By: Michelle Babalyan

The Coronavirus is more than just your everyday cold, it’s a pandemic that causes fear, stress, and commotion. The effects of Coronavirus will really affect our future in many ways, and for many of us life might not be the same when we return from quarantine.

Starting December, 2019, life changed. It didn’t start affecting people in the United States however until January, 2020. Since then, people have been catching this virus, causing fear, stress, loss of family members and loss of business and education. This virus has been be affecting people all over the world, making it clear that life will change.

Right now some people are struggling to understand that this is real. There are people right now going outside without masks, violating our new Stay Home, Stay Safe rules and going where they please. This is why the world will change.

For some people, knowing that the virus is out there will cause them fear and stress especially if they are older. People who are elders or have pre-existing medical conditions are affected by this the most because even when we aren't in quarantine, the virus is still out there causing them fear. Older people and those with pre-existing conditions don't know when they will be able to see their family.

They are most fearful knowing that they aren't safe going outside for an unknown amount of time. Elders and people with weakened immunity are in a stage of isolation. It is not just these two groups of people that are in quarantine. The concern with so many people is quarantine, however is our psychological health and social well-being. At this time people do not feel safe when going outside. Everyone is avoiding each other and keeping socially distant from others.

This is affecting life for everyone. We are struggling with how fragile life is because we could lose loved ones. But, there are other things as a result of this that are also causing stress and fear, like our economy and finances.

Life will be different because people will avoid interaction for a fear of getting sick. The Coronavirus will change society and our way of living. It will be the new normal to speak from a distance and through a mask, and strange to see people avoid each other. Human interactions may look very different. The Coronavirus really thought us about how important human interaction is! As humankind will be much more cautious about so many of our regular daily behaviors.

Lastly, did you all know that when we are stressed and scared it affects the way our immune system works and causes the immune system to weaken? It is very important to remember that even though life might not be the same as it always was, we can still stay positive. People can make a difference if they followed the rules and take into consideration not just their own well-being but that of the people around them too.

To get an inside on how the older generation deals with this pandemic, I have interviewed my great grandparents. My great grandma, Lesya Bunchikov who is 87 and my great grandpa, Lev Bunchikov who is 86, will give a good perspective of how elders are feeling in this situation. Lesya stated that, “This added more fear into my life knowing that it isn't safe to go outside or see my family.” She has been really close with her family her whole life so this was definitely new to her. “I have never been scared to go outside or interact with people in my whole life.” Lev sighed. As the conversation continued, things kept going more into depth about how family is important and to stay connected.

Overall, this shows that life will be different and that this virus is causing people stress. There are solutions to everything and our hope is that we will all be okay.
Let America Be Free ~ Sophia Gan
Illness, fire, inequality, tension
I can’t breathe, don’t give them their pension
Homebound yesterday protesting today Black, white, straight or gay
Unified as one
This has just begun
An act that was a horrific broke the ice
Today we know that not everyone was nice
A leader hiding from the fire, only worried about votes
Help us, there is great blood shed on our coats
In the middle of a pandemic with no vaccine
How can you not let us intervene
As the world starts to change
Happiness and equality needs be exchanged
Hospitals housing those who need great help
Outside those walls people yelp
We may not look the same
But in our hearts, we all exclaim
I am ashamed to say I am a part of a world like this
With bloodshed, inequality and disparity with no bliss

Forgotten By Tasmia F.
Was it ever meant to be shown?
She wishes to be seen,
not forgotten like a fallen star.
The droplets of loneliness pools in her eyes,
finally being released from their shambles as they fall out of her demons’ embrace.
The world is filled with hatred,
an inequality created by the ones roaming the “free” land,
with no shame to their name.
And what was meant to be locked up in the pain-ridden past,
was brought again by the tyrants we are meant to trust.
the conditions worsen as quick as a flash,
weeks turn into months,
will they turn into years?
Maybe, it’s not them
Maybe it’s us
We fall deeper into a spiral of inhumanity.
Why are we so quick
to play the devil’s advocate?
Weren’t we taught
to spread love?
She wants nothing but the sun smiling down,
as the summer heat rises.
Once again, it ends just as it arrives.
Maybe she’ll find the strength to continue another time.

America in Crisis ~ Arthur Grigoryan
A black day shadowed
Over the land of the free,
Sadness suspended over
The cities around the states.
Now the peaceful protesters
Feel the gut of the fear
They might face the violence
On their way to protest
Peace and Solidarity.
Some wish for peace,
Some wish for chaos
No one understands
The seventy of the reality
That we go through now.
These are tough times for all
Black, brown, and white.
We all go through a lot,
Virus and racism at the same time.
Hence military help is in
We still breathe anger and fear.

Forgotten By Tasmia F.
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not forgotten like a fallen star.
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Maybe she’ll find the strength to continue another time.

Freedom? By Leeor S.
I thought this country was for freedom,
I guess that I was wrong.
I guess it was misleading.
This has gone for far too long.
An innocent man was killed,
Just because his race.
His black skin cost him his life.
This hate should be erased.
Now riots flood the streets,
People aiming for peace.
They want to get rid of hate.
This racism must now cease.
However I think these people,
Are beyond our control.
Breaking into stores and buildings,
I think they’ve lost their goal.
Now everyone has forgotten,
The virus going around.
We had quarantine and “Stay at Home”.
Our safety has gone down.
I am not sure any longer,
What to think about.
I believe in peaceful protests,
To flatten the hate right out.

I am not sure any longer,
What to think about.
I believe in peaceful protests,
To flatten the hate right out.
Time For Change (By Ethan D.)
America is a defective house, it may function temporarily, but it was built on an improper foundation. If nothing changes, the house will come crashing down.

Society howls in pain as the police, who’s only job is to protect and serve, attacks the very people they swore to protect.
Black people are killed and harassed unjustly.
Peaceful protestors are shot with rubber bullets and ambushed with tear gas.
When will the injustices end?
People say 2020 is the worst year, but really it will be the best.

At the end of all this violence and disease, America will come back stronger; equality and justice for all will be one step closer.
In the end, it will take America falling to pieces, before it can be built back up again.
The protests are like an ever-growing tree, everybody is joining in on them and they won’t stop until a difference is made.
The constant injustice that occurs in America is like the sun, it is the reason the tree can keep growing.
Although the tree may go through unfair times, like tourists ripping leaves off or lumberjacks trying to chop it down, the tree will not stop until it achieves its goal.

I Am African American (Jaeda G.)
When were we ever united?
When were we ever one?
When was this ever the land of the free?
When was racism ever ok?
Will I ever stop feeling scared?
Will I ever not get followed around in stores?
Will I ever stop hoping that my dad makes it home safely from work?
Will I ever not feel targeted?
Why do I have to feel this way?
Why is this happening?
Why is this not a problem to some people?
Why am I seen different?
I am African American
I am extremely strong
I am treated differently
I am against any type of racism

Frick my life
Why the heck why
I walk outside
And I have to not die
It's not right
For the world to be unjustified
I'm caught in the tide
That might make me cry
There's a huge divide
not knowing which is right
Living in the night
They will never be allied
The fight will never subside
They have to swallow down their pride
Do I have to hide
From the inside
Nothing is left in the shadow of lies
Something is coming
It's judging
Panic, fear, hope, and nothing

by Parker Neibert

Perfect World (By Felix D.)
I'm white,
I have brown hair, green eyes.
I have the ability to say what I want.
I'm allowed to go where I want at night.
It's a perfect world for me most of the time.
I can say what I want, I can do what I want.
I have never been in a life or death situation before.
There are many of us humans that have.
I have never been attacked by a police officer.
In some way all police are bad.
There are many good police out there.
I have never been attacked by a police officer before.
Me a white person, probably won't be attacked like that.
You should never judge anyone by their color of skin, their ethnicity, or sexuality.
People should be able to live their life how they want to and not be judged or threatened.
It doesn't matter what you are; we are all the same species, humans.
We deserve to live our lives properly.
I don't care if I'm white.
I shouldn't have more rights because of the color of my skin.
I am a human just like everyone else on this Earth.
A Shout Out to Our Retirees

Rita De Leon

Shokria Mankarious

Linda Campos

Leo Krubsack

Laura Fineman
Poems of Pride and Protest, cont.

“I CAN’T BREATHE”  
By: Zachary Jepson  

Sadness, worried, angry, feelings  
At this time and almost nothing has changed  
Police, why, so sad, some bad, some good  
Riots, protest, some are peaceful, others are losing  
Looting to make black people look bad, so sad  
All people are still people, so wrong  
Racism is everywhere like air  
It’s so depressing  
I can’t imagine what it’s like to be so hated by others because of  
my skin  
I can’t believe how many black people I have met and how much I love and support them  
Everyone would understand  
Imagine if it was the other way around  
The president is helping as much as a snail moves fast  
Four officers, only one on trial  
What happened to innocent until proven guilty  
Black people are no less than white people  
Black lives matter, black lives matter, black lives matter  

Stand Strong  
~ Sydney Myers  

“Brave doesn’t mean you’re not scared. It means you go on even  
though you’re scared.” – Angie Thomas, The Hate U Give  

“Brave doesn’t mean you’re not scared. It means you go on even  
I know one day this will all be over  
We will stop this madness  
We kids are the next generation  
I have black friends and I love and support them  

In a time like this with Coronavirus all over the world, people are finding differences ways to stay safe when they are outside of their house. One thing people are using are masks.  

Covid-19 is a disease that is affecting millions all over the world. It has kept people inside and social distancing for a couple of months. The virus can spread from person to person and from people interacting in close proximity. For example speaking, coughing, or sneezing even if those people are not exhibiting those symptoms. The mask protects the area around the nose and mouth so that other people germs are not getting onto you. Even though we are not supposed to leave the house, we can still go get groceries and other things so we need to wear a mask.  

Studies have shown that if just 80% of Americans wore masks then the Coronavirus cases would plummet. In some places like Pharmacies or fast food drive throughs, they won’t let you dine in or serve you if you are not wearing a mask. This shows how important it is to wear a mask and serious everyone is taking it.  

Although masks have helped and continue to help, there are some cons as well. If you are wearing a disposable mask and you continue to reusing it, it defeats the purpose of wearing it. If I were to go to the Grocery store with my mask then come home, then 2 days later use the same mask to go out again, I am just spreading more germs.  

In a time like this we all need to stay safe and social distance so we can go back to normal.
Outbreak

By: Jeffrey Horvath

Ever since the outbreak of Covid-19, people from all over the country have had to stay at home and practice social distancing.

To stop the spread of the virus, the president of the united states had to close the country, which he claims is the biggest decision he’s made. With the country closed and people losing their jobs everyday, what should families that can’t afford to put food on their tables do? The solution to that was stimulus checks that were sent by the IRS. These checks had an amount of $1,200 and above depending on the size of the family and were sent out on April 24.

By Mid- March, at least one person in the whole country had the virus. Now in May 2020, there are more than 1.47 million confirmed cases and more than 88,000 deaths. A cure for this pandemic is still not found but there are 40 parties currently working on finding one. They expect it will take 12-18 months for it to be made and to be released safely to the public.

On May 5, 2020, the president of the United States said that if a person wants to go back to work, they could get tested right away if they wanted to. The president also confirmed that he will be reopening the country because “ people want to go back to work.” on May 4, 2020, Doctor Anthony Fauci says that the reopening of the country “It’s the balance of something that is a very difficult choice, how many deaths and suffering are you going to accept to go back where you want to be.”

Earth Healing

By: Narah Hernandez

Although Covid-19 has brought a lot negative impacts, we should also look at the positive things it has done for our earth.

Our Earth is now healing because of the lockdown. Our air quality has improved more now than it has in decades. There are fewer cars on the roads, littering and crimes have decreased because of social distancing.

Now that there are fewer cars on the roads, there are fewer carbon emissions. Power plants and industrial activities have been shut down. Airports have been shut down to keep the people safe. Because of this 60% nitrogen dioxide pollution decreased.

In China and USA in January. Air is cleaner and safer for people with that have lung conditions. Especially now since the bad air quality can affect your health and make you more vulnerable to Covid-19.
Social Distancing 101

By: Michaela Levy

Why did social distancing even become a thing in our lives? Why have we all fallen under these new rules and restrictions in 2020. To start off we need to talk about the bigger picture, COVID-19. COVID-19 is a deadly type of coronavirus that was discovered in China in December of 2019. COVID-19 has lots of symptoms including cough, fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, loss of taste and smell, diarrhea and bad headaches. Many cases have led to death all over the world. Most deaths are those over the age of 65 and those with respiratory illnesses.

The way to check if you are diagnosed with coronavirus is to get a nose swab, which will then be sent to the lab to get tested. The results would come in the next 2-4 days. As of June 5, 2020, 391,588 deaths have been caused by COVID-19. However, 2,886,183 people have recovered from the illness.

Coronavirus can be spread from person to person very quickly, which leads to using social distancing. As the world has to learn how to cope with this virus spreading, a technique called social distancing comes to play. Social Distancing means to keep space between yourself and other people outside of your home.

Eden Levi, said that the purpose of social distancing is to, “Distance yourself from everyone around you while you are in public, to keep you and everyone around you safe.” It is one of the best ways to avoid being diagnosed with the virus. If we all use social distancing, then less and less people would get the virus. We need social distancing at this point of time because “Due to the health issues that COVID-19 has created, it is used to keep everyone safe as much as possible. Social distancing is a technique that is being required in the public to help prevent the spread of COVID-19” Eden added. This can help the spread of the virus. How do we perform social distancing?

Stay at least six feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering. Avoid large and small gatherings in private places and public spaces, such as friends houses, parks, restaurants, shops, or any other places. Eden said “To wear a mask when you are in public, to stay home as much as possible, when you’re in public stay 6ft apart, keep distance from society.” Social distancing can make things a bit different than our normal days. “It looks like lots of lines outside of stores, everyone with gloves and masks, the roads are pretty empty. Stores even put glass boards in front of their cash register, and they put tape on the floor to show six feet apart for each person.”

The way you can protect yourself from the virus is to wash your hands often, avoid close contact, cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others, cover coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect, monitor your health.

The Do’s Of Social Distancing

DO stay home. You should only go out for important things like the grocery store, medications, doctor appointments, or to go exercise outdoors. If you’re still working, practice social distancing while you're away from home, and spend as much time as you can at home while not at work.

DO wear gloves and masks in public. It’s good to wear gloves and masks because when you touch a grocery cart, it can keep you from touching all the germs. It keeps you from touching anything that's dirty. It’s good to wear masks because it keeps you from not getting sick and people breathing around you. Many people may not know
Social Distancing 101, cont.

that they have been in contact with COVID-19 and are out in public. This is why social distancing can prevent spread as well.

DO wash your hands. Washing your hands is way more important than using hand sanitizer. You need to wash your hands very well. Wash it for about 30 seconds then rinse.

DON'T go to crowded places. Avoid restaurants, the gym, parks, gyms, movie theaters, and any other crowded locations. Most places have been closed, but there are still many locations that can have crowds.

Social Distancing will only work if everyone works together and properly contributes their part. Slowing down or preventing the spread of the virus will save lives, which is why social distancing is critical. We are all responsible for protecting those at higher risk, and we are responsible for protecting ourselves.

Airlines

By: Jordan Willis

Everyday we are trying to make where we live safer by putting rules in place or giving suggestions on what people should do to stay safe. Due to Covid-19, many airlines have been put out of business. The airlines that are still operating have been taking precautions to make sure their clients have the safest experience possible.

An airline that is making amazing changes is Delta Airlines. The first step for this airline is to keep their staff safe. They are doing this by making sure all of their employers take part in a daily temperature check-in and making sure that all of their employers wear masks. The Delta airline is providing safety to their clients by requesting that all passengers wear masks and glove throughout the entire journey.

This includes check in lobbies and across Delta touch- in points like Delta Sky Clubs, boarding gate areas, jey bridges, and onboard the aircraft during the duration of the flight. Fliers are reminded of these new updates by emails the day before their flight and by the Delta app.

Another airline that is taking precautions to make sure they have the safest flights ever is United Airlines. This Airline encourages that all passenger bring their own face mask but if they don’t have one, the airline provides one for them. Another safety precaution is that on the flights, the fliers will not be able to sit in the middle seats or next to each other, and the seats will be alternated to maintain a safe distance across aisles.

These two airlines are just the begin of how airlines are keeping their employees and fliers safe. These precautions are what keeps these airlines in business.
How the LAUSD Grading Policy Affected Students’ Motivation

By: Anastasia Zubkoff

On Monday, April 13th, 2020, LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner announced that no student would be issued an “F” on their report card. “Students can work to improve their grades,” he announced in an update. Mr. Beutner went on to say that he does not want to “penalize” students struggling with technology and home life.

The announcement was made to help students make the virtual switch as easy as possible, especially since LAUSD would not reopen its campuses to any students for the remainder of the school year. The policy was also made for students struggling at home and dealing with technology issues. However, this new policy has been critiqued for letting students feel like they no longer need to try to succeed in school.

Patricia Lacour, an 8th grade United States History teacher at Millikan Middle School, believes that there are both negatives and positives to this new policy. She believes it gives students an easy way to not do assignments. However, she believes there are students who have “complex home situations” and that this policy will be their “saving grace”. She went on to say that it has affected her grading policy and made grading assignments more of a participation grade rather than a real one.

Students also have many thoughts on this grading policy and how it affects their motivation. Jordan Acosta is an eighth grader attending Millikan Middle School and will be culminating this June. She still believes she has an obligation to continue working hard in school to be prepared for the rigors of high school. She noted that it has been difficult learning virtually because it is harder to reach out to teachers about assignments or lessons. Frances Suavillo, the student representative on the Board of Education, noted that she does not believe students should not be expected to give 100% of their efforts during these unprecedented times.

For students who feel they need extra practice in certain academic areas, LAUSD will be offering summer classes to all. They will offer credit recovery/intervention programs, enrichment classes, and core classes for grades pre-K through 12. Teacher Patricia Lacour said, “I think summer school is a great idea!...I think this is smart because if the actual classroom format for the fall is not an option, any opportunity for teachers and students to practice this new format is beneficial.”

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, students and teachers have had to adapt to this new way of learning. LAUSD has provided resources and has tried to take pressure off the students by implementing their new grading policies. While there has been criticism about how this has harmed student’s motivation, for some this policy will mean the world.

As the school year closes Patricia Lacour wants students to know that school isn’t solely about curriculum, but about growing and becoming a better person. “We should never feel that we can stop learning. We need to be open to change and accept differences. Different is not bad, it is just different. We can learn so much from differences.”
The Dangers Of Social Media
By: Breanne De la Pena

Social media has a range of amusements for different age groups, but is our safety in danger? As technology evolves, humans start to develop, becoming vulnerable without a screen. Journalism student, Breanne Dela Pena, had a conversation with her mother, Joey Alvarado, about the dangers of social media. Four topics were stated throughout the conversation.

Privacy? What is that?

When using social media, users are risking their identities and their privacy once they hit the “I accept” button on apps such as Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. Users are risking the lives of others and more importantly theirs.

How so? Well once users post, they are publicly exposing themselves to the world. Yes, users have options to make their accounts private, but it’s useless. One may think that they can allow specific people to see what they post, but these social media apps are made for the public. Followers can still screenshot posts and show them to strangers. Once private information gets released, it is for the public to see. Which way everyone should be mindful of what they post.

Insecurity

When scrolling through social media is there a time where you question your body/image? Most social media influencers have the “perfect body” that many, mostly teenage girls and women would want to follow. Achieving that is a risk to the body. Teenagers would starve themselves which could lead to anorexia or even death.

Addiction

Has there ever been a time where you are scrolling through Instagram and suddenly it’s midnight? Because of the many colorful posts, advertisements, and videos, people forgot about time and continue to scroll through their feed. This is an unhealthy obsession that humans adapted to over time, and there no cure.

Pride

The number of likes a post gets, the number of followers an account gets, and the amount of praises users get can turn their pride into an ego. Users tend to think that likes and followers are the main priority, when making a social media account. Some may get jealous over other accounts because of the number of followers and likes the person gets. The need for more becomes toxic to people, resulting in anger or rage.

Yes, one could delete the app, but there’s a sudden urge to know what others are doing for their free time and the latest news from celebrities. Next thing we know, the app is reinstalled, and we are right back to scrolling for posts until the next day.

We become zombies for a utopia, that we forget about the beauty of reality. There are so many dangers while using social media and it is the choice of the user to be cautious while using such apps. Although these apps are colorful, remember everything has a dark side. Stay safe!
Bye Bye Eighth Grade
By: Alexis Juniel

The Coronavirus has ruined things all over the world. The way that it has impacted the eighth graders at Millikan isn’t so severe. To us though, it’s a pretty big deal. We’ve worked so hard for three years to celebrate this but now we don’t have the chance to.

On March 13, 2020 all of the LAUSD schools went on a 2 week break, but that is not what happened. The break continued to extend until now only a couple of days away from our culmination day, which is June 11, 2020. Instead of having our culmination in front of our friends and family, we will have it online and with a drive by Van Nuys High School.

At the end of May, the 8th grade dance program was supposed to go to Palm Springs. We were even talking about it the week of the shutdown. We were all happy and excited, we even planned out who we were sharing our hotel rooms with. Now all those plans are out the window. There’s nothing that we’ve done that could make up for that. So sadly we can’t make up for that.

I don’t know what our eight grade grad night was supposed to be but that time has already passed for sure. That really would have been a bonding moment for us all. When your on a bus with kids from your school going to Six Flags Magic Mountains, staying there till midnight or longer, you tend to get pretty close with them.

Sadly, we can’t even live our eighth grade experience to the fullest. Luckily, we have high school to really enjoy our time. Middle school is always going to be a big part in my life, this is where I met most of my friends and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.
Online Learning
By: Srpuhie Tiraturian

Every school uses different techniques to help students achieve the best education possible, and now that we are learning online, the same thing applies. Learning at home can be a challenge, however, teachers can make it easier, depending on the techniques that they use to teach students.

The way that I learn online is different compared to others. My goal is to find the differences and compare opinions from different kids and different schools. I decided that it would be best to interview my cousin and her friend because they are both seniors and are graduating this year. I was prepared to hear different opinions and thoughts while asking my questions.

Before starting, I set a time and date to conduct the interview. My first question was simple and straightforward, “How do you feel about online learning?” My cousin responded with, “It’s easier than actual school. It teaches you how to be responsible and how to discipline yourself.” However, I got a different response from her friend. “I don’t like it. They way I learn is face-to-face.” I could tell they both had different feelings about learning at home, and so did I.

I agree more with my cousin, Emily, because I can adapt to things quickly. My next question was, “Do you have a certain schedule for learning?” They both responded with the same thing, “No I just have to turn things in once a week.”

Although I had many questions, only a few of them were crucial to me. An important one was “What do you do when you don’t understand something?” They again both responded with the same thing, “Look it up or email my teacher.” The last question that was important to me was “Do you prefer online learning than at school?”

Emily replied with “I have mixed feelings, at school its hands on and there are school activities, however learning wise, I prefer online.” Her friend Liz said, “School, its less complicated and there’s hands on learning.”

Other than interviewing, I had also done some online research. I prepared a few questions to ask my trusty friend Google. One question that popped into my head was “What are some disadvantages of online learning?” The answer I got was that there was low equality work, too much work, intense requirements and little to no face-to-face interactions. Reading that made me think, can I relate to this? I could definitely see myself drowning in assignments. Another question was “Are students more stressed due to online learning?” I really wanted to know this because sometimes online learning does stress me out. The article I got my answer from said that students think that online learning is draining.

Overall, during this experience, I got to know what it’s like for others to be learning online and their opinions about it. I had a wonderful time conducting interviews, researching, and putting all of the parts together. I learned that I have similar opinions with other people and also have differences in opinions. Like all journey’s, mine has come to an end. However, curiosity will never end.
Battle of the Books

By: Kaylee Isaacs

The Battle of the Books competition was held on May 15-17 over Zoom. Three of the six original schools participated virtually. Those schools were Millikan Middle School, Walter Reed Middle School, and The Science Academy STEM Magnet.

If you don’t know what Battle of the Books is, it’s a competition where students are given a list of books to read, and students form groups of 4-7 members. Once the students have read the books, there is a competition held, and the top four teams get to go the finals!

As with any big project, there were some setbacks. According to Ms. Carroll, our Millikan Middle School Librarian and co-organiser of this event, “The biggest problem was that the competition was held two months later than usual and students didn’t have all of the books at home to reread, so many of the ideas were not as fresh in their minds as they would usually be.”

Surprisingly, communication was not an issue. Ms. Carroll mentioned “The Battle of the Books teams are all in a schoology group which I administer so it was very easy to send messages and updates. For the students who didn’t respond to their messages, their teammates reached out to them by phone call or text.

All in all, the competition was a fun experience for everyone. Natalie Golovin, Millikan student and participant of the competition, said “ Even tho it was through Zoom, Battle of the Books was still fun.” Ms. Carroll assures students that Battle of the Books will happen again next year, but hopefully in person.

Armenian Genocide

By: Michael Manukyan

Did you know there is something called an Armenian Genocide? There are many reasons why the Turkish people killed Armenians, but only three of them will be listed. Religion, envy, and the “Young Turks”. the genocide began on April 24, 1915, and is always remember on this day.

Turks were Muslim and Armenians were Christian. The Turkish said we must believe in their god but we disagreed with the Turkish and continued to believe in our god. Armenians were the first country to adapt to Christianity. If you were Christians your taxes would be higher in Turkey. But Armenians had very few political rights. Turkish people were then “jealous” of Armenians for being the first one to adopt Christianity.

Turks were very envied about Armenians. Why, because Armenians have a better education than Turkey. Turks were very resentful about their success and said “ We have to do something about these Armenians.” The Armenians were getting very suspicious. But as the days went, they got and more suspicious. So the Turkish got mad, so they began an investigation. The “Young Turks” are a member of a revolutionary party in the Ottoman Empire who carried out the revolution of 1908 and deposed the Sultan Abdul Hamid II. They overthrew Sultan and got a more modern government. This was a grave threat to the Armenians. Then the Turkish joined WW1. They said that Armenians were traitors for not joining the war with Germany. They, therefore, gave a “Box to the Ear” and killed 1.5 million Armenian citizens in the region of Turkey. Please remember Armenians have done nothing wrong to the Turkish.

The Turks were very resentful of Armenians being successful. They were successful in wealth and being well educated. This is why Armenians were killed. Turks never admitted to a Genocide until 2010.
Cinco de Mayo

By: Fatima Garcia

Cinco de Mayo is a very important holiday in Mexico and people of Mexican heritage that live here in the United States. It is also the time for Mexico to celebrate their victory against the French army.

In 1681, Mexico had to declare a temporary moratorium, due to many foreign debts. The English, Spanish, and French all decided to have an alliance with each other and team up in a war with Mexico. By April of the following year, the English and Spanish had withdrawn from this alliance after discussing a solution with Mexico. But, the French remained intent to establish a monarchy in Mexico.

On May 5th of 1862, an attack from the French army broke out at Puebla de Los Angeles in Eastern Mexico. The president at this time, Benito Juarez, rounded up 2,000 men and sent them to Puebla to fight off the French invaders. Although, the Mexican Army was greatly outnumbered and had poor supplies, that didn't stop them from putting up a fight.

The battle lasted nearly an entire day from daybreak until early evening. After losing over 500 men, the French finally withdrew and retreated. The Puebla of Los Angeles was renamed in honor of General Zaragoza, of the Mexican Army, who died later that year to typhoid fever.

Although it is a huge win for Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is primarily celebrated in the Puebla of Los Angeles, where the victory actually occurred, but celebrations also take place all over Mexico. The United States also celebrates Cinco de Mayo because had the Mexican Army not defeated the French and if the French had taken over, they wouldn't have stopped there. They would have continued to conquer more areas and the next would have been the United States.

Cinco de Mayo often gets mixed up Mexican Independence Day, which occurred about 50 years prior to the battle of Puebla. Many Mexican-Americans use this day to celebrate their culture and pride.

I interviewed my parents on their opinion on this subject and here are their responses.

Question 1: When did you first learn about Cinco de Mayo?

“We started learning about Cinco de Mayo in elementary school, at around second grade. That's around the time we started learning about the battle of Puebla.”

Question 2: While in quarantine, how do you think we his holiday differently?

“It was different than usual because we couldn't celebrate with our families. We couldn't visit or have a big celebration as we normally would.”

Question 3: Why do you think that it is important to celebrate this holiday?

“It is important to celebrate this holiday because it is our history and it marks the day where someone tried to invade and take over our land but we protected and defended ourselves.”

Question 4: Why is Cinco de Mayo celebrated more in the United States than in Mexico?

“It is really funny actually. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated more in the United States than in Mexico, but I don't know why. There is always a big celebration where the battle actually took place in Puebla, but not across the entire country. Yes, of course all of the schools teach about it on this day and there are celebrations and get-togethers, but I am not really sure why it is celebrated more in the United States.”

Overall, Cinco de Mayo is an important holiday helping us to remember our past and celebrate our Mexican Heritage.