

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Raptor,

As the world shut down before our eyes last year, who knew what would happen next. We didn't know when the toilet paper would finally get restocked. We didn't know that we would still be wearing masks 13 months later. And we certainly didn't know how much we would come to miss school.

Class of '20 missed their graduation and Class feels like the light at the of '21 missed their prom. English teachers missed

socratic seminars and math teachers missed pop quizzes. Most of all, we missed each other. We could not see a schoolfriend in the hallway nor stop by your favorite teacher's classroom; the Eaglecrest community lost personal interaction.

It's up for debate if we conquered Covid or if Covid conquered us, but one thing is for sure: we all cannot wait for this madness to be over. It end of the tunnel is finally coming. This year has felt

like a blur, yet so much happened despite the pandemic.

As Eagle Quill and Raptor TV combined forces, the paper copy of our school's news halted. Nest Network has brought back our print edition, now called NN: The Magazine, to remind us all that life went on. Life in the school, the community and the world went on amidst the chaos.

> Jeremy Garza Editor-in-Chief

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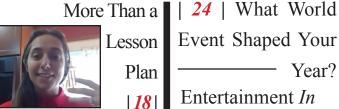
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# YOU + THE SCHOOL

## YOU AND THE PANDEMIC

How have the EHS community's small business owners, teachers, students, and elderly been affected?

By: Trisha Balani

It's no secret that every single one of us has been impacted by the coronavirus, and the past year (yes, it has actually been over a full year) has made us adjust to a completely new way of life. It's been change after change after change with no recovery time, and every day seems like a different future-textbook, life-changing, historic-event kind of day. But everyone has a unique story to tell, whether they are business owners struggling to stay open, grandparents hoping to get the vaccine, or teachers and students trying to adjust to new ways of learning.

The U.S. economy has faced a very hard hit since the beginning of COVID, and millions of individual households are still struggling. Small businesses, especially local restaurants, have experienced some of the worst cases of COVID-19, economically speaking. Karla Valenzuela, an Eaglecrest sophomore, and her family own Mariscos El Rey, a Mexican seafood restaurant. She began working at the restaurant in August last year when they first reopened. We were able to have limited seating inside, and we were only allowed to have 50 people," she continued,

Mariscos El Rey. (Photo: Karla Valenzuela)

Eaglecrest Students at a basketball game: Jasmin Conner, Aleana Hollis, Lauren Billings, Rachel Europe. (Top row, left to right) Noah Vieyra, Sanaa Sodhi,

Ray (left) and Faith (right) Vigil. (Photo: Faith Vigil) Edward Lee. (Bottom row, left to right). (Photo: Noah Vieyra)



Will (left) and Elizabeth (right) Vigil at Badlands National Park in South

"Mexicans don't believe in COVID, so it was really, really tough to get [customers] to understand all the regulations, and to get them to wear their masks and all of that. Then we got shut down, and could only do to-go orders."

The family's hardships don't end there, though; Karla's parents actually got COVID— "The symptoms were just a really really high fever and because I could hear them not being able to breathe," Karla said. As of February, the restaurant was able to operate with 50% capacity, which is about 100 people. This is coming with the attitude from customers that life is returning to normal. But this is not the case at all.

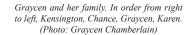
"What I have learned throughout the pandemic is to be patient and to be more grateful, and to not be too judgy because shortness of breath. It was scary you never know what is going

on in someone's life," Karla said. The pandemic is not yet over, and it is everyone's responsibility to continue to take appropriate precautions, just as we have been advised from the beginning.

With so many people in one building, saftey measures are especially important in schools, because they are an essential part of everyday life. School has been nothing short of a nightmare this year; it was a learning curve that no one was prepared for. "This year has been brutal; there's no way to sugarcoat any of it," says Josh Steiner, an English teacher and football coach at Eaglecrest. "Teaching feels impossible because so many of our students are struggling. Coaching felt impossible due to the tentative and imperfect nature of our weekly existence. Being a successful parent feels impossible because our kids miss being with other people. Personally, I'm doing the best I can for everyone, but I feel

Mr. Steiner and his wife (Kelsie), and his sons, Joe (left), and Jack (right). (Photo: Josh Steiner)

like my best isn't good enough.' For most teenagthe virus' biggest impact hs been it's social one. "Not being able to go and hang out with my friends or family has been difficult. It was the first time in my



entire life that I haven't celebrated Thanksgiving or Christmas with my grandma and cousins, and that was really hard on me," says Eaglecrest sophomore Graycen Chamberlain.

This has taken a massive toll on mental health, especially among teens and young adults. Acording to the CDC, 63% of 18to-24-year-olds reported symptoms of anxiety or depression, with 25% reporting increased substance use to cope, and 25% saying they'd seriously considered suicide. "My mental health has been a rollercoaster," says Chamberlain. "Some weeks I am stressed to the max, barely being able to focus and get work done, having Ms. Vigil's daughter Mila (left), son Will (middle), and mother Elizabeth (right) at Mount Rushmore. (Karla's family on Christmas. (Photo: Faith Vigil)

multiple panic attacks a week, and then other weeks I am relaxed and stress doesn't even exist. I have always been a generally stressed and anxious person, so this year has definitely added on."

Overall, this year has generally made teachers and students see each other as more human. The virus has affected everybody, and it is visible in everybody. As much as it tore people apart, we can choose to believe that there will be positive changes and growth that come from the pandemic.

Teachers and administrators are rethinking how school is structured, using lessons from what has worked and what has not worked for students this year. "I've always thought of myself as a flexible, adaptable person. This year has certainly tested that, and I've learned that a lot can be gained from letting go. I know that I'm being much more intentional with and much more conscious Vigil, a social studies teacher at of my in-class time," said Steiner. Eaglecrest. Now with various vac-And regardless of what you be- cines coming out, it seems like we lieve in, the pandemic taught us can finally see a light at the end of all that Earth is her own ruler. the tunnel. Fortunately, Vigil has "We're all guests here. This planet been able to assist her parents existed long before us, and it will ex- in the process of getting theirs. ist long after us. If more of us lived However, many elderly people with that knowledge, lived with a in our country do not have the sense of communal responsibility same help that Vigil can provide and global stewardship, we might be to her parents, and they are being better equipped to handle whatever left to perish at COVID's hand. future crises we'll face," says Steiner. "I'm learning a lot about how

responsibility in mind, we are al- ued and the sad fact is that there most through this. It is everyone's are few people who are empajob to take care of our people and thetic to their plight," Vigil said. our planet. Continue doing your "I think all too often we make small part, because whether or not mistakes as individuals by asyou realize it, you're saving lives. suming that if something doesn't

The world's elderly popu- apply to us, it doesn't apply,' lation is one of the most important groups to protect during this time, try to learn from every single because of their high susceptibility thing, good and bad, that came to the virus. Their experience with from the pandemic. We also need COVID-19 had been truly traumat- to come together to realize that ic-both for them and their families. things that may not affect us do "I wake up every day hoping my parents affect others, an idea that has can stay safe, but knowing there is very been amplified by COVID-19. little I can do to help them," says Faith

Keeping this universal the elderly and disabled are val-

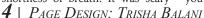
As a society, we should



You and the Pandemic: Elizabeth Vigil, Graycen Chamberlain, Josh Steiner, Karla Valenzuela (left to right).

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## LIFE AND LEGACY

Assistant principal, father, and friend: Mr. Shane Snyder is often described as a pillar of the community. He was heavily involved in Eaglecrest and had an impact on nearly everyone he came in contact with.

"We have been incredibly fortunate to have Mr. Snyder here for the last 15 years. His mark on Eaglecrest will be long-lasting," said fellow assistant principal and friend Jim Roome. From setting up for football games to helping students to speaking at graduation, Mr. Snyder's mark on the community is considerable.

"One of my favorite memories of him are just him coming into the classroom and interacting with my students and making me feel like what I do is important," Williams said. She describes him as a true raptor, a paradigm of the Eaglecrest spirit, and someone who really cared about how you were doing.

"He was always supportive, always caring, always thoughtful. He just has a presence of calm," Joe Bruley, also an assistant principal, said of Snyder. In fact, ask anyone about Mr. Snyder, and you are guaranteed to hear the same thing: he was calm, incredibly caring and considerate, and always there to help.

On a small scale, with individual staff members and students, Mr. Snyder will forever be remembered as a genuine, calming presence for so many. And for the school and the community, he will always be someone who not only kept the school running, but kept the school's spirit and

"What I know is that Shane will always be with us," said Gwen Hansen-Vigil, Eaglecrest's principal. "His presence will always be there because of how impactful he's been."

Watch the Full Video using the QR Code to the right.

Story by Jessica McMillian and Jeremy Garza



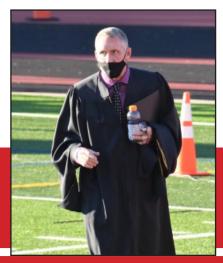


above) Mr. Snyder, in an EHS Marching band hat, helps out as a crossing guard in the

(bottom left) Mrs. Snyder and Mr. Snyder pose for a photo in front of their home. bottom middle) Mr. Snyder at the class of 2020's graduation, continuing his tradition of speaking at graduation.

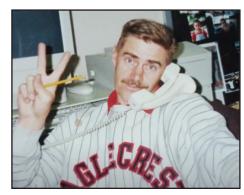
ottom right) Mr. Snyder with ihis two daughters, Maddie and Rilyn, both of whom attended Eaglecrest.







Eaglecrest is a community full of incredible, impactful people. Two such people were Mr. Shane Snyder and Mr. John Green, well known for the genuine connections they made with students and staff over the years. During the week of March 15th, the Eaglecrest community lost both Mr. Snyder and Mr. Green to cancer. Though they are no longer a physical part of the school, both have created legacies that will continue to positively impact our school and the people within it for years to come.



Above: Green in his office in the '90s. (Photo: Raptor Media)

Below: Green with Coach Williams and Coach Garnett at a Cold Stone Trakc and Field fundraise (Deann Williams)



The name John Green carries considerable weight at Eaglecrest. A part of our community since the very beginning of the school, Coach Green was integral to the Eaglecrest track and field team as well as the entire district. The week of March 21, Mr. Green, unfortunately, passed away at 69 years old after 5 years of living with colon cancer. More than an inductee into the Eaglecrest Hall of Fame, Green was an unforgettable presence.

"When you talk about Coach Green, you talk about a friend and a mentor to me and a lot of people," said Stan Adams, a P.E. and Health teacher who has known Green for over 30 years. "He was a man of integrity and honor. And he was very humble. He cared about others and had a good sense of humor.'

Green was someone who excelled in any position, according to assistant principal and former track and field coach, Jim Roome, and current head boys track and field coach, Thomas Southall. Both worked alongside Green for around three decades. Beyond being a notable head track and field coach at Eaglecrest, Green held positions as a science teacher, dean, and athletic director at Eaglecrest, and as the CCSD athletic director for over 16 years --as well as working for USA Track and Field.

"He was born and raised in a small town in Nebraska, and I think he brought that small--town feeling," Southall said. "I think one of his greatest additions to the Eaglecrest community was helping to foster that tight-knit community, and setting the traditions." Green's administrative and coaching expertise came from experience:

he was an accomplished athlete himself, playing for the Green Bay Packers and Denver Broncos before nearly making the 1980 Olympics for the decathlon. Yet he is most remembered for his strength of character.

"Here at Eaglecrest, we had a distance runner, Tara Mendoza, who was a four-time state champion in the mile, and he would work with athletes like that. And then he would turn around and give as much energy and as much focus and as much love to a kid who might never run in a varsity meet," Roome said. "And that was Coach Green. He took care of everybody." Students and athletes remember his the same way.

"He always put full effort into everyone he had met. I only got to spend a year with him but he truly made me a better runner and person," said former Eaglecrest track runner Tatianna Dixon. She described him not only as a mentor but as a friend --someone she could go to for advice or just to talk to. Coach Green, according to both coaches and athletes, could also always lighten a moment and make --or take-- a joke. He was able to build a team and a community among kids and adults alike with infectious and inspiring positivity and perseverance. And his generosity knew no bounds.

"He'll take his coat off him and he'll loan it to the athletes. He's taken off his shoes so a kid could wear them in practice --if they were the same size," Southall said. "So he literally would give up himself to help other people....he was probably the most giving person I'd ever met and worked with." Often described as selfless, Green was someone who did his best to help others learn and improve. Dixon called him an "OG", an apt description for his bottomless tap of expertise that he was seemingly always willing to share.

"Coach Green was probably one of the most knowledgeable track coaches, definitely in the state of Colorado and probably in the country," Southall said. Coupled with his knowledgeability was Green's notable work ethic. Southall noted that he was often the first to be at track practice and

Green was everything one could hope for in a coach, an administrator, and a friend: Knowledgeable, hard-working, caring, and funny. Nearly everyone he interacted with has a memorable story associated with Green, from his loyalty for his 1969 Chevy that everyone knew as "Top Truck" to his choice of fashion accessories.

"He found a tail of...I don't know if it was a squirrel or a fox, but he found it somewhere around the school, and he just hooked that onto the back of his baseball cap and wore it like a raccoon hat that Daniel Boone or a pioneer would have. And so he's walking around the practice with an animal tail sticking out of his hat," Southall said. It's an unforgettable story of an unforgettable

man. Green, from the very start of Eaglecrest itself, was an inextricable influence on its students

"He was a mentor for an awful lot of us," said Roome simply. A mentor, teacher, a coach, an accomplished athlete, and an excellent administrator: Coach Green was all of these, and made room for each student, athlete, coach, friend, and even stranger in his life.

"Coach is someone that will be missed dearly, but he'll never be forgotten just because of the connections he had with people and kids," Adams said. "If you met him, you would remember him. And you'd want to remember him because he was a great guy." Able to step up into the spotlight as well as blend into the background, according to Southall, Green was a driving force in every position he held and in every life he touched.

"If the term 'larger than life' makes sense to you," said Roome. "That was Coach Green."



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## TRAVELLER + TEACHER



Inspired by her own struggles growing up, Nalini Jewett became an ELS teacher in order to help English Language Learners from across the world.



Nalinit Jewett visited Hobbiton with her friend --one of her many travel destinations. (Photo - Nalini Jewett)

#### By Crystal Li

Sometimes, we as students tend to believe that teachers have no life outside of school, and their classrooms are where they live. However, teachers do have their own life, and occasionally, it's much more interesting than students' lives like in the case of Nalini Jewett, an English Language Support (ELS) teacher. For now, a big part of her life is teaching for Eaglecrest's ELS program. The English Language Support program at Eaglecrest is a program designed to help students who don't speak English as a first language to learn English. And although she loves her job, she has another passion: travelling.

Along with teaching, Jewett has a passion for traveling. She also loves being able to tell her students that she has been to their mother country and experienced their culture. She has been to India, Australia, Mexico, Japan, all over Europe - just to name a few. Throughout her travels, she has learned quite a few things. She learned that a smile goes a long way and that there are more good in the world than there are bad.

One of her favorite trips was to New Zealand. Lord Of The Rings was filmed in New Zealand so Jewett was able to visit Hobbiton, the place where the Hobbits lived in the movie. "I loved going there and I loved just seeing where the Hobbits lived," Jewett said.

"I met three random strangers on a bus in the middle of New Zealand, in this tiny town, who happened to know my cousin's wife because she's their boss. That's how small the world can be," said Jewett of the same trip. This small event was shocking and made her trip memorable.

Another memorable trip for Jewett was when she got a job off the internet to teach in São Paulo, Brazil. "I was scared half to death because I left everything. I sold my car, got rid of my apartment, gave my cat to my brother. And packed my bags and took a leap of faith and everything was gonna work out and it did," said Jewett. "I would do it all over again." A remarkable experience, Jewett uses this story to encourage her students to do things they are afraid of.

Jewett's students can learn a lot from her travel stories, but throughout her teaching career, Jewett learned many different things from her students. Her students are her source of inspiration and motivation.

"Go out and see the world. You think the world is a big scary place, but once you start traveling you realize it's really a small fun place," Jewett said. "If there's a will, there's a way." When Jewett began her teaching career, she knew she wanted to travel, but she didn't have enough money. Yet a lack of funds didn't stop Jewett; she worked hard and smart in order to pursue her dreams of traveling.

Jewett continues to love her job and shares her travel stories to make class a little bit more fun. She has learned so much from her students and continues to learn from them every single day. Likewise, many people can learn from Jewett's story. Whether that's being a little braver or just being spontaneous in life, her story is truly inspiring.

## HIDDEN ROCKSTAR

By Ava Cohrs

Coire Geare, the orchestra and mariachi teacher at EHS, has more to them than meets the eye. From playing multiple instruments to playing in bands, Geare is one of the coolest teachers here at EHS. Because of COVID, as a musician, Geare has had to find unique opportunities to still be able to perform and experience music. "I've been really fortunate because I play with a big band, and the people in that band are both willing to meet to do rehearsals and to do performances but they are also willing to wear masks and social distance," Geare said. "It's also a lot of getting contacted by people to write bass lines for their songs that they're submitting to projects." By being willing to follow COVID guidelines, Geare has been able to provide themselves with a way to maintain some semblance of normality. But arguably the coolest thing Geare has done during COVID is record an album for their band, Novasomnia.

"I'm in a progressive rock band and this summer we recorded an album. It's all instrumental. We thought about a vocalist for a while but we decided against it. We have a guitar, bass, drums and harp. Instead of a rhythm guitar player, we have a harp player," said Geare. "It's not quite on the metal spectrum but also not quite on the rock spectrum either. It's somewhere in between." Geare's band is a unique instrumental band that uses non-traditional instruments to communicate with its listeners. However, as glamorous as it may all seem, Geare has been struggling with mental illness for a good portion of their life.

"When I was younger, I was really concerned about whether or not I was going to be able to make it in the adult world because I have ADHD, and it makes it really challenging. Navigating high school was a huge challenge for me and it was really difficult to balance." And alongside the challenges of ADHD, Geare has also spent time trying to figure out their identity.

"I think and hope that my younger self would see me as an out, trans non-binary person, and would have the most relieving epiphany in the entire world, like 'oh my god that's what it is'," said Geare. "It's a rough path." Coming out is a very vulnerable thing that takes time and courage. After struggling with their identity for so long seeing their students be able to be comfortable in their own skin and proud of it makes them very proud.

"For people who are queer or LGBTQ+, it's such a core aspect of who you are. It's such a foundational piece of how you understand yourself and how you feel and how you move through the world. And to see kids figuring it out at a young age, feeling like they have that freedom and space to do that, it's a joyful thing."

Coire Geare, the orchestra teacher here at EHS, has recorded music throughout Covid while still teaching their classes. But in order to get to that point Geare went through many hardships. After all that they stayed strong and became a role model to students here at EHS. They are living proof that you can live your dreams and have fun doing it.



## THE BROADWAY REVUE

The lack of live entertainment held true at Eaglecrest as well. But in April, a cast and crew of talented students brought live performance back to EHS --with a twist. 11 soloists, 11 songs, 11 shows: the non-traditional performance held a distinct power, emphasizing the raw emotion of solos after a year of isolation.

"We all need to see musical theater at its best when it's really stripped down to the essence of storytelling and compelling characters and lifting us up and having empathy with the people on stage," Swenson said. "That's what it's all about." Having a live show after a year of a lack of live entertainment made the endeavor that much more impactful. Their theme of songs thus was meant to reflect ideas of redemption, being heard, and tenacity.

For many in the audience, the show provided a sort of healing experience. This affected the performers and directors as well; Orchestra conductor and music arranger Coire Geare explained that, as a musician himself outside of school, this show was the first time they were able to perform in over a year.

"So many things have been taken away from us that I felt like this was a place where I could use the talents that I have to make sure that this remained and that this wasn't something else that got lost in the noise of the pandemic," said Geare. Of course, there were plenty of differences, --in particular, COVID regulations-- yet it was precisely those differences that made this year's show stand out even more.

From Tori Peterson's stirring opening number of "I'm Still Here" to William Hnatik's passionate rendition of "Not My Fathers Son" to the cast's joint performance of "Seasons of Love" from Rent, the show was a patchwork of stories that, strung together, told the story of the feelings of loss and sacrifice of the past year. It also gave a glimpse into the very sacrifices that made the show possible.

In the same vein, songs like "I Know Things Now", sung by Aspen McCart as Red Riding Hood from Into the Woods, Anton Karabushin's performance of "I Am What I Am", and "I'm Here" by Chelsea Asibbey as Celie from The Color Purple all stood out as messages of resilience, tenacity, and overcoming obstacles and coming out stronger for it. It was a powerful message emphasized by emotionally charged, relevant performances by a group of undeniably talented students.

The medley of shows and solos again provided a unique opportunity to amplify the human spirit because of the variety of backgrounds and variety of stories represented. The final product was one that displayed the power of connection.

"Above all, the audience should take away from our show that they are not alone," Peterson said. "While the pandemic has changed many of us, it has also brought us closer together as we experience and help each other through hardships."

Though it was far from a traditional musical, this year's show was an ode to the joy of performance and to the importance of connection and perseverance. Like many challenges presented this past year, The Broadway Revue allowed us to seek out the positives and find growth amid despair.







PHOTOS ABOVE (Clockwise from top left): Music Arranger Coire Geare conducts the orchestra during the show; Performer Sophia Trinidad takes a bow after the cast's joint rendition of "Seasons of Love"; MC Dario Correa introduces the next soloist following Sabrina Patten's (Jr) performance of "Nothing Short of Wonderful".

PHOTOS BELOW (Left to right): Junior Tori Peterson opens the show with "I'm Still Here"; William Hnatik gives a powerful performance of "Not My Father's Son; The lights dim for Anton Karabushin's performance of "I Am What I Am" from La Cage Aux Folles; Chelsea Asibbey, the eleventh soloist, closes out the solos with an emotional yet hopeful rendition of "I'm Here" from The Color Purple.

■ Photos and Writing by Simone Beauchamp •









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# COACH ON THE FIELD, MOTHER AT HOME



Below: Alex Hendrian pitching the ball at the mound. (Photo: Amy Peppin)

on the team, as most of them think that just because she is the coach's daughter, she is given everything. Positively, a benefit is learning the ins and outs of her mom's thoughts as

Through the crazy rollercoaster of ups and downs of being coached by her mom, Alex stated that the dynamic of their relationship has "not changed, but over time has become easier to connect," since her mother has been her coach and the two spend so much time together. "I feel that the way my mom has helped me progress over the years is by being my mom and my coach," Alex said. "She knows me best and knows what she can and can't say to me when I am having a rough day." Alex explained that her common ground with her mom came from mainly long and heartfelt conversations to get her mom to understand things she was no longer allowed to say to her while on the field like, "You are doing this, but I am just saying....", if Alex is making a mistake or in her head. Alex explained this as being one of the many challenges that her mom has learned to compromise with when she notices Alex is having a rough day and struggling on the mound.

Yvette Hendrian is the head softball coach at Eaglecrest High School. Yvette has been the varsity coach for 9 years and she is the mother of Alex, the starting pitcher. Yvette became a parent coach because she saw what other coaches were doing and as a lifelong player of the game, she wanted to develop a strong foundation for her child. Yvette started coaching Alex around the age of 8.

"Alex was always around the game and would always try to mock the older players I coached, no matter how much I tried to get her to try other sports," Mrs. Hendrian stated, explaining how Alex got into the game of softball. "Alex's progression over the years has simply just been fun for me to watch." Through the good and bad, ups and downs, Alex has become a different player through her mother's coaching. Mrs. Hendrian is different from some parent coaches because she knew when Alex turned 14 it was time to let her be coached by

"I never cut her any slack. Most people have told me I am too hard on her, but that is how I want to make sure she accomplished her goals. Nothing will be given and me being different from other parent coaches has shown her that." Yvette offers this as an example of how her role in being a parent coach differed from some other parent coaches she has seen.

Though a parent coach is a fun experience, it comes with many challenges, like "having to be the bad guy sometimes, to be harder on Alex and having to be up front (with her) was a huge challenge," stated Coach Hendrian. But it's not all challenges. Mrs. Hendrian also shared some of the benefits, like how "being Alex's coach helped both of us learn each other on a deeper level, while being able to enjoy the same sport and traveling together all over the country to do so."

#### By Rhyan Herrera and Brendan Belfield

Parental coaching has become a more relevant issue, as it is currently seen as a common thing in modern day sports. Parents of players are taking on the challenges of working with their children on and off the field to become the best players they can be.

Many sources, like USA Today, have stated that parent coaching has become such a common thing in today's era because more and more parents want their children to excel at the sport. Often, the purpose of parental coaching is to give their children more opportunities and to help them to be the player that the parent believes past or current coaches were not helping them to be.

Alex is a senior here at Eaglecrest High School in Centennial, Colorado. Alex is known as a four year varsity softball pitcher, but she is also known as the coach's kid. Alex has been coached by her mother, Yvette Hendrian, since she was 8. She then switched coaches when she was 14 at the club level, but her mom was still the coach for her high school team.

Over the years, the main challenge Alex faced from being coached by her mom was having trust among the girls

Below: Yvette Hendrian coaching 3rd base mid game. (Photo: Amy Peppin)



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## **Fall Sports**



And they're off. (from left) Sawyer Slauson('21), Johnathan Hafemeister ('22), and Owen Morgenegg ('23) start in the first heat of the race. (Photo: Nick Smapson)



Sophomore Owen Morgenegg kicks hard into the final stretch of the race. Photo - Nick Sampson

To the Right: Sawyer Slauson recovering after an impressive 6th place finish with a time of 16:47. (Photo: Nick Sampson)







Juniors Mckenzie Brown and Simone Beauchamp run with each Freshman Olivia Anderson has a breakout start and leads other near the end of the first mile. (Photo: Nick Smapson) the pack going into the first turn. (Photo: Nick Sampson)



## **Football**

#10 Langston Williams crouches down on the sidelines while the team groups up pregame. (Photo: Brendan Belfield)





Above: The Raptors stretch and prepare for the second half against Cherokee Trail and will win the game. (Photo: Brendan Belfield)

To the Right: Week two, #1 Ty Robinson (middle) outruns defenders after a reception. (Photo: Brendan Be, field)



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## Winter Sports

Focusing up. The Eaglecrest varsity line up links arms during the national anthem before their game. (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)

Taking a breather. Senior Ty Robinson catches his breath during a break in play. (Photo- Josiah Dunkin)

## Girls & Boys Basketball



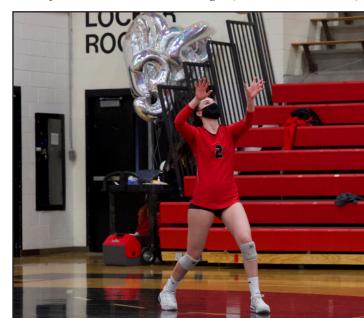
Smoky Hill defender. (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)



Sophomore Nia McKenzie goes for a layup against a Driving up court. Sophomore Natalie Soto drives to the basket, looking for a layup. (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)

## **Spring Sports**

Sophomore Chloe Rodocker playing her last home game with some of her teammates at senior night (Photo: Josiah Dunkin).



**Girls Volleyball** 



Serving it up. Sophomore Claudia Rossi sends the ball to the other team. (Photo: Nick Sampson)



Jessica McMillian serving the ball high and proud. (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)



Kylie Martin attacking at the net with Emma Bryant covering beside her. (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)



Celebration time, come on. The varsity squad celebrates after a succesful volley. (Photo: Nick Sampson)

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Shooting for the stars. Junior Edward Sagilyan boots the ball Battle for the ball. Senior Carson White(#19) fights a Smoky Hill downfield towards the Smoky Hill net. (Photo: Nick Sampson)

## **Boys Soccer**



defender for the ball. (Photo: Nick Sampson)

#### SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR:



Good try Smoky. After their 2-0 victory over Smoky Hill, Eaglecrest applauds Smoky Hill for a Good Game. A goal off of a penalty shot by junior Angelo Delacruz(#9) gave Eaglecrest an early lead in the first half and a second goal by Senior Jadyn Brown(#2) in the second half led to a Raptor victory.



No goal for you. Eaglecrest defenders form a defensive wall against a Smoky Hill penalty kick. (Photo-Nick Sampson)

## Another Victim of COVID-19?

#### By Simone Beauchamp

Football season, Raptor Rallies, late nights spent at games and practices: all staples of the Eaglecrest high school experience. But in our new, COVID-induced reality, those things were practically nonexistent. Football was delayed, rallies canceled and many sports practices and games postponed indefinitely. Eaglecrest Athletics, along with so much else, was thus impacted substantially by the novel coronavirus.

"I feel like I am constantly the 'Mask Police'," said math teacher and cross country coach Alison Hunt. "I have to remind runners when they need to wear their masks and when they are allowed not to - mostly reminding them to bring them to the starting lines of races because this is something new to them." The Colorado High School Activities Association's (CHSAA) new COVID-19 regulations mandated mask wearing for all participants not actively taking part in drills, practice, or races. But of course, this wasn't the only new rule.

In light of the pandemic, many more restrictions were placed on athletes and events. Among others, equipment must be properly sanitized, all participants must properly social distance, and temperatures of every athlete must be taken at every practice and race to ensure they are free of COVID-19

CHSAA also decided not only to postpone many fall sports, including football, cheerleading, field hockey and volleyball, but to divide the athletic year into four seasons. The number of athletes allowed to play at the events was reduced for many, and limits on spectators were enforced as well. Every sports season was also shortened, limiting the number of games and making each competition even more crucial for athletes.

"I'm honestly really sad now that the season is ending," said cross country runner and senior Alie Selenke. "The season is not as long [and] that makes



Spectators Delaney Dunlop and Isa Akbar, along with racers Owen Morgenegg (So.) and Simone Beauchamp (Jr.) stand on the sidelines of a cross country race, wearing masks. (Photo: Nicholas Sampson)



Boys cross country team in formation after the Cherry Creek meet in September of 2021.

me sad because I want to try to beat my times and I just don't have the time." Selenke, who is also a captain of the swim team, likewise expressed disappointment at the shortening of swim season, which only lasted from January to February. Most Season A sports, meanwhile, ended at the beginning of October, which gave athletes a mere two to three weeks --rather than the usual four to five-- to compete, a change that affected each season.

"Because of our shortened season, we felt that each practice should be more meaningful; that's not to say that they weren't just as important in the past, yet we focused more on our technique," said tennis player Lucas Fadem, a junior. "In a negative way, a bit more time might've provided us with more success coming down to regionals." And indeed, the CHSAA restrictions had both positive and negative ramifications.

To say the least, for many athletes the new restrictions were jarring. "It can be hard to let go of some of the things you may have enjoyed most about the sport," Fadem said. Some of the most difficult changes to our school's sports were not physical, but mental. The physical separation necessary

## "I'M HONESTLY REALLY SAD NOW THAT THE SEASON IS ENDING," -ALIE SELENKE



to prevent the spread of COVID also caused a mental separation that was tough for everyone, but especially for athletes who typically rely on their

"I have watched girls struggle to be excited this year because they are running with less of their team and they are not able to do bonding activities," Hunt said. Yet both Coach Hunt and freshman Olivia Anderson noted that they were grateful to have a season in the first place.

"I find it easier to be understanding than to complain during this chaotic time," Anderson said. Finding compassion and company undoubtedly helped teams during the year, allowing a sense of togetherness in an otherwise isolated world.

Having experienced a season in the midst of COVID and having to prepare for another, Selenke's advice is this: "Try your best. Even though you might think practice won't matter, it definitely will. So just try your best throughout the whole season and just try to have as much fun as you

The year wasn't easy for anyone, and athletes weren't the exception. From Season A to Season D, our sports experienced a season like no

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## The people you sit next to in class can CHANGE YOUR LIFE, BUT NOT IN 2020.

By Trisha Balani



Doña's 4B Spanish red cohort Spanish 4 Honors class. Left to right: Crystal Asiaw, Marco Cordova, Samuel Hanna, Megha Gaonkar, Gabriel Flores, Doña, Reagan Haworth, Amy Hendricks, Trisha Balani, Matthew Argo, Ameen Ali. (Photo: Trisha Balani)

with freshmen it's because they don't know each other. They're not going to talk to each other because they're already nervous... So it's that whole element too." Although it is more obvious with freshmen, math teacher Mr. Anderson has noticed this shift in his classes as well.

"One, students are masked up, which just kind of makes it difficult to interact with others. Two, we have fewer students in the class, and they have to sit farther apart. Three, I'm sure that there's less opportunity for group learning in the classes," said Anderson. "For sure teachers are feeling a little bit of the pressure to maximize the instructional value of the class time, which means less opportunity for more informal interactions from student to student."

Mr. Anderson also gave his students a chance to go outside before fall break. "I overheard several students say it was really the first time or a year that they had had the opportunity to interact." Now that we have gone back to full-time, in-person school, this has changed. Many teachers are starting to include more opportunities for group work, which feels like a breath of fresh air.

Generally, teachers agree that navigating student interaction is yet another challenge to overcome, but we just need to find ways to "bridge that gap," says math teacher Ms. Swain.

It has been a learning process, but there is improvement every week as teachers find ways to make classes more engaging in a hybrid setting and as students find ways to adapt to our "new normal."

As we have returned to in-person school, students and teachers alike find a major lack of interaction during class time. In a normal school year, the people you meet in new classes can become some of your best friends, or at least "school friends" -- the people you may never see outside of school, but who you have the time of your life with in first-period science class. Now, "school friends" are a thing of the past. Whether it is the masks or the three-feet-apart seating, 2020 has not made it particularly easy to be outgoing at school.

Personally, I have experienced this in my classes. There has been less group work and class discussions because most teachers try to use all of their in-person instruction time to lecture and teach the hardest curriculum. But, there are definitely exceptions. My Spanish and government classes have had the most interaction. Spanish is the type of class where a lot of speaking and collaboration is involved. So, everyone has to interact with each other. In a way, it forces us to get to know our classmates more

In AP Government, there are a lot of discussions surrounding current events. My peers and I may have differing political opinions, and we have had to learn how to communicate respectfully, which can be difficult when the American political world is incredibly polarized.

What we are all experiencing is a completely new image of school that everyone has to get used to—teachers included. They have also seen a major shift in school socialization. Student participation is at an all-time low, to the point where teachers have to wait for classes to speak up rather than quiet down.

Faith Vigil, says that in her freshman AVID classes, "[Students] don't engage at all. I really want the kids to engage, but it's like pulling teeth to get them to talk to each other or to talk to me. And I think too



Christine Avery (English) teaches a small class of seven students during hybrid learning. (Pho-

## With Speech There is Debate

By Hermala Solomon

Speech is power and to be able to argue your perspective. Speech and Debate is a class and after school activity that most Eaglecrest members are unaware of. At Eaglecrest, Speech and Debate is coached by Mrs. Mcculloch; where each student and member is tested to their full ability in an effort to accomplish their personal goals.

Speech and Debate drives individuals to learn about issues concerning the world, to express their opinion and persuade others to see their perspective. Speech and Debate is an NSDA, or National Speech Debate Association, run event. NSDA is a national debating society that works to create a platform where youth voices can be heard, on complex, real-life topics.

Speech and Debate has numerous different activities that students can join, and those activities are designed to match that student's characteristics and or interests. Whether you are shy and want to use Speech and Debate to express yourself, or even if you are outgoing and want to work on your people skills, the club has activities that will help you accomplish those goals.

Speech and Debate teaches you "to step outside of your comfort zone and not be shy" as Jordan Johnson, a freshman at Eaglecrest, describes. He explains that this was his first year of Speech and it has helped him work toward his goal of "becoming a lawyer by expanding his argumentative skills." Speech and Debate is not just a way to get information on issues that are happening in the community, but also an opportunity to make new friends and help get colleges to acknowledge the amount of work you put into helping the world.

Speech and Debate does not only happen in Eaglecrest's walls. Like many other activities, members have the opportunity to compete against other schools by attending numerous different tournaments held at different schools across the state that have been laid out throughout the school year. Tournaments are all-day events where students "wake up at 6 am and do not get home till 9-10 pm," said Hailey Stepp, a 4-year member of Speech and Debate. Stepp describes Speech as a "super fun laid back activity that is full of support". There are teachers and coaches there to help you through every step as much help as you need. They are there to provide it for you.

"Get aware, as there are numerous opportunities that come from those long stressful tournaments," Stepp said. Even though tournaments are long, just like every other activity they are a commitment and require tons of hard work.

The Speech and Debate class at Eaglecrest isn't offered in other schools, the class is just another way to ensure the success of each one of their members. The class works just like regular classes: students are graded by the number of tournaments they attend and how much they worked on understanding the topics they chose, while also participating in discussions and debates held in class. In class, students work on their debates with the help of the other students around them and the advisors. As Nia Asmare describes, "The class is very chill and the teacher gives you a lot of time to

Speech and Debate is an activity many more people at Eaglecrest need to be more aware of. "It helps build your character and you as a person," Mariah Hewitson, a junior, described. Speech is a way you can be a part of improving your community from the comfort of your school while also growing as a person in the process.



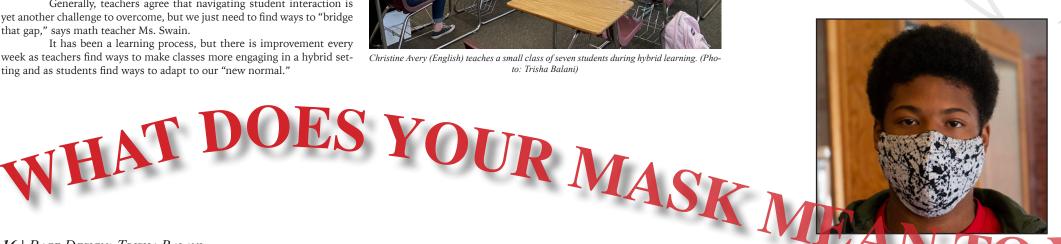
#### NIOBE CAMACHO

"I got my mask from the EHS spirit pack and I picked this one because I love the message it says and support it and It is comfortable and goes well with everything." (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)



#### CARSEN CONKLIN

"I picked my mask up off Styln company because I really like the brand because it has to do with cars!" (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)



#### JAYDEN HALL

"My mom got me my mask so that my siblings would have a mask that looks cool and they would like so they would want to wear it." (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)



#### NICK HANSEN

"I got my mask from a tshirt mask combo from a streetwear store in the Aurora Mall." (Photo: Josiah Dunkin)

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# YOU + THE COMMUNITY

## More Than a Lesson Plan

Throughout Colorado, the '20-'21 school year has taught many people that teaching is much more than Shakespeare and algebra.

By Jeremy Garza

I love school. Ever since second grade, I have always felt like I belonged with a pencil in my hand. Maybe I'm an outlier, but the rush of raising my hand and getting the question right will never cease to bring a smile to my face.

Teachers love learning more than I could ever imagine. They gave up a life of doing what they love to teach what they love. They spend their lives training the world's future how to live, and their lessons go beyond the knowledge found in a textbook. A teacher from Fairview High School has a routine to get that future to connect with the world that will soon be theirs.

"One of my favorite things to do in the classroom is to do mindfulness at the beginning of every class. So we sit and we always do three deep breaths. Sometimes on Fridays, we'll go for a short five-minute walk outside," said Tracy Brennan. "I just say to notice what you see, touch, taste, hear and smell. They try to get at least three of their senses and notice what's going on around them in the world in that present moment."

Going beyond being just an English teacher, Brennan takes every opportunity to teach her students life skills. The skill shown in her beginning-of-class routine allows for a quick moment of reflection before diving headfirst into a lesson. Oftentimes these lessons revolve around a common goal between teachers.

"My goal that I always tell my students is I'm creating my neighbors," said Nicole Guagliardo, a teacher from Overland High School. "My goal is that someday when you're 21, I can come over to your house, and we can have a beer on your porch. My bucket gets full being around other people and especially young people."

Guagliardo is a firm believer that her students will quickly forget the books she teaches them about, but will never forget the things they learned about relationships from her class. She, like many teachers, forms bonds with their students they cherish very deeply.

"I feel like I've always taught for the right reasons. Some of my proudest moments are when the students come back to see me, want to go to lunch with me or text me in the middle of the night because they're struggling in college," said Mike Willahan, a teacher from Mountain Vista High School. "I got into coaching as well, so I have former players come back and join my staff. No paycheck or anything else could amount to what that means to me."

The class projects missed and traditions that had to be left behind for safety reasons will cause a lack of memories for many. There are also simple things that are not a reality this year, and many miss those more than they could have ever realized they would have.

"I just miss the noise. I'm a Spanish teacher and my favorite part about in-person learning is literally just being around the kids. I kind of thrive on organized chaos," said Rikki Keiser, a teacher from Fairview High School. "I like the really big classes. I like the loud, interactive classes. A lot of the time I'll have Spanish music playing in the background while the kids are working in groups."

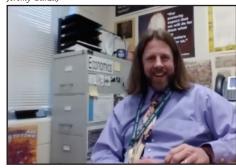
Missing the noise of her classroom, Keiser has held on by sticking with her community. But the community has not made the job any easier. Teachers know all about heavy workloads.



Tracy Brennan in her at-office prepared for her to teach online. (Photo: Jeremy Garza)



Physical education teacher, Mike WIllihan, at home. (Photo: Ieremy Gazza)



D'Evelyn High School's Rush Daly in his classroom. (Photo: Jeremy Garza)

Endless grading and preparation have brought them long days and nights in past years, but they were not ready for what was to come as a result of Covid-19. "I didn't expect it to be the amount of work that it is. It's like reinventing the wheel. And for a lot of us it's like being first year teachers again," said Adam Chilton, a teacher from Fairview High School. "You spend a huge proportion of your career developing the content that you're going to use again and again and make it better. A lot of that went out the window."

Teachers go to school for years upon years to learn how to teach, yet the most learning they do is from actually teaching. The pandemic has, arguably, been the biggest learning curve of all. Teaching theatre at Mountain Vista High, Jeremy Goldson has completely revamped his grading style. He now bases them entirely on reflexion and experiences. He hopes that other teachers follow suit.

"Why are we trying to hold kids accountable? There's a frickin pandemic. Why are we not attending to their social and emotional health? Why are we not attending to their life skills?" said Goldson. "So I came back this year and I started to really change the way that I graded things and I started to diminish the importance of obedience. I really lean into asking them what they're learning." He has adapted the way he views grades with the times. Many aspects of teaching have had to change this year and will affect the future of teaching as well.

"The biggest takeaway is truly I'm going to be a better teacher going forward. We're all going to be better. It's extremely frustrating. It's really hard. I've spent hours and hours and hours remaking things that I've done very successfully in person. To make sure that I do it well and that students get what they need to get out of it has been challenging," said Rusty McCleave, a teacher from Eaglecrest High School. "I don't know if you love the social reform movements or not, but you're going to write an essay on it. And you might as well be prepared for the essay. So, the optimist in me believes that I will definitely have a vast amount of new tools to make class even more engaging."

Throughout my education, I have seen the technology used to teach me also grow up with me. Total whiteboard teaching has slowly evolved into every teacher at my school carrying touchscreen laptops that can project anything they could dream of from the internet.

"[The pandemic] forced a lot of teachers, especially older teachers, into coping with technology. Many of them have just been like, 'no, I'm not gonna learn how to use anything new,'" said Chilton. "We still had people going into this at my school that were teaching math on overhead projectors. It's modernized as many people as much as you could have modernized them."

Screens saved the education system this year, but it raises concern on whether or not they will cause more harm than good in future years when they are no longer a necessity.

"I'm really concerned about mental health and physical health because of how overwhelming it is to sit in front of a screen all day long. Human beings aren't meant for that. It looks so different now," said Wendi Kuntz. "I just said, 'take back your education. You didn't learn to walk because you watch somebody on the screen tell you how to do it.' I have tried to approach things more interactive with the text and with each other and getting them off their computer whenever I can."

Kuntz has deep fears of screens taking over student's health. "Teachers are used to interacting with and helping their students in person, looking into their eyes rather than blank screens to understand what their students are grappling with. It is difficult to help solve their problems through a screen. Without seeing students in building, communication issues have arisen between educators and their pupils.

McCleave knows his students want to do the best they can, but also knows that they are running into more than one issue along the way. "They're being asked to be organized. In an instant you have to manage your time wisely without practice. I've been doing this for years: having to get myself out of bed and get to work on time and take care of myself and my family," said McCleave. "I know people are probably staying up way too late doing schoolwork because they're not doing it during the day time that's available. I think they're probably staying up way too late and then they come in with zero energy. It becomes this snowball effect."

Noticing the snowball effect, like McCleave describes, and just how much it is taking a toll on their students mental health, teachers refuse to stop searching for answers. This continual search for answers continues, even when the most devastating occurs.

"Part of the art of teaching is to understand kids who aren't vocalizing all the time, but you can get to know them by the way they interact with each other in class," said Brennan. "Unfortunately, this week one of my students committed suicide. I feel as if I had him in class, I would have been able to, maybe, been able to feel or understand or sense that he was in a dark place."

The guilt Brennan feels due to the heartbreaking loss of her student is an emotion most will never be able to relate to. Teachers are more commonly seeing that their students are struggling, with no real solution in sight for this year if it continues online.

"[My students] are despondent, especially my upper classmen. The wear and tear is beginning to show up. They had expectations about what their senior year was gonna look like. They were so excited that that senior ahead of them graduated so they could get in a play or they're trying to figure out the college application process," said Goldson. "Everybody they're talking to is on the end of the zoom call. They show their best side to me, but I probe a little bit. They say, "yeah, you know, I laid in my bed and cried for a half hour last night.' That's got to be exhausting."

The shift from in-person to online, which for some happened multiple times, is hard on even the most adaptable people. "We're all adjusting. It's neither good nor bad. It's just change, and change is hard on everybody," said Tiffany Yonts, a teacher at Eaglecrest High School. "I'm here for my students and I love being with my kids to create relationships. I think the community has had a bit of a shift in realizing that teaching is not an easy job. Just because you went to school doesn't know you know how to teach."

The compassion the public has begun to show teachers has finally arrived. They do not deserve to be called babysitters or told that they are undeserving of praise. The pandemic has truly brought to light the fact that teachers do so much more than just make lesson plans.



Wendi Kuntz keeping a brave face through the new difficulties of teaching. (Photo: Jeremy Garza)



Mountain Vista's theatre teacher, Jeremy Goldson. (Photo: Jeremy Garza)





Eaglecrest teacher, Tiffiany Yonts, describes the changes she's had to make this school year. (Photo: Jeremy Garza)

Scan to read the whole story at: EHSNESTNETWORK.COM

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## BOULDER STRONG

By Simone Beauchamp, Jeremy Garza, Israel Barkat

Monday, March 22, 2021, marks a tragic event that not only rocked the city of Boulder, Colorado but whose effect could be felt across the state and the nation. Ten lives were lost in a King Soopers that afternoon, and in the week since, vigils have been held, memorials created, and support have poured in for those involved.

LIVES LOST, NOT FORGOTTEN: A memorial stands at the very site of the incident, the chain-link fence surrounding the King Soopers parking lot covered in flowers, candles, and messages, nearly obstructing the red and yellow logo behind it. Yellow police tape envelops the parking lot, flapping in the breeze alongside signs of support for the victims as a parade of people walks alongside the fence. The right lane of the road is blocked off to allow the crowd to move through, and an officer walks slowly along the edge, clad in black and dog leash in hand.

Many Coloradans lit candles in a front window in honor of the Boulder shooting victims on Saturday, March 27, 2021.



A fence dotted with flowers and messages stands in front of the King Soopers where 10 people lost their lives in a shooting on March 22, 2021 (Photo Credit: Simone Beauchamp)

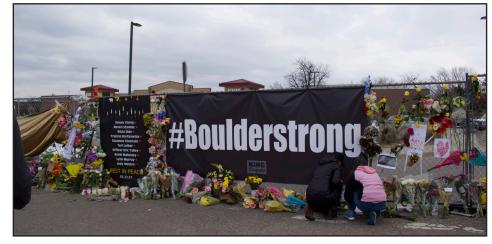
#### **IN MEMORY OF:**

JODY WATERS (65)
LYNN MURRAY (62)
KEVIN MAHONEY (61)
SUZANNE FOUNTAIN (59)
TERI LEIKER (51)
OFFICER ERIC TALLEY (51)
TRALONA "LONNA" BARTKOWIAK
(49)

RIKKI OLDS (25) NEVEN STANISIC (23) DENNY STONG (20)



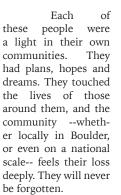
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Flowers, candles and messages cover the fence in front of the scene of the Boulder shooting. (Photo: Simone Beauchamp)



A candle lit in honor of the victims at the memorial sight. (Photo: Simone Beauchamp)





A message to stay strong sent to everyone in Boulder. (Photo: Simone Beauchamp)

The Beloved Community Village; some of the tiny homes made.



DOROTHY LEYBA, an operations and programs manager for Colorado Village Collaborative, states, "homelessness in Denver has risen since the rental prices continue to skyrocket and there's lack of affordable housing options," forcing Colorado citizens to seek housing through governmental funded programs. Colorado Village Collaborative aims to provide a safe, healing environment where people experiencing homelessness can increase their economic capacity and move on towards stable housing. Ms. Leyba states, "We started out with 11 tiny homes in January of 2020 and by the end of 2020 we have increased that number to 33 homes." With the support of Colorado Village Collaboration, over 10 residents have met their goal of economic stability, obtaining things such as housing, a job, health care and more in their recent years of operation.

Over the past 3 years, Colorado has seen an overwhelming increase in homlessness. Since 2017, there has been a huge jump of 20,267 homeless people living in the state of Colorado, with over 45% of the homeless population being unsheltered. Statistics from Colorado Coalition for the Homeless state that 56% of homeless people have or had at least one disabling condition, 30% were chronically homeless, 14% were fleeing from domestic violence, 11% were veterans, and 15% were families or unaccompanied youth.



"Springs Rescue Mission is one organization providing shelter and resources for people experiencing homelessness in El Paso County." CPR News.

## HOMELESS RATES RISING IN COLORADO



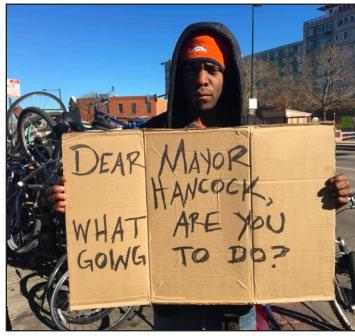
By Rhyan Herrera

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless provides veteran-specific services such as transitional housing and recovery-orientated support services for homeless individuals. Other organizations like Volunteers of America, Homes for Heroes, People House and many more provide some of the same services to help a part of the populations that are veterans. Veterans struggle with lack of support networks dealing with trauma and disabilities as well as dismal living conditions in overcrowded or substandard housing that doesn't meet their needs after coming out of battle.

Across the board, when I first started in this work, the population was mostly minorities and veterans," said Nicole Mares, a homeless community advocate in Denver. A huge chunk of Colorado's homeless population are veterans, with most of them being males and having some type of mental and or physical disability.

Change has been happening, slowly but surely. Advocates like Mrs. Mares and Ms. Leyba strive to analyze and challenge the social structure that fosters inequality, elevating the perspectives of those most affected by injustice. By recognize the humanity of this portion of the population on an individual level, we are more open minded and willing to provide supports that free one another from poverty. Designing and implementing solutions together to cut down on homlessness and be a helping resource for those in need, is ultimately what will make the change.

Homelessness is on the rise in Colorado as citizens are beginning to lose jobs, housing, and more due to Covid-19. The community is doing much to help, but very little has been done on the government's part. Advocates push daily for the homeless population to be prioritized during this pandemic. Colorado Mayor Micheal Hannock has also been a huge advocate in seeking more vaccines from President Joe Biden moving forward.



"Year of the Plague—9—Homelessness in Colorado and the Coronavirus" (Photo: Sarah Gerard).

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## ON THE FRONTLINES

#### By Simone Beauchamp

In the midst of the pandemic, there were people who worked every day, risking their health for others. These are our frontline workers -a term encompassing all those who remained working despite the pandemic because their work was on the frontline or otherwise essential. These individuals worked tirelessly from March 2020 into 2021, helping those in need at great personal risk.

"It's pretty much pure craziness," said Katherine Cohrs, a registered nurse at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, describing her experience during the pandemic. "For a while there, we weren't getting beds in the hospital, so we had 30 patients sitting down in the ER iust waiting for their rooms." With the sheer number of cases and people who needed medical help, frontline workers were a critical and irreplaceble piece of recovery. But the relentless pace of the pandemic took its toll on them.

"Frontline workers have definitely gone through great lengths to aid the community to the best of their abilities," said junior Donci Kanyinda, an intern at the Children's Hospital. "For one, the staff at Children's Hospital have all been working ridiculous hours and putting their own health and wellbeing behind them in order to secure our own health." Hospitals and their employees did a lot to adapt, but it wasn't easy.

"It's really hard for us to keep doing what we're doing for such an extended amount of time. We're doing what we love, but it's getting harder," Cohrs said at the end of the first wave. Because no one knew when the virus would ease up or a vaccine would become widely available, the pace frontline workers were working wasn't sustainable. The entire system was overworked and overwhelmed. The community too was overwhelmed by the intense coverage and changes brought by COVID. Yet that in itself was a significant factor in rising case numbers.

The state saw an increase in cases in the months following major holidays like Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas and New Year's, Isolation was overwhelming but coming together had disastrous consequences. A deadly spike in cases throughout January put additional strain on overworked frontline workers. A lack of resources quickly became an issue as well.

"We still do not have adequate Personal Protective Equipment," said Dr. Leslie Proctor, a physician who specializes in Internal Medicine at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver in December. "Not too long ago we could only get an N95 if the patient was undergoing some types of procedures when we were seeing them. At my hospital, we can easily make more beds for more patients, but we can not easily get new doctors and nurses to take care of these patients, and that is the real scarce resource." Scarce resources meant staying safe was even more pressing.

The safety measures promoted during the pandemic were, in fact, helpful in preventing the spread of COVID, according to national and local data -and it undoubtedly reduced the severity of our flu season as well. But inequality of access and general inequity between different populations became was a more startling issue.

"Something that they don't talk about in the media is a lot of the poverty that's associated with [the pandemic]," Cohrs said. "What happens is a lot is people who are day laborers, or people who can't afford to take off work will continue to work when they're symptomatic because they can't deal with the loss of income." Thus, inequalities in our society were sorely exacerbated through the pandemic, impacting certain communities far more than others. However, the virus itself did not appear to discriminate.

"I think the most important thing for the public to know is that this disease can affect different people in very different ways. While some get mild symptoms like a cold, others can get very sick with pneumonia and some will die," Dr. Proctor said. "It is impossible to know for sure which group any one person would be in beforehand." Thus, it was even more pressing to take precautions against the virus. By January, nearly everyone knew someone who contracted COVID, whether family, friend, or celebrity. By April 16, according to Johns Hopkins University, over 3 million people globally had died due to COVID-19. In Colorado, nearly 500,000 people contracted COVID, with over 6,000 deaths a year after the state was initially shut down. Both Dr. Proctor and Ms. Cohrs described heart-wrenching cases of COVID within our community. Parents, spouses, siblings, and even children have been torn from their families, leaving behind tears and tragedy too close to home. "It's very scary because they're alone. Their family members can't come into the hospital with them if they potentially have COVID," said Ms. Cohrs. "It takes a little piece of your soul every time you're taking care of a patient who is deathly sick and alone. And nobody is safe from this."

The physical demands on frontline workers were undoubtedly difficult, but there was also a heavy mental toll on frontline workers. They are the ones who worked every day, took the most risks, treated the worst cases, and watched distressing stories unfold. In response, adaptation, though challenging, was necessary. Even now, the global community does not know the long-term effects of the virus. But we can thank our essential workers for putting their own lives at risk in order to keep our community safe and functioning.

"Without our teachers, nurses, doctors, delivery workers, and all essential workers, the transition into a pandemic environment would have been intolerable," said Kanyinda. Recognizing the sacrifices and hard work of our frontline and essential work is more than warranted. Whether that's a sign in your yard or a thank you to essential workers, it could go a long way.



Above: An intern at Children's Hospital, allowed in only periodically during the pandemic, works with a new baby. (Photo-

Below: A mask lies abandoned in snow over Spring Break (Photo: Simone Beauchamp)





billboard nea the National Jewish Health ages passersby to get vacci-



## A SHOT AT RECOVERY

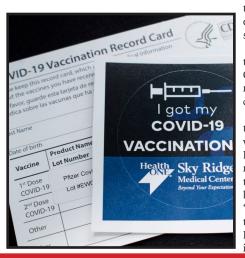


Above: A student gets vaccinated at a drive-up vaccination location at SkyRidge Medical Center. (Photo: Simone Beau-

wind at a drive-up location near Elitch Gardens. (Photo: Simone Beauchamp)



Following a first-dose vaccination one receive. a Vaccina tion Record Card. (Photo Simone Beau



By Simone Beauchamp

Over a year since the world went on lockdown due to COVID-19, a light at the end of the tunnel appeared as vaccines have began rolling out in batches to the general public.

For Colorado's educators, it's been a sigh of relief. The vaccines became available to Colorado school staff in early February during phases 1b.2 and 1b.3. The phases of vaccine rollout, dictated by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, differ for each state.

By prioritizing educators, explained Michelle Weinraub, Cherry Creek School District's Director of Health Services, schools were much more likely to open. In turn, this would relieve parents of the worry and financial strain of childcare -- and allows students and teachers better communication and

The first round in Colorado, labeled phase 1a, prioritized the vaccine for healthcare workers working directly with hospital patients. The next phase, 1b.1, vaccinated health care workers not directly in contact with hospital patients, including CCSD school nurses. In March and April, new phases covered those 50+ and those with underlying conditions before extending to anyone 16+. Of course, the vaccine rollout was a process –and it took hard work.

"The minute we knew this would be coming to our state, that was the time to start doing the work in the background," Weinraub said. She detailed long days spent calling community health part-Below: A sign advertising COVID vaccinations flaps in the ners including Kaiser Permanente, Centura Health, UC Health, and Stride Community Health Center, attending meetings, and preparing and brainstorming to make the vaccine available and accessible.

"We were really clear in saying, 'whoever gives you your first opportunity to get the vaccine, please go do that.' I think that was a way that we were able to get as many of our staff vaccinated as quickly as we did," said Weinraub. She also credits her team on the district level for the success of their work, as teachers and staff were able to swiftly and effectively get vaccinated.

"They're just pumping people through the system, so I got mine at UC Health," said science teacher Mike Haugen. "I just checked in, they sent me to a room and they just gave me a very easy shot. It was a small needle, no pain." Like any vaccine, there were possible side effects. Haugen described minor body aches, while Weinraub spoke of only mild soreness in her arm for the first dose. For many, the second dose had more noticeable side effects, including headaches, fatigue, and aches for a day or two. Weinraub says this is actually a good thing.

"I knew that by feeling a little bit of symptoms, it was working because what it's doing is telling me that my body is helping create the antibodies to protect me against COVID-19," she reassured. Our very own school nurse, Maggie DeRose, was able to get her vaccine early, on January 26th.

"It's been a year since we went out last March. And look how far we've come. I mean, we've had terrible times when we couldn't leave our house. And then within a span of a year, we've had three approved vaccines now for our country," Weinraub said. However, if keeping communities across the globe safe isn't prioritized, new variants will continue to pop up, threatening progress. However, it's unrealistic to expect a perfect vaccination process.

"Vaccines are not new," Haugen reassured. "I think there's a ton of misinformation out there that is meant to scare people and is meant to make money. And I think the science is pretty clear. It's a vaccine and it's safe." There are, of course, concerns over the safety of the new vaccines, but Haugen, DeRose, and Weinraub all maintain that getting vaccinated is safe and absolutely worth it.

"That's one of the things we're learning about people who are vaccinated. Not only is it protective for them, but we're learning that I wouldn't be able to pass on the virus to you because I've been vaccinated and because I'm wearing a mask and I'm still going to be careful," said Weinraub. For many students and teachers alike, this made returning to full in-person school a little less anxiety-inducing.

"It does bring me relief that we are headed in the right direction as a community to slow the spread of the virus," said DeRose. Having a sense of safety through the vaccine has had a tangible effect on our community; a certain shift in the atmosphere has occurred as teachers and students enter schools with excitement -or at least some peace of mind- rather than ever-present worry.

"I do think that it is good for teachers to get vaccinated right now because it keeps them and their families safe and keeps the students safe when coming into contact with them," junior Trinity Chevier said. Chevier still worried about students contracting COVID until they're able to get vaccinated as well. Since a vaccine hadn't yet been approved for anyone under 16, this remained a prevalent concern in schools.

Weinraub thus advised continued safety measures, including wearing masks and social distancing, as schools finish out the year -and perhaps even into the next school year. Even for newly vaccinated teachers and students, continued safety measures remained important.

For so many, increased vaccinations were a welcome step to recovery. They are a reminder that just maybe, we can return to some new version of our maskless, social distance-less pre-COVID world. "It's the only way for us to get back to any kind of normalcy," Weinraub said, speaking as if a weight has been lifted. Teachers seem to be feeling a similar sense of relief.

"I'm just happy that I'm able to get it," Haugen said. "I think there was a lot of anxiety for teachers trying to find out where to get it and then once it was offered, it was actually a pretty quick process." It's a piece of progress, a step in rebuilding our community in the aftermath of COVID-19. Recovery s not over, but it has begun.

YOU AND THE COMMUNITY | 23 22 | PAGE DESIGN: SIMONE BEAUCHAMP

# YOU + THE WORLD

## WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

#### By Josiah Dunkin and Rhyan Herrera

A lot has, obviously, happened in the world during this historic school year. Some weeks felt like more history was made than in a chapter of a U.S. History textbook. Eaglecrest students share the event that made the biggest impact on them.



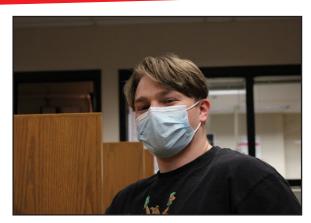
"The Black Lives Matter Movement was impactful as it showed that justice for the black community, and being seen as equals is still on our minds even after 100 years of fighting. I feel the death of George Floyd reopened the eyes of so many americans as racial inequality and police brutality is still going on in modern day America. With the verdict recently coming out, I feel good about it. Derek Chauvin got what he deserved and knew he was in the wrong from day 1. As a black male in America, I hope to continue to see change and for things to get better. This is only the beginning we still have a long way to go." - Kevin Agnigbakuo



"Being aware of germs and surroundings has become the new normal to me. In Soccer, we have to continually wear masks, get our temperatures checked and have to always stay socially distanced. As the year continues I'm hopeful for things to slowly go back to normal- but still for people to be aware." - Lauren Jackson



"Watching the news recently has informed me of the battle Taiwan is continuing to fight as China is trying to claim them as their own. With this conflict, I can possibly be affected by this, with my choice of future career going into the military. I hope to see China back off and let Taiwan be, but this is a fight they have been fighting for awhile now." - Easton Barbar



"With covid at its peak going into football season, it had so many restrictions. It being shortened by 6 games and the fact that only 8 teams were able to make it to playoffs, it definitely made this season one of the memorable ones. But also one of the most stressful." - Jake Defusco



"The murder of Trevon Martin and the events surrounding his death has has a big impact on me and the black community. A powerful moment and yet another death, that should strike change in our country. As a black male he hopes to see this change like many others. " - Jae Carlis



"The whole pandemic has given me time to be myself. I've learned about who I am as a person and got to spend more time with my family and friends. " - Leslie Bell

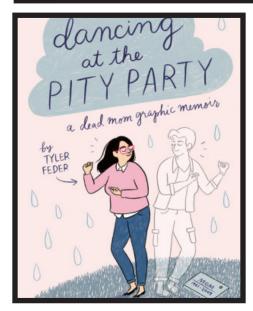


"Racial inequality all over the world was widely shown this past year. It was sad and sickening to me; I wish and hope for better days to come. Seeing the impact it had on people really shocked me. It worried me for the future of me and my family being black in America. Change is coming, but we need it to come quicker before any other lives are lost." - Ola Iwualla

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## WHAT TO READ: 2021

While you might not have been curled up cozy in bed during the height of gurantine, you defininately should have been. As the world was in shambles, there is really no better way than to escape into a new world between the pages of a good book. Some of the best stories call for a little bit of imagination and cause some inpiration-just the medicine the libraian ordered during 2020 and into 2021.



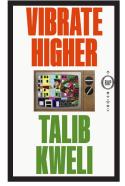
By Trisha Balani

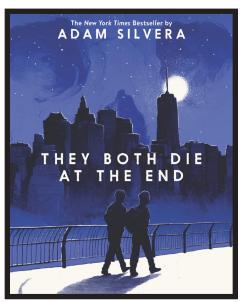
#### Dancing at the Pity Party -Tvler Feder

"Dancing at the Pity Party" is a fantastic graphic novel. It is told from the perspective of the author, Tyler Feder, who loses her mother to cancer. Her storytelling is raw and honest, and she tells her mother's story in a way that perfectly captures life — sometimes sad and difficult but also full of happiness, laughter, and love.

"I think that's such an important thing. Finding books that help you think about things, whether it's dealing with things that are going on in your own life, or if you're just trying to understand an issue," said EHS librarian Hollie Hawkins.





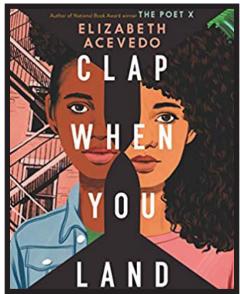


By Trisha Balani

#### They Both Die at the End -Adam Silvera

If you like fast-paced books, "They Both Die at the End" is amazing. It takes place in the span of one day, and delves into friendship, love, and fate. It is told through multiple perspectives, putting different lenses on the same experience, which makes it a fun read.

And the appeal here is not the ending, but the middle. We know that they both die at the end, but how do they get there? Silveria does a beautiful job of creating a unique relationship between learning how to live while dying. He leaves the readers asking about themselves.



By Simone Beauchamp

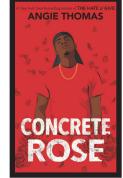
#### Clap When You Land -Elizabeth Acevedo

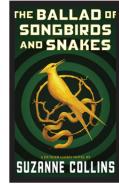
A tale of two sisters worlds apart,w connected by a father with secrets, Acevedo works her magic yet again. Acevedo is an author with a true talent; her writing weaves stories of such depth and emotion that allows her characters and their stories to leap off the page, no matter who you are.

The book is a meticulously crafted story of the bonds that tie sisters together even hundreds of miles apart. It explores a wide variety of topics without coming across as cluttered or messy.

#### Other Book Recommendations







Books line the shelves in the Eaglecrest library.

## MUSIC TO REMEMBER

The year of 2020 was unlike any other. Among so much else, the world lost much of its live entertainment, from concerts to movies in theaters to musicals and plays. Yet from it rose a vast and rich array of musicality. From pop superstar Taylor Swift to emerging artists like Super Monster, an otherwise difficult vear brought us creativity and innovation with a new depth. These are just a few notable contributions.



Song Machine - Gorillaz Review by Demir Mikulin

In true Gorillaz fashion, the band has again managed to push past musical norms. On the 10 year anniversary of their most critically acclaimed album Plastic Beach, Song Machine has proven that the band still has much to say and do. A culmination of hard work and outside-the-box thinking, they've created a sound unlike anything they've done before.



evermore – Taylor Swift Review by Trisha Balani

Taylor's newest project is one of her best, showing off her power as a storyteller. The surprise album, one of two released in 2020, is an extended stay in folklore's woods. It's an exciting marriage of fact and fiction ranging from stories of Swift's grandmother to a dramatic tale of spiteful murders.



Limbo - Amine Review by Sam Norris

After a two year long absence from music, Amine has returned with his highly anticipated sophomore effort. Taking a look at Limbo as a whole, we're left with Amine's best work to date, easily. This project is not only to the point but serves as a great statement in his discography. The maturity from his last mixtage is incredible, and it makes me ecstation for the future of Amine's music.



Super Monster – Claud Review by Demir Mikulin

Characterized as bedroom pop and indie rock, this album is 13 tracks total. It features several of Claud's contemporaries, such as Clairo and Nick Hakim. Raw lyrics cut through dreamy melodies emblematic of bedroom pop, a perfect juxtaposition. For indie-pop fans in need of new music, I wholeheartedly recommend Super Monster.



#### Fearless (Taylor's Version) – **Taylor Swift** Review by Jeremy Garza

After the master recordings of Swift's work were sold without her consent, she decided to re-record her first 6 albums. The first of these, Fearless (Taylor's Version) contains tracks from the original album and 6 never-formally-released tracks. The 6 vault songs were a perfect ad dition. Swift's lyrics wash the mind from distractions; she is in control of her narrative.



#### "Asleep Among Endives" – Ichiko Aoba Review by Demir Mikulin

The newest single from Japanese folk singer Ichiko Aoba, this piece reflects a departure from her earlier work. În this track, she opts for a minimalist folk noise, using simple guitar melodies and her voice. And that's all that's needed: Aoba's ethereal vocals, arguably her best instrument, stand out and shine.



## Whole Lotta Red - Playboi

Review by Demir Mikulin

1st impressions are often deceiving, and this album is an example of that Ultimately, it is Carti's constant experimenting that makes the album so great. His avant-garde vocal performances and unusual ad-libs add an entirely new layer to the project. The electronic beats and sounds he constantly makes use of come from varying genres.



Stuck in the Sky - Maria **Isabel** Review by Trisha Balani

Having released her first single. "The One" in March 2020, she since released her debut EP. The seven-track record came out mid-October, and it's absolutely stunning. It falls into Soul/ R&B, but it's also very versatile, with sounds similar to artists like SZA and Kiana Ledé.



YOU AND THE WORLD | 27 **26** | Page Design: Simone Beauchamp

# THE CHAOS OF THE 2020 ELECTION

## THE BIG ONE







Presidential candidates, incumbent Republican Donald Trump (left) and Democratic nominee Joe Biden (right), sparred on the campaign trail throughout 2020. The 2020 Election was one that will be remembered as one of the most tense in American history. Brutal campaigns in a year that was crammed full of protests and desparity in the country. In the end, Former Vice President and US Senator from Delaware Joe Biden won the election against Republican incumbent Donald Trump of New York. After a rough transition and an unfortunate series of events, the 46th President of the United States is nearing his 4<sup>th</sup> month in office.

#### United States House of Representatives and Senate





US House District 6: Jason Crow, incumbent Democrat gained a second term with 59.9% of voters.



US. Senate:
John Hickenlooper, former Democratic Governor of Colorado beat Republican incumbent Cory Gardner with 53.5% of the vote.

## COLORADOPROPOSITION, AMENDMENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES



Propositions: 113: 52.3% Yes 114: 50.9% Yes 115: 59% No 116: 57.9% Yes 117: 52.5% Yes 118: 57.7% Yes EE: 67.6% Yes

Amendments: 76: 62.9% Yes 77: 60.5% Yes B: 57.5% Yes C: 52.3% Yes **YOUR** Representatives: State House of Representatives District 36: Mike Weissman

District 36: Mike Weissman District 37: Tom Sullivan District 40: Naquetta Ricks

State Senate

District 27: Chris Kolker District 28: Janet Buckner



#### **ARAPAHOE COUNTY**



Commissioners: District 3: Jeff Baker

This election was shown to be close by a difference of 167 votes with Democrat Idris Keith close behind.

## Issue #4A and Issue #4B

CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT



These issues on the election ballot presented an increase in taxes by \$35 million dollars (#4A) for the school district and increase the district's debt by \$150 million dollars. These improvements are meant to maintain schools in the district, add a mental health treatment center for students and a new elementary school located at the far east of the school district. These issues passed with 63.3% for 4A and 69.92% for 4B.

# Rioters climb walls and capital Hill during the January 6 siege. (Photo: The University of Washington)

## A Day In Infamy

By Simone Beauchamp

Six days into the new year, our country saw a siege that shook the very center of the nation's power, smashing into the U.S. Capitol building in an event that has since sparked nationwide outrage. The congressional vote to confirm the electoral college count came to a standstill when capitol police reported protesters breaking into the capitol building, some wielding weapons. Congresspeople were told to take cover and many sheltered elsewhere while the volatile crowd smashed windows and ransacked the building, interrupting the traditionally American process of a peaceful transfer of power.

"The sheer concept of crowds of combative white people assembling together with such force that they were able to physically breach the Capitol is something completely unexpected," said junior Lucas Fadem of the event. Though the visible division in our country has been undeniable throughout the past year, a culminating event like the capitol siege still came as a shock to so many, particularly considering its catalyst.

At a rally near the White House earlier that morning on January 6, 2021, President Trump encouraged followers --numbering over 10,000-- to head to Capitol Hill in protest of the vote that was to confirm Joe Biden as the next president.

Thousands gathered that afternoon, restlessly swarming over capitol steps, eventually devolving into a mob that broke through police barriers, scaled walls, and smashed in windows to overrun the capitol building, looting art and making their way into the senate chamber and senatorial offices, including that of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The event had even graver consequences as well.

The day after the riot, U.S. Capitol Police officer Brian D. Sicknick passed away of injuries sustained while he was responding to conflict, according to the acting attorney general. Additionally, one protestor was shot by Capitol Police, while three others suffered medical emergencies, contributing to a total of at least

five deaths as a result of the protest-turned-riot. It was an unprecedented insurgency, causing a full lockdown of Capitol Hill until law enforcement --directed by Pence rather than Trump, according to a Pentagon document released in April-- was able to quell the chaos.

Senators resumed the electoral college count that evening, with Vice President Pence officially confirming Joe Biden's presidential win early the next morning. Even before January 6th, Pence had reportedly been at odds with the president because he refused to stop the Electoral College certification.

Following the event, in a video posted to Twitter, Mr. Trump condemned the violence that occurred, although many -including law-makers and even social media giants- continue to fault the president for not taking responsibility for the role he had in inciting the protestors. Trump, first silenced by Twitter on Wednesday in response to some of his tweets, was soon after banned by Facebook and Instagram.

Beyond controversy surrounding the president, the capitol siege had extensive aftermath, resulting in the resignations of the U.S. Capitol Police Chief, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms of the House. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, Mr. Trump's former acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, Mr. Trump's deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger, Chief of Staff of the first lady Stephanie Grisham, and four other members of the Trump administration have consequently resigned as well.

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle condemned the actions of the rioters, and some soon called for the impeachment of President Trump, citing acts of sedition. But is such shared condemnation enough to aid our increasingly polarized nation?

"Our country has been extremely divided in the past four years, whether it be from a difference in morals, lifestyle, or beliefs," said sophomore Sam Schoch. "Unfortunately, I think this situation has made it much, much worse, and not just for the entire country. I think that

liberals and conservatives will be further polarized when they should be coming together." Along with a fear of polarization, many have pointed out a double standard displayed during the riots.

"The force that police used to "resolve" [BLM] protests -93% being peaceful- was unbelievable," said Fadem. "Quite contrastingly, the group of people who stormed the Capitol yesterday weren't fighting for equality, they were fighting out of not getting their way --and police were allowing this to happen." Fadem also pointed to the irony of many of the 'Blue Lives Matter' flags he saw rioters carrying as they directly opposed police in an attempt to enter the capitol building. Across the country, people and lawmakers alike were incensed.

"We gather today due to a selfish man's injured pride and the outrage of his supporters whom he has deliberately misinformed for the past two months and stirred to action this very morning," said Senator Mitt Romney in a statement when the Senate reconvened. "What happened here today was an insurrection, incited by the President of the United States."

The January 6th riot --or siege or protest or act of violence, whatever it may be called-- was by many standards cataclysmic and catalytic. Yet it also presented our nation and our very own community with a unique opportunity: will the event bring us together or merely pull us further apart?



to read the whole story.

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## BLACK LIVES WILL ALWAYS MATTER

The death of Trayvon Martin, an African-American high school student, sparked an investigation that led to the State of Florida vs. George Zimmerman trial. The trial lasted two days and after sixteen hours of deliberation, the jury rendered him not guilty and acquitted Zimmerman of all charges.

The injustice of Trayvon's murder revealed the discrimination and systemic racism against black Americans. In response, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi founded the Black-centered political project called Black Lives Matter in 2013. The hashtag, #BlackLivesMatter, spread around social media in the awareness of injustice in America. The movement seeks to eliminate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in the violence against black communities. BLM quickly gained support from social media and the public. In the wake of George Floyd's death, the movement quickly started to lead the public in protests and

On May 25th, a video made waves on the internet of a police officer, Derek Chauvin, kneeling on Floyd's neck, ultimately leading to his death. George Floyd, 46, was suspected of using a counterfeit bill and arrested in downtown Minneapolis. Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down on the ground when Officer Chauvin kneeled on his neck for nearly nine minutes. During the 8 min-

By Jessica McMillian utes and 46 seconds, Floyd begs for his life and repeatedly says "I can't breathe".

One mistake should not lead to a death sentence- the color of your skin is not a mistake. Black people in America should not fear their lives in the presence of officers. We should not fear our friends or family members becoming the next name to make headlines anvtime they are pulled over by police.

If you have social media or watch the news, this should not be the first time you are hearing Floyd's story. The widely publicized tragedy of George Floyd has been spreading across all platforms of social media. I have seen countless Instagram posts, Tiktoks and Tweets about Floyd and BLM. To be ignorant about this event is a choice, a

Floyd's death is not an isolated event. Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson, Aura Rosser, Stephan Clark, Botham Jean, Philando Castille, Alton Sterling, Michelle Cusseaux, Freddie Gray, Janisha Fonville, Eric Garner, Akai Gurley, Gabriella Nevarez, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, and Tanisha Anderson are just some of the publicized victims of police brutality.

To counter the Black Lives Matter movement, "All Lives Matter" is a slogan used by people choosing to ignore the truth. Yes, of course all lives do matter. But there is deeply rooted racism in America that places black lives at higher



risk. Even though the argument might come from a sincere place, the slogan overlooks the struggle and danger black people face in today's society.

The meaning behind All Lives Matter is that everyone is equal, but right now that is not the case. Black lives are not protected or treated fairly in society today. We have seen through police brutality that black lives are valued less than other races. Pretending everyone is treated equally is supporting rac-

Systemic racism is real and identifiable: it can be found below the surface in the individual thoughts and workings of our society. Education, wealth, housing, employment, incarceration, government representation, infant mortality rates, drug and immigration arrests are all systems in America that place white people above minorities.Institutional, legalized racial discrimination such as slavery, and Iim Crow laws have been eliminated in the US; however, their lasting effects are still prevalent in our

country. Along with police brutality, redlining and mass incarceration are negatively

impacting people of color in the United States.

Poor and minority neighborhoods suffer not only from demographic discrimination, but by the criminal justice system as well. The justice system has failed black Americans. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery over 150 years ago but did not guarentee equality for blacks. These racial injustices can be overwhelming to learn about. I am privileged to be learning and not experiencing the current inequalities black people come across in today's society. Now is the time for us to be actively anti-racist. So how can you do that? Educate and use

Listen to the black community share their experiences with racism and inequality. Learning more about individual experiences can open your eyes to the variety of ways black people have encountered racism and how to eliminate racial biases in the future.



## THE UNKNOWN HATE Has Finally Become Known

## By Crystal Li

Hate crimes against the Asian community have always been occurring, but nobody made a big deal out of it. The cases of hate crimes have sharply increased these past couple of months, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It had fueled the hatred towards Asians even more, leading to members of the community being severely injured or even being killed.

Due to the origins of COVID, many people believed that it was Asians' fault for this pandemic. Society put misplaced blame on Asians and caused others to look down upon them. It gave people unfounded reasons to hate Asians, commit hate crimes against them, and it allowed for people to have "justified" reasons for their actions. But in reality, Asians are also victims of this pandemic.

"I think it's disgusting to have that kind of prejudice against a community of people who absolutely do not deserve it," said Paige Ertle, a sophomore. "I think there's really no excuse when it comes down to how you treat another person based on their race."

Most of the incidents of hate crimes have been towards the elders of the community or those who have a family of their own. "I believe that they choose to target the elderly because of their vulnerability. Without much of a voice and inability to speak up for themselves, they're seen as easy targets by perpetrators because they know they can easily get away with the hate crime they just committed," junior William Zhang said.

Zhang and other students haven't experienced the hate crimes that the elders experienced. Students face their own type of battle: the fight against stereotypes.

experienced these stereotypes throughout her life. "This one moment in second grade stood

out to me. When we were talking about skin color, and my second-grade teacher called me vellow," said Lamouria. From a young age, stereotypes are introduced to children whether that's from the media, school, or even parents. It

pressures children to fit into a certain model and doesn't allow them to express their personality. It also teaches kids to categorize people based on their skin color, instead of viewing the human race as one race. Stereotypes don't affect the younger kids because they are oblivious to them. It really starts to make an impact on students when they are old enough to understand the toxic effects that stereotypes have.

Stereotypes don't just have to do with someone's skin color but personality as well. Stereotypes often oversimplify a certain group. For example, a stereotype of Asians is that they are smart, excel in math, and wear glasses. In my personal experience, I'm basically the opposite of society's stereotype of Asians. I don't wear glasses and I'm mediocre in math. Overgeneralizing a specific group takes away the uniqueness that could be found in that group because others make often inaccurate assumptions about what that group is like based on society's definitions.

Because younger generations haven't experienced any of the major hate crimes, it doesn't mean we can turn a blind eye to it, like how the media has. The media is a double-edged sword. It's an essential tool when it comes to spreading awareness about all the hate communities are receiving. It also can belittle the importance of prevalent issues. Right now, the media is often taking racism as a type of comedy and not as something that needs to be stopped.

"At the end of the day, the media is Natasha Lamouria, a sophomore, has there to entertain. Americans want to be entertained," Lamouria said. If the media is used correctly, it can become a powerful tool to spread

#StopAsianHate is a hashtag being used on social media to bring awareness to the hate crimes that have been happening.



Anh Tran is the president of the Pan Asian Culture Club (PACC) at EHS. (Photo: Crystal Li)

a message. It's important to spread awareness of hate that's been happening especially to the

"I try to spread awareness, especially in our school as well because some people don't really see it as a problem," said Anh Tran, a ju-

Protesting is another way to bring awareness but some have become skeptical about how effective protesting actually is. "I feel like the police are gonna stop us and that's gonna cause more violence," Tran said. Her fear of violent protest happening comes from the events that happened at the Black Lives Matter Movement. This is why Tran focuses more on the aspect of raising awareness of the hate that Asians are experiencing. Another option is being educated about other cultures could also minimize the hate people are receiving.

"I would want to make education more uniform across the country in teaching about our history and different cultures so that it's more normalized, and people are learning from a young age about acceptance," senior Emma McGee said.

The first step to stopping the hate crimes against Asians is to let people know that this cruel thing exists. It's our job to spread awareness. From there, we all just need a little bit of empathy and acceptance towards others. We also need to be educated about other cultures and not fall into judging someone because of stereotypes. Then maybe the world can be in a better place than it is now.

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