

# THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

## VOLUME 51 ISSUE 7

# When Two Weeks Became A Year

*A Letter from the Editors*

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March 13, 2021, marks one year since everything changed. It was a Friday, the day Battle of the Classes was meant to take place, and everyone was talking about the possibility of going virtual for two weeks. Lectures from teachers on the importance of maintaining a good work ethic while learning from home and debates on the severity and effects of COVID-19 dominated the school day. When students left the building, boarded their buses, or got in their cars that day, they were still wondering if we would actually have to go virtual at all. It was not long before the news became official, however, and students were told they would have to wait two weeks to see their friends and teachers again. Soon enough two weeks became three, then four, then five, and before we knew it, the remainder of the year was spent learning through a computer screen separated from friends and any personal contact with anyone other than family. Now a whole year has passed and while some students have returned to school on a hybrid schedule, we are far from "back to normal".

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There are five editors on *The Captain's Log* staff, and we have been impacted as well as everyone else in different ways. We as a society have learned to mask up and socially distance ourselves. We have gone through grueling Google Meets, stressed over half-hour classes, and tried to grapple with the new abnormality of our daily lives. High school students have learned to "adapt" through the internet. With all that adaptation comes a different kind of stress, one that was not considered before. Instead of thinking, "I can not wait to go home," some students now think, "I did not realize how good it was". This change has caused many students to struggle with separating home life from school. The pre-pandemic school environment was so much more than tests, due dates, and projects. It was a place where young people could come to grow, through the power of education and socialization.

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Now, every day feels like a blur and what began as an exciting two weeks out of school has become a year of trudging along, hoping for an end. While some students are thriving in this virtual/hybrid setting, others are having difficulty connecting with or understanding the material and can lose their attachment to reality. For those who are struggling, it feels like being taught underwater, fighting so hard to comprehend but unable to grasp anything but the water that surrounds them. While it was possible to easily communicate issues in the past, now students battle to push through the static and reach a level of clarity on their own. Learning has become an anchor weighing students down. The loss of time and reality can affect grades and academic performance as they desperately try to keep their grades afloat but are also wishing to close their computers and look at anything else. Having the same classes, in the same bedroom, looking at the same computer screen can detrimentally affect a student's brain and the way they retain information. Dissociation is a real issue that can cause a person to feel detached from oneself or their surroundings. To help combat these feelings of loneliness or numbness, some students have been trying to go outside more and are reaching out to fellow students, friends, and teachers.

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Through these challenges, however, some positives have also made themselves known. Students have more freedom and flexibility with how they structure their day and manage their workload. It fosters a feeling of independence and nurtures a self-structured learning style that helps prepare them for the future.

Another aid provided during this new way of learning is access to slideshows, screencastify videos, teacher support in the afternoons, etc. We are learning that together we can sail through this ocean of uncertainty. Another way to survive these times is through self-love, which some people have been trying to find over this past year. Many have struggled with their mental health as the government has restricted socialization. Most people have only been able to talk with family members in their households, as they have been stripped away from any face-to-face conversations with peers. This separation is extremely difficult for teenagers since this is the time when they begin to transition into adulthood. Self-love can change a person's perspective on everything. Life will always be full of obstacles and difficult moments, but having a strong mind can ease the struggle, especially when going through something as life-altering as a pandemic. We are living through a monumental moment in history. Working toward gaining a healthy mindset and loving who you are is something that everyone should strive for during this time.

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The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, staff and students alike. Over this past year, many of us have been burdened with some form of stress, anxiety, or helplessness, but we are not alone. This lack of socialization has created a seemingly permanent air of loneliness, but things have, and will continue to improve. No matter your stance, with the release of the vaccine and the option to go back in-person four days a week quickly approaching, we as a society are beginning to move forward from this dark period. Our health is important, both mentally and physically, so however this past year has affected you, remember to take care of yourself. Yes, it has been difficult, but there is always hope. Our school is a community and it is important for us to be there for each other as times continue to change. We are Mariner strong, we do not sink, we sail.

March 2021						
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If you need help, please go to our district website and click on Mental Health Resources for Students where you will find a number of sources ready to listen to what you have to say and help you navigate through this difficult time.

# The Captain's Log

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**Guest Writers:** Aryan Kumar and Kiley Madigan

# The Power of Masks

By: Moujan Moghimi

When many of us look back at the pandemic, one item stands out the most. Masks. In the United States it's customary for only people in the medical field to wear masks. So when it came time for everyone to wear one, there was obvious push back, resistance, and many complaints. However, for people in Asia (mostly Eastern-Asia) wearing masks is common and perfectly normal. They have been wearing masks for almost a century already, years before this pandemic. Which brings up the important question of why and whether the United States should and will follow in their footsteps.

As for why people in Eastern-Asia wear masks, there are a multitude of reasons. If someone is sick, even for something as small as a cold, they will wear a mask so as to not spread germs. If a person is sick and does not wear a mask, they are often shamed for doing so. Some people, in polluted cities, will use it to protect their lungs from pollution. It is also used as a part of street fashion. When paying attention to celebrities in Eastern-Asia, it is common to see them wearing a mask to potentially hide their identity and cover their faces from paparazzi. However, not only celebrities get to have fun. It is common to see someone wear a mask simply because they didn't want to put makeup on or because they thought it looked good with their outfit. All in all, wearing a mask is as easy and simple for them as breathing, they don't think twice about it and it's become a daily part of their lives. Which is why when the pandemic began, wearing masks wasn't a major change as many were either already using them or adapted quickly. In fact, the government in Hong Kong didn't even have to create a mask mandate because the public had already begun to use them on their own.

When comparing the United States to Eastern-Asia it's also important to consider their different cultures. The United States, and much of Western society in general, tend to be much more individualistic. They put more emphasis on the wants of the individual, favoring it over the needs of the group as a whole. Whereas Eastern-Asia, and Eastern society, value collectivism which is when the entire group is prioritized over the individuals within it. For people in Eastern-Asia, wearing masks isn't just a guideline to follow for safety but seen as respect and part of being a good citizen. It's not about the individual comfort but the health of everyone, which is why they started wearing masks early and without much resistance, something which studies have shown to be a cause in the low number of COVID-19 deaths. Yet, for us in the United States, much of the push back for wearing masks was because people said it was harmful to their individual rights, once again showing how much more prevalent individualism is. Though none of this is new. This same phenomenon occurred during the 1918 pandemic. The mask was first invented in China and therefore became a symbol of medicine in Eastern-Asia and is still seen as the greatest weapon against illness. So once again, while the United States protested against the use of masks, Eastern-Asia took it in stride, although it was new for many of them.

It is easy to assume that history will repeat itself once more and Americans will forget masks, throwing it all away and recalling this as only a bad memory. However, much of the younger generation has come to question whether masks should really disappear, imagining a life after the pandemic still with a mask. While there would be no pressure to wear one, it would be a personal choice once the pandemic is over. One reason would be to help to slow down the spread of germs and protect ourselves and others, as well as the fact that there are so many adorable masks that are available. Many people have even made their own masks and color coordinated them with their outfits. Just look at Dr. Jill Biden and Michelle Obama at the inauguration. It's great for dressing up and looking amazing, just like the First Ladies. Whatever the choice is, it's easy to say that the era of masks is far from over.

# The TOXICITY of Cancel Culture

By: Grace Keller

## **The Problem:**

In the 21st century we have been “gifted” with a blessing and a curse. In less than a 100 years we have gone from computers that take up entire rooms, to cellular phones that can be concealed in a pocket. Within the past decade, it has become apparent that the internet has become a necessity, especially since the pandemic began and people’s lives started to revolve around the internet for school and work. Of course, the internet has perks; Google can give you thousands of results to any question in seconds, you can order a multitude of different items with Amazon, create your own website/business, or even become a celebrity. The possibilities are endless, but not all of them are blessings. The curse lies in the digital footprint, unrealistic expectations of social media, and the toxicity of “cancel” culture.

The idea of public shaming has not just been on social media, but in mainstream media as well. In the late 90’s, the media publicly shamed Monica Lewinsky for her affair with Bill Clinton. She was scrutinized by the entire world in her early twenties. She was a young woman who was taken advantage of and it deteriorated her mental health. We have all made dumb mistakes at a young age, but imagine those mistakes being put on blast for the whole country? The reality is that everybody makes mistakes. Generation Z heard that on replay when Hannah Montana told us in her 2008 song, “Nobody’s Perfect.” Miley Cyrus herself has faced tons of criticism and backlash in the years following her exit from Disney Channel. Since Cyrus had such a large role in the Disney empire, the public was uncomfortable when she decided to try and break out of that image and become “mature.” Granted, some argue she went off the deep end, but Miley Cyrus was just a young 20 year old trying to figure out who she was after years after being told who to be by a network.

In 2020, becoming “canceled” was so normalized that some did not even realize the harm it causes to the person being publicly shamed. When someone on social media gets canceled, if the majority of people disagree with what was said, or if there was a miscommunication, other people will go so far as sending death threats and claiming that the victim should be fired; be removed from the platform, etc. Simply saying someone is canceled for dating someone or for coloring their hair a certain color can cause an innocent person to be shamed. However, sometimes just an old tweet that resurfaced that has a controversial opinion can cause turmoil.

Holding people accountable when they are wrong is so important. It sets examples for generations to come. Cancel culture presents this idea that one mistake can end your career. Say one thing incorrect and then you are done for. Even if it was taken out of context. Sometimes people do make mistakes, but often educate themselves as to why it was wrong. Cancel culture does not give room for growth. Getting canceled makes a person “irredeemable” in the eyes of the audience. In some cases, that should happen. If a person is repeatedly being racist or homophobic, or actively causing any harm to others, they need to be held accountable. Some people will not learn, however, the people who have learned from their mistakes should not have their entire livelihood stripped away.

## **Why it is an issue with Teens:**

Social media started exploding in the mid 2000’s after the creation of MySpace (2003), and Facebook (2004). People could now digitally connect with others in other areas of the world by sharing photos, videos, and anecdotes of their everyday lives. It seemed harmless and almost natural. After all, human nature is wanting to share and connect with others. Within the past five years, other sites such as Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Youtube, and the most recent, TikTok, have created even more connections with others, but have started to become toxic. Back in the early 2000’s, people did not really think about “the internet is forever” and how what is shared on social media will resurface. Thus, cringy middle school photos and immature posts are going to exist forever.

The benefit of social media is the fact that it creates a time capsule of your life in photos and videos. Since a lot of millennials and generation Z now have a substantial digital footprint, it creates a target. This can allow people to lose jobs and destroy their livelihoods over one tweet. People have also become celebrities on social media platforms, especially Youtube and TikTok. These influencers have surpassed millions of followers and are being scrutinized over every move. Shane Dawson, a Youtuber with over 20 million subscribers, was cancelled over the summer because old tweets and videos of him being racist and inappropriate towards children/fans had surfaced. In his case, he had years of

“offenses” and he was called out prior to this and made apologies. However, he continues to make the same mistakes. Based on his actions as a whole, he deserved to be “canceled” because he did not change with all the years of evidence and broken apologies to his audience.

Teenagers are influenced heavily by social media. A lot of teens use social media to create fan pages to connect with people that have similar interests. *The Captain Log’s* Jordyn MacBurnie was no different. Jordyn loves the band *Twenty One Pilots* and created a fan page for the band on Instagram. Her entire room was decked out with posters and she had nearly every single piece of clothing released by the band. She gained some following on TikTok and was receiving nearly 50 thousand followers and thousands of views per video. Jordyn has been canceled multiple times, the first being on Twitter for a tweet that was taken out of context. Some of the people in the *Twenty One Pilots* fandom even started to pick on her own insecurities. Despite explaining the misconception, they still did not stop harassing her. Jordyn’s number got leaked online and people threatened to burn her house down. When asked about her thoughts on cancel culture Jordyn commented, “People who are cancelled might not be stable mentally and can not handle being attacked from multiple different angles on multiple social media sites at once and it is extremely damaging. Instead of attacking people and causing them to feel worthless, people should consider messaging those privately, unless they are famous, then share a kind comment just pointing out what was wrong with their actions. Online people hide behind their screens and think it is okay to say rude things to another when they do wrong but should instead take the time to teach and help them grow and reflect on their actions.” When it comes to teenagers being cancelled, we are still young and making mistakes. We are still learning and every person deserves grace and respect in order to grow from their mistakes.

## Evolution of #MeToo Movement

By: Grace Keller

In a world where society pays men more money, gives men more respect, and lets men have more powerful positions, it took a long time for women to get their own independent reputations. For a long time, when sexual misconduct occurred, women were often blamed or deemed as liars, especially if it was a celebrity or a professional athlete. The term “me too” was first coined by Tarana Burke who started using the phrase back in 2006. The #TheMeToo movement took society by storm in October 2017 with the allegations against the Hollywood film producer, Harvey Weinstein. It is no secret that Hollywood is dangerous. The movie-making industry sometimes focuses on looks more than they do actual talent. When Weinstein’s allegations surfaced, actress Alyssa Milano tweeted:



(Source: *Tampa Bay Times*)

#MeToo was retweeted over 19 million times a year after Alyssa’s initial tweet. In October 2018, *USAToday.com* published an article that quoted Kathy Spiller, (executive director of Feminist majority), on the impact of Milano’s tweet, “It has taken an issue that was whispered about in workplaces and given it a forum. It has made it possible for people to speak out.” Harvey Weinstein was convicted and sentenced to 23 years in prison. His conviction set an important precedent for other major Hollywood and sexual misconduct criminal cases. Bill Cosby was another prominent figure who was sent to prison over sexual misconduct

back in 2004. He is serving a three-ten year sentence and was convicted in 2018. Today, many sports athletes and film producers lose their jobs over sexual misconduct. Twenty five years ago, when Bill Clinton had an affair with Monica Lewinsky, she was the one who faced severe backlash and blame, despite Clinton being in a position of power over the 22 year old intern.

# Women Make History in Film

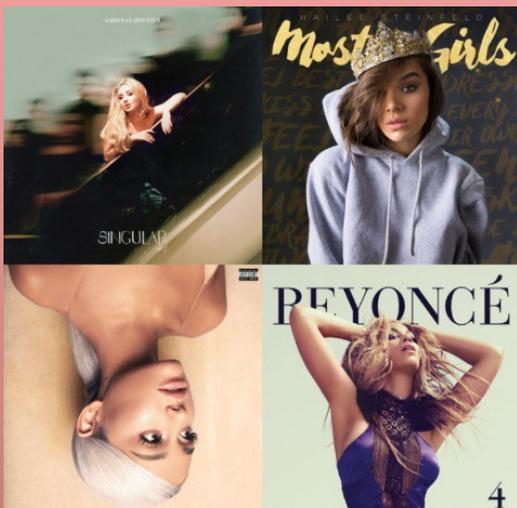
By: Moujan Moghimi

The Golden Globes is a prestigious award show in which they will give awards to what they deem the best of American television and movies. Yet it is often under heavy criticism because of how white and male dominated the nominees often are. Which is why when in 2021, three women were nominated for the director category, it came as both a shock and a historic achievement. For the first time ever, women are outnumbering the amount of men in the category. For another first time ever, more than one woman is being nominated for directing. Who are these incredible women who are being recognized for their talents? Emerald Fennell, Regina King and Chloé Zhao.

Emerald Fennell has had her own experience in the acting spotlight but is now seen behind the camera and was nominated for her film, *Promising Young Woman*. The film was also nominated for Best Picture in the drama category, even though Fennell entered it as a comedy. There is also Regina King who, like Fennell, has acted in plenty of films. King has previously won an Oscar and Golden Globe for her acting in *If Beale Street Could Talk* and is now trying her hand at winning an award for her directing in *One Night in Miami*. Chloé Zhao also makes history as the first Asian American female director to ever be nominated. She was nominated for directing *Nomadland* which has also been nominated for Best Picture in the drama category alongside Fennell's film. Not only was she the first ever Asian American to be nominated, but she also won, making her also the first Asian American woman to win. Needless to say, these are all incredibly talented women who have done great work on and behind the scenes.

Yet something that needs to be said, is why is nominating three female directors so historic? Especially since the Golden Globes has been around for 78 years. It seems like an achievement that should have been made already. In all of its history, the Golden Globes has only nominated women for the director category seven times, now ten when including this year. The last time a woman was nominated for Best Director was in 2014 with Ava DuVernay for her film *Selma*. As for how many times a woman won, it has only happened once, now twice when including 2021. Barbra Streisand won for directing *Yentil* in 1984, almost 37 years ago. Though, to give the Golden Globes some credit, it has nominated more women for directing than the Oscars whose record is only five. Out of those five women, only one ever won, Kathryn Bigelow for *The Hurt Locker*. To better showcase how depressing this is, it's important to note that Steven Spielberg has been nominated for the Golden Globes 12 times which is more than the number of women who have ever been nominated for directing.

While this is a great achievement for these women and all women who aspire careers in film, it is still not enough. The Golden Globes still lacks important representation and needs to diversify itself more. However, until then, celebrate these amazing women as well as all of those who came before and all who will continue to achieve greatness.



# WOMEN IN CONGRESS AND INFLUENCE OF FIRST LADIES

By: Grace Keller

It has been over 245 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, a document that declared the United States was separating from Great Britain and was signed only by men. It was not until 1916, when Jeanette Rankin was elected into the House of Representatives, that women finally had representation. Rankin was a republican from Montana whose main objective was to fight for world peace. She voted against the United States entry into World War I and against declaring war with Japan during World War II. Due to her decision in her first term, she lost re-election in 1918. However, she was elected for another term in 1941 and paved the way for many other women to serve in the House. The first woman in the Senate only lasted 24 hours. Rebecca Felton was a democrat from Georgia who was sworn in after the death of her successor, her husband William Harrell Felton. She served only to fill an empty seat. Rebecca Felton was also 87 at the time, thus also earning the title as the oldest senator ever sworn in for a first term ([senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov)).

Women, more specifically white women, were only granted the right to vote in 1920 and did not have a major voice in the government until the late 20th century. Despite the lack of female representation, there was still a significant influence from first ladies. Eleanor Roosevelt had a significant impact on women's rights and civil rights. Betty Ford set the precedent to be a politically active first lady by advocating for drug and alcohol addictions and taking an active stance on women's rights. *TIME* magazine named her woman of the year in 1975. Below is a list of former first ladies and their causes:



- Rosalynn Carter - Mental Health
- Nancy Reagan- Drug Awareness “Just Say No”
- Barbara Bush- Childhood literacy
- Michelle Obama - “Let’s Move ”

Hillary Clinton advocated strongly for healthcare reform during her husband's presidency and continued during her political career. She was named Barack Obama's Secretary of State from 2009-2013. One hundred years after Jeanette Rankin was elected into the House, Clinton ran for the presidency. Despite her loss, it was still important, especially for young girls to see that they can also grow up and make a difference. Kamala Harris is not only the first woman to be vice president but also the first woman of color to do so. During her speech after being announced vice-president elect, she left a powerful message, “To the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourself in a way that others might not see you, simply because they've never seen it before. And we will applaud you every step of the way.” Harris' role is significant because she will not only influence the legislature to be more inclusive but also influence little girls to see that they can be whoever they want to be.

# Biden's Environmental Impacts

By: Kailey Daniele

Since President Biden's inauguration, he's enforced a plethora of changes and new policies in the U.S. Many of those include fighting the battle of climate change. These are huge achievements for the United States and environmentalists around the world.

President Biden has re-entered the U.S. in the Paris Climate Agreement:

- The goal of the Paris Climate Agreement is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. "The Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 by 196 parties that pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, a result of 25 years of difficult negotiations. Although the U.S. originally signed on to the agreement, the Trump administration pulled out in 2017." [The U.S. Re-Enters Paris Climate Agreement](#)

He revoked the Keystone XL oil pipeline permit:



(Wall Street Journal)

- This pipeline would have run from Alberta, Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast, through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. The pipeline would have gone over many rivers, streams, aquifers, and natural habitats. It would have carried 800,000 barrels of oil a day. Construction already began in Canada however, Biden pulled the United States, upsetting oil companies. If this XL pipeline had been constructed, the threat of oil spills and contamination of groundwater could have affected thousands of wildlife habitats and residents in these states.



(First Coast News)

He reversed former President Trump's rollbacks on vehicle emission standards:

- Biden will rewrite fuel economy standards, that Trump did away with, for cars and pollution limits on the oil and gas industry, which is crucial to help curb heat-trapping emissions.

Biden has also issued temperature moratorium on oil/natural gas leases in Arctic national wildlife refuge:

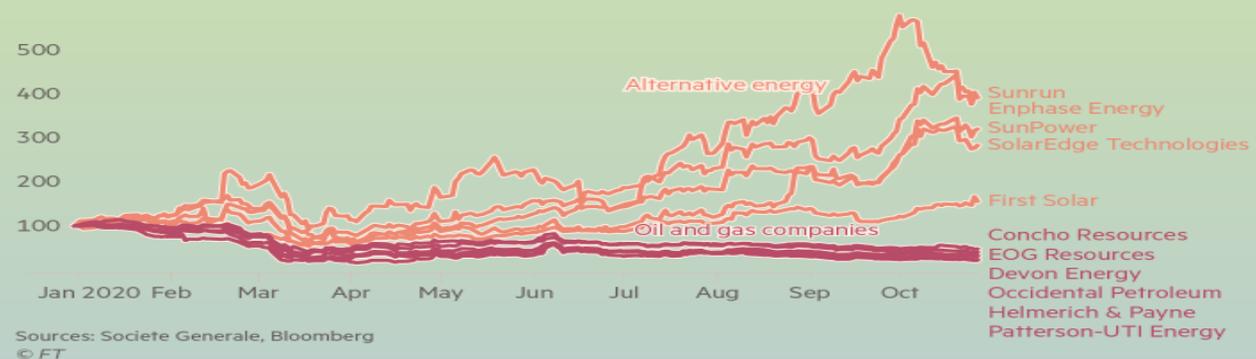
- Biden's administration announced plans for a temporary moratorium on oil and gas leasing in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Trump issued leases to oil and gas companies in 2017 which President Biden is now trying to halt. This area is considered sacred by the Indigenous Gwich'in.

He "eliminated" the 15+ billion dollars in federal subsidies the oil companies get every year:

- The government gives not just money to big oil companies but these subsidies take the form of tax breaks, regulatory loopholes, or anything else that gives the industry a leg up. Although President Biden can not remove all subsidies, such as Congress' fossil fuel budget, he can change federal agencies like the Department of Energy's budget. For example, in 2015 the Justice Department reached a settlement with BP over the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, telling the company that they would have to pay \$20.8 billion in damages for leaking oil all over the Gulf of Mexico. However, the settlement was tax-deductible, meaning that BP could write off \$15.3 billion. Biden wants to remove these loopholes.

### Oil and gas companies could lose further ground to clean energy under a Biden administration

Stock prices, rebased



(Financial Times)

As for his future plans, Biden wants to achieve; 100% carbon free electricity by 2035, create one million green auto jobs, double off-shore wind by 2030, and create zero emission public transport in 100k+ cities.

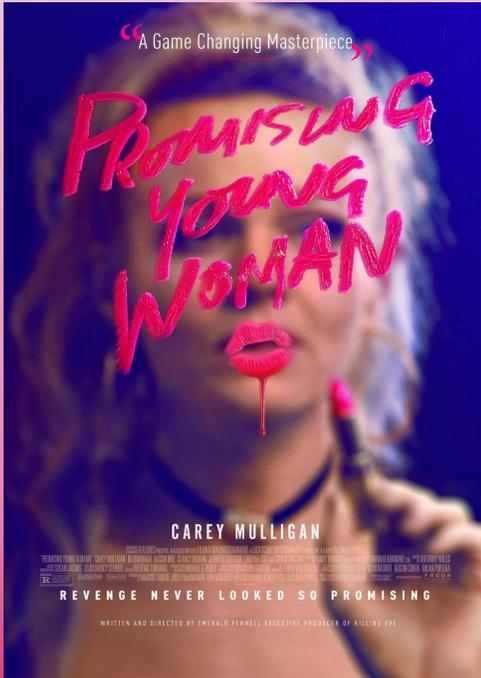
“We can no longer delay or do the bare minimum to address climate change. This is a global existential crisis. And we'll all suffer, we'll all suffer the consequences if we fail. We have to rapidly accelerate our commitment to aggressively curb our emissions. And hold one another accountable for meeting our goals and increasing our ambitions.” -President Biden on climate change.



(CBS news)

# Movie Reviews

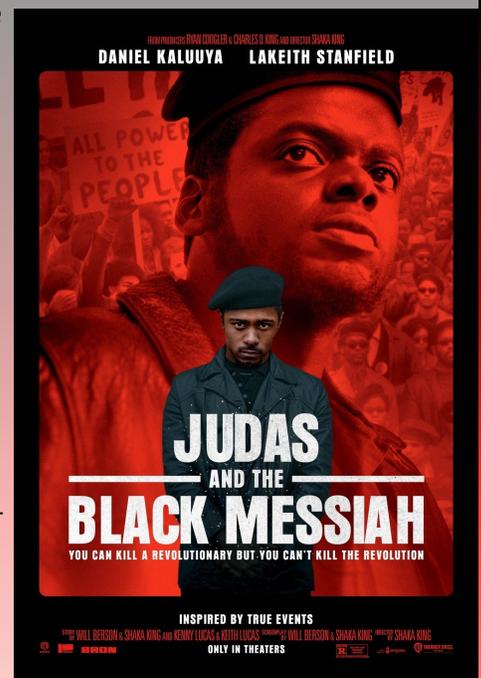
By: Moujan Moghimi



I remember scrolling through Youtube and coming upon an interesting movie trailer entitled *Promising Young Woman*. After watching, I was hooked. I counted down the days till the release of the movie and screamed when it was delayed. I watched the trailer religiously, noting every detail I could to keep me sane until I could finally watch it. So when the movie came out and the director began speaking about it, I was right there to read everything she spoke about. Needless to say, I was incredibly prepared for the movie, especially since I had accidentally come upon spoilers. As for my sister who watched the movie with me and was not as obsessed as I was, she was not prepared. Since I knew what was going to happen, the entire movie for me was a chance to admire every detail and metaphor placed in the film. My favorite detail was how every male actor was a well known actor who is famously known for being a nice person. So when watching the movie, the audience falls into that mindset of “oh, he’s a nice guy, he won’t do anything bad” only to fall into the director’s trap. I also appreciated how it never felt over-exaggerated. Oftentimes in films that want to showcase how bad someone is, they make them so incredibly horrible that no one would ever dispute it. Instead, the characters seem like people someone could know and recognize. They are regular people and that’s what makes

them terrifying. For my sister, she saw the trailer and, like many others, thought the movie was about a woman killing rapists/sexual harassers. So for her, the movie was a disappointment, not because it was bad, the movie itself was beautifully made, but because it didn’t meet the expectations she had. The director spoke about this and said she wanted to make a realistic film that was a mix of comedy and drama to create important discussions. While my sister understands and respects this, she says that the world is already dark enough, all she wants is an escape into a revenge fantasy to find temporary satisfaction in the cruelty. So to everyone interested in the movie, it is amazing and definitely worth the watch. It’s filled with so many tiny details to search for and discuss, it is clear that everything in this movie was meticulously thought out and perfected. Just be careful with your expectations going into the movie and instead of searching for your fantasy, simply listen and fall in love with the story the director tells.

“Anywhere there’s people, there’s power.” That is the line that keeps spinning in my head over and over again. In fact, everything Fred Hampton said in this movie is forever stuck in my head and I don’t think I could ever forget him, his words, and his message. Once I watched the movie, I left with a mess of emotions but the most prominent was the feeling of defeat. Though I think if Fred Hampton heard me say this, he would be ashamed of me. Yet at the same time, I know this is what the movie wants to inspire in me, hopelessness. *Judas and the Black Messiah* is a historical film that follows the assassination of revolutionary Black Panther Chairman Fred Hampton and the man who betrayed him, William O’Neal, a FBI informant who hid amongst the Black Panthers. This is to say that while the film takes the audience on the incredible journey of the magic that is Fred Hampton and his love for the people, we are also forced to watch behind-the-scenes as everything he loves is destroyed. I very rarely cry at movies, not even *Titanic* can break me, but this movie did. It reminds me often of today and how so many of us feel like we are being left behind. It echoes the same voices of the people who are protesting and fighting today as well as the voices of those they are fighting against. It is a conversation starter and if I could sit and detail everything this film did right, I may never get up. It is a cinematic masterpiece. So instead, I will say just this; it constantly told the people they are powerful while showing those in power making them powerless. Contradictory? Yes. Intentional? Also yes. As I said before, this movie wants you to feel powerless because it wants you to leave knowing how terrible everything is. Only for Hampton’s words to ring in your head and remind you that where there are people, there is power. Defeat is only temporary. They may have killed Hampton, but they will never kill his message.

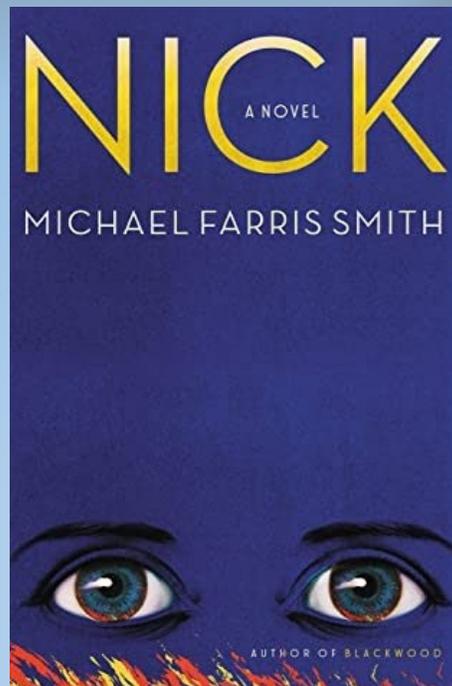


\*Warning: This movie is rated R due to graphic violence and language, watch at your own discretion\*

# Nick Should Have Stayed the Narrator

By Ashley Sperduto

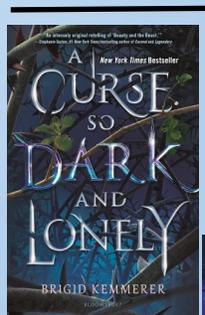
Most of us have read the classic tale, *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and perhaps have wondered who the narrator, Nick Carraway, was before being swept up in Gatsby's life of glamor and intrigue. Critically acclaimed novelist, Michael Farris Smith, finally brought the famous narrator's story to life with the release of his new book, *Nick*, just days after *The Great Gatsby* became part of the public domain. As someone who loves the tragic tale of Jay Gatsby, I was excited to read more about the narrator of his story and while I wasn't expecting it to be as good as its inspiration, I was sorely disappointed with this novel. While I liked Smith's writing style, I found the story itself to be uninteresting and ultimately decided not to finish the highly anticipated book. Perhaps I am blinded by my love for the original story, but Nick Carraway should have stuck to telling Gatsby's story. If you'd like to give *Nick* a read you can purchase the hardcover book for \$27.00 at Barnes and Noble.



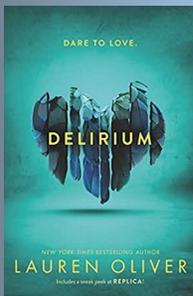
## Other Books to Read While Stuck at Home

By Ashley Sperduto

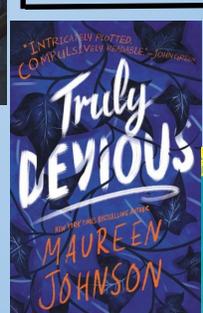
1. *A Curse So Dark and Lonely* by Brigid Kemmerer || \$10.99



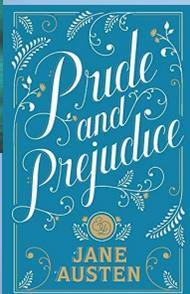
2. *Delirium* by Lauren Oliver || \$10.99



3. *Truly Devious* by Maureen Johnson || \$11.99



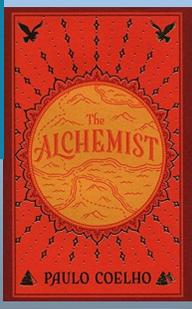
4. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen || \$6.95



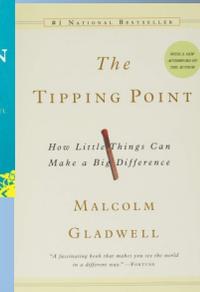
5. *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok || \$17.00



6. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho || \$16.99



7. *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell || \$17.99



\*All prices are for paperbacks from Barnes and Noble\*



# Indoor

# Photography

By: Jordyn Macburnie

During the winter, it is extremely difficult to find a place outdoors to take photos for social media with weather that continues to fluctuate from warm to cold and rain to snow. During quarantine, I purchased multiple tapestries from Amazon, even though my room is already covered floor to ceiling with different posters. Not wanting them to go to waste, I have begun to use them in different ways while I take photos. I have a corner of my room that I use, which is directly across from my window so I can get natural lighting, to hang up those tapestries. I set up my tripod which you can also find on Amazon at the link; [Amazon.com: UBeesize Selfie Stick Tripod, 51" Extendable Tripod Stand with Bluetooth Remote for Cell Phones, Heavy Duty Aluminum, Lightweight: Camera & Photo.](#) Along with the tripod comes a bluetooth remote that you can use to take pictures without having to set a timer or continuously pressing the button. It is optional to buy a ring light, if you do need better lighting and do not have a place where you can get natural light. This has become one of my favorite ways to take pictures as I do not have to worry about adding extra layers to my outfit that I want to show on my Instagram feed.





By Jordyn Macburnie

For my 18th birthday on February 19th, I decided that I wanted to go to the Museum of Ice Cream which is located at **558 Broadway, New York, NY 10012**. The museum showcases multiple beautiful rooms that are designed to revolve around ice cream, of course, and are perfect for your Instagram feed. There is a room with pink and yellow bananas hanging from the ceiling, a pool of sprinkles, a phony subway train that changes scenery throughout the windows, and also a room with a projected sky and space on the walls. Tickets range from \$35 to \$39 being the highest and you do receive a complementary ice cream and/or hot chocolate on your way out. You can find tickets on the website **[museumoficecream.com](https://www.museumoficecream.com)**.



Unfortunately, the museum was not as great as I thought it would be. I discovered this museum on TikTok and loved what I saw via multiple videos, but in person it was not as great. For a museum, you do not learn much about the history of ice cream other than one hallway that you walk through first thing when you enter the building. The entire museum took nearly 30-35 minutes to go through, which was alright, but it did seem very rushed by the employees there as you only have a couple of minutes to observe each exhibit before the next group of guests enter.

I do recommend going if you are interested in taking photos for social media, but other than that it is not as grand as it is made out to be.



# Spring Training Baseball

By: Brendan Fiaschetti

## New York Yankees



The Bronx Bombers are coming back from a short and disappointing 2020 season in which we saw them lose to Tampa Bay in the ALDS (American League Division Series). However, with some big acquisitions in retaining DJ LeMahieu and signing former Cy Young winner Cory Kluber, the Yankees are primed for a World Series run. Other moves made by the Yankees are re-signing Brett Gardner for more depth in the outfield and trading for RHP Jameson Taillon. One question mark for the Yankees this year is who is going to fill the fourth and fifth spots in the rotation. With Gerrit Cole and Corey Kluber locking down the one and two spot, and Jordan Montgomery at the third, this leaves four and five wide open for possible prospects such as Domingo German, Clarke Schmidt, and Michael King. However, with Luis Severino coming back from Tommy John surgery he could rehabilitate and take one of those spots available. We'll have to wait and see as the Yankees get ready for a, hopefully, full season.

## New York Mets



The Mets come off of a disappointing season in which we saw them go 26-34 and miss the playoffs. They are looking to rebound in a big way by bringing in a new owner, Steven Cohen, who is already making major moves. One of Cohen's first major moves was trading for Francisco Lindor and Carlos Carrasco to add some major star power to their lineup. Lindor, who is arguably the best shortstop, strengthens their core which already consists of Pete Alonso, Jacob deGrom, and Michael Conforto. With their young prospect Dominic Smith having a great 2020 season where he batted .316, it will be interesting to see how the Mets work with Smith by getting him into the starting lineup. Their pitching rotation is star studded with deGrom and Noah Syndergaard at the one and two followed by Marcus Stroman and Carrasco at the three and four spot. Overall, with the added stardom and pitching due to the savvy deals made by new owner Steve Cohen, don't be shocked if the Mets bounce back and make a deep playoff run this season.

## Philadelphia Phillies



The Phillies, who came off of a less than spectacular season last year going 28-32, look to reemerge as a team to look out for. The Phillies have all the pieces there with power hitting outfielder Bryce Harper, all-star catcher JT Realmuto, and stud pitcher Aaron Nola. They have the core to go far into the playoffs, the only problem is depth, lacking a supporting cast, and a complete rotation. There is hope in Philadelphia, however, as they have a pool of young prospects to choose from. Young players such as Scott Kingery, Alec Bohm and some proven players in their prime such as Archie Bradley, Rhys Hoskins, and Didi Gregorius can possibly lead this team to a wild-card spot. However, their downfall is all in their depth as injuries pile up, leaving less and less proven players, proving that this ship could sink fast. This year for the Phillies is looking to be filled with mediocrity and what-if's with a slight possibility of playoff action.

# Pandemic Productions, It's a "Killer Party"

By: Grace Keller

The pandemic has presented unique challenges in the world of theatre, including a virtual New Jersey Thespian Festival that had over fifty workshops on Zoom. They even had Thespys, which are individual events that showcase acting, dancing, and technical skills. Below is a list of North students who won awards and scholarships at the festival.

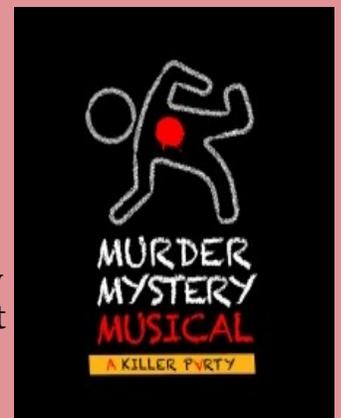
Gold Honor Troupe:

- Honor Troupe Community Service Award: Mia Birman
- Musical Solos: Madyson Pellegrino, Makayla Bird, Rebecca Remelgado, and John Claude Yambao
- Musical Duet: Angelina Amato and John Claude Yambao
- \$500 NJ Thespian Senior Scholarship in Performance: Makayla Bird
- \$3,000 Rochester University Talent-based Scholarship: Makayla Bird
- AMDA College & Conservatory of the Performing Arts Musical Theatre Recognition Scholarship in the amount of \$60,000: Makayla Bird
- A full tuition Broadway Artists Alliance of NYC Summer Intensive Summer scholarship (a \$1195 value): John Claude Yambao

Mrs. Carolyn Little, an English and Theatre teacher here at North, as well as the Nautical Star Theatre Company director, spoke to *The Captain's Log* about the 2021 musical and the challenges of production during the pandemic. This year the musical is called, *A Killer Party: Murder Mystery Musical*. The story follows a director, Varthur McArthur, who just wrote his next show. The cast is invited into his home for a script read-through and the night becomes a tragic scene. A meter maid, Justine Case, is invested in figuring out who the murderer is. Justine leads comedic interviews of each character until the murderer is found.

With the hybrid learning model, the production needed to be accessible for both virtual and in-person students. In order to do that safely, the show will be filmed like a movie with an editor. Mrs. Little shared how the students are working remotely, "We had to purchase a software program so that our cast can sing with Mr. Powers online without a lagging problem. Student voices will be recorded and our cast will essentially lip sync to themselves when we record." Students only come in-person to dance and act. The stream will be released the weekend of April 15th with a \$10 ticket.

When asked about the greatest challenge of this year's production, Mrs. Little spoke about the time crunch. The show has to be finished being filmed by March 15th. Normally, the musical takes around 3 months to complete, but it is now being done in a month and a half. "While I have directed many, many shows, I have never directed a film. It is a totally different piece of artwork. I know the end product will be amazing, it is just getting to that point that is a bit of a struggle." Of course, there are some benefits to the film style production. Students are learning how to work with different technology and gain new skills that they would not have learned otherwise. *The Captain's Log* looks forward to *A Killer Party: Murder Mystery Musical* and congratulates Mrs. Little on being named Thespian Educator of the Year.



# FBLA

By: Aryan Kumar

FBLA is the largest career student business organization in the world. Toms River High School North's FBLA (TRN-FBLA) has been fortunate to continue their club activities throughout the pandemic by having virtual meetings and a very active chapter. Our chapter at High School North earned six awards in the 2020-2021 regional competition. Congratulations to the following students and their hard work:

Jena Bhandari	Aryan Kumar	Alessandro DiLeo	Natalie Rapciewicz	Ishan Shah	Rutva Shah
First place	Third place	Fifth place	Seventh place	Second place	First place
Health Care Administration	Computer Applications	Networking Infrastructures	Introduction to Event Planning	Business Calculations	Computer Applications

These students are now competing in the State Leadership Conference and several members will also participate at the state level by submitting presentations that can earn them an award to compete at the national level.

TRN-FBLA welcomes all students who are interested in becoming an associate of the club. They have held virtual bingo luncheons, award viewing ceremonies, and participated in a variety of webinars. Earlier this year, several members joined the adviser, Ms. Tesoro, and participated in a walk for HOPE Sheds Light, an organization that is dedicated to educating individuals, families and the community about the impact of addiction. Students, faculty, and community supporters participated in the fundraiser and TRN-FBLA was proud to have raised over \$600 for this cause.

Last March, TRN-FBLA was in the middle of their annual community service project, "Teddy's For Hope," when our school building was closed. North received the FBLA-PBL State Recognition Award thanks to all of the generous donations made by administrators, teachers, staff, and students. Associates were able to deliver these donations personally to Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in November 2020.

TRN-FBLA recently completed this year's project, "Operation Uplift." They also created care packages from items that were donated and will be bringing them to Just Believe, Inc., which is a code blue warming shelter for the homeless in our community. We are more than happy to help others, especially during these difficult times.

North's FBLA chapter recently partnered with Silver Bay Bagels for a fundraiser and will continue their fundraising efforts to raise money so that their chapter will be able to participate in national competitive events when in-person competitions resume.

TRN-FBLA is pleased to introduce some of the members that are involved in the club and its operations:



Jordyn Mann (11th grade) has been a part of FBLA for two years and hopes to learn more about the business world, as she submits her state presentation for the Public Service Announcement event. She enjoys meeting and collaborating with others and is a three sport varsity athlete!

Evan Liou (11th grade) has been a member of FBLA for three years and wishes to learn all there is about the business sector. He is participating in the state competitive event for e-Business. Evan also plays tennis for the High School North Varsity Team!



Jillian Briggs (11th grade) has been a member of FBLA for two years and enjoys learning about public speaking, business, and interviewing techniques in the club. She also enjoys participating in the fundraisers that support our community. Jillian will submit her state presentation for the Public Service Announcement event. She also has been dancing competitively for eight years!

<https://www.fbla-pbl.org/>



# Iron Mariners

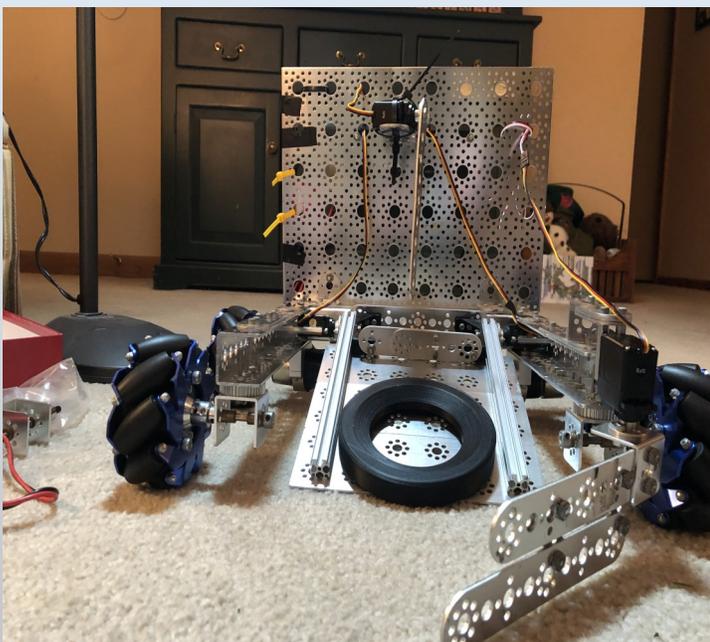
By: Moujan Moghimi

Our school offers a wide variety of clubs for students to participate in depending on their interests. For those who love science, engineering, coding, or want to learn more about these aforementioned topics, there is Robotics club, also nicknamed Iron Mariners. Club leader Sophia Daks, sat down with the newspaper to discuss what students can do in the club and upcoming events. The club participates in a competition every year where they have to build a robot to accomplish a certain goal and then go robot-to-robot with other teams from the school district. Each year the task that must be completed is changed and this year's challenge is the FTC (First Tech Challenge) ultimate goal challenge in which the robot must pick up rings and launch them into goals.

The challenges are announced early in the school year and competitions take place halfway through the school year, giving teams time to create their robot. For this reason, the beginning of Robotics Club is mostly spent designing, building, coding, and testing the robot. During a normal year, the competition would either be held in our school or a different school and take place on Saturdays. The robot would be inspected and if need be, last minute changes could be made. Then, the teams compete in rounds and will join forces with another team to compete for the most points. Points are awarded based on the different challenges every year and the winner is whichever team built the most efficient robot to complete the task. Of course, this is not a normal year and so, like many other clubs, Robotics Club has had to adapt to this new way of life. They hold both virtual and in-person meetings so that students can come into school to help build the robot or stay at home to give assistance virtually. In order to comply with CDC guidelines, less people are able to work on the robot at once and it can be a difficult task at times. The competitions are also being held remotely this year so instead of competing collaboratively, the teams must do their rounds by themselves and compare scores afterwards.

It is a creative, fun, and challenging club that does not require background knowledge of robots in order to join. The club is also offering summer camp for elementary students to learn about to design and build robots. There are no official dates as of right now. If interested in joining please contact Ms. Schoeneberg or Mr. McGovern.

Photos provided by Sophia Daks



# What Are Zodiac Signs?

By: Kiley Madigan

Have you ever wondered why people today won't stop talking about their zodiac signs? Knowing someone's zodiac sign has become as important as finding out about their hobbies or interests. You might be wondering: what is a zodiac sign, and how can I find out mine? Well, it's quite easy to find out your sign, it is based on your birthday, place and time. There are 12 zodiac signs, each lasting for around 30 days. The signs are divided into 4 elements: fire, earth, air, and water. These elements are used to help understand each sign better. Each sign is said to determine who you are as a person, including things you would and wouldn't enjoy doing.

People with the fire signs, which are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius, are known as being leaders. Aries is intelligent, confident, and very impatient. This may be why Aries find it hard to sit and listen to someone or something for long periods, especially if it's something they are not interested in. Leos are very similar to Aries, just less bold. Leo tends to want to be the center of attention and finds it easy to speak in front of large groups of people. That's why many Leos are drawn to performing and often become well-respected leaders. Sagittarians, on the other hand, aren't as confident as Leos but are still very determined. Being the last of the fire signs, Sagittarians are usually in a race to achieve their goals.

Earth signs are seen as the most fiercely loyal and grounded of the Zodiac. The earth signs include Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn. These three signs tend to be the most selfless out of all the signs. This explains why people with earth signs are always willing to help others be able to understand what others may be going through and try to help.

The air signs are Aquarius, Gemini, and Libra. Air signs are all very diverse in thought: Aquarius are prone to being eccentric and free-spirited, while Geminis are curious to the core and are usually quick-witted. Libras are usually charismatic, making them very popular and often a cornerstone of a friend group.

The water signs are the most sentimental with caring personalities. Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces make up the water element. Water signs are the most creative out of all the signs. Pisces is seen as a very imaginative and thoughtful thinker. Cancers are very similar to Pisces by sharing the same traits, as well as having a great amount of empathy for others. Scorpions can be seen as having opposite traits from the other water signs however, it's due to them having passionate emotions that shouldn't be trifled with. Every zodiac sign has an inherent quality to them that makes them unique. Just like how signs are placed into elements that are alike, every sign has another that differs from them that can complete what their sign lacks and highlight their strengths.



Aries



Leo



Sagittarius



Gemini



Libra



Aquarius



Taurus



Virgo



Capricorn



Cancer



Scorpio



Pisces

## Ask Salty

With in-person school starting up again soon. Many students have forgotten their usual tricks to surviving high school. This anonymous advice column will give students the opportunity to ask any questions they may have pertaining to friendships, getting involved in school, and of course how to do their best academically. Go to this google form (<https://forms.gle/cL5aazywjfYWrD5f7>) to submit any questions you may have for Miss. Kiley Madigan. ~Kiley Madigan

