



# THE VOYAGER

APRIL 2020



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A NOTE FROM  
THE  
NEWSPAPER  
STAFF  
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SPRING IS AROUND  
THE CORNER!

WE HAVE A LOT OF  
NEW ARTICLES IN THIS  
ISSUE, FROM THE  
EFFECTS OF THE  
CORONAVIRUS TO  
MANAGING STRESS.  
PLEASE READ THE  
ENTIRE ISSUE TO  
FIND OUT!

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*On the front cover:  
The school's drama club presents The Newsies.*

## **LET'S TALK ABOUT 5G BY HARVEY WANG**

Over the past two years, consumers have been drowned in an endless stream of 5G advertisements, touting incredibly fast internet speeds. But what is 5G, and why isn't anybody using it yet?

The G in 5G represents "generation." Each generation has vast improvements over the previous; 4G speeds average around 80-120 Mbps (megabits per second), while some 5G carriers already boast over 2 Gbps (gigabits per second), which is equivalent to 2000 Mbps. The goal is to be able to transfer **more data** at a **faster speed** with **lower latency**. Beyond watching Netflix lag-free, 5G also holds the potential to support a new era of autonomous driving and remote robotic surgery. Here's the catch: these insane 5G internet numbers are only possible with "millimeter waves," which have one major drawback -- they don't travel well through objects, severely limiting the range of each 5G tower.

As a result, different carriers have taken various strategies in the 5G market. T-Mobile, for instance, has decided to use a "low-band" system that has decent coverage since its waves can pierce through buildings well. The tradeoff is the speed; T-Mobile's 5G currently averages only 20% faster than current 4G speeds. On the opposite end of the spectrum is Verizon, which has adopted "high-band" 5G that can offer over 1Gbps speeds but only in around 30 major cities... on certain streets... in specific parts of each street. Currently, 5G coverage in the United States is rather lackluster, and those who do have access to it likely experience marginal improvements from 4G speeds.

As of now, 5G is a matter of balancing coverage with internet speeds. No matter which carrier you use, it's 5G network will make sacrifices in one area or the other. Despite what carriers are saying, 5G as it was originally envisioned still has a long way to go, so don't be too impatient to shell out on the newest 5G-ready smartphones.

## **PANDEMICS BY KATE POHNER**

Pandemics that have changed history.

A pandemic is the spread of a disease that affects an entire country or the world. They are different than epidemics because an epidemic can be the spread of something behavioral or inherited. There have been many pandemics over the course of the world's history that have altered the way humans have adapted to life. The earliest pandemic was recorded during the Peloponnesian War that affected much of Africa. It killed two thirds of the Athenians during the Spartan siege, allowing the Spartans to defeat them.

Another big pandemic that is still occurring today Leprosy. It became a problem in the 11th century and caused the spread of several hospitals focused on the disease. This bacterial disease, known as Hansen's disease, still affects thousands of people each year and can be fatal.

Arguably the most known pandemic was the Black Death in the 1340's and 50's. It killed one third of the entire world's population and was so devastating that the English and French called a truce in their war, and the Vikings stopped exploration in North America.

The Columbian Exchange was the spark of the spread of many diseases into the New World. The Native Americans were infected with smallpox, measles, and the bubonic plague. It affected 90% of the Natives at about 56 million in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The measles pandemic of 1875 killed about 40,000 people in Fiji. Soon after the island became a part of the British Empire, the Royal Family paid a visit, bringing measles along with them. Entire villages were burned down along with the dead bodies that were scattered across the island, leaving one third of the population dead.

The spread of HIV/AIDS was the cause of 35 million deaths

worldwide. The sexually transmitted disease affects a person's immune system that causes them to eventually die from small diseases that the body could normally fight off. Most notably, the face of the band Queen, Freddie Mercury, passed away from pneumonia due to AIDS.

## ***HITTING PAUSE BY LAUREN GEIGER***

For thirteen years and with the help of High School Musical 3, the senior class has been looking forward to their final year of school in the Parsippany - Troy Hills Township District. The final marking period of our senior year was set to bring a slew of activities for the senior class to enjoy: prom and prom weekend, graduation and project graduation, and the start of our adult lives. The warm, inviting spring air was supposed to flood the senior class with something much better than seasonal allergies; it was set to bring forth memories that would last a lifetime. It was supposed to be different than this.

Upon the introduction of COVID-19 into the United States, students in schools across the country have closed, requiring teachers to continue educating their students through means of online communication. Teachers in these school districts are expected to teach their students new information over online chat sessions, like Zoom and Google Meets, and assign homework as if it was a normal school day. This was a curveball thrown at both teachers and students alike, and yet, the expectations remain the same. Students are expected to, like any normal day, complete a six-hour school day and then complete any assigned homework, except there is truly no "homework" anymore because, thanks to being stuck in our houses 24/7, "schoolwork" is now "homework".

For the student-athletes, the novel virus has postponed all spring seasons until we go back to school, that is if we even go back to school. For seniors, this means a significantly shorter senior season, a significantly less amount of time to create final memories on the field, and an overall significant increase in boredom that unfortunately plagues both athletes

and students. Even those involved in school plays are faced with a giant hole in their hearts where the play once was.

The coronavirus has impacted every aspect of American life. Families can no longer visit their grandparents for fear that they will transmit the virus, friends can no longer hang out, and athletes can no longer play the sport that they love with a team that they love. Doctors and nurses are working around the clock to provide care and support for their patients, hoping that they can save as many lives as possible. Some families are even struggling under the weight of unemployment and are continuing their search for a job so that they can provide for their family. There is no question that this uncertain time has been extremely difficult and has negatively affected everyone involved.

Though it is only a small portion of this country, the seniors especially are faced with numerous doubts that they thought they would never have to question before. Is there going to be a prom? Is there going to be graduation? Will we return to school? Will we get the opportunity to say a proper goodbye to our teachers and classmates before starting a new chapter in our lives?

I hold hope that 2020 will turn itself around for not just the seniors' sake, but for everyone. 2020 was supposed to be our year, and it still can be, but for now, 2020 has been put on pause. I only hope this year hits play sometime soon.



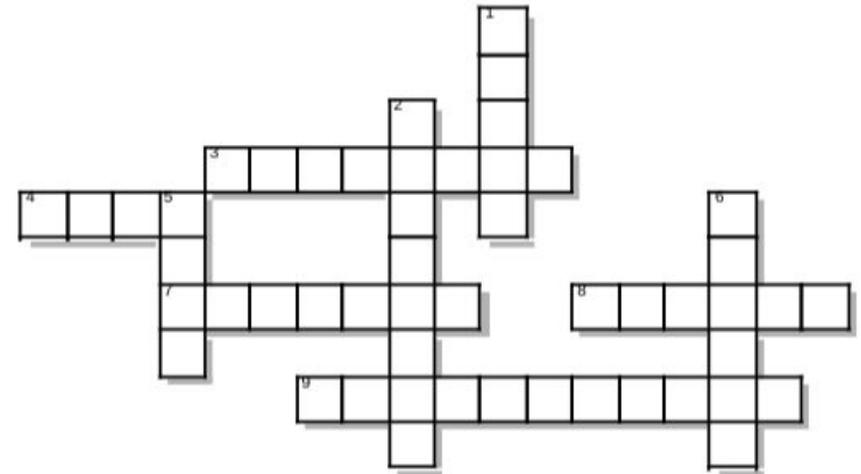
While we are all stuck in the isolation of our own rooms and houses, it is very easy to be overwhelmed by work and bored with free time. There are several things that you can do at home or in your neighborhood to have fun and keep everyone safe at the same time. First, you need to get some fresh air. Go outside and walk around your block, or go into your backyard for a little bit each day. It's important that you don't stay inside all day because you still need sunshine and fresh air. Another thing is exercise. Since all sports are shut down right now, it's important to keep in shape so that if/when the sports season does start up again, everybody is still ready to play. Additionally, exercise is a good way to relieve stress and it's rewarding as well.

The easiest way to distract yourself is through technology, and we have plenty of it. But it's important that you don't spend your entire day on your phone or binging your new favorite show. Your time is much better spent doing something productive.

If you find yourself overwhelmed by the workload that online school provides, there are some things you can do to manage that. Don't procrastinate with your work because it can often get overwhelming if you don't spread out the assignments. You also should keep a list or a schedule of everything you have to do. You no longer can be reminded of when things are due because you don't see your teachers everyday, so that makes checking your email and Google Classroom very important.

Take the time to relax. Don't spend all day working on homework and assignments because your brain needs a break. If you ever feel stressed out, get some food and take a nap or something to free your mind. We are all not used to this kind of environment, so it's normal to feel overwhelmed.

**COVID-19**



**ACROSS**

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- 7 Distance Recommended By Officials To Help Reduce Chance of Infection
- 8 Brand Of Disinfecting Wipes
- 9 Something You Wouldn't Think Would Be A Hot Commodity At This Time

**DOWN**

- 1 Head Of Coronavirus Task Force
- 2 Epidemic That Has Spread Over A Large Region
- 5 Worn Over The Face By Health Care Workers
- 6 On The Front Lines