

April 24, 2020

Easter Break Recap!



Easter Excitement

By: Maria Tagarino

My family decided to make the most of a socially distant Easter 2020. April 12 was not only the day the Easter Bunny came this year, but also the day my mom was brought into the world. My mom never threw parties or celebrated her birthday much, but when she learned Easter fell on her birthday, all she wanted to do was have an Easter egg hunt. She was a little saddened she could not have her hunt this year, but forgot all about it when the day came closer. Little did she know, I planned a personal Easter egg hunt for her.

When my dad went to the store, I asked him to buy plastic eggs and her favorite candy. With only 12 eggs, I decided to make it a scavenger hunt with hints, along with peanut M&M's, in each egg. To start off the morning of her birthday, my mom was surprised when she received an empty bag, only containing a note to start off her scavenger hunt. She was excited and ready to start. My mom was giggling for the whole 10 minutes she took to find all the eggs.

Her day was filled with smiles as we drove around to see the poppies and have a picnic. To end our drive, we also dropped off pancit, a Filipino dish symbolizing long life, to friends and family, of course at a safe distance. Although this Easter didn't go as planned, it didn't take away the joy that came from being with my family.

Spring Break Fun



By: Carly Hooten

Since I have been quarantined, I have been missing my family like crazy as many of you can relate. Canceled family reunions, birthday parties and other activities that didn't get to occur started to affect me negatively. I was talking to my cousins who live a few hours away about how I was feeling. Since they had too been quarantined they decided it would be okay for me to stay with them for a few weeks. I spent my whole break with them and was able to catch up on some much needed family time. I went on a hike and explored the outdoors, played basketball with my family, was able to play with my little cousins and connect with my other family members through facetime. I also had a zoom call with family members from four different states on Easter since we weren't

able to have our family reunion. I'm currently still staying with my cousins and have been able to continue on my schoolwork all while spending quality time with my family.

Times can be rough, and being away from family can add on to the obstacles we are facing. If you can, try to see if you're able to go spend time with family either in person or virtually. Make sure to follow all social distancing procedures as well to keep you and your family safe.

If seeing your family in person isn't possible, facetime, skype and zoom are all great options to connect with them. It's important to stay connected to family and now is a great time to make up for times when sports or other activities normally prevent you from spending quality time with them. If you're having a tough day, talking to family and friends is always a good idea.

Outside of Quarantine

By: Michael Garcia

During my spring break I had the chance to leave my house on multiple occasions for various purposes. Whenever we would leave our house we would bring our masks and disinfectant wipes to ensure our health was never at risk. When we were driving around the streets there was an eerie silence that could not be ignored. The people we saw on the streets were wearing masks and social distancing themselves. When we arrived at the store the people inside of it began to look at us and slowly move away. Although it was weird at first we soon realized that this was going to be the new normal for the time being. We grabbed the groceries that were on our list and went into the checkout

line. The workers seemed very irritable and didn't talk much. By the time we left it was dark outside. The absence of cars and people on the streets and sidewalks was very apocalyptic in a way. When we got home the groceries were wiped down and all the cardboard was put in the recycling bin. Although this new way of buying supplies was weird and felt almost dystopian to an extent, this was the only way to ensure the shortening of the lockdown and a safer community.

Sam's Birthday Caravan

By: Giulianna Garcia

On Friday April 17, a few of my fellow seniors and I surprised Sam Aranzazu for her eighteenth birthday by making posters and driving our cars through her cul-de-sac playing loud music and honking our horns. Sam is an amazing friend and getting to surprise her for her birthday was the least we could do since this quarantine prevented her from being able to throw a party. She was so surprised to see all of us lining her street and showering her with gifts and posters. When asked how the surprise made her feel, Sam said, "I was shocked. I had no idea my sister and all of my friends were planning this. When I saw all the cars start coming up the street honking loudly, I got so emotional! I started crying because I was so happy and excited that all of my friends got together and planned something special like this for me on my birthday especially with everyone being quarantined." Of course it's been hard for us seniors to deal with the end of our year in quarantine but it is moments like this caravan that really unite our class. Seeing smiling families come out of their houses to see us parading through the neighborhood was heartwarming, especially when they pulled out their phones to record. Surprising Sam was definitely the highlight of my Spring Break.



Tea, Dishes, and Podcasts

By: Rachel Guzzetti

A Look Into My Extremely Boring Spring Break

I would like to preface this with the understanding that something being boring isn't necessarily bad, but that's not to say my boring week was good, either. The constant talk of our current pandemic and extremely ruined sleep schedule ate away at my normalcy and consistency of which I had been used to; however, I want to be positive in this article and focus on the best parts of my week that provided comfort in this very strange time.

My days had lived in the time frame of 4 PM (when I got out of bed to eat dinner) until 6 AM (when my mom woke up and told me to go to bed). You can imagine the general loneliness and empty space that came with being the only one awake from midnight to dawn, so to fill my room and keep me company I began to listen to a podcast called [Heavyweight](#). The podcast focuses on rebuilding and revisiting a person's past, and really hones in on familial relationships. I think it added what Mrs. Seidel had been giving my day during school with her daily in depth poetry analysis. While it can be quite cheesy at

times, the host Jonathan Goldstein makes listeners feel like friends during the roadtrips, reunions, and difficult conversations “as he backpedals his way into the past like a therapist with a time machine” (Gimlet Media). I highly recommend this podcast to anyone feeling a bit lonesome during this time, as the show made me feel at home and comforted.

During the break, my days all melded together and I began to feel very detached from my day to day activities. To give myself structure (and to help my parents out a bit) I began washing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen every night. Not only did it give me something mindless to do while listening to Heavyweight, music, or simply thinking, it also helped me mark the end of my day. Having a consistent task that made me come to terms with another day ending helped my break feel like a full week and also made me less lazy. On top of this new chore, I also made it a point to make a cup of tea whenever I got bored. It was a nice treat to myself and kept me from snacking on whatever candy was lying around. This is pretty much all I did during break, I’m sad to say, but I believe it was still quite nice to have time with myself.

My Acai Bowl Recipe

By: Kiiiana Hilario

Ever since quarantine began, I decided that I wanted to improve my lifestyle and make it healthier. I figured that the first change should be in my diet. So I set out on finding a breakfast recipe that would be a healthier alternative of microwave breakfast sandwiches. That’s when I settled on the perfect meal: açai bowls. I have always loved eating the açai bowls at Jamba Juice, and making açai bowls were actually really easy, so I immediately got to work. I scoured through my refrigerator and pantry looking for the perfect ingredients for my bowl, and the recipe is as follows:

Base:

- 2-4 frozen bananas
- 5-7 frozen strawberries (depending on size)
- 1 cup of frozen blueberries
- Sambazon Açai Juice or Packets
- Almond Coconut Creamer
- optional: one scoop of vanilla ice cream
- 1 spoonful of honey
- 3 spinach leaves
- 2-3 spoonfuls of yogurt

Toppings:

- Trader Joe’s Coconut Granola
- Oats and Honey Granola
- sliced fruit (bananas, mango, and strawberries)
- berries
- shredded coconut
- chia seeds
- almonds



I advise freezing your fruits the night before you plan on making it. This helps make your base for the açaí bowl smoother and creamier, making it taste less like a liquid and more of a firm yogurt. This delicious bowl can be eaten any time of the day, from breakfast to even a lounging snack. What's great about this bowl is that you don't have to follow any recipes, but you can make it completely on your own, fitting your personal preferences. Not only does eating healthier make me feel good, but simply the act of getting up and preparing food for myself makes me feel productive. It's a great way to start out my day before class!

Pictured is an açaí bowl I made one morning with the recipe above. It tasted so delicious!

My Quarantine Easter



By: Samantha Hottya

Every Easter my family and I color eggs with the Millers. This year because of quarantine and social distancing we couldn't color eggs together. So instead of doing it in real life, we did it on Zoom. Instead of going to the store and buying Easter egg coloring boxes, we stayed home and used food coloring and Kool-Aid to dye the eggs. It was a really interesting experience using Zoom along with the replacement dye. To dye the eggs with food coloring:

Mix 1/2 cup boiling water, 1 teaspoon vinegar and 10 to 20 drops of food coloring in a cup to achieve desired colors.

Repeat for each color. To dye the eggs with Kool-Aid, Pour Contents Of 1 Envelope Of Each Flavor Kool-aid Drink Mix Into Separate 10- To-12 Oz. Container. Add 2/3 Cup Water To Each; Stir To Dissolve Drink Mix.

The eggs came out vibrant and the taste was not altered.

My Pet Tortoise Harry

By: Hannah Vento



I live with a 26 year old tortoise named Harry. He is a Texas tortoise, a species of tortoise in the family Testudinidae. The species *G. berlandieri* is one of six species of tortoises that are native to North America. Currently he's pretty small, about the size of a dinner plate. He can live up to 100 years old. The older he gets the bigger he grows, eventually he can weigh up to 100 pounds and be 2 to 3 feet long. Harry hibernates for most of the year, he goes underground in around October and stays there until late March. He came out of hibernation a few weeks ago. Unlike a lot of people think tortoises like water, they just can't be submerged. He will sometimes be laying in his water bowl for hours, soaking up the sun. He likes to lay under the hose and let that water pour over him, even when he is just drinking he'll pick his entire head in the bowl. He eats all kinds of grass, but other than that he's a pretty calm pet. Usually he roams around the yard all day, and when he comes inside he lays flat on tile. His diet is mostly grass and lettuce, he's a very easy animal to take care of and he's good company during this quarantine.

Spending Spring Break with Serial Killers

By: Adriana Orozco

In April 2020, lots of teenagers can't go to high school, can't go to the mall, you can't even go to the park! So what do you expect a young teenage girl to do? Well, lots of girls dye their hair, or cut their hair, or make TikToks. Some watch Netflix all day or do new exercises. Well, I did some of that this spring break.

So it starts a few days before spring break, I was very interested in a guy called Theodore Robert Bundy. No not a 16-year-old in my school, but a serial killer who did really bad things. You probably know him as Ted Bundy. He's a very extremely, wicked, shockingly evil and vile person. So during spring break, I decided to watch lots of videos of him on YouTube, then a Netflix documentary called *Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes*. I watched his trial. I had also watched a movie called *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*. I did lots of research on him and I wrote about him. I had written about five pages about him. So that's what I did at the beginning of spring break, though I was listening to a song. The song had said, "Yeah I'll pull a Jeffrey Dahmer."

I started getting interested in more serial killers, and I decided to research another. His name was Jeffrey Lionel Dahmer, and you probably know him as Jeffrey Dahmer. Jeffrey did real bad things you shouldn't ever do on a human being. I decided to watch lots of interviews with him, and watch videos of his trial. I had also watched a movie called *My Friend Dahmer*. I am currently watching the whole hour of his trial.

As you can see I spent my break with two serial killers. Though I'm not done with my serial killer research. I am probably going to watch and research more serial killers. I had also watched a movie that came out in February called *Birds of Prey*, which I liked the movie and the soundtrack. Every day I

played with my dog. I had also walked about two miles with my family in the hills. Weirdly there were a lot of people in the hills. I had also helped my brother with his homework, and that's all I did. I didn't travel to Canada, just hung around in my house and watched videos about serial killers.



Ted Bundy played by Zac Efron



Jeffrey Dahmer played by Ross Lynch

Netflix Recommendations

By: Jasmine West

While self isolating, you may be in search of some movies and tv shows you can watch to cure boredom. Firstly, *The Office*: this is my favorite tv show about workplace relations in the format of a mockumentary. Next, *Supernatural*: this is a tv show about two brothers that hunt down supernatural beings. *The Platform*: this is a movie about prisoners that rotate platforms every week in which the higher you are placed the better food you can get. *Ozark*: a man drags his family to Ozark to launder

500 million dollars to appease a drug boss. And lastly, if you haven't heard of it yet, *Tiger King*. This show is about Joe Exotic and his life leading up to his incarceration.