

# CHRONICLE

## SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE SET FOR JUNE 9

Both the school budget vote and Board of Education election will take place on Tuesday, June 9 entirely by absentee ballot.



Originally scheduled for May, the vote was postponed due to the ongoing pandemic. For the new date, no in-person voting is being allowed according to an executive order issued by Governor Cuomo. Instead,

(continued on page 2)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Teacher's Best Practices</i>	2
<i>Prom Back On</i>	5
<i>Local Heroes</i>	6-7
<i>P/F or Numbers?</i>	8-9
<i>Editorials</i>	11-15
<i>Tech Office Delivers</i>	19
<i>Time For SomeHumor</i>	20

## THREE SET TO RETIRE REPRESENTING 63 YEARS OF SERVICE

It's that time of year when Averill Park High School says goodbye to staff who are retiring. This year, three long-time members of the AP com-

School for 20 of his 35 years as a social studies teacher.

"I was hired as a Social Studies teacher teaching alternative education," he

History and Economics.

"Probably the first thought one might come up with regarding Chris is his consistent saying, 'living the



munity are leaving, and they will be greatly missed.

Chris Blais has worked at Averill Park High



said. After that program was cut, Blais taught a variety of social studies courses, including Global 9, Psychology, US



Dream'," said English teacher Mr. Fairchild. "And working

(continued on page 4)

## SENIORS FIND A WAY CLASS OF 2020 SET FOR GRADUATION

by Lauren Harland

It's March 16 and Averill Park has officially halted in-person classes. It's a strange occurrence, but students look forward to the temporary break in having to wake before the sun does. Teachers warn that the break could extend longer than expected, but still, the thought of concluding the school year online doesn't keep anyone awake at night.

As one week turns into two, and quickly into

many more, the worry begins to set in. Student athletes wave goodbye to their spring



season, OBP members mourn the loss of their highly anticipated spring show, juniors are

saddened by the postponement of their prom, but one group is devastated beyond all others: this year's seniors.

Throughout high school, students are told that the springtime of their senior year will be the best time of their high school experience. Their plans for next year will be decided on, their classes will begin to get easier (or maybe they'll just begin to care a little less), and they'll finally get to celebrate their

(continued on page 8)

# BEST PRACTICES!

## TEACHERS ADOPT MANY METHODS TO CONTINUE INSTRUCTION

by Cloe Mussett

Given the contagiousness of the COVID-19 virus, in-school learning has become online learning and conversations in the hallways have become conversations over FaceTime. The coronavirus pandemic has impacted nearly everything in our day to day lives, especially school. It is easier to connect with and teach students in an in-person setting, but there have been quite a few teachers at APHS who have done a wonderful job both adapting to the circumstances as well as brainstorming and putting into practice new, innovative ways to teach.

First are some of the teachers in the science department. We are no longer able to perform lab activities and projects in school, but there are a couple of teachers that have found a way to get around that and create labs and/or projects that can be conducted by students in their own home environment.

In Ms. Hunter's environmental science class, students researched national parks of their choice and made slideshows on all of the interesting information that they found. They are

now viewing and constructively commenting on their classmates' presentations. For Earth Day, her Earth Science class brainstormed ways that

out of old t-shirts and several made signs for their windows to celebrate Earth Day. Finally, my students suggested how we could spread the

day. Hunter said, "I also like to utilize the Google Stream to share fun Earth and Environmental science announcements from the DEC and EarthSky and ask for students to comment."

Mr. Reddy's class recently did a genetics lab on gene regulation, where they looked at e-coli bacteria and how they "switch on" and "switch off" the gene for the metabolism of lactose. The class fed milk sugar and table sugar to the bacteria and then tested for the presence of the enzyme that breaks down the milk sugar.

"The additional challenge of teaching science is keeping that hands-on aspect alive even though you're doing the labs at your house," said Reddy. He also feels that it is more beneficial to give his students a reduced number of high-quality assignments rather than more "fluff" assignments. As for next school year, Reddy said that "in September, I envision having a core idea and then per week trying to address that core idea in as many different hopefully engaging and interesting ways."

Mrs. Rees has been doing some interesting things with her Physics class. She

(continued on page 3)



Eleventh grader Bailey Bate's color wheel

they could be more environmentally friendly even during quarantine.

"Some of my students are composting with their families now, focusing more on their water use and limiting their food waste, and bettering recycling habits," she said. "Several of my students made reusable bags

word in our district and community through clean-ups and social media."

Both of Hunter's classes are keeping daily journals on the weather, the climate, and astronomical data, as well as signs of spring. The students submit these observations through Google Classroom every Fri-

## BUDGET VOTE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

all qualified Averill Park voters will receive a ballot and a prepaid return envelope.

All ballots must be received by 5 pm on June 9.

To qualify to receive a ballot, voters

must be U.S. citizens 18 years or older and have lived within the District boundaries for at least 30 days prior to June 9.

The school district will hold a remote budget hearing using Zoom on June 1. As well, all community

members will be sent a newsletter through the mail detailing this year's budget.

In related news, the school building project, which was slated to be voted on this spring, has been postponed until the fall.

More information

on the Averill Park Central School District budget is available at the Budget Corner on the school website at <https://www.averillpark.k12.ny.us/budget-corner-list-of-budgets>.

**BEST PRACTICES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)**

asked her students to build a Rube Goldberg style device that could accomplish a simple task—some of the machines made by her students took out the garbage, turned on the shower, split wood with an axe, blew out a candle, cinched a tie, popped a balloon, and fed a pet. The students videotaped their devices running, uploaded them to Flipgrid, and wrote reports outlining in-depth both the engineering process as well as a quantitative and qualitative analysis of all the energy transitions. The students were able to view each others' videos of their machines and were also required to comment on each other's creations.

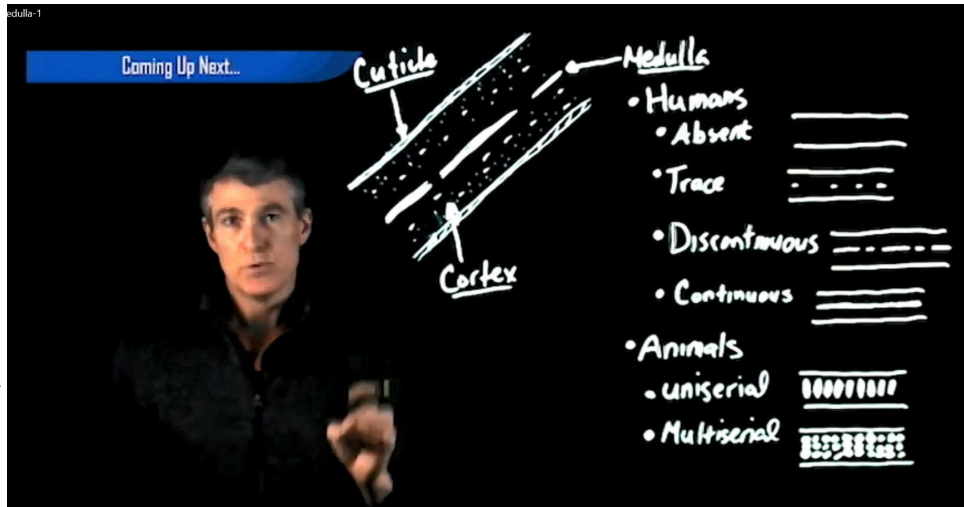
up to a Chromebook. Panzanaro then uses Handbrake to convert the video to be compatible with the Adobe Premiere Pro video editing software. He also learned how to embed images into his videos, and is now attempting to learn how to embed other media into his videos. I can personally say, as

classes. Some activities include students creating art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy's nature creations, and a color wheel made with objects students have found in their homes. She then creates Google documents of what she feels are the best submissions in the

to look at ways to make this manageable for students and teachers... we would (also) have to look at how we do assessments and grading...we can't continue to just do pass or fail," he said.

Given my research, there seem to be many different ways that teachers have chosen to involve students in online learning. However, it seems one of the key components is engagement-- whether between students and teachers or between students and other students. At this challenging time, we are presented with a new opportunity to embrace

change, and this new technology, and the teachers at APHS leading this progressive movement towards online learning have done just that.



Science teacher Dr. Panzanaro's lightboard

"This project brought students together to learn from each other. It encouraged them to use their creativity to demonstrate their knowledge of energy and how it is transferred all the time in our everyday lives."

Dr. Panzanaro has put into use the "lightboard," a tool that was developed at the university level. First, he had to construct it. He engineered a frame with supports that could hold a three-foot by five-foot, three-eighths inch thick piece of glass. He then wrapped dimmable LED light tape around the border and inserted the glass into the frame. Panzanaro then films himself writing on the glass with neon dry erase markers in a room he dedicated to this lightboard that is draped in black sheeting. He installed LED lights on each side of the glass frame so that he would be illuminated as the presenter. As for the filming part, he uses an HD webcam hooked

his student, that the end result was pretty cool.

Panzanaro has also been sharing his lightboard videos for forensics with teachers from other districts through his Forensics PLC (Professional Learning Community). He is excited about this technology and how it enables him to face his audience when he is writing, a challenge he faces with the traditional whiteboard. "My goal is to present this technology at future professional development programs as another tool in our teaching toolboxes."

As for online learning for next school year, Panzanaro is "hopeful that the sharing of ideas by the many teachers who are collaborating now will result in the development of an engaging hands-on curriculum."

Mrs. Bailey has been doing some pretty cool stuff for her Ceramics and Sculpture

class and posts them to Google Classroom so all her students can view them. Additionally, Bailey has posted YouTube videos, some including techniques for throwing on a pottery wheel, and ClayTalk videos of contemporary ceramic artists speaking.

In terms of online learning next year in the event we are not able to return in the fall as normal, the principal Mr. Quiles said the district will be setting up a re-opening task force containing representatives from our school community (students, parents, teachers, administrators) that will assess our ability to reopen and make a plan as to what we will do next year.

"If we did do virtual learning, I would imagine that we'd want to do it in a way that's a little bit more structured and organized...we have

**Look for issues of *The Chronicle* on-line!**

**Go to the APHS webpage on the APHS District website at [av-illpark.k12.ny.us/aphs](http://av-illpark.k12.ny.us/aphs) and click on "Student Parent Resources." Then click on "Newsletters."**

**-In Color-**



## RETIREMENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

at Averill Park, by and large, has been exactly that for him. He has loved his job." Blais said that during his retirement, "I may sub a little, and I will spend lots of time in my man cave smoking cigars."

Fairchild said of Blais, "Two words that probably encapsulate him are 'tough love.' He can be ornery and stubborn, but behind it is always love."

"I will miss the kids terribly," Blais said, "and especially the informal lunch bunch of students who came and joined me for lunch on a regular basis."

Cathy Caruso has taught foreign languages in the Averill Park Central School District for 18 years, starting at Algonquin Middle School before dividing her time between Algonquin and APHS, and moving permanently to the high school six years ago.

Caruso has taught quite a few different courses, including French 6, French 7, French 8, French 2 (high school), French 3 (high school), Spanish 7, Spanish 8, Spanish 2 (high school) and Spanish 3 (high school).

Caruso has several plans for "retirement." "First, the big move to Santa Fe, New Mexico which will happen in July," she said. "Once there, I am taking the next academic year to explore teaching opportunities in and around Santa Fe by being a substitute teacher in elementary, middle and high schools in Santa Fe and possibly in schools on nearby pueblos (teaching Native Americans)."

"I know I want to stay teaching, but I am not sure where my skills and talents will be of most use there," she said. "And obviously next year is going to be challenging in so many ways as we navigate what education k-12 will look like post

COVID-19."

As for what she will miss most leaving Averill Park, Caruso responded, "My students, period. I have taught in five different school districts in the Capital Region, but the students here in Averill Park are the kindest and most generous of spirit. I have truly enjoyed all my time with them, not only teaching and learning about French and Spanish, but also laughing together, exploring issues like tolerance and privilege, and moving together in yoga and breathwork. I will miss all the fun we had together in APHS (room) 222."

"My students will get on with their lives and the chances of staying in touch are slim," she said. "This saddens me, particularly when it comes to the students I have in my classes this year. We aren't going to have the chance to say good bye the way I like best; with a big hug."

Caruso continued by saying, "I will also miss my colleagues, so many of whom have become dear friends, but I know I will stay in touch with them."

One of those colleagues, French teacher Mr. Brown, recalls that back in 2006 he was acting as a mentor to a Spanish teacher in the high school. "I thought it would be instructive to observe some middle school teachers to broaden my mentee's perspective," he said. "We were both in awe of Cathy's teaching method as she flew from one activity to the next, keeping students busy and absorbed in the lesson literally until the bell rang. It was impressive to say the least. Since Cathy's arrival at the high school several years ago, I have been lucky to be the beneficiary of her generous sharing of materials, plans, packets, ideas, and support. In a way, it might be good that her position is not being filled: she is a very tough act to follow."

Special Education teacher Merry Kraft started

working at Averill Park in 1993, starting out teaching Health in the elementary schools before moving on to teach high school special education.

Kraft's immediate plans for retirement are on hold at the moment. "We were supposed to go to Australia this summer as a retirement trip and to visit our daughter who lives there," she said. "We haven't cancelled yet, but it looks less and less likely that it's going to happen this year."

Kraft says she "loves to travel, so hopefully we will be doing a lot of traveling. I also plan to do volunteer work, and have more time for my hobbies - including photography and exploring the great outdoors. Next spring I hope to drive down to Florida with my bike in the car, and then drive back up the coast, visiting various bike trails and lighthouses along the way." While in Florida, she hopes things are back to normal enough to catch some of the spring training for the beloved Mets.

"Mrs. Kraft is one of the most caring people I know," said special education aide Alexia Rohl. "She is VERY patient, and we are going to miss her calm voice and personality in our classroom. Although we are sad to see her go, we are excited to look for pictures of her adventures that she will be taking."

As for leaving Averill Park, "I will definitely miss the daily face-to-face connection with my wonderful students and all my supportive colleagues," said Kraft. "I will miss seeing the students succeed at something that was formerly challenging for them."

Another thing she will miss is the Backpack Program, "where we sorted, organized, and packed food backpacks, and then delivered them to the elementary

schools every week." Kraft has continued to assist with packing the bags every Thursday through this pandemic.

"These are the days I miss them (the students) the most, because packing the food bags causes me to think of them even more than usual - my group of high school students, known as "AP Connections." You see, this is their job. I want them here, not because I can't pack the bags myself - I'm more than happy to do so."

"It's not because I don't have help, because one of the blessings of working in Averill Park is that there are always colleagues offering assistance," she said. "It's because this is one of the many things these students did so well, and now they're missing out. This job in particular provided practice in so many skills, and there was something for each of them - from counting and sorting, to organization and record keeping. Perhaps the greatest joy, though, was the satisfaction they felt in knowing that they were doing something to help others. So with every bag packed today, my thoughts are with them. This one's for you, AP Connections!"

"Mr. Blais, Mrs. Caruso, and Mrs. Kraft have all made incredible and tremendously impactful contributions to our building and school community over the years," said Averill Park High School principal Mr. Quiles. "This is especially when it comes to creating positive experiences for our students. These are our three high impact teachers! I know that I, along with all of our students and families, will miss them a great deal, but I wish them each the best as they head into this

# THE PROM IS BACK ON!

## PANDEMIC FORCES RESCHEDULING UNTIL THIS FALL

by Sarah Wallace

Springtime has rolled around and you know what that means, prom season! Oh wait, I almost forgot, we are going through a global pandemic.

All across the nation, juniors and seniors enrolled in high school were looking for one last hurrah to close out the 2019-2020 school year: prom. But due to the Coronavirus a lot has been postponed, including our very own junior class's prom. Originally set for Saturday, May 16, our junior class's prom was to be held at the Albany Marriott from 6-10 pm, a night dreamt to be filled with laughter, dancing, singing, and life-long memories.

For now, prom will

have to wait...but hopefully not for very long! The class of 2021 is scheduled to have their prom on Saturday, Sep-

tember 26 at the Desmond in Albany, New York. Still remaining is this year's theme, Cloud 9. While on "Cloud 9," students can enjoy an elegant buffet dinner with a choice of chicken parmigiana, sliced sirloin steak, or pasta primavera followed



by an ice cream sundae bar. The total cost is \$70 per person. Prom preparation began in early January as

girls were already shopping for their perfect dress, and as for the guys, they were getting dragged around to pick out their suits and matching color-coordinated ties. Some students even got the chance to ask their special someone to prom in their own creative, unique way. But this is only a fraction of the preparation needed for prom.

Junior class advisor Mrs. Yost spoke about all the enticing behind-the-scenes work that goes into planning a prom during such an uncertain time. Due to the global pandemic taking course, many events have been extremely difficult to plan. According to Yost, it has been quite challenging to rearrange all of the ven-

(continued on page 6)

# SLEEP SCHEDULE SURVEY SHOWS...

## LOTS OF CHANGE EXHIBITED WITH HOME INSTRUCTION

by Mackenzie Rockwell

This month marks the second, almost third month since the Averill Park School District announced that students would be out of the school building for approximately two weeks. This two week cancellation period quickly turned into much more, and we would soon learn we would not be returning to the building for the rest of the school year.

Since that March 14 date, my sleep schedule has progressively gotten worse. Each day I went to bed later and later, and would then eventually wake up later and later. My sleep schedule is now the worst it has ever been and ultimately, it's not going back any-

time soon. I decided to ask others if they had experienced the same thing.

to now. When asked what time they went to bed prior to quarantine, 56 people

after 2 am.

These numbers are drastically different compared to what time they say they go to bed now, two-plus months into quarantine. Now, 4 people said prior to 11 pm, 23 said between 11 - 12 midnight, 52 said between 12 -2 am, and 56 said after 2 am.

Prior to quarantine only five people said they went to bed after 2 am; however, now 56 say they are going to bed after that time.

It seems without having to wake up the next day for school, nothing is forcing students to go to bed at normal times, but let's hope we can all get back to a normal sleep schedule by the time school starts back up in the fall.



In an Instagram poll, people were asked what time they went to bed prior to quarantine in comparison

said they went to bed before 11 pm, 55 said between 11-12 midnight, 19 said between 12 -2 am, and 5 said

# A HERO GOES ABOUT HER WORK

## PANDEMIC PRESENTS BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL CHALLENGES

by Elizabeth Aioassa

Registered nurse Maria Dyer goes into work at the Albany Medical Center emergency room everyday knowing everything could change within minutes of walking in that door. Before Covid-19 struck, nurse Dyer would get the usual kinds of patients, some more severe than others, but now “what patients come in for are more serious complaints, like strokes or heart attacks among the patients concerned for Covid-19,” stated Dyer.

Before Covid-19 arrived, personal protective equipment or PPE was not a normal part of a nurse’s everyday life. They might have worn it for some other very contagious diseases, but now whenever nurse Dyer sees a patient, Covid-related or not, she wears protective gear.

“It’s a new normal

for us. We put on more PPE depending on what the patient might need,” she said.

Even the protocols in the hospital are constantly changing based on the



ever changing pandemic. They change so often that the protocol they end with isn’t always the same one they started with. “These change all the time because medicine is always

changing, and in order to keep us safe they are constantly updated”, Dyer explained.

The amount of staff available is another problem, but Dyer said, “we are very

lucky that none of my coworkers lost their job during this time.” While fortunate for the nurses, this is also vital for the general public, as the nurses on the frontline are essential during this time.

When asked about the best part of her day, Dyer stated, “When I get to see the patients get better and know that I helped them get through a tough time.” However, her second response concerned also going home to her family.

Even though more and more patients are getting better, some are still struggling a lot. When asked about the worst part of her day, she stated, “When patients are not well enough to go back home, and I know they will spend the rest of their days in the hospital.”

As her work life is changing, her home life is as well. “Normally I could see my friends and family outside of work hours, but just like you, I have to stay home.”

Hopefully her life can get back to normal soon as well as everyone else’s.

### PROM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

dors for which contracts were already set. Yost and the rest of the prom committee, including junior advisor Mrs.

Medici, had to enact a new plan.

“First we had to come up with a new date for our prom. We came up with every possibility for a new date and finally decided that a fall prom would be the best option,” said Yost. “If we tried to hold a prom in the summer, we may have had issues with folks being on vacations or jobs and not being able to attend, as well as graduated seniors being away at college, which starts in August.”

The prom committee decided that the best date available when no sporting or extracurricu-

lar events were to occur was September 26.

Additionally, Yost was able to get Cool Cat to DJ as their first two options, DJ Ketchup and his recommendation were not available. Some may recognize Cool Cat as the DJ to the class of 2020’s junior prom. This time, feedback given by students last year were taken into consideration, asking Cool Cat to play more slow songs and to not cut songs off.

Unfortunately there is that lingering question: what happens if Coronavirus does not enable us to have a September prom? Well, for right now Yost is unsure.

“As with most things during this pandemic, we have to cross that bridge when we get there,” she said. “It will be difficult if that happens. I will say that before signing any new contracts and when negotiating existing contracts, I did make sure that any money given as a deposit would either be refunded or carried over to the Class of 2022’s prom. We are optimistic that we will be able to hold our Class of 2021 prom in September; what a great way to kick off the school year!”

The future right now is so unknown and we can only hope for the best and, as Yost said, we are staying optimistic!

**We Want Your IDEAS**

The Averill Park Chronicle wants your story ideas. Send them to any Journalism Club member, or to Mr. Strich, The Chronicle’s advisor.



# ON THE FRONTLINE WITH THE CORONAVIRUS

## ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER CREATES UNIT TO BATTLE COVID-19

by Emma Hanlon

Recently, due to COVID-19, nurses at Albany Medical Center have suited up with personal protection equipment to help those who are infected by the virus. This means they are wearing gowns, gloves, masks, and face shields. They are unrecognizable. Some specific nurses caring for these patients at Albany Medical Center — specifically nurses on C2, colorectal surgery and urology — have even been converted into a specialized COVID unit.

These nurses, and other direct care staff, were accustomed to taking care of surgical patients, which is quite different from the COVID patient population. The conversion of the unit to the new patient population was not a small change for staff to deal with. They were left with taking care of patients with a new and highly infectious virus. They had never seen a patient with this virus other than on television, where the media had depicted it as being scary and deadly.

Not only is this change frightening for staff, but it is also difficult for patients. Patients are not allowed visitors, except for in special circumstances. They do not have the emotional comfort from their families at their bedside. Rather, COVID patients are given iPads where they can Facetime family and friends.

Nurses realize this is isolating for patients; it is very scary and lonely for these patients to spend their time in the hospital by themselves. To help with isolation, nurses have rallied to have the televi-

sion fees waived for patients that cannot afford to pay for the service.

Their limited interaction with other people is compounded by the PPE the staff



must wear to protect themselves. The patients are unable to see the faces of their nurses. Patients have limited interaction, and the people they can see are wearing PPE.

“Yes, it was very scary for staff to be expected to take care of the new patient population,” said Armenouhie Hanlon, the C2 Nurse Manager. “They received the first transfer patients that came from New York City in April. Although the staff were nervous, they knew how to properly protect themselves using PPE, and took excellent care of them.”

As time passed, staff

have become more accustomed to taking care of these highly infectious COVID patients. Nurses from other units volunteered, and are also currently working with those pa-



tients on C2.

“I volunteered to try to understand more about it,” said Paulina Gulbudagian, a regis-

tered nurse who recently transferred to C2 to help care for the patients infected by COVID-19. “I was afraid of it, like everyone else, and I wanted to see firsthand how it affects people,” she added.

The pandemic has created a unified team out of many nurses from several different units. These nurses have successfully worked together to help these patients in a team environment. They have overcome fear and anxiety many different ways as time went on, and quickly learned how the unit could best work with the COVID patient population.

Nurses try to cluster care so that they are only exposed to the virus for short durations of time. They do all of their care in “one shot,” such as medications, blood draws, fingersticks, vital signs, etc. They are also able to talk to the patients with the iPad without going into the room.

Nurses urge everyone to follow the CDC’s and local government’s guidelines to properly flatten the curve. Hand washing, and proper hygiene are one of the best ways to lower your risk of contracting the virus. Much anxiety is associated with the pandemic, which is understandable, but people have to socially distance themselves to best protect those who are most at risk for being seriously ill.

“I’m glad I volunteered because I am over the anxiety...I know I will be safe as long as I wear my equipment,” said Gulbudagian. The heroism of nurses, as pictured in the media, also creates hope that many will be encouraged to get involved in the medical field to help when the need next arises.

## SENIORS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

accomplishments with the people they've grown with and become so close to during the last four years. So many exciting events serve as the light at the end of the tunnel for so many seniors, including senior dinner dance, senior picnic, senior arts gala, and of course, graduation.

Four years of hard work, perseverance, and navigating your way through the high school experience has led up to this one event. Many seniors have dreamed of graduation for years, excited to finally walk across the stage with their best friends and receive their diplomas while their families cheer from the crowd. Some think of the ceremony as long and tedious but look forward to the celebrations and pictures afterward.

Unfortunately, along with schools across the country, it seems that this year Averill Park won't be celebrating graduation in the traditional way that the seniors have been dreaming of for years.

Luckily, the Averill Park Class of 2020 has an administration and community that cares about them deeply. Mr. Quiles, the principal at Averill Park high school, has been meeting with senior class officers and other seniors over Google Meet regularly to maintain communication and gauge how students are feeling. From the very beginning, he's made it clear that he will do everything he can to make the seniors feel like their hard work is being recognized and that they are celebrated in every way possible.

In a letter to the seniors sent out on March 23, Quiles wrote, "Please know that we are all thinking of you, and that we are committed, as we learn more about what is ahead of us, to finding ways to make sure

we celebrate who you are, what you've accomplished, and the impact that you have made on our school community."

Planning anything these last few months has been far from an easy task. With new developments on the global pandemic presenting themselves daily, it has been nearly impossible to predict what things will be like in a



week, nevertheless in the coming months. Thankfully, parents of Averill Park senior Hayden Chenette reached out to Quiles early to offer the possibility of using their family business, the Jericho Drive-In, as a destination for graduation if restrictions forbid indoor large-scale gatherings. As it happens, this will have to be the case.

On May 20, an email was sent out to the members of the Averill Park Class of 2020, along with their parents and guardians, announcing plans for this year's graduation. The ceremony will begin at 9 pm on June 27 at the Jericho Drive-In. Students and their families will have to remain in their cars but will be able to view a live-streamed commencement ceremony production on both the big screen at the drive-in and on their personal devices. This ceremony production will include everything that a typical graduation event would, including student speeches, guest speeches, our high school choir, and recognition of everyone in the senior class. Diplomas will be delivered and presented to each student at their respective cars. The night will end in a celebratory fireworks show over the drive-in.

The high school administration has worked so hard to make this ceremony special for the seniors in every way possible, because as Quiles emphasized, "The Class of 2020 has done an amazing job of showing its strength and resilience throughout all of this."

As with any big decision, the plan for this year's

graduation has been met with varying feedback. Senior class secretary Hannah Ryan explained, "There is so much emotion involving graduation and so many people have varying opinions on what's best, so the class officers and Mr. Quiles have definitely seen some negative feelings about the plans." Some seniors and their families hoped to have graduation on the high school football field instead of at the drive-in, but since the high school campus is closed and will continue to be through the date of graduation, this is not a possibility. Additionally, the health department will not allow students to get out of their cars and walk across a stage during the ceremony.

"A lot of people are seeing videos of graduations in other states that have students out of their cars or even walking across a stage and then getting upset that our graduation doesn't include that," explained senior class treasurer Carley Salerno, "but in our area that's still not allowed, so there's unfortunately nothing the administration can do right now to change it."

Even so, Mr. Quiles assured Student Council members that if regulations were to

change by the date of the ceremony, and the health department and the school's attorneys allowed for more flexible restrictions, he would most definitely be open to adjusting plans accordingly.

The high school community recognizes that although these exciting alternative plans have been made for graduation, it's still a sad time for seniors as they won't be able to participate in the traditions that they've looked forward to for so long. In hopes of lifting the spirits of the seniors, the high school has made additional plans to celebrate the Class of 2020. As you drive through Averill Park and its neighboring towns, be sure to look out for lawn signs gifted to seniors by the high school reading "Home of an Averill Park High School Senior!" In addition, the administration recently announced a "reverse parade" for the seniors on June 15. On this day, students are encouraged to wear their cap and gown, decorate their cars, and drive through the high school campus where teachers, administration, and community members will be lining the streets to greet them. And according to senior class advisor Ms. Freeman, the class officers are working on a couple of other small surprises in addition to these new plans.

As with everything else this year, things are definitely not playing out as expected so many months ago. But even so, it's clear that the high school community truly wants the best for this year's senior class and is doing everything they can to make it special. The Class of 2020 has had a huge impact on the high school, and while the end of this school year will undeniably be different than the many before it, it will be one that the seniors will remember forever.



# SHOULD GRADES COUNT IN FINAL AVERAGES?

## STUDENTS WEIGH IN ON SCHOOL'S DECISION

by Carly Antolick

The sudden closing of schools due to COVID-19 left many students wondering how this would affect their averages and overall GPAs. All students are now aware that they will be graded on a pass or fail basis, and that they will not have averages for this spring semester. However, this begs the question: should students be able to choose if their grades for the third and fourth quarters count towards their final averages?

"I think that students shouldn't be able to choose," said freshman Elizabeth Aiossa. "If some chose to have it count and some didn't, colleges could get confused, or hold it against you. It could also be used as an excuse to not do the assigned work."

If students were allowed to choose whether or not to factor in their third and fourth quarter averages, colleges could look skeptically at the decision to just include a pass or fail. It could also allow students to receive a pass by only doing the bare minimum for a class. Senior Lilly Kronau agreed, saying, "Students should not get to choose unless they have a personal, physical, or emotional issue...so that they stay motivated, despite not physically being in school."

As we are all now realizing in times like these, motivation is such an important part of succeeding in school. Providing students with the opportunity to choose whether to count their averages or to simply display a pass or fail could take away some of the motivation necessary for stu-

dents to keep their grades at a high level. "It's still a responsibility to keep grades up, even though we aren't at school," said freshman Max Miller.

Also to be considered is that students who

some of that stress, and has made grading for teachers much easier. However, as freshman Jason Strickland pointed out, learning from home has also created complications for students. "The communication between

ting students choose is controversial as well.

"I think it's smarter for everyone to be under the same system," freshman Emma Hanlon said. "Either everyone should have a pass or fail, or everyone's averages should count." This would eliminate the aforementioned issue with colleges looking down on the decision to only display a pass or fail rather than an average, and would also save teachers from stress.

However, junior student Sarah Wallace highlighted an important point. "When all students reach the graduation level of high school, colleges will see a COVID-19 based P or F on our final transcript," she said. "But, I think it would be something really remarkable and inspiring for a student at any grade level to take on the challenge of wanting their 2019-2020 spring semester grades to count."



hypothetically chose to simply display a pass or fail on their transcript rather than an average could have done varying amounts of work to achieve a pass, ranging from the bare minimum to all of the work that the student was assigned.

No matter what your viewpoint is, there is the fact that learning from home has been an unexpected change, and has been difficult in many different ways.

"The fact that we're distance learning from home makes it really hard for teachers to grade our work accurately," said freshman Sam Bonesteel. "The switch from school to home changed every student's work ethic and every teacher's grading method."

Since students have transitioned from in-school learning to now learning from home, grading has undoubtedly become more complicated for all teachers. The pass or fail method has alleviated

teacher and student has become much harder," he said. "It is difficult to understand specific details on assignments needed for high grades these quarters."

Doing assignments from home is undoubtedly more difficult, because students no longer have the ability to simply go to their teacher's classroom and ask for help. Access to the internet, email, and to programs like Google Classroom and Google Meet have become necessary for student success. "It gives an unfair advantage to those who have better WiFi and proper devices at their homes," said senior Xander Michaels. "For students who lack these resources, it may be more difficult for them to get better grades in that environment."

There is much debate over whether a pass or fail system or the traditional average system would work better for students during this time, but the very idea of let-

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# THE ROAD TO HIGHER ED A BIT MUDDLED

## ADMISSION INTO COLLEGE ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE

by Carley Salerno

COVID-19 has changed the face of daily life for citizens across the country. For grocery shoppers, one-way aisles and masks have become normal. For children, playdates are virtual and seeing friends can only happen from six feet apart. And for prospective college students, the basis of the biggest decision of their life so far has shifted immensely, leaving many confused, frightened, and very uncertain about the future.

Colleges have closed their campuses and have opted to teach remotely for the remainder of the spring term. For prospective students, this means cancelled programs, visits, and other events important to the decision-making process. Accepted Students Days, one of the staples of influencing prospective students (when colleges invite accepted students to spend a day on campus), have all been cancelled.

"I never even saw my college before committing," said Xander Michaels,

who will be attending SUNY Geneseo next fall. "As soon as Accepted Students Day was cancelled, I drove four hours up to Geneseo, looked around the campus for a bit, and drove four hours back home."



Michaels said the choice was difficult without having ever officially visited campus, but that he ultimately decided based on the school's new online webinar programs.

Many other students are experiencing scenarios similar to Michaels'. Anxiety

concerning whether classes will be online or in person next semester have even caused some students to reconsider continuing their education at all in the coming year.

many private institutions have been giving out generous scholarships out of desperation for committed students.

Even for students who've known where they want to attend, the coronavirus has already negatively impacted their college experience.

"My orientation was cancelled back in early April," said Lauren Harland, who will be attending UConn next fall. "At the time, I thought it was way too early to make a call, but now..." Harland says she was looking forward to orientation to meet new friends and get used to the campus before moving there permanently. Its cancellation adds an element of anxiety to the already nerve-racking process of moving away from home.

How the rest of the Class of 2020's college experience will be shaped by the effects of a global pandemic remains to be seen. Public schools in California have already closed their campuses for the fall semester - and New York schools may be soon to follow.

# NEW *CHRONICLE* EDITORS ADDED

## WHILE BIDDING FAREWELL TO THREE GRADUATES

by Mr. Strich

It is a bittersweet moment for *The Chronicle* and members of the Journalism Club, as three new editors will be joining the staff next year, taking the place of three valuable graduating seniors.

Freshmen Julie Hale and Tyler Michaels,

and sophomore Dani Lapier were all selected from a large group of qualified candidates to take on these leadership positions for the next school year.

Their main responsibilities will include assisting student writers, editing stories as well as the newspaper, generating story ideas, helping run Journalism Club meetings,

and writing articles for the newspaper, all while upholding the integrity of the newspaper.

The Journalism Club also wishes the best of luck to our graduating senior writers, and especially to our three senior editors, Lillian Kronau (attending Siena, studying Biology/Health Studies), Lauren Harland (attending the

University of Connecticut, studying Journalism) and Carley Salerno (attending SUNY Geneseo, studying Government and Law/Foreign Language). Thank you for your substantial contributions that directly made *The Chronicle* a paper the school can be proud of. Your talents and efforts, and all around fun attitudes, will be greatly missed!

# EDITORIAL PAGES

## QUARANTINE STRATEGY...

by Maddia Reiter

Dealing with your family during quarantine can get tough. You are trapped in your house with people that get annoying quickly. You can't leave, you have to deal with all of the emails bombarding you, and you are forced to do all of your work online. The last thing I want to do is have to deal with my two siblings that are nincompoops and my parents for a month and counting. It is important to figure out how to cope and deal with this situation.

It is not easy; my parents are down my throat about every little thing. With school my mom is always waking me up at 7 in

the morning and making me start my classes. I am seventeen years old; I can manage my own school work. Skadaddle and leave me alone.



It is so tempting to just sleep all day long, it makes the days go by faster and my dreams are always about not being stuck in this

house any longer. My brother...he just plays Xbox for hours at a time. I have never seen someone scream at fake people so much in my life. He thinks that if he yells loud enough his 2k players will do better. Sorry to bust your bubble Lucas, but that is not how it works. My sister is just obsessed with the *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. That is so boring, I just sit in my room and binge watch shows that I actually like. I do some school work here and there, but not as much as I should. My Eng-

(continued on page 16)

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**Editors:**

- Katie Armlin (Features)
- Lauren Harland (News)
- Lilly Kronau (Profiles)
- Carley Salerno (Editorials/Reviews)
- Sarah Wallace (Sports/Features)
- Advisor: Mr. Strich

## ...AND QUARANTINE HORROR

by Sean Malenfant

Congratulations! So far you have survived the global pandemic. What does your fate hold? It almost seems that your prowess of modern warfare with the dangers of this world is too godly to even be touched.

In the time you've spent in your bunker, holding off the deadliest of soldiers, you've found the time to gain a PhD in viruses and cellular biology off of YouTube. You're an absolute mastermind. You can't be touched. Except for one little thing that scares you. An ancient technique of combat, only found by those



mentioned in the ancient scrolls. Your tenacity in modern forms of combat has left you naive to the past. Even though this form of combat is ancient it is still inevitable...

This day couldn't come.

It can't be.

Your worst nightmare has become reality. Your rations have run out. You need to restock your resources.

You put on your mask and step into no man's land..

After successfully

taking your war machine to the barracks, you begin to sweat. The weight of an iron kettlebell begins to wrench on your diaphragm. You lose all access to the fine motor skills you had just ten minutes before.

It is time.

You manage to get out of the vehicle and put one foot in front of the other. You know what's coming but you have no control. For the first time in what feels like all of eternity, you feel vulnerable.

Three internal motivational speeches later you

(continued on page 13)



# EDITORIAL PAGES

## PRO/CON

### Is the quarantine a time to be more productive rather than a time to relax?

#### PRO

by Tyler Michaels

2020 was supposed to be a special year, the beginning of a new decade. Instead, it is going to be unique because of the virus, quarantine, and everything changing. With all of this change, it can be nice to continue doing what you would have been doing before quarantine. This would mean continuing to work on school, sports, clubs, and any other extracurriculars students had been working on before school became digital.

Over the quarantine, we should continue to be productive and keep working hard. Each regular school day goes from 7:30 to 2:10, or about six and a half hours of work (some of this also includes lunch and advisory, during which students may not be working for the whole time). Although classes are now digital, that doesn't mean that there is no more school, and students should continue to be working for roughly the same amount of time.

Although it is now online, students should still be taking their time to do their assignments, and even with meals and breaks, they should be spending enough time on school work to fill roughly what they would be doing otherwise. In this uncertain time, keeping to a regular schedule will help give a sense of stability, and continuing to do what you would otherwise be doing helps keep one constant in these

uncertain times.

In addition to this, it's been proven that students regress over summer break every year. If students were to stop all work for the 14 weeks of digital classes, they would lose much of what they



learned during the first semester, and would lose even more once summer vacation began. Keeping productive and continuing school work will help students maintain what they've learned over the past year, and will make it much easier to dive back into classes next year.

If you've been wanting to keep active, or begin to walk or run on a regular schedule, this is the chance to do it. With all of the time from other activities now being free, everyone should be finding other activities to do in order to stay active and heal-

(continued on page 19)

#### CON

by Sam Bonesteel

School isn't meant to be overly taxing for kids, but it is designed so that through the day students are kept busy with work and

various scheduled online video chats with teachers and deadlines for assignments, students can work at their own pace. And though teachers are doing all they can to give adequate amounts of work to students, it's falling way short of the work given while physically attending school. Kids might be getting through all their lessons in the same amount of time relative to past years' agendas, but a lot less work is assigned and therefore have a lot more free time.

Everyone wants to go back to school and get back on that schedule, even if it might be just to see people again and socialize in person. But while waiting, quarantine is a great time to just relax.

Stuffing your schedules full of additional work and chores may make you feel more like you used to in normal times, but these aren't normal times. Working on the stuff your teacher posted online each week is necessary to ensure you pass the class. Family hikes and games and online meetings with friends is a great time to bond and make up for the absence of seeing them in person, and, in the case of your family, taking the advantage of seeing them more often. But while cleaning the bathroom, organizing your desk, and vacuuming your room may be a great use of your time and a nice help to your family once

learning new things. And while you need numerous breaks throughout the day, there's only limited time for your teachers to educate you before you have to go home.

At home, any student is bound to have plenty of homework to do before the next day and the day after that. It's a tight routine: wake up early, go to school, learn, after school activities, and then lots of work before bed. But the coronavirus has given kids a very unusual break from this tedious cycle of work. Now that everyone is at home, they're pretty much on their own schedule.

Aside from the

(continued on page 18)

# EDITORIAL PAGES

## “FAMILY TIME” TAKES ON A NEW MEANING

by Lilly Kronau

“Hey honey, do you want to go on a walk?” your mom asks. Sure, this seems harmless and it’s got to be good for you, right? You say, “Sure mom!”

20 minutes later...

“Hey honey, do you want to go on a walk?” asks your mom...again. And so the pattern continues, every day, every 20 minutes. It’s day 45 of quarantine, hour 6, minute 28 as I sit here trying to come up with a believable answer for my mom as to why I couldn’t possibly go on another walk, despite the obvious being it’s our sixth walk of the day. You think you are out of the clear when she takes the “I’m too tired to walk” response, but then she asks, “How about a board game,” followed by an, “I just got a new puzzle. Want to try it out?”

Quarantine has undoubtedly brought us closer to our families as we partake on infinite walks, play every board game in our home, and complete every mind-boggling puzzle Amazon has to offer. Should I even mention how every nook and cranny, ones you didn’t even know existed, have been cleaned so many times that you are starting to see your reflection. Or even

worse: your mom thinks you’re doing such a good job that she plans to continue this never-ending pattern post-quarantine. This ultimately leads to you going outside into your newly planted garden, because of course you garden now, taking dirt and rubbing it



into those previously cleaned nooks and crannies to give it that “pre-quarantine look” and halt those moms.

Have board games gotten scary for anyone else? My family has always been competitive, but on those rainy days — when you are stuck inside, can’t travel, and are with, you guessed it, your family — it’s a whole new level of competitiveness. Simple board games like Sorry or Clue turn into Darwin’s “survival of

the fittest”. The most successful players advance on, while the losers fall back. However, it’s not that simple due to this thing called “Quarantine reality.” You finally win! Is that really a good thing, though? As you scan the room you begin to see eyes staring at

you, and not in an adoring way, more of an “I’m going to kill you” way. Your mom is giving you a deathly glare that translates to “you are grounded” or “no dinner for you.” You see your sisters simultaneously staring at you with a withering glare that say, “This isn’t over.” Even your dog is giving you a stare, but it’s not withering like the others, it’s more so a satisfied, “I just peed in your room” type of stare.

What happens if one of them wins? Well, the quarantine demon takes over and they dance on the table chanting they re “the greatest of all time,” while getting their dirty feet on the table you just cleaned. So it’s safe to say you now are “too busy” during walks and game nights.

Forget eating dinner at the kitchen table, dining room table, coffee table, and really any flat surface in your house, because there is most definitely a puzzle on it. Puzzles have become a quarantine staple in almost every house ,ranging from 250 pieces all the way to 10,000 pieces. Make sure every ounce of your extra efforts are contributing to that puzzle, otherwise you are getting one less cookie for dessert.

The quarantine family craziness will inevitably happen to everyone during this chaotic time. Although it can be difficult and force you to spend lots of quality time with your family, it’s important to soak in as much time as you can (within reason, a.k.a make time for yourself, too) because who knows when we will ever get this kind of time and closeness back.

### HORROR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

have begun the task at hand. But then it happens. As you are standing in the grocery store, what would seem to be a fellow comrade turns fire on you. Your stomach somehow manages to get yanked into your throat while your feet are

cemented into the ground. You realize what they have done. They used the ancient technique... social skills.

You hear the word “Hi” rattling inside of your head like a murder hornet. With nowhere to run and no-

where to hide, you muster up all of the courage humanly possible in a matter of seconds. All of your training has come to this moment.

With a flash you have a sudden epiphany. They can’t tell if you smile

back because you have a mask on. Your superior intellect saves you. You gain enough confidence to act. You decide to reply politely and say “Hi.” Victory is yours. You will live to see another day.

# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THE STEPS TO...STAYING ALIVE

by Ryan Holzman

In life, we are all born, and in turn we all die. Now that really sucks, doesn't it, and there isn't any way to really avoid it. Unless you're someone like Walt Disney and can be cryogenically frozen until we figure out how to live forever or become immortal. But, we can at least find ways to avoid death until our bodies decide it's time to kick the bucket and just flatline from old age. And today we will teach you how to do exactly that in a few simple and not so simple steps, depending on who you are or where you live.

Okay, so the first step, probably the most simple but the most difficult: get born in an area which is safe with a good standard of living.

Now this doesn't sound too hard, but with today's world there are many dangerous places to live in and we can't really do much about it. Preferably you would want to be born in a place where it is easy to get a job, but that's not necessary just yet. The only reason that this is really hard at all is we have literally zero choice as to where we are born. Those people we call parents choose the location, and sometimes it's even out of their control what happens.

So it's basically completely random for you; it's like being chucked in a video game where every major and necessary thing in it has its location decided by random number generation. You could be completely set straight off the bat (the equivalent to a rich kid being spoon

-fed literally everything in their life) or you could be completely and utterly doomed for failure right off the bat (being born in a poor country in the middle of war).

Good job mate, you got lucky and step one treat-



ed you well. What's that, it didn't and you managed to beat the odds? Well, congrats anyways, you're one of the lucky few people.

Anyways, now we are on to step two, and this one is either super easy or super hard, and it's all dependent on how you are as a person. This step is simple: do not make enemies, simple as that. What, you thought it was going to be some extreme task like defusing a time bomb while fist fighting a bear? Well I'm sorry; you're disappointed in me, aren't you, and if you are then don't show it. You might just make an enemy, and some people hold grudges for the simplest of things. Remember that kid back in fifth grade you stole those chips from everyday and he never said anything

about it? Yeah, he really didn't like that and he hates you for it to this day; he might even be petty enough to beat you up in the streets for it. Doesn't sound like a good time? Well that's because it isn't, so don't make

him angry and he won't do that to you. Treat others well and they won't come after you in the future to ruin your life.

Now is time for next step, step three. Get a job. Yet again, it sounds somewhat tough but it's pretty easy. First things first, keep up on your appearance. Look good and act mature; do not act like a child if you do not get hired because if you have to apply at the same place later they will remember that.

Before anything though, you need to get your working papers in order; usually you need to get your green card from your respective school in order to do so. After that it's not too bad to do the rest — just locate a place that you think you can

get a job at, apply for your desired position, and hope you get an interview. And remember, be professional.

Ok, now we make sure you follow step four; this one is very important, and it's one that we all are literally required to follow. Do not get arrested, so simply put, do not break law, dummkopf.

Just follow the law and you will be good, and make sure that you don't get involved with people who are breaking the law. Sometimes they might drag you down with them, and jail is the last place you want to be in if you are looking to stay alive. Well, except for a battlefield, but it's still pretty dangerous in prison. Unless you are really good at establishing yourself as a strong figure, you do not want to be in jail, because you will get assaulted quite often by rowdy inmates looking to start a fight. So don't be stupid, and avoid breaking the law so you don't get shanked in jail.

Assuming step three has been completed at least once (sometimes you have to get multiple different jobs due to complications), and you have followed step four, we now move on to step five, which might be your final step. This step is one that you want to work on throughout your life, and is synonymous with step two, and that is to make allies that will help you in times of need. Say your apartment gets foreclosed and you gotta move out; well, if you make good friends who you can count on, you might

(continued on page 15)



# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THE KEYS TO REMAINING SINGLE

by Nick Reohr

Ah, love, what a sweet yet salty avenue of human life. One cannot journey through a Barnes and Noble without spotting a section dedicated to novels upon novels of people being thunderstruck by the most powerful emotion in the human arsenal. Similarly, one is unable to binge Netflix without a romance film catching their gaze, or indulge in Spotify without at least one song being inspired by this extreme feeling of adoration. Suffice to say, love is one of the keystones to the bridges called society and the psyche.

However, whether it be read, watched, or listened to, these stories of love are almost always inaccurate when compared to the realistic truth behind love. Many residents on this world are less than fortunate when it comes to adapting skills in procuring a significant other. Yours truly being one such person, I have allowed myself to simply accept the fact that I may be dragging social distancing to the grave. In my misfortune, however, I have grown wise in the subject of love. How, you may ask? Why,

that would be because my previous failures have granted me a treasure trove of valuable intel regarding what mistakes to avoid in future endeavors.

As quoted from one of the world's greatest intel-



lectuals, Thomas Edison stated as such: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." With determination and not knowing how to give up, he has come up with several highly influential inventions. However, in the dating realm, constant pursuit beyond rejection or failure will only reward you with a restraining order.

Given the topic at hand, the saying "there's plenty of fish in the sea" is also apt. It refers to the ability of moving on from failed projects, and starting from scratch with a new person that doesn't hate you yet.

Speaking of world intellectuals, let's share a fun fact. Did you know that Isaac Newton, one of the most influential scientists in the world, died a virgin? That means that I, myself have one up on Newton, in regards to the fact that I'm not dead yet. Imagine being one of the smartest people in history and perhaps the smartest of your time, and

not only be brandished as crazy, but also never know the embrace of true love. Although, likely in Newton's case, his true love was ultimately his knowledge and work.

Now that we're past my ramblings, we can move on to actually begin the procedure. For starters, search for someone that has similar interests to your own. That means if you like staying up past midnight binging on *Animal Crossing*, try to find someone who appreciates the game where the main goal is paying off an outrageous loan to a raccoon as well.

Next up - and this is a big one - find someone smarter than you. That's right, you have to put your own intelligence on the line, because being with someone smarter than you will be so worth it. Actually, just in general surround yourself with smart people. Don't get me wrong, dumb people are entertaining, but by hanging out with smart people you can severely cut back on the number of phone calls and texts you get in the dead of

(continued on page 17)

### STAYING ALIVE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

just be able to get help from one of them in getting a place to stay while you look for new housing. Got some guy who you think is after you, let your friends know and they will keep an eye out for you. Generally these friends are not too hard to come by; it's as simple as making good rela-

tions with other people. And remember, you might have to help them some day as well, so be ready to help them out in their time of need so they can help you in yours.

And now we have reached our endpoint, assuming you have followed all of the steps that I have listed so

far. There are two different options from here, depending on your social status. If you are a normal civilian, you will probably die either from old age or cancer in your mid 70's to early 80's. But if you are a part of the wealthy, you might just be able to cheat death by getting yourself cryo-

genically frozen until they find a way to bring you back, like Walt Disney. But let's face it, most of us can't really do that, so we will end it off here. Hope you enjoyed the time that following this list has granted you.

# COLLEGE-BOUND JUNIORS, TAKE NOTE

## COLLEGE READINESS AND RESEARCH NOW OFFERED

by Gabi Mohos

This upcoming school year, high school librarian Mrs. Yost will be teaching a new class called College Readiness and Research Skills. It will go over necessary college skills that graduates have said that they wished they learned about in high school.

Yost was accepted to teach this Hudson Valley Course at Averill Park, and added the College Readiness aspect into the Research Skills class.

Topics such as writing applications and college essays, filling in FAFSA forms, and dorm life expectations among many other things will be included in the first half of the course.

In the second half, research skills will be taught.

This will prepare students for the “rigor of college level writing and research projects,”



said Yost.

Any senior who plans to go to college will benefit from this course, and can also earn a college credit.

This will help save money and possibly help you matriculate faster.

When asked about her feelings toward teaching this class, Yost explained how excited she was. “I love to teach and work closely

with students to guide them in attaining their goals, so I really hope this course flies in the fall,” she said.

The acceptance process required to teach College Readiness and Research Skills was an extremely lengthy process, so this year's Juniors already had their fall schedules determined before they may have heard about the new course offering. Yost has a solution for this. “They (the juniors) can change their schedules to fit this course in if they contact their guidance counselor. I'm hoping we get enough interest in the course so it will be a ‘go’.”

This new class sounds great, and will be very helpful for all seniors who are college-bound. It's not too late to change your schedule and take it!

### QUARANTINE STRATEGY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

lish teacher is the first to email my mom when I have not handed something in. I guess that is a good thing; it gives my mom an excuse to yell at me.

I try to come out for snacks only when I'm desperate. Before I come into the kitchen I have to make sure nobody is there, because I'll get trapped into doing some chore thing called laundry. Not too sure what that is but my parents always yell at me for it. I think it is like something with clothes, I'm not sure and I don't want to find out.

Anyway, back to my family — they get annoying quickly. When they ask you to play a game as a family, you always say yes. You have to say yes because then it gives you an excuse to stay in your room longer. When your mom asks you to come and socialize you can throw the “I just played a game with the family” back at her. It works every time. I don't understand why my family wants to interact

with each other. We have been in the same house for so long, like you get sick of each other. It is a hard process and it is difficult to figure out what is going to work. At this rate I have no idea when I'm going to be able to leave my house again so I have to continue to figure out this that will help me deal with my family.

I love my family, don't get me wrong. But they can be so annoying. A few things that you can do to deal with your family are listed below:

Sleep a lot; you have to turn your sleep schedule into an owls. Being nocturnal is key. Be awake when your family is not, asleep when they are awake.

Next, watch every single show on Netflix except *Tiger King*, because that's stupid. The few hours that you

are awake at the same time as your family, lock yourself in your room and only come out for meals. When either of your parents come into your room, act like you are sleeping and don't respond and just hope they leave you alone.

Another way to deal with your family is to talk to your friends on FaceTime. Every night I FaceTime my two best friends, Anna and Kara. I talk to them in my room with my door shut. It gives me some time to talk to friends and not have to have face to face interaction with my family. If you talk to your friends it gives you a chance to socialize with other people that are not your family.

This time is tough for everyone so giving some tips should help everyone out. Stay strong and we will get through this.

**GET INVOLVED**

**Join the Averill Park Journalism Club!**

The Averill Park Chronicle is looking for writers, editors and photographers. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 2:20 pm in room 209.

# THIS PANDEMIC IS SUCH A CHORE

## STUDENTS ADJUST TO NEW DEMANDS AT HOME

by Julie Hale

We've now been in quarantine for nearly two months and the world hasn't changed all that much. Or has it? Throughout the world the virus is still at large and wreaking havoc, but how has our daily life changed in light of this situation?

My household has gone through many schedule changes even within this short amount of time. We've gone through so many that I now have more chores than what I used to have to prepare for guests coming over. Before the pandemic, we wouldn't have had as many daily chores; we used to only have to vacuum and dust every other week or so. However, at the beginning of the pandemic we started getting more and more daily chores. Plus, now that my sister and her dog are home more, we began vacuuming and dusting every week to control the dog hair.

Once we got into a more structured routine, our chores changed. Up to today, my chores have been constantly changing according to what needs to be done on

does his chores based on what he sees needs to be done, without being asked - which makes his parents extremely thankful. Even though he is without a "work" sched-

extent of different schedules due to the pandemic. Some households have kept their chore duties exactly the same.

In freshman Riley Pratt's case, she continues to do the basics almost every day, including washing dishes, washing clothes, folding the laundry, and then taking the trash out.

As for sophomore Anna Zusy, her schedule has remained practically the same, although the only difference to her routine is that she does hers on the weekends.

It appears that throughout this prolonged quarantine, chores have changed within each household, and are even different from others. So when you feel you have too many chores or are lucky enough not to have any, remember that everyone's routine is different.



that day. As an example, today I had to clean the microwave, and water the garden twice. At this point, I'm hoping we can go back soon.

However, it hasn't been the same for every household. In the Miller household it's much different. Freshman Max Miller doesn't have a set chore schedule, he

ule, he's the lucky one, for he still gets an allowance. For whatever work he does during the week, he gets \$10; in his words, "It's 10 bucks a week, which is better than nothing." As for the specifics of his chores, they're rudimentary, but he gets more of them now that he's home.

Even that's not the

### SINGLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

night. No meaningless ramblings, no \$200 that you need to lend that you can't ask about, all of that is gone. And just to be clear, I mean smart, not clever. There is a big difference. If you date someone and you can't decide if they're smart or clever, well, they're clever. That's just how it works. If you're wrong, smart people will simply list a bunch of facts as to why you're wrong, and that's it. That leaves plenty of time in the day to get more things wrong, which is really helpful. Clever people, how-

ever, will use the times you've been wrong in the past to completely invalidate your argument. It's like trying to date a negative political attack ad, targeted against you.

Once you have discovered the person you desire to swoon for, you're going to have to prepare yourself to confront this person, because if you have any hopes of dating this person, you will have to eventually talk. No such thing as love will exist between the two of you if you just stand there silently and creepily. Smiles and eye con-

tact will only get you so far. In fact, too many smiles and too much eye contact will only convince the other person that their life is in immediate danger.

Make absolutely sure that you blink once every 3 to 5 seconds in a confrontation. You'll also want to make sure you keep your face relaxed so they will at least think that if you are going to kidnap them you'll be professional about it. Now, once you begin your conversation, talk to them as if you were talking to an old friend

that you just met for the first time in years. Yes, that's right, I'm saying to put yourself in the friend zone. No, I don't mean a friend that you hang out with regularly, because if that were the case you'd be cussing them out left and right and telling them how much of an idiot they are to their face, all while you're laughing it off because they did something stupid. Not those friends,

(continued on page 18)



## SINGLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

that will not work here. At least, that won't work until later.

You'll want to keep the conversation simple, don't go too far off of the deep end, or else you risk drowning in rejection. The real key thing here is to be funny, because in this day and age people are just dying to get some time to relax and just have a good time without restrictive social norms. Go on Youtube and scour the channel dry bar comedy and you can pretty quickly find videos with some funny jokes in them. Alternatively you can go on Reddit to the subreddit r/jokes and get some pretty high quality ones there.

Regardless, once you convince this person that you didn't just come along to kidnap them, they should enjoy your company a little bit more. Convince them further that you should hang out sometime and congratulations, you've successfully made it farther

than I ever had in any sort of relationship. Ever. You should feel proud. Or not, because mine is not that much of a hurdle to leap, but at least you got to the friend zone. I'd be lucky if I make it that far.

It is not uncommon for a relationship to turn sour for many reasons. One of the more common reasons is if one person simply neglects to speak to the other person. This is a killer of hopes and dreams. So, for this step, make sure you keep in contact with the person. Never leave them alone with their thoughts for too long, and do you best to convince them as often as possible that being together is a really good idea. If you do end up in the misfortune of a breakup then you have once again, made it further than me. Congratulations! You achieved the goal at the top of this article. But I'm sensing you want me to help you fix your problem, huh? You want some actual true advice? Alright then. But just to let you know, the truth hurts.

The most important thing about being out in the world is discerning fantasy from reality. The fantasy of it is that learning to swoon and date someone is attainable through some "How to" passage or video. Nothing out in the world is that simple. The reality of it is that people will care for you the more you make connections and strive to improve yourself in as many ways as possible. You need to be willing to negotiate with criticism in order to understand what's really important and improve yourself.

And besides, being single isn't as bad as it seems. There is a lot less to manage. If you really want to get over the person, make sure you stock up on tissues because you're going to be crying a lot.

If you're thinking "You don't understand, no relationship I've ever been in has ever worked out," then all I have to say is, you do know that's true of every currently single person, right? Yeah, you're in last but you're tied

with like a billion other people. "I don't understand, how did this happen?" Well, obviously they thought they could do better. I think if that weren't the case they would still be with you. But based on how they're not with you, it would lead me to believe that they thought they could do better than you. Does that make sense? "Whatever. I'm smart, I'm handsome, I'm charismatic." Well yeah but you're not maxed out in any of those stats. There's still room for improvement, alright. "I wish I'd been more confident around them, and been more fun." Yeah you totally should have. Why didn't you think of that earlier, that might have worked. "Whatever. I'll find someone better." Uh, better? I don't know because if I lose to my brother in a game of basketball I'm not like, "I just need to play against someone better at basketball." You should find someone worse, you know? Play on easy mode for a bit.

## CON (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

in a while, it's not like these activities are useful when done more than once in a week or two.

Some people are resorting to things like constantly doing chores they would hate to do in normal times just because everything's on shutdown. Not only do obsessions like these waste rarely-found cleaning supplies that some people have difficulty getting their hands on, but they are completely unnecessary, seeing as most of these activities only need to be done occasionally, and are overdone in these weird times as some sort of routine.

It is true that finding new hobbies to keep you occupied is sometimes the last thing keeping you sane, but people need to remember not to overdo it, and take advantage of the current situation by taking a break. Freshman Matt Frost said, "More relaxing leads to a healthier and less stressful lifestyle as well as being able to focus on activities that you wouldn't usually have time for." There's a lot less work to do and more time to be how you are without school.

Some may say it's unfair to those who have to go out there and risk their necks to do their job and help other people, and this is not

unfounded, but everyone who is quarantined is doing all they can to help others. Staying at home and not interacting is the number one thing needed to stop the spread of COVID-19, and isn't everyone doing it? When you go out in public, keep your distance, but at home, it is your home. You're doing all you can do to help society, so why not just take a little time to relax, and not overflow your day with unneeded activities?

For some people it's playing a video game, or reading a book, or just talking on the phone with friends or walking outside. But constantly staying active is just as bad as constantly sitting down and being lazy.

Quarantine was a crazy switch for people and it has definitely changed their views on many things. Back during regular school and work days, one thing people wanted was a chance to sit back and relax. Now that everything's different, how come everyone wants to keep busy and active now? Don't we all want to relax over holiday breaks and the summer? People should try to let go of some of their "routine" and just take the great opportunity to relax.

And while it's very beneficial to get in some work other than school once in a while when you get bored, it's not needed every week, and it sure is good to get some rest...

# AP TECH OFFICE MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE

## OFFERING INVALUABLE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT DURING THESE TIMES

by Katie Armlin

As the world is put on temporary lockdown, with schools and businesses closing, the importance of technology is greater than ever. Over the past few months, the technology in our lives has gone from being a useful and necessary tool to being our social lives, our family time, our past times, our opportunities, our workplaces, and our schools. Students all over the country, including Averill Park, have seen drastic changes to their workplace as classes become Google Meets or video sessions, club meetings go virtual, the chalkboard and hand-in bin becomes Google Classroom, and AP tests are taken in their kitchens.

It is important more now than ever for students to have and be familiar with technology, which is why the District Technology Office has become an even more important role in keeping our school running and providing students with the technology and knowledge they need to be successful during this time of remote learning.

Despite their large

role in our school, many people may be unfamiliar with the technology office's role. Lynn Burdick, head of the District Technology Office, explained the "Office oversees all net-



work services for the district and the equipment running on the network. This includes the hard-wired network, wireless network, voice network and all of the network equipment needed to make the operations run smoothly. We also configure and support networked equipment including PC's, Chromebooks, Ipad's, Copiers, Printers, and various other network devices."

In addition to this, the office had been working hand in hand with the student

-run APPS Suite/Help Desk, located in the Library's Mezzanine. The APPS Suite students help others with technology issues or questions, delivering Chromebook carts,

nology issues that have risen during remote learning. This includes answering requests from students of all grade levels to borrow a school Chromebook or laptop, setting up "curbside" pick up times to do so, helping families who do not receive internet access at home, and creating a virtual help desk.

"We offered a virtual "help desk" where employees could join a Google Meet on certain days of the week if they wanted to talk through some technology issues or request support," Burdick explained. "Overall, it has been a success and a pleasure working with families in our district to help them with the technology needs."

If anyone is interested in requesting support, the directions are as follows:

- Go to our website
- Click on the top bar where it says [Online Learning Resources Available Here](#)
- Then click on tech support (on the right)
- Scroll down and you will see where to submit the request

### PRO (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

thy. This quarantine is a great chance to begin setting up healthy habits, and it is important to get outside and move in a time when people would otherwise be stuck in their homes.

This is the chance that people have been waiting for to do that one project, or that one job that they never had the time to do. If you want to do something that will take up time, now is your chance to do it. If it's something you genuinely enjoy, then not only will you have fun

working on it, when you finish you'll be proud of what you did and will have something positive to show for your efforts.

And with the weather warming up, it's becoming time for parents to barrage their kids with yard work that will keep students occupied and active. Helping parents with chores and meals is a great way to keep productive, and you're able to see the labor pay off when the yard and house look better than they would have if you simply

took a break from the work.

Humans are meant to be productive creatures, and simply staying home for weeks doing nothing but relaxing makes some feel anxious, itching for work to be done and becoming stressed when they relax. By being productive, you will feel a sense of accomplishment and your mental health will improve as you keep busy instead of wasting the day.

Staying at home doesn't mean there's no more work to be done, and finding

ways to stay engaged with work, sports, and chores helps students feel productive. While it's true that many activities are now unavailable, there are still a great variety of things that can be done at home.

So next time you sit down to watch a movie or play a game, stop to think about what can be done, and ask your parents if you can help. While breaks are okay, it's good to keep active and productive.

# The Pitfalls Of Trying To Find What To Do During This Quarantine

by Sean Malenfant

It's quite obvious. Life isn't the same. No more going to school or the movies or even just casually buying 10 orders of 20 piece McNuggets with your friend. So what hobbies have people developed to spend their time?

Ultimately quarantine has led you down one of two paths. This includes being productive and simply doing nothing.

Quarantine has been a great time to get that project around the house done that you've been putting off for years. Some of us have turned into carpenters, home renovators, computer technicians, and even the next Vincent Van Gogh, and thanks to YouTube you can learn anything.

Another positive strategy to staying sane in quarantine is... you guessed it... working out! Home workouts spread like wildfire the second the public gyms closed. However, you need to be careful when you look for a way to "Get a chiseled core in just one week!" There is a dangerous trap that you may fall into and it all starts with one click of a button. You hit the Bruce Lee video that pops up on your recommended videos. Then it turns into "I actually fought a bear and you won't believe what happened!" But then it turns into

"The underground world ruled by celestial beings preparing to take over the world?!?!?" Next thing you know the sun is rising and the birds are chirping outside and, more importantly, you don't have those chiseled abs you wanted.

There is option two – simply not being productive. A sad cycle of getting out of bed just to get Cinnamon Toast Crunch, and only eating that Cinnamon Toast Crunch because you think it's going to fill the gaping void you have from doing nothing all day. This is

a hobby that is wildly being mastered across the country. How do you avoid this vortex of doom, may you ask?

There is only one way, letting out terrorizing screams along the lines of guAHHAGUTAAAAAAU-UUUUHHHHHH and then proceeding to smack yourself in the face until you decide to go unclog your toilet.

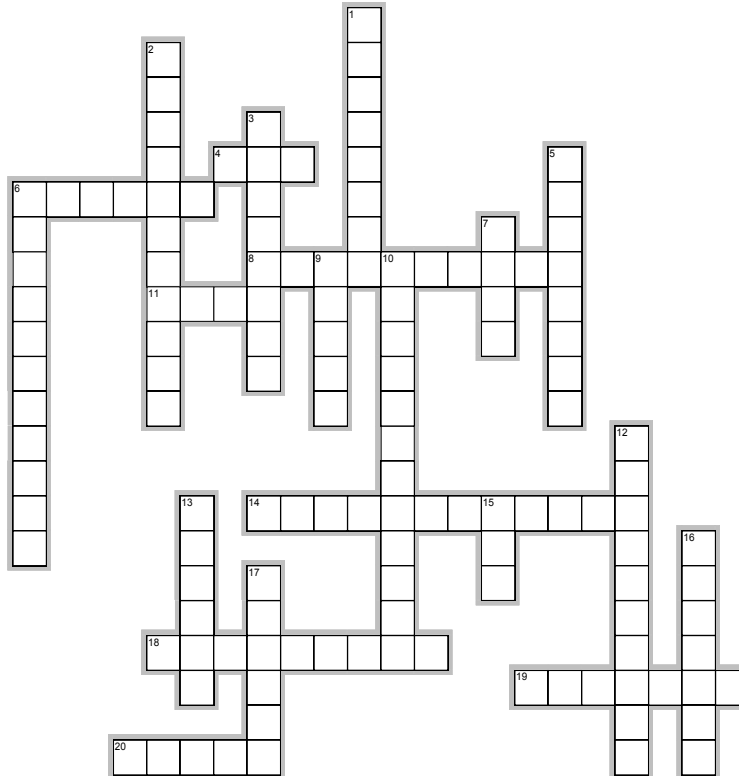
In all seriousness, this situation we are in is difficult. The best hobby you can partake in is just staying positive. The sooner everyone stops pointing fingers and trying to make each other's life hard, the sooner we can get back to a normal life. Often people ignore that everyone is fighting their own battles. For once we are all fighting the same battle together. A battle that we can win with cooperation.



## YEARS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL CROSSWORD

Match the STAFF MEMBERS with their YEARS at the HIGH SCHOOL

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| TWO         | THREE        |
| FOUR        | FIVE         |
| SIX         | EIGHT        |
| ELEVEN      | TWELVE       |
| FOURTEEN    | FIFTEEN      |
| SIXTEEN     | SEVENTEEN    |
| EIGHTEEN    | NINETEEN     |
| TWENTY      | TWENTY-ONE   |
| TWENTY-TWO  | TWENTY-THREE |
| TWENTY-FOUR | TWENTY-FIVE  |
|             | THIRTY-THREE |



## Down

1. Freeman, Galcik
2. Malenfant, Sorriento
3. Dutcher M, Stone
5. Clark-Apelanz, Quesnel
6. Perry
7. Rees, Rohl, Shupe, Yost
9. Caruso
10. Minkler
12. Engel B, Schmidt
13. Agnew
15. Gierthy, McKeough, Pauly
16. Ashline, Daviero
17. Klepsch

## Across

4. Gibbins, Mackey, Oldendorf
6. Blostein, Engel S, Fox, Gildersleeve, Hall, Hotaling, Medici, Miller
8. Lambright
11. Hale, Heilmann
14. Fairchild
18. Church, Ford, Otty
19. Gregory, Marrufo, Strich
20. Kimberling, Mein