

THE MCKINLEY TIMES

November 2020

Serving the McKinley Community Since 2020

Volume V



photo from CNN.com

2020 Election Results

by Jonah C.

The 2020 Presidential race was an exciting race to watch. On November 3rd, former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris faced off against President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. It took a few more days to finish counting the votes, but in the end Joe Biden won and is the 46th president of the United States and he will enjoy four years in the White House.

Bias and Anti-Bullying

by An N.

Here at McKinley, we highly encourage kids to have anti-bullying standards, and while we think all students are upholding these standards, in reality, sometimes even the smallest things can affect how people feel.

Sometimes, kids will feel that they are treated differently from others, sometimes based on their gender, race, ethnicity or other. Sometimes, people feel these biases in everyday things., such as practicing basketball or playing with others. You need empathy to see what they feel. You should always put some extra effort to understanding what others are feeling.

Some kids from 5th Grade were able to respond to a quick questionnaire of what they felt about the subject. In these experiences though, it could be outside of school or inside of school. We can work to understand each others' backgrounds by asking friends to translate topics of interest into the language that they are most comfortable speaking. One 5th grader said that yes, he felt that he was treated differently because of his looks. I feel as though these things happening every day can sometimes go unnoticed. When feeling this way, it is important to talk to any teacher or staff member at McKinley and ask for help.

During Covid, Olivia Z., 5th, said that, "I feel like I've changed, and so has everyone else. I think we've all been affected by this pandemic but haven't necessarily treated each other differently." People can feel judged by race, like me, being an Asian girl. I feel that sometimes people will blame me for this pandemic, even though I'm just from Asia, that does not mean that I'm responsible for all this. Nobody is.

Chloe H., 5th, said that she didn't see anything change during this pandemic so she didn't really have any change in reaction. Olivia W., 5th, said that she did see people getting treated differently during this pandemic. Someone anonymous, said that they were "very sad." Knowing that people were treated differently during this pandemic. I feel that sometimes it is disappointing knowing that others are treated differently.

Knowing all these facts can sometimes make you feel a bit sad, but knowing that people are trying their hardest to improve this makes you feel so much better! Always try your hardest to make the world you live in, a better place.

Will Football Season Shut Down?

by Jonah C.

The NFL is one of the most popular sports organizations. NFL stands for the National Football League. There are about 1,700 players in the NFL today. Those 1,700 players are divided into thirty-two national teams in the US. The National Football League's Super Bowl is one of the most viewed games of all time, having about 100 million viewers. But this season might not end. The NFL is having problems with Covid-19 cases. They have had more cases than the NBA and MLB had and the season is just two-thirds through. There have been a few team outbreaks of Coronavirus that have caused postponed and canceled games. More than 25 games have been rescheduled already and more are to come. The NCAAF is the college football league, there are way more teams than in the NFL but that means more cases and canceled games. Even though masks are uncomfortable, they are the best way to make sure that no one gets sick. It is important to make sure that everyone is safe so the season can continue. Because if the Covid list grows too big, the NFL and NCAAF might have to end their seasons for fan and player safety.



CURRENT EVENTS



Safe Ways to Celebrate

by Delilah P.

This holiday season will be different than others, and in fall there is one big holiday where families usually gather together - Thanksgiving. But, this year will be different because of coronavirus. Meeting up with family has risks and the best decision might not be to meet up with family without precautions: avoid meeting up inside, without any masks, and without a coronavirus test. But there are still ways to stay safe and still spend time with others. Because of California's climate people can also meet outside. But this is also especially important to stay safe if there is someone at high risk or someone who could get more sick like if for example a family member was pregnant, or had health problems.

You should also consider the health of the broader community not just the family members that you may see over Thanksgiving. Coronavirus symptoms sometimes don't show up for a few days. So if you meet up over the holidays without any masks and everyone gets it, you might not know for a few days and those people could spread it to other people, and other people, and other people. This is what makes coronavirus hard to control. Wearing masks can also really help

stop the spread of coronavirus. Because of how coronavirus spreads, it means that you might not know if you have it if you are symptomatic for the first few days. Meaning you do not have coronavirus symptoms. This can make it easier to spread. Coronavirus is usually spread by breathing on other people., which is why you should wear masks. So please stay safe this holiday season in 2020 Go Lions!

Exploring Your Family History

by Juliet S.

We are going into the winter months, and with the combination of cold weather and COVID_19, people will be inside a lot more. It is fun to have a project during time inside, because it keeps you busy and gives you something to do. In this article you will learn about a fun project to do during this time.

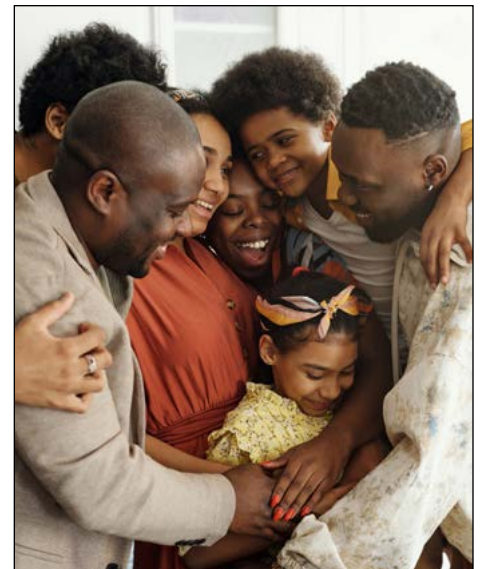
We learn about history in school every day, and you may be wondering, "How can I learn about history that relates to me?" Well, to do that you can learn about something called Family History. You may have heard of tests you can take where they analyze your DNA to find out who you are related to, and you can do that, but for this project you don't have to.

To start, you can use it as an opportunity to talk to people. Maybe call your grandparents on the phone and ask them about where they grew up and who their parents and grandparents were. Olivia Z. told me that her dad's Nonna came from a region in Italy called Calabria. If your ancestors also came from Italy or another country, you could research that country and find out more about its cul-

ture. Ashlyn B. said, "A lot of my dad's family were in the war." If some of your ancestors were veterans, you can find out what war they served in, and what the cause of the war was.

Family history is exciting because it helps connect you with your ancestors, and it makes you more attune to the cultures you are a part of. One student said, "It's important to know your family history because you get to learn about the people from your family, the line of ancestors, it will always be a treasure to me how close to my heart my history can be." Jonah C. said, "I think that knowing your family history is important because you know more about yourself and your culture."

Family history is not just a list of facts and names, it is also stories. One of my favorite stories is about my grandmother. When she was little she used to go to stay with her grandmother who lived in a very small town. Even when she was only 5 years old, she was allowed to walk to the grocery store by herself and buy a bag of potato chips. Family history is memories and stories as well as dates and numbers. And to do this project, almost all you need is memories of the people in your family.



COOKING



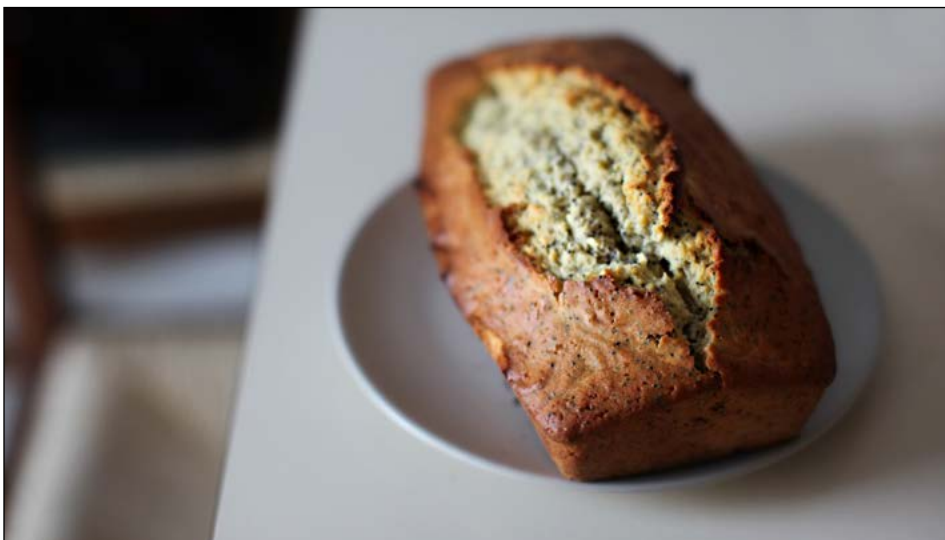
Jonah C.'s Chocolate Walnut Brownies

Ingredients

- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 ounces bittersweet chocolate or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chocolate chips
- 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$ a teaspoon salt (for taste, almost every recipe has salt and it tastes different without it)
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup all purpose flour
- 1 cup of nuts (almonds which I used, walnuts, cashews, or your favorite kind of nut)

Center a rack in the oven and preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Line an 8inch square baking pan with foil, butter the foil and place the pan on a baking sheet. Get a small or medium saucepan

and turn the heat to medium heat, put the butter in the saucepan, if it starts bubbling don't worry, it will stop later. Put in the chocolates and stir until the ingredients are melted then whisk in the sugar. Don't be concerned when your smooth mixture turns grainy. One by one add in the eggs then add the vanilla and give the ingredients a big stir and then add the salt and flour, stir until incorporated and then mix in the nut of your choice. Scrape the batter into the baking pan put the baking pan with the batter in the oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until you can stick a toothpick in and pull it out and it is clean, then transfer the pan out of the oven and put it somewhere that it can cool down, do not put it in the refrigerator, just let it sit for about another 30 minutes to an hour and then when your brownies are completely cool you can cut them in to squares and enjoy!



Simple Recipes You'll Enjoy Making

by Samantha A.

Want some fun, simple recipes to try out? Try out all the recipes you want, (with a parent's permission), from this article, recommended by your fellow students.

Molly L.'s Fall Banana Bread

- 2 very ripe bananas
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup milk, (whole or 2%)

- 1 cup of butter, (2 sticks) at room temperature
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- If you want an even more festive loaf, add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons cinnamon

First, preheat your oven to 350 Degrees. Then use an electric or hand mixer to cream the butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla together in a bowl. After that, take another bowl and put in the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and cinnamon, if wanted. Next, take your two bananas and mash them in a bowl. Put the bananas in with your wet ingredients. Take your dry ingredients and pour them into the mixer with your wet ingredients and the bananas. Blend until all the lumps are gone and it is smooth. Pour the batter into two buttered and floured loaf pans and put in the oven (preheated to 350 degrees) for about 35 minutes.

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When it is out of the oven, test if it is done by sticking a toothpick in it. If the toothpick comes out with wet batter on it, then the bread needs to be baked a little more. If the toothpick is somewhat dry, then you're good to go. Cut the banana bread into slices and enjoy!

Whipped Cream, recommended by Olivia Z.

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon powdered sugar

In a large bowl, (preferably an electric mixer), beat the heavy cream and powdered sugar until thick. Add in the vanilla and beat until fluffy. Don't overmix.

Variations include...

- Adding cinnamon/other spices
- Adding a different kind of extract other than vanilla
- Adding fruit juice in place of SOME of the heavy cream

Brownies, recommended by Juliet S.

- 3 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped into pieces
- ½ cup unsalted butter, and more for pan
- 1 ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅔ cup all-purpose flour

Heat oven to 350°F. Butter or spray an 8x8 baking pan, then cover it with parchment paper. In a medium heat-proof bowl over simmering water, melt chocolate and butter together until only a couple unmelted bits remain. Off the heat, stir until smooth and fully melted. You can also do this in the microwave in 30-second bursts, stirring between each. Whisk in sugar, then eggs, one at a time, then vanilla and salt. Stir in flour with a spoon or flexible spatula and scrape batter into the prepared pan, spread until even. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out batter-free. Let cool and cut into desired size, and enjoy!

- Cut the guava into small pieces
- Cut off the strawberry leaves
- Put all the fruit in the blender and discard the seeds, leaves, and guava shell.



How To Make Papaya Guava Juice

by Aria E.

Ingredients

- Papaya
- Guava
- Strawberries

Tools

- Blender
- Knife
- Cutting Board

Instructions

- Take the seeds out of the papaya
- Slice the papaya into small pieces
- Peel off the shell of the guava

McKinley Times Cover Art: Calling All Artists!

Do you like to draw? Then, **The McKinley Times Cover Challenge** is perfect for you!

Show off your artistic skills by creating a McKinley themed cover for the newspaper! Here are the rules:

1. The cover must have "The McKinley Times" written on it visibly.
2. You must be a McKinley student to participate!
3. Have fun!

You can send your submissions to Ms. Ross at either mross@smmk12.org or mross@smmusd.org.

MCKINLEY NEWS

5th Grade Perspective: 1st Edition

by Juliet S.

In times before Coronavirus, 5th grade was a very big deal. You took ballroom dance, ran for student council, went to Pali Camp, and had graduation. Now, it's harder to imagine any of these things happening.

In 5th grade we used to take ballroom dance. However, doing lessons over Zoom would be almost impossible, because you need a partner to dance with. Even if we go back to school, it would be very unlikely that we would do ballroom dance because even with masks and a vaccine, ballroom dancing requires a proximity that would be dangerous during Covid 19.

Student council is still happening, though. Though they are meeting over Zoom, they are still doing just as much work as they would in normal times. If

you are on the student council, congratulations! Thank you for all the hard work you do for the school.

Last year, Pali camp was canceled for the 5th graders. I think that many of us went into this year hoping there might be a small sliver of chance that we would go, unfortunately it will not happen this year either. However, I'm sure in middle school and later this year we will do many other fun activities.

That being said, I think the most important part of 5th grade for many of us was graduation. This was the bridge between McKinley and middle school. I asked some 5th graders what they thought about graduation and middle school. An N's view on graduation was, "I hope that Coronavirus will be ended by then and that we will be able to have the culmination and the usual party rather than a drive through graduation." I hope so too. Fortunately, with the vaccine, there is a distinct possibility that might happen.

Another student agrees with An, saying,

"I hope that graduation will be great. I hope that we can all stay safe, though I would like it to be in person." Most everyone wants to be safe, as Ashlyn B. also agreed, saying, "I hope we will get to celebrate it one way or another."

Graduation is one thing, middle school is quite another. Everybody is looking forward to it though. When asked if she was excited for middle school An N. also said, "I am because probably by then Coronavirus will be over and that I'll be able to be close to school. I only live a few streets away and I just love meeting new people and having so many classes and clubs!" I am inferring that everyone is excited for the new environment as another student said, "I am very excited for middle school because it is a brand new place to explore."

5th grade is certainly not what we thought it would be this year. However the same opportunities are still here, and middle school is still right around the corner.



Making Friends During a Pandemic

by An N.

Moving schools is already so hard, imagine having to move from one house to another during a world-wide pandemic!

I thought that many kids liked acting or singing, if many kids were to like either of these topics, maybe they'd be able to make new friends! Sometimes, to make new friends, all you need is one common interest to spark a conversation.

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I interviewed Molly L., a student in 5th grade, because she just loves musical theatre, a mixture of the two. Maybe if you're able to find common ground with others, you can make some new friends!

You should make friends, "because they can comfort you when you're down. They're just someone you can relate to in your life or can enjoy being with." This is why it's important to have friends. Making friends can sometimes be hard, because, "maybe you're new in town and other kids may not want to be friends with them. When I was 5, I moved to Santa Monica. I'm going to be honest, for me it wasn't that hard to make friends. The first few days of school I was a bit lonely, but I guess it was easier being in Kindergarten. Recently my brother moved preschools, and I wouldn't say it was that hard for him to make friends. I did notice a change in the people he chose to be friends with, they may have not been the same connection." You could make friends by just talking to people during break, or talking during class. Maybe when you're working with someone 1-on-1 you'll be able to connect!

"I love musical theatre because I love playing in front of an audience, you get to showcase your talent. It also can boost your self-confidence. I really can't decide which I like better," and "they're both similar because you're able to express your emotions in a way. Singing of course is more vocal, while acting is more of actions and tone. I really don't have a favorite." Maybe, "you could try musical theatre any day and anytime, maybe you're reading a book, try to act or sing it out! How I got introduced to musical theatre was I was at a summer camp about 5 years ago. I think it's much

harder now because you have to use what you've got." You can truly tell that Molly absolutely loves musical theatre, "if you feel lonely and feel like you need a friend, don't be afraid to reach out to others, and musical theatre is the best."

I believe that if you don't have the guts to talk to others, I know that maybe in the next week or so, maybe someone else will talk to you, so you don't have to start the conversation. Maybe you'll be able to make some new friends, who knows? Maybe it could be a long lasting friendship for many more years to come.

Distance Learning in Kindergarten

by Samantha A.

Distance learning is new and different for all of us. There are new ways of learning, new websites, and new routines. But then, how do kindergarteners feel about it? I asked a group of kindergarten students in Mr. Curry's class this question.

"It's fun to meet on the computer," Oliver said.

"I like being at home with my family," Isabel added.

Along with comments like that, there were other answers that really illustrated the hard work teachers are putting in to keep students engaged. This is especially hard for teachers of younger grades.

"There are a lot of fun activities to do," Millie said.

"I like doing tangrams," Natalie said, "and coloring."

"I like math," Walter told me.

"I like recess," two kindergarteners, Jasper and Matthew, agree.

"I like doing our specials," Abby said. Specials include P.E., science, music, and theater.

Like all students, Kindergarteners have experienced the challenges of distance learning.

"I think that the district has done a very good job putting together distance learning under the circumstances. However, I obviously prefer in person school, which is less stressful," one fifth grader said.

"It has its ups and downs. You get to see your family more, but you're on screens a lot!" an anonymous student said.

Overall, everyone is trying their hardest in these new times, because distance learning is new and different for all of us. There are new ways of learning, new websites, and new routines...



MCKINLEY NEWS

Student Council President Interview

by An N.

On Thursday, the 15 of October, 4th and 5th graders at McKinley voted for Student Council President and Vice President.

I was able to contact the Student Council President, Sage M.

She said, "I can see a year that we have a lot to look forward to, and I think that although it's not normal, all we have to do is to embrace that and make it special." Socially, "I can see some Zooms, just getting together with the other people in our grade. If they're not in our class it makes it a bit limited to where and which times we can see them. I think it'll allow us to meet up with people we don't normally see in our Zoom class, I'll also be able to get your ideas. I think that I can do things that will make me happy, but I don't know what you want and that will make you happy, and I want everybody to have a wonderful year!" It's truly wonderful knowing that somebody you look up to has everybody in mind and will think about everybody's ideas equally.

Some future plans she has are to add, "a debate club. I know that a few people have been wanting that, I just think it'll be fun. Or to have another after-school club, just to have that experience or that opportunity to meet people who aren't in your class right now is just really special." Extra-curricular clubs are able to expand your knowledge. Sometimes, just that chance could allow you to find that you have a whole hobby within you. "Meeting and being social with people you don't normally get to meet is always fun.

Without these experiences I wouldn't be able to meet some of my best friends, so I think that everybody should be able to get the chance to do it."

Having these opportunities are just amazing, because many schools aren't as privileged as we are and don't have so many activities. "Yeah! McKinley's awesome, we have a newspaper, a student council, a STEM club and so many more! Hopefully the addition of a debate club soon too!"

"Just hang in there and this will all be over soon. I just want to thank everybody who voted me out of the kindness of their heart." Sage also added a small note to all of those younger audience who weren't able to participate in the election, either in voting or in running. "Hi everyone! The student council election is something that you will all experience in the future, and it's for everyone who just wants to be a leader. It's really for anyone. All of the experiences are just so fun." You get a whole experience saying a speech in front of an audience which is great.

All of this is wonderful and we absolutely can't wait to see this year unfold in front of us. It sure had a bumpy start, but we'll be able to race through in the end.

The Development of Writing

by Delilah P.

Over the last few centuries English writing has really changed. From books like *Little Women*, to *Harry Potter* there are major differences between these types of books. These changes happen with

things like; shorter sentences, sentences that aren't as descriptive, and how a story is written. For example, look at the book *Little Women 1868* and *Esperanza Rising 2000* with two different fragments. In *Little Women* page 59 quote, "Beth cherished them all the more tenderly for that reason. No pins were ever stuck in their cotton vitals; no harsh words or blows were ever given to them..." The sentence goes on for longer after this. Compare that to a fragment of *Esperanza rising* page 125, "The next morning, Hortensia put a piece of fabric over the window and sent Alfonso next door with Miguel, Juan, and the babies." This sentence fragment is much shorter. Kim Askew, a published author, said that

"Another thing is a lot of works used to be serialized and paid for by the word... which meant writers were paid more to write longer books, and if serialized, they (like Dickens) had to string the book out for serialization."

Lisa Gonzales Director, Digital Operations, Random House Group at Penguin Random House said "It feels like society as a whole was probably free to do more meandering 100 or more years ago, but now things are moving at such a fast pace that maybe we are unconsciously also choosing and writing stories that move at a quicker pace."

The audience is also much different, people are more diverse and accepted than in the early 1900's and 1800's. To tie into that Lisa said. "Older Western classics often featured just one type of protagonist and newer classics are starting to show the wonderful variety of people we have in our world."

This shows how the rich world of writing has developed over the years.

MCKINLEY NEWS

10 Questions With a McKinley Lion: Ms. Melissa!

by Matthew S.

When you walk into the school office there is always someone who greets you with a smile and helps you in any way she can - Ms. Melissa! I interviewed McKinley's Office Administrative Assistant with 10 questions. Find out her favorite sport, favorite food and if you are ever in need of a good detective or have a mystery that needs to be solved, knowing Ms. Melissa might come in handy!

What was your favorite book when you were a kid?

"My favorite books were the Nancy Drew books. I enjoyed them because I love a good mystery!"

What was your favorite school subject?

"My favorite school subject were Art and Literature/Reading class (and P.E.!) I love drawing and reading and being active!

What is your favorite movie?

"My favorite movie is Miss Congeniality starring Sandra Bullock, because I was quite the tomboy growing up and could relate. It's also very very funny and I love comedies."

What is your favorite board or card game?

"I enjoy many games!! If I have to choose it'd be Clue. Once again - love a good mystery and figuring out who did it!"

What is your favorite sport to play or watch?

"My favorite sport to both play and watch is basketball, hands down. I grew up in Chicago, home of the Bulls and Michael Jordan so I wanted to be like him when I grew up! I still enjoy watching, even when they were in the bubble this summer! One of my favorite times of year is March Madness, when all the college teams play."

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

"I love to go to the beach, watch TV/movies and go hiking."

What is your favorite food?

"Pasta, all day and all night!"

What is your favorite candy?

"Hands down M&M's are the greatest candy ever."

What is your favorite animal?

"Gotta love puppies!"

Can you tell us some interesting facts about you?

"Hmm, this is a tough one. Ok here's a few: I am left handed, but when I play sports I do anything with a bat, club or racket with my left but throw/shoot a ball with my right!

When I was 3 I started figure skating, but then in the 5th grade dropped it to play basketball full time. I love working at Mckinley and wouldn't swap jobs for the world."

Thank you, Melissa, for letting me interview you and thanks for everything you do at McKinley!



McKinley's Virtual Harvest Festival

by An. N

During 2020 there have been many firsts and many virtual events that have taken place instead of our usual in person events.

Here at McKinley, one of our many virtual events has been the Harvest Festival. Every year it would be on the last Friday of October, and this year was no exception. Though it was different, it was equally as fun. With so many new activi-

ties to do, like cooking demonstrations, a look at past haunted houses, past harvest festival memories, and much more fun activities.

Some 5th graders were able to help out in the widely known tradition, known as the McKinley Haunted House. Every year there was usually a new theme, and this year some may say that it was surrounded in more of a mystery type of genre and McKinley's history, with an ending of Scooby Doo. Jason, a fifth grade participant said that, "I decided to sign-up for the haunted house

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because it is my last year here and I wanted to do something for the school before I go.” For others this could be the case too, Molly joined because she thought it, “sounded fun and it involves acting,” which she loves!

The haunted house had a sprinkle of a history lesson of the McKinley school’s history throughout the years. Molly said, “the Virtual Haunted House and Har-

vest Festival were so much fun for me, and I hope that others felt the same way.” Watching the video, you’re really able to tell the amount of work that was put into the show.

In the exclusive past memories or haunted houses, something you couldn’t do at the in person harvest festival. We were able to see many past videos and photos from memories that younger kids have never seen or the older kids can reminisce with. We were able to see photos

from multiple years, and also some of the older haunted houses in the basement! If we weren’t able to have this experience during this time, we would’ve never been able to see the positive effects.

If you weren’t able to experience the Virtual Harvest Festival, maybe you can ask some friends to see what they loved about it. Make sure not to miss the future events because of how much thought and effort is put into each and every event!



The Holidays are Coming!

by Zoe G.

Can you believe it’s November already? Not only is it November, but we’re getting close to the end of the month! This is the time where we should have our pumpkin pie ready. We should also have a few friends and family over for Thanksgiving. Don’t go over the limit of 10 people though! Pies are being made. Houses are decorated with fall leaves, food is being prepared, warm jackets, sweaters, mittens and scarves are

in stock at stores, Fall activities are being planned in our neighborhood. And hopefully, you find an event that makes you feel joyful and you can celebrate! Don’t let the craziness of 2020 take away your Holiday happiness!

After the excitement of Halloween, holidays seem to come quickly. We already see Christmas decorations sold in stores like Michaels, CVS, and Rite Aid. This is a phenomenon called “The Christmas Creep” where stores sell Christmas themed products in the last three months of each year. With all these preparations in stores, it seems like holidays are rushing in. Honestly though, I am perfectly fine with that because my favorite holiday happens to be Christmas!

Now that you know my favorite holiday, let’s hear from other McKinley students about holidays they look forward to! I recently took a poll with some of our very own McKinley Lions and the results are in! I have the holidays listed by popularity with 1 being the most popular.

1. Christmas
2. Halloween
3. New Year’s Eve
4. Thanksgiving
5. Easter
6. Valentine’s Day

7. Hanukkah
8. Birthday
9. Mother’s Day
10. Father’s Day
11. Passover
12. Eid Al-Adha

We all have our own ideas of what makes holidays special to us. It’s fun to think about how people have different opinions about their favorite times to celebrate during the year. It is safe to say that we don’t mind opening presents on Christmas, Hanukkah, and our birthdays. Getting candy on Halloween, Valentine’s Day and Easter isn’t so bad either. Giving your Mom or Dad something special on Mother’s Day or Father’s Day feels good when you see the smile on their faces. Celebrating with family, friends and loved ones is what really makes these holidays special.

So, when you’re done Zooming with your classes and you’ve completed your music and P.E. after school, you may want to think about: What is my favorite holiday? How does it make me feel and why? Think about it. Draw a picture! Write a story of your special moments! Share it with your family and friends! This will definitely get you in a happy holiday mood!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Julie and the Phantoms: A Review

by Juliet S.

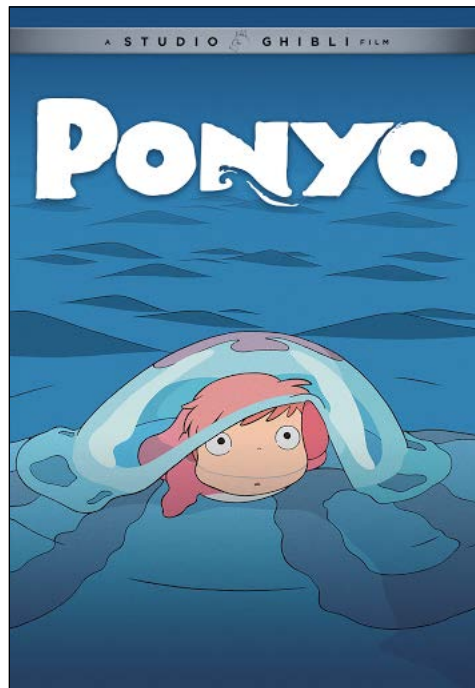
Do you like to listen to music and watch TV? Julie and the Phantoms is a new TV series that combines upbeat and catchy music to a TV show. If you liked Descendants or High School Musical, you will also love this fun, but emotional TV show directed by the director of the two former movies mentioned.

Julie and the Phantoms follows Julie Molina, (Madison Reyes) a musically gifted high school girl who has recently lost her mom. She has given up playing music as her mom was a composer, and doesn't want to face painful memories. However, the music is brought back when a ghost band from the 1990s is sucked into the future.

The series follows a series of problems faced by the characters, from Julie struggling with lying to her best friend Flynn (Jadah Marie) to the ghosts' (played by Charlie Gillespie, Owen Patrick Joyner, and Jeremy Shada) troubles with an evil magician who is trying to own their souls.

For me, the series was also inspiring. Madison Reyes, who plays Julie, had her first film job in the show. The show also has LGBTQ representation, as one of the main characters is gay. 4 high school students form a band, and write songs, which inspires kids to do the same. The show also represents people with many different backgrounds.

This show is now streaming on Netflix with its first season, and I would recommend it because it is musical, funny, inspiring, and a feel-good show.



Ponyo Review

by Daisy M.

Do you like movies that have oceans and vast friendships? Or maybe just the slightest sad moment. Well I would say Ponyo is for you. Personally, I thought it was a really cool movie. It was directed by Hayao Miyazaki, a very skilled animation director. Although she was very young, Noah Cyrus was the (English cast) voice of ponyo. It might be hard to tell, but it is.

Ponyo is a super family friendly movie and I'm pretty sure Hayao Miyazaki wanted mostly kids to watch the movie. He has made many other movies. He is pretty kid-friendly with his movies, but some of them are brutal.

Going back to Ponyo, Ponyo is a fish. And because the movie is animated, she obviously does not look like a normal one. She has a human head, but a body that looks like a onesie with a white oval in the middle. She is really loud in a good

way. She also loves ham an awful lot. But the boy who takes her in as a fish is named Sosuke. He is the one who introduced Ponyo to ham. And from then on, Ponyo has had an amazing relationship with Sosuke and ham.

In the end, everyone has fun together. Ponyo turns back into a fish but then, with the love of Sosuke, she turns back into a human. I would give the movie four and a half stars at the most. But you can give it your own rating if you prefer. And if you want to watch it after you read the paper, then go to HBO Max, if not signed up then sign up, and then go to Ghibli movies close to the bottom, and watch! Have fun!

Mulan Review

by Daisy M.

Mulan was a great movie. And so was the live action one. The only difference was, no singing in the new one. Just the melody of the songs that the characters sang in the original movie. I just want to point out that Mulan 2020 is PG-13. But there are no curse words, just the slightest bit of violence. I would definitely recommend this movie for people who watched the first movie. I promise I will NOT give away any super important information about the movie, because I know not too many people have watched it yet.

So to talk about character and actor/actress selections, I think they did a really good job. One thing I and a few other students bring up is how in the fighting scenes and scenes in general, the wind is always blowing in Mulan's face. Now you are probably thinking, "When that's happening, she is probably going to break into song."

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Well, no. It is a little serious, like it had that element of magic and shapeshifting in it, but no singing is one thing I can say. Christina Aguilera sings two songs from the new movie.

There are a few sad and unexpected missing characters from the new movie. For example, Li Shang, Mulan's one to be did not make an appearance. Neither did the popular lucky cricket, or, MUSHU! A few other students and myself think that Mushu should not have been replaced by the Phoenix. Moving on to new appearances, Xian Ang is a new character. She is a 'witch' and shapeshifter. And as you know, the bad guy in the OG Mulan was Shan Yu. But in the new movie, his name is Bori Khan. But not to go to much into detail, the movie still has Mulan's mom and dad, but the grandma was replaced by a new (younger) sister.

In the end, I would give a lot of credit to the creators and people who worked on Mulan a big thumbs up. I hope you have fun watching it.



Books You NEED to Read



by Molly L.

Find yourself stuck at home, tired of screens, and wanting a way to relax? Reading covers all three of those things, and here are some of McKinley Students favorite books.

Click'd by Tamara Ireland Stone - If you like coding, this is a GREAT book to read! It does a great job of portraying a teenagers life. The book is about a girl who creates an app that goes viral!

5th Grade Student Delilah P. recommends the book Greenglass House. It's very good and about a boy named Milo who is trying to solve the mystery of Greenglass house with his friend he just met, Maddy.

"A Tale of Magic: Brystal Evergreen thinks her life is terrible, because of the laws stating that women should not read or learn laws. Brystal knows a bit about magic, but not much. That is, until she

discovers a secret section in the library. Brystal soon learns she's a fairy! Little does she know her life will change forever because of one book, says Olivia Z., 5th grade.

5th Grader Sage M. recommends Jacky Ha-Ha. Jacky, the class clown, loves nothing more than jokes, pranks and Nonna! After some jokes and pranks that the teachers don't love, she gets a lot of detentions and there's only one way to get out of them all, theater! At first she hates this idea, but as the time between her and her mom, who's serving the country in Saudi Arabia, grows. And the mystery with her dad gets even bigger. She starts to absolutely love theater and the family that she's made, aside from her 6 sisters. Although her trouble isn't just at school, but at home too. And her dad gives her the most bad, worst, absolutely terrible punishment of all, forcing Jacky to stand up to him once and for all!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl-Lucy was struck by lightning when she was seven, and since then she's a genius at math. It also means, though, that she has OCD, and can't touch anything without wiping it down first. Even though she's smart enough to go to college, her grandma makes her go to middle school so she can make friends her own age.

Pride and Prejudice-It is a very layered book and it takes you inside the lives of people who lived centuries ago, and their stories.

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson. This book is about a girl named Astrid who signs up for a roller derby camp (without having any experience). She starts off doing a really bad job, and missing her best friend. Of course she gets better at skating, and now Astrid is getting advice from her favorite player, Rainbow Bite! When the time comes to actually play roller derby in front of a crowd, will Astrid be able to play her favorite position? Will she get to meet her idol? Find out by reading!

I hope you use these recommendations sometime and love them just as much as these McKinley Students do.

McKinley Spirit Week is Coming!

December 14 - 18

Monday, 12/14 - Spiritwear Day
 Tuesday, 12/15 - Friendship Day
 Wednesday, 12/16 - Crazy Hat/Hair Day
 Thursday, 12/17 - Sports Day
 Friday, 12/18 - Pajama Day

Check the mini messenger for more details!!!

Quarantine Book Recommendations

by Shayla A.

Have you ever wanted to grab a blanket and read a book near the fireplace? Well, I have! The book I usually read at those times is Harry Potter. I'm sure most of you know Harry Potter and that's why I am going to focus on other books. I like reading because I can escape to different worlds. It distracts me from worrying and it's like tv or video games to me. Especially in quarantine, I can find it helpful to be off screens and it's time consuming.

Fiction

Magic Misfits: If you like realistic fiction you might like to read Magic Misfits and there are 4 books. It's about a boy named Carter who is traveling the world with his thief uncle and they don't know where his parents are. He does not like being a thief so he escapes his uncle's clutches and jumps on a train where he arrives at a magic filled town where he meets lots of new friends. He learns how to do magic to confuse bad guys and to catch them in the act.

Whatever After is about 10 year old Abby and 7 year old Jonah move to smithville where they change the fairytales forever.

Mystery

Nancy Drew: Nancy Drew is a young adult that goes around the world traveling with her best friend Bess and George. Together these young adults solve hard and easy mysteries.

A-Z Mysteries: A to Z Mysteries is about Dink, Josh and Ruth Rose. These 4th graders solve mysteries inside and

out of their little town.

Calendar Mysteries: Calendar mysteries is about the cousins and younger siblings of Dink, Josh and Ruth Rose. They are in 1st grade and solve mysteries just like their 4th grade family.

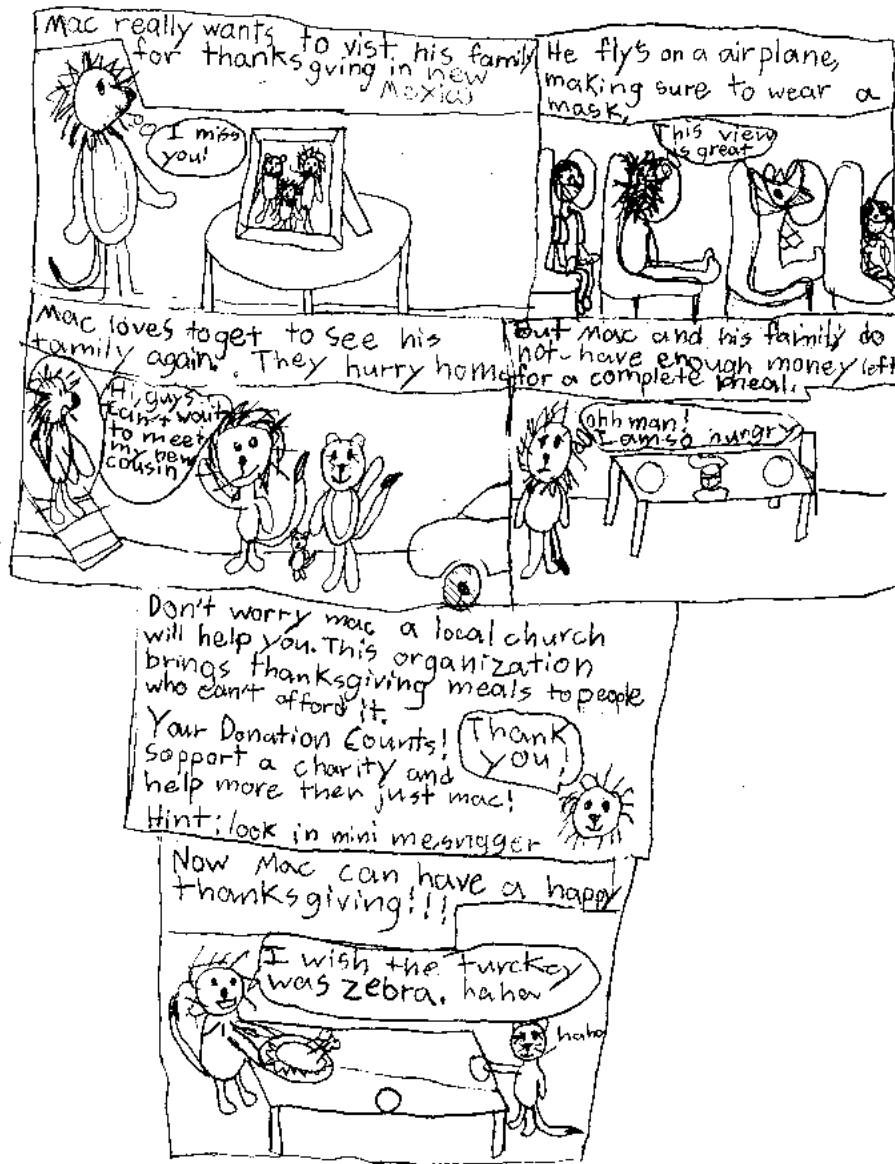
Fantasy

A Tale of magic and a Tale of Witchcraft. A Tale of Witchcraft is a sequel of a tale of magic. They are both about a 14 year old girl, named Brystal evergreen making magic legal. She meets new friends all the way.

The Descendants: Junior Novels are the stories from the movies. They are about Jay son of Jafar, Mal daughter of Maleficent, Carlos son of Cruella De Vil and evil daughter of evil queen. These four teens live on the Isle of the Lost where there is no WiFi, no magic and no way out. The teens eat rotten food. But they are invited to a place where there is none of this stuff. They are tasked to steal fairy godmothers wand and let their evil relatives free. But will they choose good?

I hope you try one of these books and enjoy them. Thanks for reading.





by Zalie R.



by Sienna N.