

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

SCHOOL CLOSES DUE TO COVID CRISIS

BY VIRAJ MEHTA &
TANAY VEDARTHAM

In an effort to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus (aka COVID-19), BASIS Scottsdale has closed. Coming off Spring Break, Governor Doug Ducey and Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman announced that the Arizona Congress passed legislation that closes all Arizona schools until at least April 10. Since our school will be closed for the near future, it is important that we understand what the school is doing to continue the rigorous education, and what students are thinking during this uncertain time.

BASIS’s high schoolers (who elected to remain anonymous) to provide some insight on their perspective on this situation.

Despite their uncertain future, APs are quickly approaching, and continuing education is a top priority. In order to facilitate learning online the first week back from spring break, BASIS administration distributed assignments through Parent Square. However, with the announcement of a more long-term closure, BASIS decided to transition to Microsoft Teams, a platform that would allow teachers to distribute educational material and receive assignments from students. The transition has not been seamless, but all students and teachers continue to play their part in making the shift as easy as possible in these stressful times. Teachers have implemented soft deadlines, with a lack of penalty if students need more time. In addition, learning is occurring asynchronously, meaning students can learn material on their own time to accommodate personal schedules, and teachers continue to be available during regular class times to answer questions. With such a monumental shift, we asked some of



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SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saint Patrick’s Day:
March 17 | International Earth Day:
March 20 |
| Start of Online Classes: March 23 | Cesar Chavez Day: March 31 |

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How are you feeling after being quarantined for a couple of weeks?

Student 1: “I feel fine; not much has changed for me personally.”

Student 2: “I think quarantine is a great opportunity to be productive and focus on family. Getting adjusted to online classwork and deadlines has been difficult, but it’s only been the first weeks of doing it.”

Student 3: “It varies. At times, it’s nice to have my own schedule and free time, but I also miss my friends. I also miss school a little — it can get frustrating to be cooped up at home all the time.”

If you could describe this situation in one word, what word would you pick?

Student 1: “Manageable”

Student 2: “Unexpected”

Student 3: “Distressing”

In your opinion, what are some upsides or downsides of Microsoft Teams? How effective is online learning so far?

Student 1: “On the one hand, we can work at our own pace, but on the other hand, there can be too much work at times, so it becomes hard to balance.”

Student 2: “Microsoft Teams isn’t my favorite — it’s glitchy and can be confusing to use. One of the upsides is that teachers have given us more time to complete work because they understand the difficulty. Online learning is more inconvenient because I find I’m a lot less motivated to watch lectures and take notes when I am not in the classroom setting.”

What is it like working at home? Do you feel more productive or more distracted?

Student 1: “It has been fine for me. I actually feel more productive, as I can work at my own pace.”

Student 2: “I feel more distracted, because I have grown so accustomed to the environment of the school building, so doing all schoolwork at home feels foreign.”

With such a difficult shift, many academic activities have been disrupted, including the opportunity to take mock AP exams. However, with new information regarding the AP format being released on April 3, BASIS is hopeful that online mock exams can still be administered in a manner that matches the new format. In addition, while many school extracurriculars have been cancelled, the innovative BASIS community continues to find ways to pursue their passions. For example, debate captains Karsen Wahal and Mitchel Wang continue to host the speech and debate club through virtual meetings and practice debates, even with uncertainty regarding the future of tournaments. Moreover, as you can tell, the Gazette continues to move forward, despite the school closure.

The indefinite closure of BASIS Scottsdale has been an unprecedented development that has been a surprise to all. However, through the uncertainty, confusion, and fear, the BASIS community has continued to function as best it can to continue its students' education. While using an online learning platform and being in quarantine will take an adjustment period, both students and teachers have shown resilience and unity in their commitment to facilitating education as smoothly as possible.

EXTRA CREDIT?

In this time of uncertainty, we all would like some positive messages. They are so many people that make our lives more special and so many causes that we love to support. Here at the BASIS Gazette, we would like our readers to spread some positivity in the form of something we all love: extra credit.

BY HENGZHI LI

Here’s what you need to do:

Step 1: Decide to whom or what and why do you want to give your extra credit

Step 2: Compose a message and send it to basisgazette@gmail.com.

Step 3: Wait for your extra credit message to be posted in the BASIS Gazette May edition!

Let us beat this pandemic with positivity!

STAYING SAFE IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

BY RITVIK WARRIER



In what has become a national emergency, the state of Arizona has mandated that schools stay closed for a minimum of two weeks in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. While there have been other pandemics in recent history such as the H1N1 virus, we have never seen such extensive preventative measures put in practice, and such a rapid spread occur. In addition, the coronavirus has led to the greatest stock market crash in recent history, and the shutdown of America and its international communications.

Despite these uncertain times, our focus as a global community should be limiting the spread of the coronavirus (a.k.a 2019-nCovid, Covid-19, and the Coronavirus 2019). The best method for this, as we have all been made aware, is “social distancing,” in which we hope to prevent the number of cases from rapidly increasing at once through quarantine.

Critics have considered this to be a “once-in-a-hundred-years” type of event, and consequently, many of us have never encountered widespread concern to such an extent before in our lives. In order to keep safe and healthy during these uncertain times, below we’ve compiled a list of measures you can take to maximize caution in the face of a pandemic:

1. Wash your hands frequently: This may seem obvious, but is essential for “corona-prevention,” as the chemicals within soap are known for breaking the cell walls of bacterium and the capsids of viruses. Hand sanitizer may be less effective, but may be your best bet while on the go.

2. Social distancing: Try to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people. You may have to get accustomed to this, as states such as California have already ordered a statewide lockdown. Although it may be difficult to avoid contact with your friends, I think it’s a great opportunity to bond with your family. Additionally, the digital world has given us the ability to connect through a multitude of mediums, which you can use to keep in contact. You may think that a single person could not make a significant difference, but social isolation may be the most important (and realistically, the only) method to hinder the spread of the novel coronavirus, especially given that it is difficult to determine who is infected given the lack of tests.

3. Don’t touch your eyes, nose, and mouth: The eyes, nose, and mouth are the parts of your body that are most susceptible to the entry of pathogens, so it is best to avoid spreading germs from your hands to your face.

4. Don’t hoard facemasks: Although a facemask can protect one from spreading disease, try not to hoard the facemasks from local grocery stores. Many countries and states are dealing with a short supply of face masks. The first priority for this protective gear should be given to those who are sick, rather than those who are avoiding being sick. Simply, be considerate of others, and put those who are affected at first priority in this situation.

The coronavirus certainly is a novel situation that may bring about confusion, fear, and uncertainty. However, it is beneficial to remain positive and hopeful at this time, so I have compiled a list of positive news stories regarding the coronavirus:

1. For the first time since January, China recorded no new local infections of coronavirus. While the initial spread of the virus in China was exponential, the methods and policies the government has undertaken recently have been harsh, yet extremely effective, and should serve as a model for other countries.

2. An IBM supercomputer has detected over 70 chemicals that could potentially stop the virus in spreading, which is a crucial development in the search for a vaccine.

3. Researchers in Canada have successfully isolated and grown copies of the novel coronavirus. Other researchers in the US have identified the process by which the novel coronavirus breaks into human cells, which could be game-changing for finding a robust cure.

Although we may not see the end of this crisis for quite some time, we are hopeful that, with modern technology, social distancing, and widespread government action, we can greatly slow the spread of this disease. However, it is important for us to be wary of this global problem, and take the necessary precautions. While we await information about the 2019-2020 school year, stay safe and healthy; we will get through this pandemic through a unified front in which we all have a key role to play.

BASIS SCIENCE FAIR

BY DAVID YIN &
MEENAL SRIVATSAVA

In the BASIS Scottsdale Science Fair, participants of all grade levels display projects months in the making to a panel of their science teachers. Every year, science teachers volunteer their time to coordinate, advise, and judge students on their projects. This year, the lead Science Fair coordinators are Ms. Reznik (elementary), Mr. Martin (junior), and Mr. Carey (senior). To gather more insight on the role of the advisors and what they look for in projects, we spoke with Mr. Martin.

Meenal: What is your job as one of the science fair advisors?

Mr. Martin: I am here to approve and judge the projects. I approve them by making sure they meet the regulations of safety. We don't want anyone to get hurt so we have to make sure the students take the proper precautions. Additionally, on the day of the fair, the other science teachers and I will judge the projects, give feedback, and determine a winner.

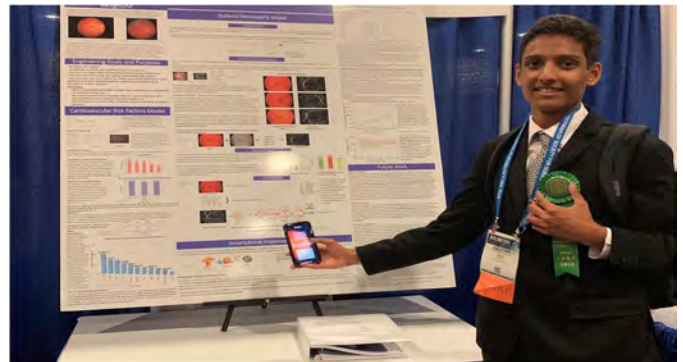
What do you think are the requirements for a good project?

A good project answers an original question, or it answers a question in an original way. Seeing something new is what this is all about.

What is your favorite part of the science fair?

I see most of these students in class, and it is nice to see them in a slightly different environment. It is one thing seeing someone do what is expected of them in class, but it is even more captivating to see what really interests them and how they try to apply it to the real world.

After enthusiastic presentation and fierce interrogation, winners are selected from categories of a wide range of scientific disciplines, ranging from chemistry to engineering to physics. To better understand the science fair from the perspective of a participant, we interviewed junior Kasyap Chakravadhanula, who won the third prize in the category of Computational Biology at last year's Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for his smartphone app that tests for diabetic retinopathy — the world's leading cause of blindness — and cardiovascular risk.



Kasyap Chakravadhanula at ISEF

David: What are you doing for this year's science fair?

Kasyap: This year, I am working on a project that integrates colorimetric sensing and image analysis for improved tracking of diabetes.

What biggest obstacles do you have in the science fair?

Probably crafting a solution that can be built on the limited data that I have access to or can generate. For last year's project, I was not working with any lab so it was difficult at times to implement my goals without crucial data. Other than that, preparing a presentation that quickly encapsulates my whole project without going too much into technical detail so as to be boring is difficult at times.

What motivates you to participate in the science fair?

Science Fair is a great way to not only showcase your work and improve your ability to present it, but also to meet many new young researchers from across the state (and even the world) who likely share your passions and interests. In addition, Science Fair keeps you motivated in your research and helps expose you to many other fields of research. Overall, it is a great experience.

At the end of March, the chosen winners will present their projects in the Arizona State Science Fair, but this likely is not the end of the line, as some students may have the opportunity to display their projects on the international stage at ISEF. We hope that you gained more insight and respect into the school fair for the extensive preparation that goes into it from all ends.

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020: A TIMELINE

BY HENGZHI LI

Iowa has voted. New Hampshire has voted. Nevada has voted, and more states are about to vote in the 2020 presidential election. Currently, two Democratic candidates remain in the competition for the oval office against the incumbent Republican president Donald J. Trump. As we all know, there are many events before Election Day in November, and this often gets people confused about when and how they should support their favorite candidate. Although many of us are not able to vote yet, we should all stay aware of what is going on in politics to understand what our society is like and how we want it to be like. So, to make the election process clearer for you, here is a timeline of the upcoming events in the 2020 presidential election cycle.

March 2020

March is probably the busiest month in the election year. 25 out of the 50 states hold their primaries or caucuses during March, including the Arizona Democratic Primary, on March 17th. March 3rd, known as Super Tuesday, has the greatest number of states holding primaries or caucuses, including key states such as California and Texas. While Donald Trump ran largely uncontested, March is especially important for Democratic candidates, as their performance in the primaries and caucuses will determine their chance of winning the party nomination to the final presidential election.

April 2020

While not as many states hold primaries in April as they do in March, April is still a crucial month to presidential candidates. On April 28, big states such as New York and Pennsylvania will be conducting their primaries, making this day the biggest delegate day of the race. If one candidate manages to secure victory in all states on this day, he or she will have a huge advantage in being nominated at the national convention.

May - June 2020

More states conduct their primaries in May and June. U.S. territories, including Guam, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico also hold their primaries during these two months. On June 16, the District of Columbia Democratic primary will be held, marking the last primary in the year's election cycle.

July - August 2020

During these two months, the two major parties will be holding their national conventions. The Democratic National Convention will be hosted by Wisconsin in July, while the Republican National Convention will be hosted by North Carolina in August. In the national conventions, parties decide their nominee for the final presidential runoff in November. Delegates selected from each state and territory casting their ballot to a specific candidate, determined by the candidate's performance in that region's primary or caucuses. Candidate with the most votes will win the nomination by his or her respective party and enter the race to the presidential seat.

September - October 2020

These two months are reserved for presidential debates. There are in total three presidential debates, held on September 29th, October 15th and 22nd. The only vice presidential debate will happen on October 7 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

November 2020

November 3 is Election Day! American citizens above the age of 18 fill voting places across the country, casting their ballots for their favorite candidate, hoping that he or she will win the election and become the 46th President of the United States. Before that, we should follow along what is going on in the political world and prepare for the moment when we cast our first ballot.



WORD RESEARCH

BY KISHORE RAJESH

G C P G F D B G L E N F M C A C H Y Q C
 G N I N R A E L P E E D D G S Z F O O C
 N A I T I K A C B F H J C T D I Y L P Y
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 NOVEL
 MACHINELEARNING
 RESEARCH
 MODEL
 CANCER
 PROFESSOR
 QUANTUM
 CRYPTO
 BITCOIN
 BLOCKCHAIN
 PREDICT
 BIGDATA
 INTERNSHIP
 DATAMINING
 NEURALNET
 DEEPLARNING
 ALGORITHM

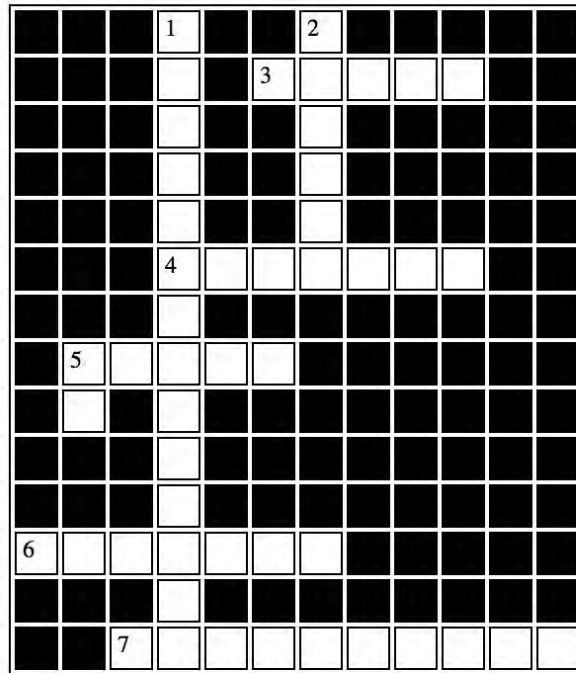
KISHORE'S CROSSWORD

BY KISHORE RAJESH

Random Holidays in March Crossword

Try to see if you know all the random national holidays!

(The answers to the clues will be of the form _____ day. The _____ goes in the boxes)



Across

- 3. Opals, Rubies, and more! - 3/13
- 4. Chicken Duck Turkey - 3/19
- 5. For people to freak out - 3/9
- 6. Celebrating famous females-3/8
- 7. Eggo Waffles is an Example (Two Words) - 3/6

Down

- 1. Passing Period Mascot (Three Words) - 3/16
- 2. Basically a holiday in favor of Demeter - 3/7
- 5. A delicious holiday loved by Mathematicians - 3/14

THE MEME OF MARCH

BY VIRAJ MEHTA

Types of Headaches

Migraine



Hypertension



Stress



**45-MINUTE,
ALL FRQ AP EXAMS**



Solutions to the Crossword:

Down: 1. Giant Panda Bear 2. Cereal 5. Pi
Across: 3. Jewelry 4. Poultry 5. Panic 6.
Women's 7. Frozen Food

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