

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

TO GO OR NOT TO GO?

BY GINA RYU

Only available once each trimester, the decision to choose between in-person and online instruction requires much deliberation on the part of both students and parents. To identify different reasons behind students’ decisions, I interviewed four students—two of whom chose online learning, Catherine J. (10) and Nathan T. (11), and two of whom opted for in-person learning, Amira A. (11) and Kyle F. (11).

Let’s start by talking about your online school year experience so far. What are your thoughts about school so far—what do you like or dislike about it?

Catherine: Online school is draining and I have to stare at a computer screen for at least 12 hours a day, causing me to have splitting headaches. I like that the lessons are recorded, so if I miss a lesson I can always go back to the recording, but I dislike that teachers can’t be as interactive with students, and it’s much more difficult to learn effectively online.

Nathan: So far, online school has gone as expected. I enjoy the ability to learn from anywhere without the stress of having to make it to my next class on time, but the long hours that I’ve had to sit at my computer for the past couple of weeks have been a massive downside. It’s also been disappointing to miss out on the normal school experiences of in-school learning like attending events, seeing friends, and engaging with clubs or sports activities.



Source: Business Insider

Amira: One of the main benefits of online learning for me is the short commute. I live relatively far from campus, so going to school from home means that I can sleep more without having to drive so far. I also like how assignments are all in one place, making them easy to find and turn in. However, one disadvantage would be not seeing my teachers and classmates in person. I miss interacting socially in school.

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SAVE THE DATE

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Oct 30:
End of Tri 3 | Nov 11:
Veterans Day |
| Nov 19-20:
Picture Day | Nov 25:
Thanksgiving |

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Kyle: I like the ability to learn in a way that you see fit. The online class is more of a lecture followed by a long homework. This allows me to ask the questions I need to, as well as learn in the way that suits me best. However, I would also say that being online does not allow you to bond with the teachers, and doesn't provide the same environment or experience that in-person school does.

To understand how students made the decision to stay home, given that they did not have the same luxury to change their decision after the start of the trimester as in-person learners, I first interviewed Catherine and Nathan.

Did you have any specific concerns that kept you from going back to school?

Catherine: No, but I think that there's no benefit to doing in-person learning—it's the same as doing online school, so there's no benefit since it comes along with a higher risk of catching COVID-19. I was more worried about my family's health than my own.

Nathan: Besides the common fear of contracting COVID-19, the news that in-school learning would be similar to, if not the same as online school, was a deterring factor for me. With the restrictions and regulations that in-person students currently face, I felt that staying online was a better choice.

Would you consider going back for the next trimester, given that the 'School-Choice' Survey opens up only one week after in-person instruction begins?

Catherine: I personally wouldn't go back until the risk of catching COVID-19 is very low, or until the things we do at in-person school aren't just the same thing as online school: sitting in front of a computer screen for eight hours.

Nathan: I know that it is difficult to ease the restrictions on in-school learners given the current situation surrounding COVID-19, but I will only truly consider going back to physical school when some type of normal schedule is implemented, even if this means waiting until Trimester 3 or later.

Next, I interviewed Amira and Kyle about how they came to the decision of in-person learning, even

though they did not have concrete information about in-person instruction at the time of their decision.

What was the deciding factor that made you choose to go to school in person?

Amira: I mainly chose to go to school in person because I prefer learning in a classroom, and I needed to see people beyond my own family. I feel more focused in a classroom, a space that is designated for learning and work, rather than in my house, which I associate with relaxation.

Kyle: The deciding factor that made me choose to go in person was how distracting my house was, along with the aforementioned classroom environment. I also missed being around my friends and fellow students and talking face-to-face, so I decided to go back to school in person.

Given that there was not a lot of information about how the 'in-person' choice would be, what concerns did you have while making your choice?

Amira: My main concern was whether the in-person option would actually resemble learning in person. The mix of students learning in-person and online would make it difficult to cater to both choices, and I was worried that going to school in person would not be much different from going to school online. I also had the concern that learning in person would not be as streamlined and efficient as it has been in the past.

Kyle: My primary concern is actually that nobody else would go in person. However, as far as the planning goes, I think I am most worried about the classes simply being online classes in the school. I came in person to be taught like normal, and if we are just sitting on our laptops all day, I figure we might as well be at home.

The option to choose between online and in-person instruction is truly a blessing for our students. Taking into account his or her unique learning needs and priorities, each student has the freedom to make the best decision regarding their own instruction. So, to each their own!

WHEN'S THE WHISTLE?

BY RITVIK WARRIER

“Man—I can’t wait for the homecoming game!”

Or so I thought. The kickoff to our school year was met with an unprecedented fate, accompanied by the cancellation or postponement of numerous other events within the wave of uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020-2021 Canyon Athletic Association (CAA) athletic programs were certainly no exception.

As many have noticed, the Extracurricular Brochure was missing a few traditionally prominent activities: sports. As of now, the only sport listed is cross-country. Is there reason to worry? Not at all. Mr. Wells and the administration have taken careful measures and implemented strict COVID-19 precaution guidelines to ensure maximum safety this athletic season. COVID-19-specific mandates include wearing a mask at all times -- getting caught without a mask warrants a one-week suspension. Obviously, these protocols will have their own implications. Running with a mask on will definitely make it harder to breathe, which may result in deflated times.

Similar to the practices, Cross Country meets will also most likely function differently due to COVID-19 protocols. Although the CAA has not made any public announcements as of October, senior track and cross-country athlete Pranav Gudise has a few predictions for what the scene will look like coming into the meet season.

Gudise said that there will “most likely be a limited audience of only parents and coaches.” He also said that they “expect for masks to be mandatory for all races at all times and there will be a limited number of contestants.” Another possibility, he said, is that “the CAA [could limit] the amount of athletes schools can send to each event.”

Another consequence that we must anticipate is the scarcity of recruitment. Although very few BASIS athletes pursue NCAA athletic recruitment, we have recently begun to see our athletes get more collegiate interest than we have before. Many high school students who want to connect with coaches to pursue collegiate athletics usually reach out in their sophomore and junior years.

Senior Ethan Wilk is a track-and-field athlete who has been invested in the recruitment process the past two years, earning interest from multiple Division 3 schools. “I predict that students won’t have the same ease in navigating the recruitment process that I did,” Wilk said. Track recruitment relies objectively on a student’s recorded times, which are documented at meets. With numerous meets closing nationwide, students won’t have the same freedom in submitting recorded times to recruiters.



Ravi Patel (20) dribbles vs. BASIS Chandler at Hoopcoming

“I personally had to consider flying out to states like Florida and California to catch open events,” Wilk said. “However, some recruitment organizations eventually began to offer virtual meets in an effort to simulate the norm as closely as possible; an opportunity which I took an advantage of and believe interested athletes should as well.”

BASIS athletics for the 2020-2021 season are far from unorganized. Schedules and changes, however, are yet to be announced by the CAA regarding the basketball season. Coach Dan Chen and BASIS Scottsdale basketball program worked with the administration to organize an “open-gym” session on October 19th and 21st open to everyone. The open gym is an annual event in which prospective athletes get an opportunity to test their capabilities in a competitive environment prior to the JV and Varsity tryouts.

“Open gym? During this time? Isn’t that kind of concerning?” Think not. In addition to encouraging students to quarantine in the weeks leading up to the open-gym, the school also ensured that students get their temperatures checked as well as wear a mask at all times of play.

Don’t worry about losing a year of athletics. Our school is doing everything they can to make it happen. As of now, we should appreciate the efforts taken by Ms. Smith, Mr. Wells, Coach Chen and the rest of the athletic staff in keeping the athletic programs running as safely and effectively as possible. For live updates on the athletic season’s status, follow @bspnscottsdale.

A STUDENT'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO TEAMS

BY DERRICK KANG

Let's face it, Microsoft Teams isn't perfect. The majority of us have had a problem with Teams at some point, ranging from questionable call quality to class notebook suddenly ceasing to function. As such, we need some way to resolve these issues, and this article will (hopefully) serve as a guide to lost BASIS Scottsdale students.

Poor Call Quality

Starting off with probably one of the more "simple" problems to fix is the poor call quality that occurs from time to time. The simplest (and most obvious) solution is to check how strong your internet connection is for your device and take steps in order to strengthen that connection if necessary. Assuming that this doesn't work, there are a few other ways to fix this problem. If you are using Microsoft Teams via its online client, it's important to note that your browser actually has a major impact on the performance of your calls, so you should preferably use modern browsers like Google Chrome. Also, note that the device you use is a major factor in your call quality. Your headsets and speakers are the source of your audio in the call, so make sure that they help with things like echo cancellation and latency reduction. You can test your audio through Teams with a test call, and you can call a friend to see how they can hear your voice through your microphone.

Class Notebook

Class Notebook's inability to keep all your files can be a real pain sometimes; you swear that your files are uploaded but when you go check the next day, they're gone without a trace. However, how they disappear is not as big an issue as the fact that they have disappeared. Before you even exit Class Notebook, make sure that the little cloud icon on the top right of your screen has a check mark in front of it as it indicates whether your work has been saved. If there is no check mark in front of the cloud, make sure to try refreshing the syncing process in order to save your work. When your work has been completed, you should most likely check if your files are still uploaded in your Class Notebook after uploading them (if you really want to, you could login from a different device and check if your files are still there). If they have mysteriously disappeared, it's highly suggested that you upload them again or risk losing points on some assignment.



Source: The Verge

Microphone and Webcam Problems

Sometimes, the microphone or webcam may not be functioning correctly. Assuming this isn't due to any software issues, a common problem is that your microphone or webcam may not be plugged into your computer correctly. However, if it is somehow a software issue, make sure you give permission to Teams to use the microphone or webcam (or both). Giving Teams permission to access your webcam/microphone, however, is different for both Windows and MacOS computers. For Windows, searching up App Permissions and scrolling down to either the camera or microphone can allow you to grant permission to Teams. For MacOS, clicking the Apple menu icon and finding System Preferences can allow you to access the Security and Privacy settings, which you can then use to change the permissions for your microphone or camera for Microsoft Teams.

If your problems weren't solved using the methods above, or you have different issues than the ones mentioned here, I recommend that you contact the person in charge of Teams at BASIS to see how to resolve the problem quickly or at the very least try talking to a technical expert you know. If you're desperate, you can always try contacting Microsoft's technical team for help.

Though Microsoft Teams seems at first glance to be an extremely complicated system, the problems that plague it are, in reality, easy to solve. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it, and your problems will be solved.

THE ASSASSINATION OF BASIS ASSASSINS

BY ZAINA JASSER

We've more or less adapted as students to life in our homes, setting alarms for each Teams/Zoom call and focusing our creative abilities on new and different excuses for bad internet connection. However, this shift to remote connection has largely been under the jurisdiction of our teachers, supervisors, bosses, or parents; we've had little say in our own lives. Now, with the revival of junior-senior assassins, we've given ourselves a chance to restore power in our lives and get back what made being a teenager at BASIS Scottsdale similar to our public school neighbors. This is a huge responsibility.

For those unfamiliar, the game consists of teams, who are all assigned targets anonymously. The point of the game is for an assassin to eliminate their target usually by shooting them with a water gun before each round ends. In the past, there have been different challenges added for specific rounds to eliminate opponents.

We've revived this tradition from our pre-pandemic lives and come together as students to add more elation to our isolation, and to sum it up, it feels sanguine. Yet, the BASIS Assassins Instagram comments say otherwise. Teams have dropped out and rumors have gone wild. Where did we go wrong? Did we raise our expectations too high? Or was this inevitable in a socially distanced social game? So, I've asked students, in and out of the game, about their thoughts on these issues:

What do you think about the decision to continue assassins this school year despite the pandemic?

Madison: When school shut down back in March, my first thoughts went to what senior year would look like, and a big part of my excitement came from playing assassins. When Maahi announced that the game would in fact be happening, I was so excited I couldn't even describe it in words. I thought this decision allowed students to enjoy a fun high school experience that for many was an escape from the daily stress of school.

Avni: The main reason that I wanted to play assassins was because of the pandemic, and I wasn't planning on going back to in-person learning. It gave me a reason to leave the house and stay out late with my friends, an opportunity to change my environment once in a while.

How do you think the game will be affected by social distancing, especially between grades?

Madison: Well, as someone who played the game both this year and last, it's very evident that with social distancing in place, assassins just isn't the same game we all thought it would be. Between grades, it's pretty much impossible to get a "kill" unless you have a surplus of information on those kids.



Source: Triton Times

Avni: It's a lot harder to find people to assassinate, especially if your target is in a different grade. Nevertheless, my partner and I have been successful in finding different ways to "kill" our targets.

What are your thoughts on the modified rules (e.g. no salting, masks required in car "kills", no "killing" on private property, etc.)? Do you think they're too lax or have no effect at all on our safety?

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Madison: I am all in favor of the mask-wearing and social distancing rules, but if mask-wearing is imposed on the “killers,” then it should be also imposed on those being assassinated. These COVID-19 rules for assassins take away the fun and the adrenaline rush of the game, as there are no sneak attacks.

Avni: I have no issues with the new rules; it doesn’t make much of a difference to me. I think that having people wear masks to confirm a “kill” is a smart decision to keep people safe.

Why is there such an opposition from the students against assassins this year (why do you think teams have been disagreeing, dropping out, etc.)?

Madison: I believe the judges are one of the reasons people don't like the game. There is often subjective bias when it comes to determining the validity of “kills,” and the rules are ever changing. Unfortunately, I don't believe we've accomplished our goal of making this year's game better than last year's.

Avni: I think people are upset because it’s more difficult this year: it’s harder to find people in social distancing, and getting rid of salting has decreased the number of possible ways of assassinating players. I think the players should be more open-minded and relaxed towards the game this year. It’s only a game, and the prize money has excited players

to more than that. Assassins is intended to be fun and enjoyable.

Do you have any suggestions for the judges and students on how to make this year’s assassins more enjoyable for everyone?

Madison: I hope the judges will be able to adhere to the rules they created, free of bias. I also hope the students who would like to play are more competitive and take more risks to make the game more engaging, fun, and fair to all.

Avni: I think the judges shouldn’t respond to the claims of bias and unfair “kills” because in doing so they rouse opposition even further. I believe the judges should have the final word and the players should respect their decisions.

Assassins should be a break from the hyper partisanship of today’s society, not a reflection. Although we do “kill” each other, it is still just a game: an escape from the stresses of school and life, not a source. Therefore, we wish this article shows the consequences of rushed adaptation during the pandemic, an all too familiar phenomenon, and allow us to change from it and stray from this expectation associated with a quarantined life.



VOLUNTEERING IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

BY SHAWN SAHNAN

After seven months and multiple delays, schools are finally starting to open up again. While this may be a sign of changing times, for many, not much is different at all. Those who are immunocompromised or live with family members with underlying conditions are still quarantined in their homes waiting for a vaccine. Despite the challenges faced as the pandemic continues, we can and should be doing what we can to help those in need in these trying times. Below, I've comprised a list of five ways you can volunteer to help the community virtually during quarantine.

1) One way to contribute online is to **apply to be a crisis counselor**. Crisis counselors can work from anywhere with an internet connection, answering texts from those requesting help and helping them work through their situation. However, be careful — don't apply on a whim. To be a crisis counselor, you must complete a thirty-minute application, consent to a background check, and, if accepted, complete 30 hours of online training. Once you've finished these steps, you will be expected to volunteer for about four hours a week until you've volunteered for at least 200 hours, which typically takes about a year. This is because it costs over \$1000 dollars to train each crisis counselor.

2) If you're looking for less of a commitment, you may want to check out **DoSomething.org**. DoSomething.org is targeted towards young people, allowing them to volunteer online for a number of campaigns that may fit their interests. DoSomething.org has been successful with a large number of its campaigns, such as "urging Apple to diversify its emoji's, changing the dictionary definition of 'Black/black', and creating the largest crowdsourced anti-bullying guide."

3) One benefit of volunteering online is that you can help anywhere around the globe. The **United Nations Volunteers** allows you to do just that, connecting you to organizations in need of your specific skills whether they're teaching, writing, translating, or nearly anything else. The United Nations Volunteers already has over 12,000 volunteers from over 180 different countries working together online.

4) **Zooniverse** is a platform that allows anyone to join a team led by experts to contribute to a research project. With 50 active projects, there's no shortage of work, and you can choose to partake in research ranging from fighting antibiotic resistance to detecting gravitational waves.

5) Lastly, you can find volunteer opportunities online through the search tool **Catchafire**. By refining your search parameters, you can find volunteering that suits you whether you want to edit photos for an afternoon or help manage an organization's social media account over the course of a month.

Despite the quarantine, there are still many great ways to volunteer, some of which you may like even better than the opportunities you had before. The world doesn't stop for anyone, but more importantly neither do your NHS hours, so get moving.



Source: College Transitions

FROM HOME TO HORSE TO HEART

BY CALISTA WILK

Approximately half of the citizens in the United States feel mentally harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation. With such an alarming figure, it has become necessary to raise awareness not only about mental health but also about the organizations working to improve it. One such organization is Hunkapi Programs, a local nonprofit based at a farm that incorporates horses into therapy sessions. Named after one of Arizona State University's research programs, this unique method uses horseback riding to improve patients' self-esteem, minimize depression, and reduce anxiety. The benefits that Hunkapi offers to the community are proving to be especially important as people all throughout Arizona seek ways to relieve stress from quarantine.

Creating a connection between a horse and a participant is only one of the novel ways Hunkapi Programs approaches therapy sessions. Executive Assistant, Development Associate, and BASIS Scottsdale '19 alumna Sydney Romagnolo states that Hunkapi's mission is "to teach the world to fear less and love more." In order to help their participants recognize the effects that love and fear have on their everyday lives, Hunkapi provides horses to serve not only as physical support but also as an emotional partner in this journey. As the participant becomes more aware of their own emotional state, he or she gains more control over making the necessary adjustments to achieve their treatment goals and improve their lives.

In addition to helping their participants, Hunkapi positively impacts the lives of their staff and volunteers. Attracted by Hunkapi's unconditional love and inclusiveness, Romagnolo joined the community in 2014, recognizing "the impact of having a place to belong." This

impact can be best portrayed through the way participants are able to grow as individuals in "a place where they [believe they] belong." Reflecting on her development, Sydney finds Hunkapi to be "a vital asset to the community...that everyone needs to experience."

Nothing can stop this farm's love and warmth from reaching the community — not even a global pandemic. Despite receiving a large influx of requests for services due to COVID-19, Hunkapi has been able to adjust and meet safety protocols to ensure their staff and participants stay healthy. In addition to disinfecting their entire facility, they require those who wish to enter the property to fill out COVID-19 questionnaires and wear masks. Rather than shutting down, Hunkapi has changed the way they operate because they recognize and want to help the increased need for their mental health services in the community.

COVID-19 has imposed several limitations on the way people interact in the community, but Hunkapi is rising above these challenges to assist as many people as possible. Sydney Romagnolo advises everyone to stay connected by volunteering, whether it be online or socially distanced — or even at Hunkapi's own farm! From regularly caring for patients with mental illnesses to promptly responding to psychologically impactful events, mental health organizations such as Hunkapi Programs are the ones empowering and uplifting our community as we all face this difficult pandemic together. The best opportunity Hunkapi can offer the community, though, is a chance to open one's heart.



Source: Hunkapi.org

NAVIGATING THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

BY ALEX ZOU

With Election Day less than a week away and the COVID-19 pandemic continuing on with no clear end in sight, the 2020 presidential election will go down as one of the most unconventional elections ever held due to the nature of the changes taking place before our very eyes.

The very first presidential debate this year was held on September 29, 2020, with journalist Chris Wallace as the moderator for President Trump and former Vice President Biden. The debate focused on several major topics, ranging from the pandemic and racial issues to the integrity of the election and the appointment of Supreme Court justices.

In terms of the pandemic, both Trump and Biden have run consistent campaigns. Trump claims that his handling of the pandemic has prevented more American lives from being lost, citing his decision to shut down travel from China. In contrast, Biden accused Trump of mishandling the pandemic and downplaying the severity of COVID-19. Biden has also stated at the Democratic National Convention that if he is elected, he will implement “a national mandate to wear a mask.”

Racial tensions in 2020 were also an important topic in this debate. The wave of protests following the death of George Floyd ensured that both candidates would address the issue in some form. According to The Hill, Trump has repeatedly taken a hard-line approach to the protests across the United States, calling groups such as Black Lives Matter “extreme socialist” organizations. The Hill furthered that Trump portrayed himself as the “law and order” candidate in an attempt to appeal to suburban voters. However, when called upon to condemn “white supremacists and militia groups” during the debate, Trump refused to do so and reiterated that he saw the “left-wing” as the cause of the violence. Meanwhile, Biden has taken a stance that supports the peaceful protests, but condemns the

violence that has taken place. In addition, Biden has not supported the demands of some protester groups to defund police departments.

The integrity of the 2020 presidential election became a subject of much contention after moderator Chris Wallace questioned if either candidate would contest the result beyond Election Day. Given the projected increase in mail-in ballots this year due to the pandemic, a delay for determining who won the election is likely. Trump avoided answering the question by saying that “If it’s a fair election I am one hundred percent on board. But if I see tens of thousands of ballots being manipulated, I can’t go along with that.” According to ABC News, Trump has called mail-in voting a ‘sham.’ On the other side, Biden said that he was willing to accept the results of the election and called mail-in ballots “honest.”

Finally, the issue of appointing Supreme Court Justices arose in debate. After the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Trump appointed Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. Trump defended the Republican movement to confirm Barret before Election Day. Biden opposed Trump’s rhetoric by arguing that the “we should wait and see what the outcome of this election is” and that whoever won on Election Day should be able to appoint a candidate to become a Supreme Court Justice.

Of course, the decision of who won the first presidential debate is up to each individual person, but as the presidential election moves forward, one can be sure that there will be major changes taking place throughout the United States. Regardless, the final decision of who will become the President and leader of the United States will be decided on Election Day by the American public.



Source: CNN

OPINION

ICE COLD: THE CASE FOR ABOLISHING ICE

BY SAHIL SUD

The United States has always viewed itself as a place where people of all races and ethnicities can come together, although it is not historically accurate. According to the Washington Post, Canada and Europe have far higher racial and ethnic diversity than America. One of the main reasons for this is ICE, or Immigration Customs and Enforcement. Rather than discovering peace and a place to start anew, immigrants are met with even more violence and abuse, courtesy of ICE.

ICE was founded through the Homeland Security Act of 2002, in one of the many government overreaches following the September 11th attacks. Since then, it has been a vehicle for abusing desperate immigrants. You may remember when, as CNN reports, in November 2018, border patrol agents tear-gassed immigrants at the San Ysidro border crossing. What's even worse is that Kevin McAleenan, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner, praised this response, arguing that agents "effectively managed a potentially dangerous situation." This is not an isolated incident, and speaks to an even deeper issue within ICE and its culture.

ICE has had extraordinarily destructive effects on the lives of immigrants, regardless of their situation of legality. There are hundreds of examples of ICE abusing immigrants. ICE has destroyed the idea of the United States being a country of rehabilitation.

We haven't even gotten to the most serious issue regarding ICE—its horrific detention centers. Abuse at ICE detention centers has long been an issue, with continuous reports of staff violating the detainees' rights. As The New York Times reported in 2014, a 19-year-old woman seeking asylum known as E.D., who was detained with her three-year-old child, was sexually assaulted by a male guard. The record in her lawsuit shows that the attacker extorted her, threatening her with deportation if she refused. Even worse, this wasn't an isolated incident. According to the ACLU, ICE reported 1,448 cases of sexual assault between 2012 and 2018, with 237 occurring in 2017. This number is likely underreported, as the culture of victim-blaming prevents women from reporting abuses. According



Source: LA Times

to the Intercept, responses from the Department of Homeland Security indicate that the office received some 33,000 complaints between 2010 and 2016.

This issue has only worsened as COVID-19 has spread. While ICE claims that it adequately protects immigrants from the virus, a report from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General surveying ICE agents shows that this statement is a blatant lie. The LA Times found that ICE agents deliberately limited access to both testing kits and personal protective equipment like masks. This, along with ICE's practice of packing immigrants together, has allowed the coronavirus to spread like wildfire. Even with this limited testing, ICE has reported at least 3,000 positive tests, and 11 countries have reported that new deportees have contracted the virus in the United States.

Let's protect human rights. Without drastic reform, ICE will continue to endanger migrants. If you can, donate or volunteer for local organizations like Puente and please exercise your right to vote.

MONTHLY MUNCHIES

HALLOWEEN RICE KRISPY TREATS

BY DYLAN SOSINSKY
AND JONAH MARWIL

Are you looking for a quick and tasty Halloween snack to serve at events? Look no further—this recipe is easy to follow for a little get together. Even if you're not a baking expert, there's few ways to mess up this recipe! Let's get to it!

Halloween Rice Krispy Treats:

Ingredients:

- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 15 ounces marshmallows (use mini or regular sized); about 1.5 bags (10 ounces)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 9 cups Rice Krispies Cereal
- 1 cup Halloween M&Ms (regular work too)
- ½ cup Halloween Sprinkle
- 1 cup candy corn

Instructions:

1. Line a 9×13-inch baking pan with foil and spray with cooking spray. Set aside.
2. Melt the butter and the marshmallows in a medium-sized saucepan over medium-low heat. Once the marshmallows are melted, remove from heat and stir in the vanilla. Quickly stir in the cereal. Add in and stir the candy and sprinkles as well.
3. Pour the marshmallow-cereal mixture into the prepared baking dish. Press to flatten. (I like to spray my hands with cooking spray to press the treats into the pan—just be careful not to burn yourself.) Cool completely before cutting into squares.

Taste Test:

After I completed baking this treat, I requested the opinions of my family members.

Mom

- Pros: unexpected texture and flavor combinations
- Cons: too sweet



Source: crazyforcrust.com

Dad

- Pros: more flavor than original
- Cons: also too sweet

Brother

- Pros: perfectly sweet and he loved the candy corn
- Cons: didn't like M&Ms

YOU CHOOSE!

Over the past few weeks, I have been surveying four various BASIS Scottsdale students, asking them to rate ten popular candies on a scale of 1-10. The average results for each candy are shown on the graph below. If you look at the graph, you will see that candy corn has the worst rating at a mere 3.5/10. Yusef Khalifa (8W) said, "It tastes very odd and is hard and chewy," while Augusto Brevetti (8F) stated that "it has a little too much after taste." Sour Patch Kids has the best rating with a whopping 9.3/10. Zain Agha (8W) said, "I love Sour Patch Kids because it makes the flavor of the candy very good in your mouth. I also like the different flavors of sour patch because they all taste different and unique, unlike other candies where all the flavors taste the same."

Candy	Reese's Peanut Butter Cups	Sour Patch Kids	M&Ms	Candy Corn	Almond Joy	Twix	Kit Kat	Hershey bar	Skittles	Snickers
Average (1-10)	7.5	9.3	7.5	3.5	4.8	8	7.3	8	6.5	5.3



WORST



BEST

It seems candy corn is a much disliked candy, but this survey does not speak for the whole world. In fact, this survey doesn't even speak for 0.0000001% of it. If you like, candy corn, don't feel pressured to hate it, and if you hate sour patch, don't feel pressured to like it after seeing this survey. I think almost all of us can agree on one thing— candy is amazing!

Note: If you have ideas to contribute for next month, please email us at jonahmarwil@icloud.com and dsosinsky214@gmail.com

COVIDWEEN PERSONALITY QUIZ

BY ALLISON LI

Spooktober is officially here, and Halloween lands perfectly on a Saturday. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, this great coincidence will unfortunately not have many benefits. Had it not been for COVID-19, most of us would probably be staying outside trick-or-treating for as late as we can, visiting haunted houses, or going to Halloween parties. There is also the development of new Halloween costumes and personalities. Thus, I bring you the official Halloween-19 personality quiz! What's your Halloween personality during a global pandemic?



Source: Eater

1. It's the start of the night on October 31st, what do you plan on doing first tonight?
 - a) Go to a Halloween-themed party (4 pts)
 - b) Start trick-or-treating (3 pts)
 - c) Go to a haunted house (2 pts)
 - d) Stay at home just to be safe (1 pt)
2. Imagine that you go to a Halloween party—what is your costume?
 - a) A COVID-19-themed costume (such as a roll of toilet paper) (4 pts)
 - b) An animal costume (such as a cat) (2 pts)
 - c) I'm not at the party (1pt)
 - d) A scary costume (such as an empty toilet paper shelf) (3 pts)
3. At the party, you see your crush and he/she offers to get a drink—what do you do?
 - a) Politely decline and get your own drink for sanitary reasons (2 pts)
 - b) Accept (3 pts)
 - c) Ask him/her to get you some food instead (4 pts)
 - d) Run to your friends for backup (1 pt)
4. As you are partying, you suddenly see someone not wearing a mask, what do you do?
 - a) Tell the host of the party (2 pts)
 - b) I'm not at the party (1 pt)
 - c) Tell them to put a mask on (4 pts)
 - d) Keep your distance and glare at them until they put a mask on (3 pts)
5. After you went to the party, you and some of your friends decide to go to a haunted house—which one do you choose?
 - a) I'm still at home (1 pt)
 - b) The one that looks like a Walmart (but with empty shelves of course) (4 pts)
 - c) The one that has been labelled "Karen's Haunted House" (3 pts)
 - d) One of the "generic" haunted houses (2 pts)
6. As you are about to enter the haunted house, you see an angry woman without a mask arguing with one of the staff members—what do you do?
 - a) Scream out "Karen" as loud as you can and then run (3 pts)
 - b) Pull your mask up and pray that the Karen won't turn your way (2 pts)
 - c) Redirect yourself to a different haunted house, preferably one that has no Karen's (1 pt)
 - d) Walk up to the woman, shove a mask in her face and spray her hands with a good amount of hand sanitizer (4 pts)
7. While you are inside one of the haunted houses, you catch up with the group that went in before you guys—what do you do?
 - a) Politely wait by the creepy clown statue that may or may not be a living human (2 pts)
 - b) Keep walking so that the group in front is forced to continue (3 pts)
 - c) Run towards them like you work in the haunted house and scare them (4 pts)
 - d) I didn't go with my friends (1 pt)

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8. There is an area at the haunted house where people can go to take their masks off, what do you think of this area?
- It's cool as long as people don't stand too close to each other (3 pts)
 - I don't really care; I'm still keeping my mask on (2 pts)
 - They really shouldn't do that it's a bit dangerous (1 pt)
 - You only live once so why not (4 pts)
9. After you've been satisfyingly scared, you and your friends decide to go trick-or-treating—where do you choose to go?
- The neighborhood with the most candy (3 pts)
 - The neighborhood where you sit on the sidewalk and people drive through throwing candy at you (4 pts)
 - One of your friend's neighborhoods (2 pts)
 - Go home and leave early (1 pt)
10. While you are trick-or-treating, you go up to a house and see bowls of hand sanitizer, candy, toilet paper, and masks—which do you choose?
- Mask (1pt)
 - Toilet paper (3 pts)
 - Candy (4 pts)
 - Hand sanitizer (2 pts)
11. As you begin to walk to your car/home, you realize that there's someone, who's not wearing a mask, following you and your friends, what do you do?
- Turn around and throw them a mask as well as hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes (4 pts)
 - Run away they're creepy (2 pts)
 - Keep walking and ignore them (3 pts)
 - I literally stayed at home so there is no one here (1 pt)
12. After trick-or-treating, you're dehydrated and need water, what do you do?
- Go to the local grocery store and buy some water (4 pts)
 - I brought water from home (3 pts)
 - I didn't go trick-or-treating (1 pt)
 - Wait until I get home to get water (2 pts)
13. You finally get home, what do you do with all the candy you got?
- Put the candy away for later (3 pts)
 - Sanitize the candy wrappers just to be safe (2 pts)
 - I bought candy from the store so I'm fine (1 pt)
 - Eat the candy... YOLO right? (4 pts)

The YOLO trick-or-treater (48-52 pts): You could care less about the global pandemic although the pandemic has given you an amazing theme for everything this year. You're bold when it comes to being with friends and having fun but you still make sure to be safe and ensure that others are safe as well.

The Normal trick-or-treater (32-47 pts): You went out with your friends as if nothing has changed and there is no global pandemic now. However, for your safety and others, you still wear your mask although you would go out without one if you were alone. If you see other people without masks, you wouldn't confront them directly although you would be disappointed by their poor life-choices.

The Unsure trick-or-treater (16-31 pts): While you decided to go and hangout with your friends this year, you're still unsure whether you made the right decision. You're probably an extroverted introvert and while you enjoy being in the company of your friends, you still make sure to obey safety guidelines.

The No trick-or-treater (0-15 pts): You are doing your part socially distancing even though it's Halloween. Good for you! You're probably pretty introverted but you won't be able to stay inside and away from society all year.



Source: Etsy

KISHORE'S PUZZLE PAGE

SPOOKTOBER SEARCH

BY KISHORE RAJESH

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

Word Bank:

- BLOOD
- CANDY
- CORN
- COSTUMES
- FALL
- GHOST
- HALLOWEEN
- HAUNTED
- JACKOLANTERN
- PUMPKIN
- SCARECROW
- SKELETON
- SPOOKY
- WITCH

MATH MINDBENDERS

BY KISHORE RAJESH

Algebra:

What is wrong with the following “proof” that $1=2$?

$$1-1=1^2-1^2$$

$$1-1=(1-1)(1+1)$$

$$(1-1)/(1-1)=(1-1)(1+1)/(1-1)$$

Cancelling out 1-1 from the numerator and denominator on the RHS:

$$1=1+1$$

$$1=2$$

Precalculus:

Imagine we have a huge block of cheese. We wish to create the largest number of cheese pieces using n straight cuts using a knife. Ignoring the size of the pieces, what’s the largest number of pieces we can make using n cuts?

Calculus:

Is there a function $f(x)$ such that $f'(x)=c*f(x)$, where c is a constant? Now what if $f''(x)=c*f(x)$? If $f'''(x)=c*f(x)$? Try to generalize this.

Discrete Math:

Last month we found a way to find if a number is divisible by 13. Try to generalize this to some prime p .

History of Math:

Many ancient civilizations used different number systems. Devise a process for adding roman numerals. Devise a process for multiplying roman numerals. (An added challenge: division)

Multivariable Calculus:

Find a function $f(x,y)$ such that the 3D graph of $f(x,y)$ looks like 2 different ‘mountains.’



Source: Pinterest

COMIC O' COVIDWEEN

BY TRISTAN CLARKE

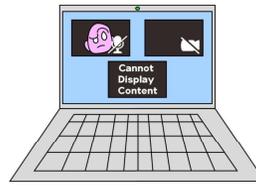
HOW TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN: COVID EDITION

IT'S A SATURDAY THIS YEAR!

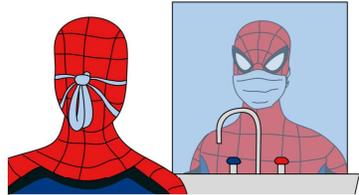


DON'T FORGET TO WEAR A MASK!

THROW A ZOOM PARTY!



WATCH SOMETHING SCARY!



GO TRICK OR TREATING! (SOCIALLY DISTANT)



CARVE A PUMPKIN!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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