

THE MCKINLEY TIMES

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Serving the McKinley Community Since 2020

Volume III

The Significance of Service Learning Projects



Stay Strong by Lilah P.

by Juliet Simon

Quarantine is difficult for everyone, so McKinley decided to do a Service Learning Project, where students design projects that contribute to the community, which can be family, a group that you are part of, or the whole town. Once the project is finished, the student can create a piece of writing or a slideshow to explain what they did and present it at the Open House. Sammy, in 4th grade, thanked her postman and gave him a poster she made to hang up at his work. This shows an example of thanking the community for the work it has been doing.

Ms. DW, Instructional Coach, was excited when Dr. Benjamin introduced the idea for the Virtual Open House. Ms. DW said, "I took it on because it really spoke to me. I have a lot of experience with Service Learning. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras for three years where I worked in rural schools in a community with no electricity or paved roads. I helped teach students there who had to work as early as 5 years old! I helped the community build a school. And I also helped the kids there do service learning projects like creating a coffee festival for the village. Although I helped people during my time there, I know that I was the one who learned the most!"

Sometimes you feel alone during quar-

antine, but Service Learning Projects can help you feel more a part of the group of people who are working their way through this. I've seen rainbows in people's windows and encouraging chalk messages on the sidewalk. Molly, a 4th grader, told me that there is a tree on Arizona St. where a woman makes masks and hangs them on the tree for people to take for free. My aunt told me that, in Burbank, they have put blow-up jungle animals around town so that you can go on hunts to find them.

A Service Learning Project can be as simple as writing some inspiring words on a piece of paper and putting it in your window. Or you could do something like make a few posters and put them up around town. As long as it contributes to the community, it is a Service Learning Project.

The project is a lesson, just not in the usual way. As Ms. DW said, "When Dr. B. proposed the project, I was all ears because I knew that if kids did something to help someone else they would not only be making the world a better place, but would learn a new skill or a new way of thinking as well. I think service learning is something we should be doing all the time - whether we are living during a pandemic or not. The world will always need kids who are creative, thoughtful and kind!"

Dr. Benjamin, Principal, agrees. She said, "This year was the first year we did grade level global citizenship service learning projects. Students got to hear from speakers, read books, and learn about how to help the community, environment, refugees, students with special needs, and homeless people. The Virtual Open House was a great way to continue this Deep Learning and I can't wait to continue projects next year. Students are learning academic skills and how to be upstanders making a positive impact on the world in the future."

Service Learning is not only giving to

the community, it's giving to yourself. It feels good to know that someone will see your poster and smile, or do your chalk obstacle course laughing. It lets you and your community know that people care.

Virtual STEM Fair Recap

by Delilah Prager

The McKinley STEM Fair has gone online. With SCHOOLS being closed, the McKinley STEM Fair can't go on like it normally would in person. The Virtual STEM Fair was held on Flipgrid. Students recorded and posted video presentations and judges viewed it on Flipgrid and posted comments.

The judges for the McKinley STEM Fair included Dr. T, an applied mathematician, Dr. Adams, Professor of Psychology, Dr. Liliana Castelblanco, a pediatrician, Dr. Mike Habib, a paleontologist, and Chris Barakian, a software engineer. McKinley STEM teacher, Ms. Oyenoki organized the event.

The winners were announced on May 8th in the categories of TK-1st grade, 2nd and 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 5th grade. The TK-1st grade raffle winners were Sadie, Gavyn, Natalie, and Axel. In the 2nd-3rd grade category, first place went to Peyton and Zoe, and second place went to Victoria. In the fourth grade category Delilah came in first and Sienna and Naomi were second. In the 5th category the winners were: In first place, Mia; in second place, Feliks; And in third place, Ian and Abel. Congratulations to all the winners and participants!



Melting Chocolate by Natalie V.

CURRENT EVENTS



From Pexels

How Far We've Come in Quarantine

by Sammy Ankowski

We've come far in quarantine as a school. It's been two months since our last day on campus, and the question is: Has it had a good effect on humans? On the world? I asked a few McKinley students, to see what they thought.

I interviewed Ariel, a fourth grade student. "I think that the quarantine is good for us because since people are forced to stay inside, when the quarantine is over people would want to go outside and get more exercise. I think that our school is doing a great job with distance learning overall." She does think people could have done one thing better. "I think we should have taken this virus thing more seriously because most people that I knew were joking about it."

Sofia, a McKinley first grader says, "I do think think staying home is a good thing. If you are outside you are exposing yourself and you are likely to catch the Coronavirus but inside you are safe. I miss playing on the playground and doing the monkey bars."

"After almost 2 months of quarantine, a good thing is that most people have gotten used to this, and will be prepared for what to do," Chloe, a fourth grader, said. "What the world could've done

better is try to take more action on it and research it when it was in Asia. In the meantime, children have to stay inside with no more school. This is why they made distance learning. I think that our schools are doing the best we can."

Overall, we've been in quarantine for a long time, and we need to realize that we've been strong and adapted to this new way for a long time. We should be proud, and although there are things that could've been done better — the school alone has overall done an amazing job staying home and adapting.

Sports Previews for the 2020-2021 Season

by Jude Pandola-Paik

In mid-March professional sports were canceled due to the coronavirus. All sports fans have been wondering what will happen to their favorite teams. So I did some research and I want to share my predictions with you.

Football (NFL) There are 32 football teams in the NFL. In the NFL teams play home games and away games. Usually home teams have an advantage because their fans scream loud to mess up the away team when they are setting their play. But now if there are no fans then the home team has no advantage. The regular football season is scheduled to begin on September 10th, but they might start the season late. If they cancel the games or close the stadium then ticket buyers will get a refund or credit.

Basketball (NBA) There are at least 35 basketball teams. Basketball has a lot of physical contact, so if they play the league will want players to be tested before every game, and they'll also want

to test the people they live with too. The league would need at least 15,000 tests to do this. The NBA did not finish the 2019/20 season and there are 259 games plus playoffs left. Another possibility is that the players live in quarantine for the rest of the season.

Baseball (MLB) The MLB is hopeful that it can start its season in the summer. They will probably play in empty stadiums. All the players will be tested multiple times a week and if at least two people test positive then they will isolate the game. Baseball has already started in South Korea and Taiwan so that means they will probably start soon in America.

Some of the proposed new rules are: no team mascots, no contact (spitting, high fiving, fist bumps, etc), no touching your face to give signs and no locker room showers. They will also throw out balls after a few players touch them.

I still think that the NFL, MLB and NBA will play this year even with coronavirus. Unfortunately, I do not think that fans will be allowed to attend games. If players are tested a lot and they live in isolation hopefully they wouldn't get coronavirus or spread it. I can't wait for sports to start.



Sports Reporter and Graduate, Jude Pandola-Paik

CURRENT EVENTS

What We Can Be Proud Of: The Environment Getting Cleaner

by Sammy Ankowski

The environment getting cleaner is one outcome of quarantine that can be seen right away. I asked two McKinley students, and our science teacher.

Sage, a McKinley fourth grader, said, "It is very important that the environment is getting better because it would take multiple years to reach what we've done in just a couple of months during quarantine. It's also important because with the air quality getting better, it's a much safer area." She thinks the most important thing we should take from the environment getting cleaner is, "just to try to make the air quality stay better and stay good."

"I think it's important for us to note the changes that have been made, (even not by choice), when moving forward," Ms. Oyenoki, our science teacher said. "To see the normal contributors to overall poor air quality — things like particulate matter, vehicle and factory emissions, and nitrogen oxygen, coming down should give us hope that we, as a global population, can make a better effort to reduce these pollutants. Many people are walking more, recycling more, and doing a lot more at home gardening. I hope there will be positive changes that remain as people resume with normal activities." She also said, "I really overall hope that people will keep these positive changes going and continue to make positive strides for the environment."

Jason, a McKinley student said, "I think that one good thing about staying home is that we have more family time. I'm able to go on long bike rides with my dad and my brother and not worry too

much about cars on the road." He says the most important thing we should take from air quality getting better is, "When this is over, we should think about building a civilization off of electric cars and bikes, knowing that the air quality is much better than it has been recently."

In conclusion, there are so many amazing things about the air quality getting better. There is also a lot we can take from it, like trying to improve air quality in the future, and keep it that way.



Photo by Luis Melendez on Unsplash

Facts About Memorial Day And a Salute to Healthcare Workers

by Angie De Togni

Monday, May 25th was Memorial Day! Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States meant to honor and mourn military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It was established on May 30th, 1868.

Here is a surprising fact. Do you think that more people died fighting in the Vietnam War or due to COVID-19? If you said Coronavirus, you were actually right! This seems impossible, because COVID-19 started in 2019 while the Vietnam War began in 1955 and ended in 1975! Well, it actually is possible. COVID-19 has taken the lives of 100,047 people in the U.S as of May 26th, while there were 58,220 deaths

during the Vietnam War.

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day. People would usually decorate the graves of the fallen soldiers with flowers, flags, and more, hence the name "Decoration Day". Over time, it started to be called Memorial Day.

The second fact is that Memorial Day wasn't celebrated on the last Monday in May until relatively recently. When General Logan officially established the holiday, he called for it to be observed on May 30th. After the Uniform Monday Holiday Act took effect in 1971, however, it was moved to the final Monday in May.

The last fun fact is multiple cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. According to the Library of Congress, President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, New York, to be the "birthplace of Memorial Day," referencing a celebration the town had in 1866. However, some other places are known to have celebrated the holiday earlier, and exactly where the first celebration took place remains in dispute.

I think that a new Memorial Day should be established to honor all of the doctors and nurses who have risked their lives for ours. I believe they are playing just as an important role as the soldiers did in the Vietnam War. Since the COVID-19 began, our lives have changed dramatically, so we can expect change in the future. While COVID-19 will end some time, the people who have helped us should get a day to honor what they did because it was very brave.

In conclusion, Memorial Day is a day to celebrate people who fight in our armed forces, but, maybe in the future, there will be a day that is also used to celebrate doctors and nurses who work tirelessly for our health.

CURRENT EVENTS



Photo by Pixabay from Pexels

5th Grade Graduation: Problems & Solutions

by Nam Do

5th graders (and all graduates) find themselves in an unprecedented situation. Most are unable to attend traditional graduation ceremonies due to COVID-19! How are 5th graders solving the “distancing” problems, such as schoolwork, field trips, ballroom dancing, and others, and celebrate their graduation?

To learn virtually, teachers are using programs such as Google Classroom, Seesaw, Khan Academy, and more. These programs allow teachers to create lessons or find pre-made lessons to assign.

For field trips and extracurricular activities, teachers are using a suite of programs provided by Google, called G Suite Expedition. G Suite allows teachers to monitor students’ progress, give real-time feedback, and use adap-

tive learning for schoolwork. There are also videos that teachers can post for hands-on or physical activities, such as PE or ballroom dancing.

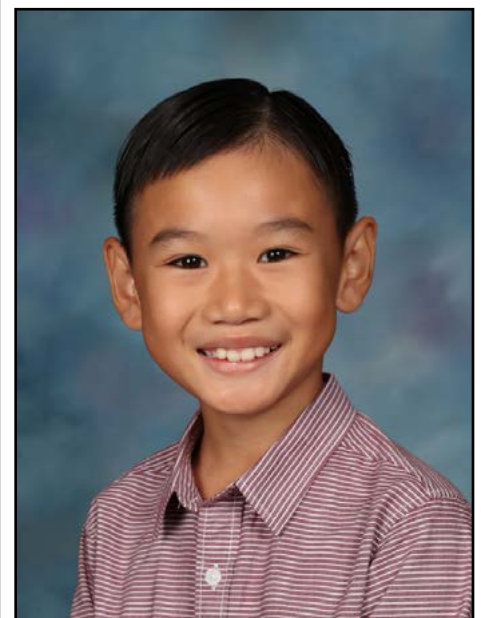
The big question: how are students graduating in 2020? In some SMMUSD schools, students are going to have a “Drive-thru” graduation, similar to McDonald’s or Starbuck’s drive-thru. Families will drive through the school, and their diplomas will be placed inside their car trunk. Their teachers will also be cheering for them from the parking lot! Normally, schools would host a ceremony, and students would sing their graduation song. However, this is the safest option during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teachers are stretching to find creative ways to teach their students, administrators are finding solutions for the graduation, and students are doing their best to stay in high spirits. This is certainly a memorable year for everyone, students, and teachers alike.

A Bode to Joy

by Nam Do

When we’re living in a time
Where hatred still exists
You really feel the need
For something so divine
Something so beautiful
It’s better than a dove
It’s something that
Most people call “love”
We should always give care
Whether it’s a moose or a mare
We should always have space
For people who didn’t ace
We don’t see every detail
Every design ingenuity
A card in the mail
A piece of creativity
Every painting
Every product
Every idea
Even an air duct
I hope you’ll agree
Whether you’re a girl or a boy
That this poem was really
An Ode to Joy



5th Grader Nam Do

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Adaptations of Books We Love

by Daisy Moe

There are many books that we love in different genres, which often enables movie directors to make movies or series of movies (sometimes with many sequels) of these books.

Harry Potter is written by best selling author JK Rowling. The series is about a boy with a lightning bolt scar who goes on many adventures with his friends. Daniel Radcliffe was cast to play Harry Potter and Rupert Grint and Emma Watson were cast to play his best friends. Chris Columbus was the first director of the first two movies.

E.B White's Charlotte's Web is about a pig who befriends a spider and takes about a school semester of an adventure with her. There have been at least two versions of the movie. One is a cartoon and the other is live-action.

Little Women is based on a book by Louisa May Alcott. Saroise Ronan,

Emma Watson, Florence Pugh and Eliza Scalen star in the 2019 film adaptation of this beloved book. I personally think those four actresses had a great dynamic as on-set family. The movie is about how they went on adventures together as sisters and also had their own, independent adventures.

Percy Jackson & the Olympians is written by Rick Riordan. It is about a boy who later figures out he has a god as a parent and also learns that he can sometimes control the sea. There are so far two movies out of the five books written by Riordan. Rumor has it, a series of the adventures of Percy and his friends will be coming out in July on Disney+.

There is an adventure show on Amazon called His Dark Materials based on Philip Pullman's book with the same name. While I would recommend the book for pretty much anyone, I wouldn't recommend the to kids who get scared easily.

While Star Wars wasn't based off of a book, there have been many spinoff books about that particular series.

Minecraft also has a series of books. Though Minecraft is a video game, it has an interactive show on Netflix based on Micraft's story mode.

And that concludes, in my opinion, some of the best books written that turned into movies and shows. And, a special tip: all of the Disney movies ever made are on Disney+. You can find all Harry Potter and Fantastic beast movies on Amazon, along with Percy Jackson.



Photo by Vinícius Vieira ft from Pexels



Free Seating Friday

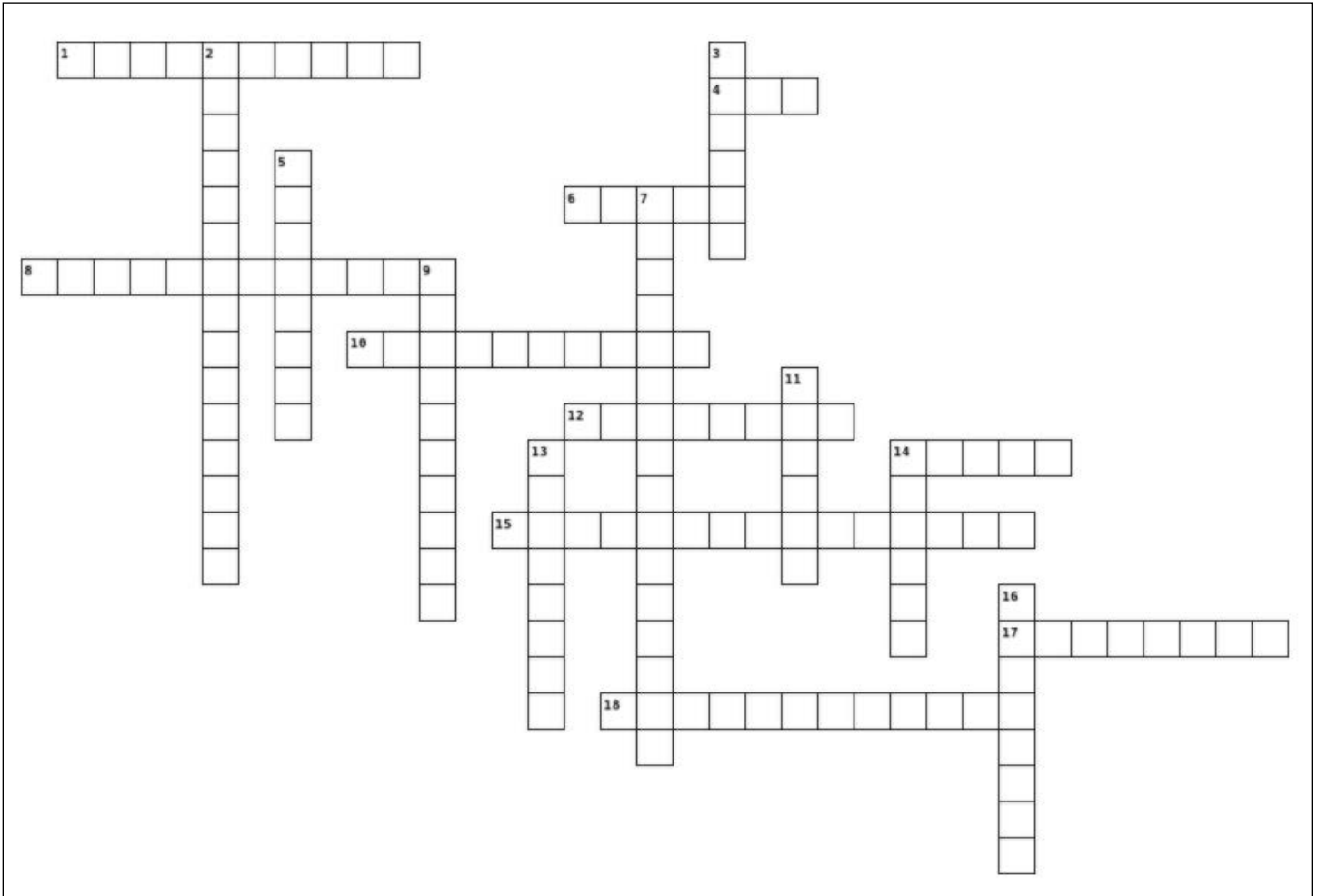
by Sage Moore

Are you wondering what this drawing is? It is my interpretation of what Free Seating Friday may look like during Distance Learning. Free Seating Friday is the platform that I ran on to become your Student Council Vice President. I told you that I would give you Free Seating Friday, and I instead gave you Free Seating Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday AND, of course, Friday! Hope your Free Seating Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is going as well as mine is. I'd like to hear about it!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Things at McKinley That Make Us Proud

by Sage Moore



Across

1. Our school mascot who loves to High Five
4. Creative class using paints and pastels
6. Peaceful, respectful, intelligent, diverse, enthusiastic
8. Bike Walking School Bus, Scooter and Carpool
10. Parents who help out in the garden and classroom
12. Those who guide us through our learning journey
14. Beautiful sounds from our voices and instruments
15. October event where children dress in costumes
17. Opportunity to showcase our science skills
18. Test your scare factor when you enter this during the Harvest Festival

Down

2. Fall event with pumpkins, games and food
3. Our plants and flowers flourish here
5. Run and run and run and run, how many laps have you done
7. This event celebrates the diversity of McKinley
9. Singing, dancing, and more on stage
11. Peers and BFFs who support us no matter what
13. Year-end picnics in the courtyard with our class
14. Colorful art on the walls of our school
16. Last Friday of the Month outside event

Click [here](#) to complete the Crossword Puzzle online!



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Delilah's List of LGBTQ Characters in Books

by Delilah Prager

In Los Angeles, June isn't just June gloom, it is also pride month. Pride month is the celebration of LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer +) people. Many cities have parades and other events in June to celebrate Pride. In 2019, Santa Monica held its first pride festival and the City of Los Angeles has been celebrating Pride month for decades. Unfortunately, these events were canceled because of Coronavirus.

But, to still tie into the spirit of Pride month, here are a few books you can read during June, that have LGBTQ+ characters:

