

THE MCKINLEY TIMES

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Serving the McKinley Community Since 2020

Volume IX



Travel Review: Disney World

by Zoe G.

Are you ready to finally travel this summer? I recently went to Disney World located in beautiful Orlando, Florida. Yes, I took a six hour flight to get there, but it was definitely worth it! There are many different Disney adventures all in one place! There are places like Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, Epcot, and Hollywood Studios at Disney World! Yes, a few attractions remain closed, but we still had a variety of parks to keep us busy for a whole week!

After school each day, we immediately took the Skyliner to the park. We went on as many rides as we could until it closed.

Disney World enforced all the safety measures. Visitors were being responsible by wearing masks, using the hand sanitizer stations and maintaining a 6 foot distance apart from each other. While waiting in line, there are stickers on the ground to indicate a 6 foot dis-

tance between parties. The lines do not have a limit, but they may tell you that you can come back later when the line is shorter. The lines were surprisingly short during the weekdays.

So, here are my top three favorite rides:

Avatar Flight of Passage This is a 3D simulator where you get to ride a flying banshee over the beautiful world of Pandora!

Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance An exciting experience where you become a prisoner of the First Order and you end up in the middle of the battle while you're trying to escape.

Space Mountain An indoor roller coaster in outer space where all you see are stars and darkness. You don't know where you'll end up next!

In Anaheim, we have the Star Wars and Space Mountain rides at Disneyland. But, if you want to experience the world of Pandora, you'll have to make the trip to Florida.

If you're interested in world travel, Epcot Center is the place for you. I was able to visit places like Japan, the United Kingdom, Morocco, China, Germany, and Italy. I was happy to see that they are opening Gusteau's, a restaurant from the movie Ratatouille, in France at Epcot in the future.

I recommend going to Disney World, because they have a ton of fun rides and you can go on many adventures. I went before the Summer season so the lines were short and the crowds were not too crazy. If you go now, my guess is the lines will be a little bit longer. Overall, I'd say to make the trip out there! I promise you won't be disappointed!

April was Poetry Month! Poetry Month was first established in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets. This year was the 25th anniversary of the celebration.

The Flowers

by Juliet S.

Flowers do not know their beauty,
They do not speak,
For their tongues are
Encased in petals
Fragile and soft.

Sound, they have never known.
Their eyes do not open,
For they have no need to look upon the
world of men.

And yet, the world of men seeks to
know them.
Gardens planted,
Exploiting nonexistent vanity.
Their monuments of chain link fences
Graced with the presence of mandevillas.

We give them homes where we can
admire them,
Slight admiration as we pass,
And yet we kill them for the sheer pleasure
of the
Beauty it gives our homes.
In vases they stand,
Heart beating for a few final moments,
Then stopping abruptly.
Vibrancy fades, and we quickly replace
those who we thought we held dear.



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10 Questions with a McKinley Lion

by Matthew S.

In the 7 years that Ms. Marshall taught 3rd grade at McKinley, I was lucky to be one of her students. I often think back to that year and remember how much I learned from Ms. Marshall, especially in math! What is interesting is that I also remember how Ms. Marshall was interested in health and sports. She is even a certified personal trainer! Now, she works as an Instructional Coach at McKinley. It almost combines her talent for training and coaching with her love of teaching. She helps the teachers to be the best teachers they can be – which ends up helping all of us! As she put it, “the teachers are the experts and the professionals, but I am there to help them if they get stuck or want to try something new with their students.”

Read my interview with Ms. Marshall to learn more about her and some of her favorite things (which doesn't include whistling or cilantro!)

1. What was your favorite book when you were a kid?

“My favorite book as a kid was “Catherine, Called Birdy” by Karen Cushman. I liked it because the main character, Birdy, was strong, fierce, independent, and didn't really fit into the box her society created for her. I could really relate to her - I feel the same way very often. At the end of the book, she finds where she fits and is able to still be herself while being part of the larger community.”

2. What was your favorite school subject?

“My favorite school subject was math. I loved how I had to think deeply and problem solve to get the answers. I also liked how math followed specific rules and is organized.”

3. What is your favorite movie?

“I LOVE movies so I always struggle to pick a favorite; my favorite changes from day to day and mood to mood. Ha! But, one movie that I really love is “The Emperor's New Groove.” It cracks me up every time. The characters are so different and so funny, it puts me in a great mood.”

4. What is your favorite board or card game?

“I don't know if it counts as a board game, but my favorite is Yahtzee. It's a dice game. I grew up playing it with my family - we actually still play it regularly. It's fun and fast-paced and since it's all luck, you never know what's going to

happen.”

5. What is your favorite sport to play or watch?

“I also love sports - so much! I love to watch and play most sports. My current favorite sport to play is flag football. I like it because it wasn't a sport that I could play as a girl growing up, so it's a fun and new experience.”

6. What are three things you like to do outside of school?

“Outside of school, I love to spend time with my family, exercise (I'm a runner and a weightlifter), and read.”

7. What is your favorite food?

“I love to eat and I love food, so I'll narrow it down to my top 3 favorite foods. They are nachos with lots of toppings, pulled pork, and Thai yellow curry. But... I'll eat or try just about anything-except cilantro.”

8. What is your favorite candy?

“I love anything with chocolate - dark chocolate, milk chocolate, white chocolate - I love it all.”

9. What is your favorite animal?

“My favorite animal is the killer whale. I think they are so beautiful. They also seem to have big personalities, which I really like.”

10. Can you tell us some interesting facts about you?

“Some interesting facts are: I am left-handed. I can't whistle. I am also a certified personal trainer and I love roller coasters.”

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WandaVision Review

by Daisy M.

WandaVision is based on the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) movie characters Wanda Maximoff and The Vision. The beginning of the show looks like an old sitcom with a laugh track, but each week it became more and more like a Marvel movie, complete with collateral damage, heart breaks, and lots of fighting. Each episode appeared to take place in a different decade and modeled off of the sitcoms of that time, for example, Malcolm in the Middle, Brady Bunch, Full House, etc. At the end of each episode, there was always a twist which would surprise everyone. Viewers who watch the show have conversations and theories about it.

Wanda Maximoff was introduced as a minor character in Avengers Age of

Ultron, although, after WandaVision, she became a bigger character. She has become a more popular character and will most likely make an appearance in Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness. The Vision was introduced as a clone of Tony Stark's J.A.R.V.I.S. The Vision and Wanda started to hang out in Captain America Civil War when Wanda was asked to quarantine in The Avengers Compound with Vision. Their little relationship goes a long way until WandaVision. The show introduces and recasts characters who have most likely blipped. Some of the characters are going to be making appearances in other movies.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed this series with my family and I think it is a great series to watch.

Ways to slowly start adjusting to normal life

by Shayla A.

I'm excited that the vaccine is out and that we are back at school, but I'm still a bit nervous and some of you might be too. I am going to share some tips on how to start adjusting to normal life, especially because we are in a confusing stage of coronavirus where some things are happening and some things aren't. We still have to wear masks, but we can go back to school. People need to slowly start adjusting to eating lunch at school. I first felt nervous when I did this, but it soon started to feel normal. The same thing applied to being three feet away from someone instead of six. We also have to go back to exercising and PE outside, and it is more tiring than the PE videos.

Many of us have decided to come back

to school. It has been really fun but, at first, you may have been anxious. You have every right to be. When I arrived at school, I was still worried about coronavirus because we have basically been in quarantine for an entire year! But, I saw people at school being calm so I felt calm too. I made myself more comfortable by meeting up with a few people and talking to them in person. I also made play dates, but still outdoors. These are some ideas that helped me to slowly open up.

There are still times I feel anxious, because you still have to be careful and we can't just wave our wands and make coronavirus disappear. At those times, I take a deep breath in and out. Or I try running around a bit, distracting myself from what I'm nervous about. Fidgeting and talking to someone also helps. I feel better after doing some of these things and maybe you will too.

It seems like everybody wants to go back to normal life. What is normal? Was there ever a normal? Normal is just a thing we invented for something that goes on for a long time. Like the "normal" before coronavirus. Now we have a new normal because we are not sure how long it will be before masks go away. And just like the flu shot, there is a chance that there will be a Covid shot every year. Coronavirus is now part of our lives but hopefully we will be able to go to a time with no masks.



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Gender Identity

by Loretta P.

Hello, my name is Loretta and I am trying to spread awareness of the LGBTQ+ community, specifically the nonbinary community, including agender, genderfluid, demigender, and more gender identities outside of the gender binary. If you don't know what any of this is, don't feel bad, because that is what I was just about to explain.

Let's start off with nonbinary. I personally identify as nonbinary, (or enby), and if you ask different people you will get a different answer each time, but from personal experience, I would define it as not identifying as a girl or a boy, therefore being outside of the gender binary along with the rest of the genders I will be talking about today. Although there is no opposite to nonbinary, if there was, then agender would be that opposite. (Before moving on, I would like to say that this is all from personal experience.) I would define identifying as agender to be identifying as both a girl and a boy. Now if I were to explain demigender, I would probably say that it is when you don't fully feel

like one gender, but you half feel like it. For example, you could feel like you identify half as a boy, and half as non-binary.

Next is genderfluid. To me, being genderfluid means feeling like one gender one day, then the next feeling like another one. For example, if I was genderfluid, I might identify as male for a few days, then nonbinary the next day.

If you identify as any of the genders I have just explained and I said something really wrong, then I apologize, because once again this is just from personal experience and I'm not that much of an expert so if you know anyone that identifies as any of these then ask them how they would describe their gender because it's always nice to know stuff like this from multiple sources.

This next part should be way less confusing, considering this is something we all learned about a while ago, which is pronouns.

First I am going to talk about my pronouns. The pronouns I identify with are they/them pronouns, which can be used in singular and plural instances. To illustrate using pronouns other than she/her or he/him pronouns, I am going to put sentences for two sets of pronouns, although there are many pronouns. Also, since I didn't list that many pronouns, you can probably just look up "pronouns list" and go to images to find a lot of different pronouns and when in a sentence to use them.

They/them

"Oh, (name) dropped their donut here. I'll set it aside for them, I bet they are looking everywhere! They seem to be thinking very highly of themselves today, I wouldn't want to ruin their mood, since the donut is theirs."

Ze/hir

"Oh, (name) dropped hir donut here. I'll set it aside for hir, I bet ze are looking everywhere! Ze seems to be thinking very highly of himself today, I wouldn't want to ruin hir mood, since the donut is hers."

If you have any questions regarding gender identity, or if you are questioning your gender, then feel free to reach out to me. My school email is Imp2@smmk12.org and my home email is loretta.m.pettinato@gmail.com, and also think about asking our school counselor, Carla Nuez and your parent(s).

Lulu's Beach Day

by Tea G.

One day Lulu Lance went to the beach with his alien friends. They got their beach towels and umbrellas and they got set up. They saw

sand,
the ocean,
shells,
towels,
palm trees,
boats,
seagulls,
and

Godzilla splashing with the Easter Bunny in the water.

It was a nice day.



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Summer Days

by Eloise J.

Sunny days,
Upcoming beach days,
Many hot days,
Many green trees,
Every day a hot day,
Red hot sun.

Lemonade

by Emma L.

Roses are red,
Lemonade is yellow,
I don't know why,
But it tastes so mellow.



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