

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

A SLEW OF APs, A PROMISE OF SUMMER, AND ADIEU

BY GINA RYU AND
ALEX ZOU

As AP tests loom on the horizon and summer break beckons, the month of May brings with it new beginnings and fruitful prospects. Speaking of new beginnings, our head of school has taken on a new name after her marriage (congratulations!). To celebrate the end of the academic year and reflect upon the happenings of the year, we interviewed Ms. Boyle—formerly Ms. Mitrovich—for her thoughts on this past year.

Given the unique nature of the past academic year, what do you believe was the greatest challenge in organizing the school?

Ms. Boyle: Of course, our top priority throughout the year has been keeping everyone safe while providing a quality education. Our school was impacted in real time by decisions made by the government, CDC recommendations, and BASIS.ed. Given the volume of updates, it proved challenging to effectively communicate information. However, our community was very understanding of the complexities involved.

This year, every department within the school had to rethink their processes. From the Back to School Bash to textbook dissemination to standardized testing to clubs/extracurriculars to Student Support, we had to go back to the drawing board. This thoughtful reflection and reevaluation helped us better understand our working processes and identify areas for growth and improvement in the longer term.

As part of the Families Choose plan, student schedules and elements changed each grading period/trimester [and] moving from being 100% online to a hybrid



Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/basis-scottsdale-best-public-school-in-us-2017-11>

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SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| May 5:
Cinco de Mayo | May 9:
Mother's Day |
| May 15:
Armed Forces Day | May 31:
Memorial Day |

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learning environment during the year required a lot of extra preparation for our teachers, students, and faculty/staff. Providing necessary academic and socioemotional supports in the online environment required us to think outside the box. However, our faculty/staff and students went above and beyond in this unusual year. What they have accomplished is astounding, as they have harnessed the opportunity/accessibility that exists within the online space.

What are some of the changes students can look forward to this coming academic year?

Ms. Boyle: If everything goes as expected, and with safety at the forefront, students can look forward to in-person instruction. There are students that have spent the year online and some of our fifth graders have not yet stepped foot on our campus... we are eager to meet them! Re-acclimating will take some time, and things will still look differently than they did prior to COVID. This summer, we'll offer BOSS Camps (BASIS Organizational Study Skills) to incoming 5th-9th graders, expanding the reach and mission of the program. We will also offer optional summer enrichment sessions. Our goal is to help bridge any gaps, become more comfortable in the school setting, and to set students up for success.

Next year, we hope to bring back standing traditions that have been put on hold. We cannot wait for end-of-year class trips/field trips, Hoopcoming, Junior/Senior picnic, and prom. Next year, we will also be launching the Community Betterment project that students voted upon this year to improve our campus.

With the implementation of the new BASIS Online option next year, what changes might be expected within the BASIS Scottsdale community?

Ms. Boyle: Although the schools will share a curriculum, the online school will be a separate "campus" from BASIS Scottsdale. If there is sufficient interest, it will be an option for students across the BASIS network to continue learning online next year. It is important to provide these families with a way to continue with BASIS as they consider their

individual circumstances to make this important choice. Unlike the Families Choose plan, my understanding is that the online school will be a full-year commitment. Upon completion of the school year, students will return to a BASIS campus. However, there is no guarantee that they will be offered a seat at their original BASIS school. To learn more about the online school, families can go to BASISCharteronline.org and email enrollment@basisschools.org with specific questions.

To wrap it up, do you have advice for the graduating seniors moving forward on to a new chapter of their life?

Ms. Boyle: Yes, as a former College Counselor, of course I do! I am so excited to celebrate the Class of 2021 at commencement on May 28th at the Celebrity Theatre! I am thrilled by the diversity of the colleges/majors within this year's senior class—I cannot wait to see where they ultimately go! I am hopeful that this group of graduates will have the opportunity to begin their college careers in-person so they can take full advantage of the residential learning experience. As our seniors choose where to commit, my advice is to "bloom wherever you are planted" and never stop growing! Focus on ways to holistically maximize your college experience wherever you go. Although reflection is an important exercise, focusing on the "what ifs" and "could have beens" is a detour that can prevent you from moving forward. Instead of getting lost in comparisons, get excited about charting your own unique course—no two paths look alike!

As an unprecedented school year has come to a close, we are excited to see what next year holds! It truly was inspiring to see our students, teachers, and administration come together to face all of this year's challenges. We look forward to greeting our loyal readers in the fall not just in print but in person as well.

BASIS SCOTTSDALE BUCKET LIST

BY ZAINA JASSER

With AP exams coming up way too fast and summer vacation right behind it, graduation is another year closer, and I still feel a year younger. The lockdown and the hybrid classrooms have really limited the traditional high school experience of embarrassment and idiocy, so with my last year, I intend to make the most of it, and so should you. So, based on my knowledge of high school both online and in-person, as well as my hopes for my senior year, here are a few things BASIS Scottsdale students need to try at least once before they walk down the hallways in February in their gowns.

1. Attend a Hoopcoming varsity basketball game.

You can't graduate without attending one of these BASIS cultural phenomena at least once. While I'm not sure of the fate of Hoopcoming in the coming school year, try your best to witness one of these games as it's probably the only time you'll ever see all the grades come together as a cohesive unit. It's a pretty inspiring sight. If you don't like the enormous crowds you can always go to one of the mid-season games that aren't as crowded. Then, in the future, when you're at Harvard or Princeton, you'll remember the very embarrassing yet very amusing memories you made during a BASIS basketball game.

2. Join a sports team.

While I may be biased on this one, I do think a sports team really seals the deal of a true high school experience. It's a



The BASIS Scottsdale Track Team

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/a36669ee214f/bulldog-blast-712794>

perfect combination of social cohesion and individual grit for a common and personal goal. Of course, for those without athletic inclinations, there are many school clubs available for your perusal but it's really up to you as it all achieves the same effect.

3. Sign out of school for an "appointment" but actually go home and make a sandwich.

Though this is limited to people who can drive and students with a chauffeur at their beck-and-call, I would recommend you break the rules at least once in high school. Don't let it become a habit, but don't be scared to sign out of school when you feel burnt out or too mentally incapacitated to answer a question in class. Put yourself first and make an exquisite sandwich instead.

4. Go to a dance.

Prom and homecoming dances are some of the most memorable events of high school. Just ask your parents about their prom night and they'll likely remember it pretty vividly. They're the perfect place to create memories with friends and classmates outside of the strict classroom setting, and one of the only places to put on your most stylish dress or tux. So, grab a few friends, carpool to a school dance in your mom's Toyota Sienna, and cupid shuffle 'til the sun comes up, or until you have to go back home and restart the party there.

5. Go to bed before 11pm.

If you go to sleep earlier at least once in your BASIS career, you will surely thank yourself. You'll get a glimpse of the blissfulness of elementary school, and you may even begin to adjust your schedule. I dare you to do it and see how much easier the school day goes with so much more youthfulness in your jaded eyes.

There are so many other traditions to honor in high school, but these just are some of the big ones, for BASIS students. You can always make your own personal goals to achieve before graduation, which I have done myself, as I likely won't get the chance to do the same once I enter the scary world of adulthood in college. As you study your way through high school, don't forget to take a break once in a while and enjoy these unique years vivaciously and with little regret.

TURNING HUNGER INTO HOPE

BY CALISTA WILK

The people who give you their food give you their heart.

In this quote, Cesar Chavez recognized the insurmountable importance food holds in one's life, as it can bring health, strength, and hope to any table. However, nearly 700 million people in the world unfortunately do not have access to proper meals and thus have increased difficulty attaining personal goals, including earning an education, going to work, or raising a family. So to fill as many bellies with nutritious food, opportunities, and ambition as possible, Richard Proudfit, after taking a mission trip to Honduras, founded the inspiring organization Feed My Starving Children in 1987.

From the tip of Sri Lanka to the heart of Mexico, underprivileged communities are empowered by Feed My Starving Children's mission. Partnering with organizations across 70 countries, Feed My Starving Children saves lives by sending hand-packed meals to undernourished children. With food science and nutrition experts carefully developing nutritious MannaPack meals, families can focus less on diverting effort to obtaining food and more on developing their community, whether it is through purchasing medical supplies or hiring more teachers in schools. Nearly all of these accomplishments achieved by Feed My Starving Children have been powered by one group of considerate individuals: volunteers.

"Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children has allowed me to engage in world hunger and create a tangible impact on hunger worldwide," NHS Vice President Tommy C. (11) told me. By "hand-pack[ing] rice, soy, and other foods into bags that get shipped" across the globe, Tommy has been able "to work with other people in [his] community and establish new relationships." According to Tommy, Feed My Starving Children "provides first-hand stories of the children who have been impacted by the food I pack, which makes the experience much more personal and meaningful."

Feed My Starving Children has offered wonderful ways for students at BASIS Scottsdale to participate in



Source: <https://mydayswellived.com/category/fm-sc-meals-from-michiana/>

and support the community. "Popular in NHS and NJHS," Feed My Starving Children allows students to actively work together in teams while engaging in impactful volunteer experiences, as Tommy told me. To continue providing such volunteer opportunities during the pandemic, Feed My Starving Children has quickly adapted to safety protocols by ensuring that volunteers wear masks and have healthy temperatures, limiting the volunteer group size to five people, and organizing volunteers into socially distanced, linear packing setups. If you are hungry to help Feed My Starving Children share the joy and power of food with families worldwide, visit their website at www.fm-sc.org.

Armed with healthy, nutritious meals, Feed My Starving Children strengthens undernourished families throughout the world with the help of driven, passionate volunteers. Their inspiring impact has reached a community close to us, as many BASIS Scottsdale students have helped pack and ship meals while learning about the effects of world hunger and ways to work together to prevent it. Regardless of where or whom Feed My Starving Children donates their meals to, their love for philanthropy fills stomachs and hearts throughout the world with hope.

JEOPARDY WITH THE J&J VACCINE

BY DERRICK KANG

After being introduced, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was predicted to immunize more individuals at a faster rate than existing alternatives, as its one-dose administration was cheaper, easier, and more efficient.

However, recent injections were halted in mid-April after a rare-blood clotting disorder was identified in six female recipients. These women, all between the ages of 18 and 48, developed an adverse reaction within one to three weeks after vaccination. The side effects of the vaccine include blood clots and low blood platelet levels, worrying many health officials that traditional blood thinners like heparin could do more harm than good. While the vaccine has been administered to more than 7 million people in the United States, the FDA and CDC have paused its distribution until investigations regarding the blood clot disorders are completed. The director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research stated, "we are recommending a pause in the use of this vaccine out of caution." However, these blood clots have appeared in only a few cases, as Dr. Anne Schuchat, the principal deputy director of the CDC, noted.

Outside of America, the distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is also off to a rocky start. The

distribution will be delayed in Europe even though several countries were already prepared to administer it to their citizens. South Africa, which has been plagued by a more contagious strain of the virus, has also suspended the use of the vaccine, with Australia following shortly after, refusing to purchase any doses. Currently, many public health officials and citizens question whether such a rare side effect should hinder the distribution of the vaccine as a whole but as Rachel Plitch-Loeb, an expert in health risk communication stated, "it's incredibly challenging, but to ignore [the side effects] would have been worse."

Currently, the CDC is reviewing data collected from the blood clot disorder victims of the J&J vaccine. After the CDC meets with the ACIP, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, recommendations will be made regarding how the J&J vaccine will be used in the future. The extra vaccines currently held by vaccination providers will not be distributed, but will be stored until the CDC releases a statement regarding their usage. Until then, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will be distributed to those in the U.S. who are still waiting to get vaccinated.



Source: CBS News

MONTHLY MUNCHIES

MOTHER'S DAY BANANA PANCAKES

BY JONAH MARWIL AND
DYLAN SOSINSKY

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled off
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 small, over-ripe banana, peeled (the browner, the better)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons low fat milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

Instructions:

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.
2. In a small bowl, mash the banana with a fork until smooth. Add milk, eggs, and vanilla, whisk until well blended. Pour the banana mixture and the melted butter into the flour mixture. Fold the batter gently with a spatula until just blended; do not over-mix. The batter will be thick and lumpy.
3. Set a griddle over medium heat until hot. Put a pad of butter and one tablespoon vegetable oil onto the griddle. Drop the batter by 1/4-cupfuls onto the griddle, spacing the pancakes about 2 inches apart. Cook the pancakes until the bottom is golden brown and the top is puffed. Move the pancakes.
4. Serve the pancakes while still hot with maple syrup, sliced bananas and confectioners' sugar if desired.

Have a great Mother's Day!



Source: https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/banana_pancakes_62919

THE END (OF THE SCHOOL YEAR) IS NEAR

BY ALLISON LI

It's finally that time of the year. After a full nine months of studying and learning, we've entered the final stretch. This year really did seem to last forever, didn't it? But at the same time, it felt like I've missed an entire year of my life. Just last year, I was still a young freshman trying to fit all of my textbooks into my backpack. Now, we've finally made it. So, here's one final quiz to end the school year with.

1. What is your name?
 - a. Bob
 - b. Alex
 - c. Sara
 - d. Other: _____
2. What grade are you in?
 - a. 5-8
 - b. 9
 - c. 10
 - d. 11
3. What do you plan on doing this summer?
 - a. Sleeping
 - b. Nothing
 - c. Crying
 - d. IDK
4. Have you logged into SPORK?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. None of my classes are open
 - d. Wow
5. Can you hear me?
 - a. No
 - b. It looks like your unmuted but we can't hear anything
 - c. Try leaving and rejoining
 - d. You're still muted
6. Nothing left to turn in. #winning
 - a. Is this a question?
 - b. Yes
 - c. I've literally never seen this before
 - d. ✨motivation✨
7. Banana
 - a. Is a fruit
 - b. Is the thing that minions love to eat
 - c. Is yellow
 - d. Is confused?
8. <https://youtu.be/dQw4w9WgXcQ>
 - a. Click on it
 - b. It's interesting
 - c. Very important
 - d. Congratulations on finishing school
9. TikTok is a social media platform similar to Musically and Vine in which users can scroll through short videos for entertainment. It first came into existence in 2017 but really took off in the summer of 2019 and 2020. Similar to Instagram and Snapchat, people randomly follow each other on TikTok and it has allowed for many ordinary people to rise to fame such as Charli D'Amelio. In conclusion, what is $9 + 10$?
 - a. I honestly just didn't read the huge paragraph
 - b. 21
 - c. TikTok
 - d. Dixie D'Amelio
10. No, really, what's $9 + 10$?
 - a. Didn't you ask this already?
 - b. I don't know
 - c. 19
 - d. As I said, 21

Congratulations, you've finished the quiz. There are no incorrect answers, so anything you answered is 100% correct! Good luck on final exams and enjoy the summer!

OPINION

STOPPING ASIAN HATE. NOW.

BY SAHIL SUD

On March 16, in two Atlanta-area massage parlors, a gunman killed eight people, six of whom were Asian women. It was the worst mass killing in the US in nearly two years. Although the gunman claimed that the attack was not racially motivated and instead caused by a “sex addiction,” he had fetishized Asian woman in the lead-up to this attack, and this objectification had resulted from clear anti-Asian racism. That’s what prompted Bee Nguyen, the first Georgia state representative of Vietnamese descent, and a prominent advocate for women and communities of color, to claim the shootings were at the “intersection of gender-based violence, misogyny and xenophobia.”

These shootings were a culmination of xenophobia against Asian Americans that has been growing across America for centuries. Ever since the first outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, anti-Asian sentiment has soared, due to the disease’s origins in China. According to Stop AAPI Hate, an organization focused on ending hate against Asia-Americans, more than 2,800 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination, ranging from workplace discrimination to physical violence, occurred in just the last year. The true number is likely much higher, as some victims don’t report the incidents, for fear of retribution. It’s important to note, however, that these attacks have been targeted at all Asian-Americans, not just Chinese-Americans. As Vox reports, “In San Francisco, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee died after getting shoved to the ground. In Oakland, a 91-year-old was brutally pushed from behind. And in San Jose, a 64-year-old woman was robbed in the middle of the afternoon.” These incidents have occurred after many prominent political leaders used the coronavirus as an opportunity to advance their political goals referring to the virus as the “China virus” or “Kung Flu,” which only served to fuel the anti-Asian racism pervasive in our society.

Many political leaders have come out and condemned the attacks. According to NBC News, President Joe Biden called the attacks “un-American.” Unfortunately, there could not be anything more American. Anti-Asian attacks have been a prominent theme throughout American history. In 1882, as Chinese immigration to the US increased, the United States federal government passed the



Women protesting against anti-Asian hate in San Francisco

Source: www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/us/hate-crimes-against-asian-americans-community

Chinese Exclusion Act. This act prohibited many Chinese refugees from entering the United States, restricting immigration, and the opportunity for a better life. As rationale for this horrific legislation, Chinese workers were dismissed as “coolies.” And during the Second World War, Japanese Americans were placed in internment camps under the assumption that they might be “spies.” This was clearly an attempt by the United States to restrict Asian Americans and define them as second-class citizens. But even as these horrific types of abuse have slowed domestically, they’ve continued abroad.

Because media coverage of the Chinese government’s actions has been overwhelmingly negative in recent months, racially-motivated attacks on Chinese-Americans have skyrocketed in frequency as many irrationally conflate the Chinese-American populations in the United States with the Chinese government. Thus, it becomes necessary that people should take care not to confuse the actions of the Chinese government with innocent citizens of the United States in order to prevent further outbreaks of anti-Asian violence.

In order to end anti-Asian violence and discrimination, it is important that America takes a hard look at itself, and sees how it is contributing to a trend harming its own citizens.

PUZZLE PAGE

MAY WORD SEARCH

M A U Y G V A W K K O I X M B
 T E V J A E J C R M E E Z V G
 S I H N L D A B A A M D F O N
 P Q K Z Y P S R R E M M U S I
 O F H T A C K R F M S C R D M
 R T I N O H R A E A B R M M O
 K H N Z A K U N Z H C U H O C
 Y A E Y E O B V Q F T X Z D P
 M B Y O I R A F N U A O A E O
 Q A P V W C I T E S I M M R O
 M G S X C K Y B B X D B Q N H
 B Q S I R P A S E K A C N A P
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 W E R I C K A S T L E Y A W Q
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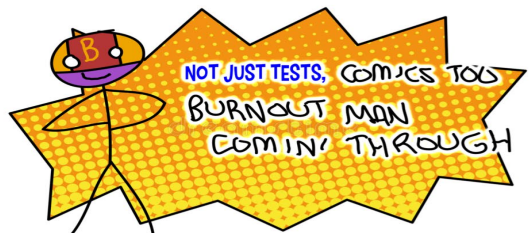
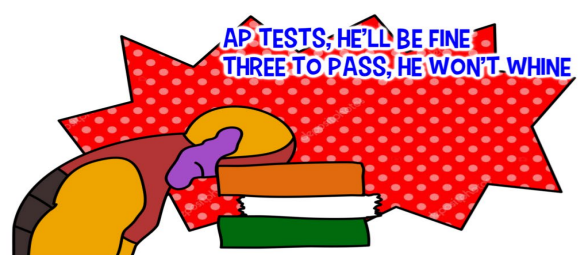
Rubaiyat
 Omar Khayyam
 Summer
 Hoopcoming
 MannaPack

Pfizer
 Moderna
 Vaccine
 FMSC
 Rick Astley

Mother's Day
 SPORK
 TikTok
 Pancakes
 Burnout Man

BURNOUT MAN

BY TRISTAN CLARKE



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BASIS GAZETTE STAFF

JOURNALISTS: TRISTAN CLARKE, ZAINA JASSER, DERRICK KANG, ALLISON LI, JONAH MARWIL, GINA RYU, DYLAN SOSINSKY, SAHIL SUD, CALISTA WILK, ALEX ZOU

COMIC ARTIST: TRISTAN CLARKE

CO-EDITORS: GINA RYU & ALEX ZOU

FACULTY ADVISOR: MR. WITZ