

GROWTH  
THROUGH  
PANDEMIC  
PG. 10



PANTHER  
PRINTS

MAR. 5, 2021

ISSUE 3





**Bree Johnson - Co-Editor-in Chief**  
**Myh Seyoum - Co-Editor-in Chief**  
**Mallika Chahal - Copy Editor**  
**Samantha Heath - Copy Editor**  
**Kashaela McGowan - Social Media Editor**  
**Aiden Davis - Video Editor**  
**Abby Cole - Advisor**



**Abby Nguyen**  
**Angela Tatsch**  
**Claire Tweedie**  
**Haris Kalam**  
**Mohammed Modi**  
**Risa Khawaja**

At Panther Prints, our mission is to serve as a connection between the Plano East student body and surrounding communities. Through inspiration and high-quality content, Panther Prints offers diverse coverage, passionate writing, relatable stories and a unique point of view. Our credible sources allow an in-depth experience that appeals to both the public and the individual. Our publication offers an informative and distinctive outlook on current interests.

**Digital Media Policy:**

We at the Panther Prints commit to responsibly utilize all of our media platforms to unite and inform the student body. We strive to create original content and attribute credit to all sources. We require our staff to uphold these values and to accurately report the news to the student body and community.

# Letter from the...

## Editor-in-Chief

This issue's centerspread is my favorite so far this year, I will always prefer finding and focusing on positivity no matter the circumstances. Looking back on a global crisis and being able to cherish the few good bits and pieces reminds me of my faith in humanity and how simple the joys of life are. Even through unprecented weather the staff did great and were prepared and excited to complete this issue. I hope you enjoy reading about the silverlinings of the pandemic and find the time to reminisce.

## Bree Johnson

**Join the Plano East Journalism Program!**

*Are you interested in any of the following?*

- Graphic design
- Photography
- Writing
- Interviewing
- Being "in the know"
- Working in a team environment

If so, the journalism program has the perfect class for you. Photojournalism, yearbook and newspaper provide a great opportunity to serve as the voice of Plano East, boost your resume, and provide you with real-world skills that will prepare you for a successful future.

Make sure to apply using the correct application found in the link/QR code. Email Mrs. Cole at [abby.cole@pisd.edu](mailto:abby.cole@pisd.edu) with any questions. **Deadline: April 1, 2021**



Hear from current students, see videos inside the newsroom, and find more details below:

**<https://flow.page/peshjournalism>**

**To submit letters to the editors of the Panther Prints:**

Plano East Senior High School  
 Journalism Department  
 3000 Los Rios Blvd., Plano, TX 75074  
 Building 4, Room 201  
 (469) 752- 9000  
<https://tinyurl.com/peshprintsletter>

**All student polls were conducted through Google Forms and shared through social media.**

**Cover Model:**  
**Charles Igbo, 12**

**Cover Photo:**  
**Bree Johnson**

# Letters to The Editors

Dear Newspaper staff

The biggest change from the first to the second semester is that the school is going from a two-day a week synchronist class to a four-day a week synchronist class. Although many students may find this as an inconvenience to have to get up and be in class four days a week instead of two, I personally feel that this change was needed. Having class two days a week with the teacher just isn't enough. These extra two days allow the teacher to provide more information and material for students to be successful. The four-day week schedule provides a little more normalcy in this very abnormal time.

Although I do agree with the four days a week plan I do not agree with allowing in-person school at this time. It seems like almost everyday students and parents are getting an email that multiple students and or staff members have come down with the virus. At one time I had 5 teachers quarantined at the same time. We still have a whole semester left and more and more people are getting the virus every day. How can we ever expect it to slow down if we are not doing anything about it? So many people are complaining about how they want everything to go back to the way things were before but that's not going to happen if we keep spreading the virus and the virus isn't going to stop if we are sending kids to school.

Another change this semester is that cameras are supposed to be turned on during zoom calls. This is another situation where it may be an inconvenience for students but I do agree and understand why this is being enforced. If cameras are not turned on the teachers don't know if the students are doing anything. Sometimes wifi does get in the way of turning on cameras and participating so I do agree with what is said in the news story and the students need to be inactive in communication with their teachers.

The four-day-a-week schedule and cameras were the right decision moving forward but allowing kids to go to school and be in close contact in the classroom and in sports is only going to make this process worse. Everyone should return online so we can limit the spread of this terrible virus.

- Aiden King

Dear Mr. Kalam,

Re: "An Underlooked Issue: Assignments Being Due At 11:59" December 18

Virtual learning has caused online work to be due at 11:59 p.m. Prior to COVID-19 and the introduction of online learning, physical assignments were usually due in person at the beginning of class. The difference in submission of assignments has caused many changes in how students do their work, and I believe there are more positives to this than negatives.

The later deadline for assignments gives students more time to complete them. For example, before virtual learning, when an assignment was due on Tuesday, that meant it was due at the beginning of class. Now, an assignment due on Tuesday means that students have all day to complete it. This gives students more time to complete assignments, which is beneficial especially in the case of morning classes. Students don't have to stay up as late finishing assignments. Students can also be more organized due to the fact that all work is due at the same time every day. With the added stress of the pandemic and the struggle of online courses, having one time to submit all assignments helps students stay organized and keep track of when they are due. The new deadline also allows students to manage their own time, which is an important skill that they might not have been able to practice previously.

In the article you made the point that the deadline of 11:59 causes students to stay up late and cram for all of their work to be done before midnight, and I agree that this allows for another reason to stay up late. However, I argue that having to turn everything by midnight is an advantage because after 11:59, students can go to sleep because they have already turned in their work for the day. Before online learning, many students would stay up past midnight and into the morning to get work done for the next day. Now, due to the new 11:59 submission deadline, students have to finish their work early which allows them to go to bed earlier than they might have before virtual learning.

Best regards,

Hailey Black

# CONTENTS

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

Photo by Teesta Kasargood

pg. 9



Photo by Bree Johnson



pg. 6

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**

**SILVER LININGS**

Photo by Bree Johnson

pg. 14



pg. 10

**SWIM WINS AT STATE**

**SAFE SPRING BREAK**

Photo by Mallory Nguyen



pg. 16

Photo by Risa Khawaja



Trevor Gatabaki, 11th



Use this QR code to access our website for more related content.



# PUZZLED PANTHERS

By Bree Johnson and Angela Tatsch

“How are clubs operating during a pandemic?”

Throughout the transition to virtual learning, clubs found a way to stay active by using resources such as Google classrooms, Zoom for meetings and social medias for advertising. Others also adapted their requirements such as Key Club who decreased the number of service hours from 15 to 12 per member per semester. Another noticeable change came from an increase in online and volunteering opportunities that now focus on providing schooling and healthy resources to those affected by the pandemic.

“How are AP tests being handled this year?”

The default method for AP test administration is online, at home. However, students can opt in to a paper test to be taken on campus at an earlier date than the online test. See your AP teacher for more details.

“How is PISD responding to the lifting of the state mask mandate effective Wednesday, March 10?”

Face masks are still required in Plano ISD buildings and facilities, and at all district events until additional guidance is provided by the Texas Education Agency.

## CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL LOCKDOWN EFFECTS

By Abby Nguyen

With almost 100 million cases and over 2 million deaths worldwide according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 has proven to be one of the deadliest viruses that continues to put a strain on global economies, healthcare systems, education and lives. As new and more contagious strains of the coronavirus starts to spread, countries all around the world are taking precautions through lockdowns that have impacted the United States.

As the state with the second highest number of coronavirus cases, Texas hospitals and healthcare facilities struggle with a limited supply of personal protective equipment and medical supplies. Encompass Health registered nurse Victoria Nhan said that morale is poor amongst healthcare workers and there is an increased fear of infecting their loved ones.

“Everything that has to do with keeping people safe or sanitizing is being policed and everything is locked up,” Nhan said. “If we need supplies, we have to check them out and ask a supervisor and it cuts into our time doing our jobs.”

With the virus affecting millions of students in Texas, education has also been hindered. Junior Saara Sastry said that she understands the frustration of students staying at home, especially if they have mental health issues or neurological deficiencies, but a lockdown is a necessary precaution.

“[COVID] is one of those ‘tragedy of the commons’ situations where what’s best for the individual isn’t necessarily what’s best for the whole and what’s best for the whole isn’t necessarily what’s best for the individual,” Sastry said. “Overall, keeping everybody safe is a priority and I think in addition to lockdown, there should be programs for those people who are suffering from mental health [issues].”

However, some people believe that the virus is used as a political stunt that politicians manipulate for their own agendas.

“The coronavirus is exaggerated as far as its level of a threat and it has been exaggerated through our mainstream media,” calculus and precalculus teacher Ryan Buehrer said. “[The CDC] says that they rely on science, but then they contradict themselves [on whether the public should wear masks or not].”

Despite being the two states with the highest coronavirus cases in the U.S., Texas and California differ in the way they handle the pandemic. Unlike Texas’ COVID response along with a lack of critical testing, infrastructure and epidemiologists, California constantly ordered lockdowns where restaurants, theaters, bars and public places are completely closed along with a curfew. California citizen Eric Phan said that ICU beds are being filled at a high capacity but believes the consequences of a shutdown would be far worse than the consequences of getting the coronavirus.

“Businesses would be completely [shut down] and people at home who live in abusive households would be stuck at home,” Phan said.

Even lockdowns in the United Kingdom are affecting America, especially since a large amount of tourist spending in America comes from the UK. However, UK citizen Becky Brown said that they have taken precautionary measures especially since the number of coronavirus infections are increasing.

“The lockdown is strict, but we can still go out to exercise and see people in our support bubble as long as we social distance,” Brown said. “We need to have control of the virus and stop the spread as much as we can in order to go back to a normal life, so I think a lockdown is essential.”

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: CELEBRATING WOMEN OF PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

By Claire Tweedie

Vice president of the We Think Feminist Club senior Karla Budic always knew she wanted to do something big. She also knew she wanted to do something that benefited the world. The problem was, she wasn't sure how until she stumbled upon economics. From there, her curiosity for the subject eventually directed her toward the book "Good Economics for Hard Times," written by two Nobel Prize Winners, one of whom was a woman named Esther Duflo. Duflo, a professor in the Department of Economics at MIT, became the second woman to ever win a Nobel Prize in Economics in 2019 and served as an inspiration for Budic's passion to grow. Although Budic knew she was destined for a male-dominated field, Duflo was a constant reminder that a woman had made it before and she could do it again.

"It's a really big deal to look up to someone who's like you and is doing the same career and being successful in a career you so badly want to be a part of," Budic said. "Having someone like that is very important."

March is Women's History Month and to many, that means a time of recognition for the influential women in America's history. What originally started in the school district of Sonoma, California in 1978 as a weeklong event eventually grew as surrounding communities and organizations adopted similar celebrations. Two years later, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8 National Women's History Week. A year after that, the U.S. Congress officially established it as a national holiday. Then in 1987, not even a decade after the Sonoma school district had first introduced the idea, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to lengthen the holiday into the entire month of March.

"Women's History Month to me is

just remembering all the women who have made an impact and come together over the decades to create equality and the opportunities we have today," president of the We Think Feminist Club senior Teesta Kasargod said. "It's important to celebrate it because we should remember that we need to continue progressing and there's always more we can do."

Even with everything women have achieved throughout history, the officers of the We Think Feminist Club think Women's History Month is put on a back burner in American society. They agreed that while they don't need days off of school or a huge party to acknowledge the event, educating yourself and others felt like the best way to honor the achievements of women who have impacted the world around them. Some of their suggestions included utilizing social media to bring more attention to it, inviting women speakers, sharing an informational video during class and setting aside a day in history classes, all with the goal of highlighting the achievements of women that paved the way for future generations.

"I think along with educating people about Women's History Month and all the accomplishments women have made in the past, it's also important to recognize the accomplishments of women now," We Think Feminist club treasurer senior Avani Bhute said.

The holiday often focuses on women in history such as Susan B. Anthony or Sojourner Truth, both of whom were leading figures in the women's suffrage movement, or Elizabeth Blackwell and Amelia Earheart, who broke barriers in their respective fields of science and aviation. Although these women serve as inspiration to many people today, more modern figures continue to make strides towards equality.

"I think it's really important to have role models of women that are kind of in the same career as you because it kind of gives women reassurance," Bhute said. "It serves as a reminder that although the odds may be stacked against you, you can do so much if you just believe in yourself and believe that your potential is limitless."

Last November, another huge leap in politics gave Women's History Month something else to celebrate. With the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, their inauguration on Jan. 20 officially made history with Harris becoming the first female and the first person of color to be elected as vice president. For Kasargod, she felt eight-years-old again as a wave of emotion washed over her while watching a woman who looked like her on TV became the first most powerful female in the United States.

"It was a reminder that the generations of women's achievements have reached something," Kasargod said.

For Kasargod, Michelle Obama, who she had the ability to see speak last year, has driven her to pursue her passions in politics and activism. For the We Think Feminist Club treasurer senior Shefali Rao, she remembers her mother berating her older, male cousin during a family trip to India for spouting misogynistic beliefs. She was only 14 years-old at the time, but seeing her own mother stand up for women as a whole inspired her. Bhute on the other hand, looks up to the work of Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams who made huge contributions in the field of aviation and spaceflight.

"I think it's important because we're looking back and remembering everything we've done," said Rao. "It shines a light on today's events and how it's affected by the past. We still have a lot to accomplish."





# FOUR-DAY SYNCHRONOUS SCHEDULE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

By Kashaela McGowan

Yemisi Badmus, 12, works on a school assignment during the four-day synchronous schedule.

Students started a new four-day synchronous schedule Jan. 7 for the first day of the school's second semester. The schedule changed to all students attending school synchronously Tuesday through Friday to improve learning formats and environments.

During the first semester, students had two days of synchronous learning and three days of asynchronous learning, with a choice on whether they wanted to attend in-person or remote school. Concerns including students' mental health and high failure rates resulted in the need for a change in the usual schedule. This change allowed families the opportunity for more personalized learning options that suit their students best.

"I liked [having four days synchronous] better than the two days on-and-ff," senior Antonio Zaragoza said. "I like going to school. I like seeing people and talking to my teachers face to face."

Junior Jenna Moon responded to these changes by making a petition, which received 825 signatures from both students and teachers alike.

"I started the petition initially not expecting much response," Moon said. "I was upset by the decision made and I knew others around me felt the same way. I was hoping to make an outlet for students to express frustration."

Students and parents signed the petition with some even leaving comments about their dislike for

the new schedule.

"When I first found out, I was kind of upset because I like having a break between days and I felt like it was unnecessary," senior Laila Crenshaw said.

After being in effect for a full grading period, students had an idea of what to expect for the remainder of the school year and began to see how it could benefit them in the long run.

"I see the reasoning behind it," Crenshaw said. "Now I'm feeling more focused and I get my work done. The schedule changes have been made to best help the students to be successful."

Although some students are seeing benefits to the schedule change, there's still students who would prefer the old schedule.

"I would rather return to the two day schedule," Moon said. "I just simply can't stay focused staring at a screen anymore."

According to our student survey poll, most students agree with Moon, however, teachers have evidence to back up their reasoning for why they prefer a four day schedule.

"The change was made because too many of our students were not successful last semester," AVID teacher David Pulsipher said. "The hope is that this will result in students being more successful. Time will tell if it works or not, but I am all for anything that is going to help students succeed."

Photo by: Anna Kaprellian

## How has the 4-day synchronous schedule affected you?

NEGATIVELY

59%  
of students said

NEUTRALLY

26%  
of students said

POSITIVELY

13%  
of students said

NO COMMENT

2%  
of students said

\*Out of 303 students polled.

# PANTHER PROFILE: PEDIATRICIAN PRACTICES

By Samantha Heath

At just 15-years-old, sophomore Hanna Lakew carries her charismatic stature throughout the day as she logs into her online classes and attends classes in a wide range of subjects such as dance and sports that have steadily become a significant part of her life. Although many seem to have confidence in her ability to be successful in any subject, she chooses to follow her true ambitions, which lie within a career in pediatrics.

"I'm really interested to learn more about medical knowledge because I've always wanted to be a pediatrician since I was in seventh grade," Lakew said. "I have always wanted to work with kids and make them feel comfortable around me because I want to treat their medical needs."

Lakew's passion for a job involving medical care to children is fueled by the fact that her parents aren't very knowledgeable about anything revolving around medical needs and she wants to help her siblings in that regard.

"Once you grow up, you have no idea what's going on through your mind or what's going around with your body and you want to know what's happening to you," Lakew said. "I feel like going through that is very scary and there should be someone to tell you that it's okay and that you're going to be fine."

As she explored the medical area of expertise to be prepared for any health issues that may occur within her family, she realized that her passion lies within that field and that she wants to pursue a medical career. Her bright personality, made apparent by anyone who meets her, communicates to others that her presence is comforting and seemingly confirms that she would

work well with young patients.

"I feel like she's very charismatic toward every single person she meets," friend and sophomore Aniesha Gupta said. "When I first met her freshman year, I was a really quiet kid and I didn't really talk to many people, but whenever I talked to her, it was really easy."

Her hardworking attitude and willingness to tackle more than one task at a time has been acknowledged multiple times, as well as her determination to do as well as she can.

"I have always wanted to work with kids and make them feel comfortable around me because I want to treat their medical needs," Lakew said.

into everything and she normally has an excellent grade all year with me."

Lakew's future plans involve possibly joining the drill team as she already has two years of dance experience. However, she might sign up to be a manager instead since she doesn't believe she has the necessary skills yet and doesn't know how the team will operate next year because of the pandemic. Either way, her confidence in the path she's taken, although not revolving around dance or the minimal sports she participates in, could possibly lead her to future success as she has a good few years to achieve her goals.

"She's risen to challenges and she's very good at getting outside of her box, so I think in the future that's really good for her in any aspect of life," McCall said. "I haven't asked her about her future ambitions, but I'm pretty sure she will keep being that good friend — that reliable student — and I only see success for her in the future."

\*Out of 303 students polled.

Are you interested in going into a medical field or taking a medical class?

27%

Of students said they're planning to in the future

45%

Of students said they have no interest

28%

Of students said they're undecided



# REDEMPTION THROUGH RESOLUTIONS

By Bree Johnson

2020 was a strenuous and difficult year, and on top of the normal struggles that come with being a teenager, a pandemic was also thrown into the equation. Living through a pandemic caused a domino effect of problems that rippled through everyone's lives, and while it is now 2021 and the pandemic is still occurring, the new year brought new chances in the form of resolutions. New Year's resolutions give us a reason to take control of what people can in life and make changes for the better. We can't control the pandemic, but we can control everything else. Here's how a few friends around campus are planning to make 2021 better.

Alyssa Lambouses, 12th grade:

**At the beginning of the year:** "My New Year's resolution is to get my cows Instagram famous. I have four cows: Foxy, Roxy, McConaughy, Milkshake Grunkowski, Margla Cameron and Jennifer. They're super cute. Follow them! @lamooses on Instagram."

**At the beginning of March:** "I took a break from social media, so I haven't posted anything so far. But I plan on redownloading instagram soon and I can't wait to see how big my content will get."



Photo by Alyssa Lambouses.

Ethan Kolberg, 12th grade:

**At the beginning of the year:** "My goal this year is to read 10 books. I stopped reading a couple years ago and want to get back into it. I think that reading is a better way to take up time instead of being on social media or Netflix or playing video games."

**At the beginning of March:** "So far, I've read four books. I enjoyed all of them and it was nice to have some time to myself."



Photo by Ethan Kolberg.

Rawaan Alhaddad, 11th grade:

**At the beginning of the year:** "My New Year's resolution for 2021 is to start habits that will lead to a more healthy lifestyle for my environment. I want to be more sustainable."

**At the beginning of March:** "I have improved upon my New Year's resolutions by making small changes in my daily routine to be more sustainable. Such as switching to reusable products like reusable canvas bags for my groceries or reusable cotton pads to remove my makeup!"



Photo by Rawaan Alhaddad.

Bilal Choudhry, 11th grade:

**At the beginning of the year:** "I want to get good grades and also to not get COVID-19 in 2021. I'm going to stay inside, study, and of course, wear my mask so that I don't get COVID-19 and can stay healthy and able minded for school."

**At the beginning of March:** Throughout this new year, I've improved on my studying habits which helped boost my grades and I still haven't gotten COVID-19!"

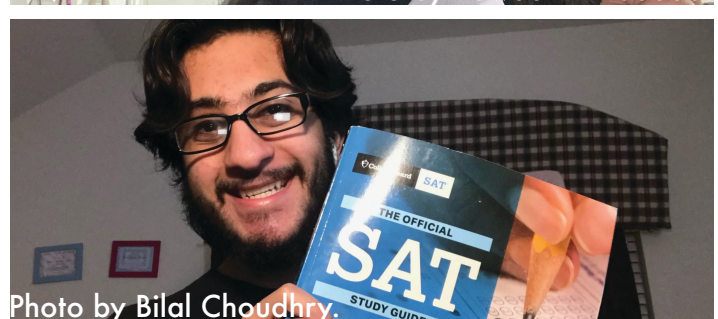


Photo by Bilal Choudhry.



## LIFE IN: COVID-19

# INDIVIDUALS CHANGE AFTER FULL YEAR OF PANDEMIC

By: Mallika Chahal and Angela Tatsch

Spring break 2020 reached an unexpected end when one of the world's most intense global health crises broke out. Along with encountering the direct precautions and adverse health effects, millions of lives have undergone major changes concerning day-to-day activities. A year into the pandemic, students and teachers acknowledge their personal growth achieved throughout a challenging year.

### TIME AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES

The pandemic impacted millions of jobs within the global workforce and students used spare time to secure jobs and have experienced differing aspects of working during the pandemic. Junior Hayden Wisor started working full-time in October at Zalat Pizza in downtown Plano and found the experience unconventional due to COVID-19.

"I'm very aware of the distance I have between people," Wisor said. "There's less people dining in and more people ordering pizza [online] to take out because of safety."

With college in mind, Wisor was able to use time during the pandemic to research about his future, apply for the job, and now holds himself accountable.

"This is the time I'm getting my first job and starting to learn what it means to be an adult and start my future," Wisor said.

Junior Bonita Montoya's opinion runs parallel to Wisor's in which she started working at Waffle House in October 2020. Montoya's best friend told her about the job opening and works alongside her. Thrilled with the opportunity to see her best friend every day, Montoya is thankful for the experience the pandemic brought her.

"I've worked there for three months, almost four. It's such a great job," Montoya said. "Recently, I've been talking to mainly

my co-workers and my best friend because I get to see them in person."

The pandemic has left nothing but time to conquer as the struggle to tackle boredom became increasingly prevalent for many. Along with working, individuals used their time to pick up new activities as well as reacquaint with old hobbies. Precalculus teacher Ryan Buehrer reconnected with the game of chess after 15 years.

"When I was in high school I learned how to play chess and [this interest] actually started with one of my IB students last year that challenged me to a chess match randomly," Mr. Buehrer said. "I didn't play with him that time, but when the pandemic hit and when there was that short lockdown, I signed up for chess.com and started playing quite a bit again."

Similarly to Mr. Buehrer's revisit to chess, others have picked up on old interests as well.

"I've always liked to read," senior Emily Haake said. "But since there's really nothing to do besides be on my phone, I've been reading a lot more and in early quarantine when it was warmer, I would ride my bike."

Aside from the other independent interests taken up, the family-oriented hobby of gardening encouraged freshman Aarav Lakdawala to pass time safely as well as grow a green thumb.

"It's become a thing where my mom and I go out and plant various types of plants," Lakdawala said. "We're planning on getting a pear tree right now which is going to be awesome. It teaches me about patience and I really like being around my family."

Sophomore Niyati Ram reclaimed music as a hobby during the pandemic.

"I resumed my piano lessons over the break since I had more time," Ram said. "When it comes to actually playing, I like

playing classical music, but I like listening to pop and Broadway instrumentals."

### MODIFIED EDUCATION

When the first online school model was introduced, students and teachers had to adjust to a virtual classroom setting. The in-person school setup, hybrid model and online format were created to fit the different needs of all students. However, advantages and struggles of the modified systems were encountered on both sides of the new teaching and learning environments.

English teacher Karen Holloway believes students are still learning the same skills, just perhaps not the same amount of factual information and that this will still help students in future academic years. Teachers feel that students' learning styles changed to compensate for COVID-19 social distancing and regulations.

"The most difficult part is not having students in the classroom," Ms. Holloway said. "And there's so much interaction that goes on when you have a room full of students, but when you have students online, they're just reluctant to unmute and participate."

One teacher believes the distance learning format has made it easier for teachers to grade efficiently.

"The grading process is much simpler because of the use of Google classroom," Mr. Buehrer said. "It's grading everything for us so the grading process has been simplified this year."

Teaching Spanish I and II to students, teacher Jesus Sosa states how learning a new language for the first time through an online environment is difficult especially because he only saw students every other day during the first semester. He misses the social



**@PESHPRINTS**

interaction between students and engaging with them.

“Before the pandemic I was very much an active teacher in that I would walk around, check with students, be at the board, just moving everywhere,” Señor Sosa said. “And now I’m restricted to my desk and that just isn’t the same anymore.”

Lakdawala was new to the school this year and felt that the inconsistent daily learning curriculum made it difficult to learn new information.

“When I’m in the [physical] classroom, my mind is focused and ready to go,” Lakdawala said. “And when I’m at home, it’s just the home feeling, it’s time to relax.”

This inability to focus was not uncommon as another student faced a challenge similar to Lakdawala.

“The fact that I was starting a new school at the same time I transitioned to online learning, it’s been an even bigger change,” freshman Harper Whittemore said. “But I kind of feel like I haven’t gotten the full new school experience just because I’m only there twice a week and I don’t see that many people.”

Nonetheless, transitioning to the hybrid model provided Whittemore with the perfect balance between student-teacher interaction and self-discipline. Although less excited about the modified four-day synchronous system, Whittemore still focuses on the positive.

“In general, I’m enjoying high school for the freedom that it provides and just getting to experience something different,” Whittemore said.

**GROWING CHARACTER**

Throughout 2020 and its adversities, the coronavirus pandemic allowed individuals to grow as people, learn viable lessons, and change their outlook on life. Socialization and communication during the pandemic, or lack thereof, has subsequently affected mentalities of individuals and their connections. Positivity and time management in particular improved for several students as they abided time during the pandemic and had the opportunity to self-reflect.

“I’ve just been optimistic about everything,” Ram said. “Because I know that it’s

not the end of the world if something bad happened in my school life because there’s always ways to make up assignments, but you can’t really make up for a year.”

Similarly, Wisor encourages those with open schedules to take advantage of them and be productive.

“My philosophy is if I have time, I’m not going to waste it,” Wisor said.

Agreeing with time well spent, Montaya said she had time to be reborn with a whole new mindset and more positive energy.

“I just feel like I am in a stronger place mentally than I ever was before,” Montoya said. “I feel way better by myself and who I am as a person now than I ever did.”

The strain on direct social interaction and physical contact was a rude awakening for some, especially when taking part in online school.

“COVID-19 has made me realize I’ve been taking friends for granted,” junior Neel Kanamangala said.

As far as friendships go, Kanamangala was not the only one to notice rifts caused by the inability to physically interact with others.

“I’ve grown as a person throughout this entire experience and found [who] my real friends are, my interests and part of my identity,” Haake said.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, teachers recognized their students’ adaptability and challenges of staying focused in an at-home learning environment.

“I give my students a lot of credit this year,” Mr. Buehrer said. “It’s been a difficult setting and it’s been tough on everyone. [Students should] do their best to stay focused because it’s very distracting and easy to lose focus [when] you’re not in the set regular routine that we’ve always been used to.”

Despite all the changes, Ms. Holloway believes the community adjusted successfully to conducting school during the pandemic.

“Students and teachers, the school district, I think we’ve done better than I ever thought we could do,” Ms. Holloway said. “Two weeks before this school year started I didn’t think we were going to be able to pull it off, [but] we have pulled it off and we’re over halfway through it. I think it says something about people. We can adapt and get through. I’m kind of proud of us.”

**50%**

Of students said that their mental health had changed negatively during the pandemic

**17%**

Of students said that their mental health had changed positively during the pandemic

**30%**

Of students said that their mental health had changed neutrally during the pandemic

**3%**

Of students said that they had no comment regarding their mental health during the pandemic

Out of 303 students polled.

# SUPPORTING SECOND SHELTER IN PLACE

Why another lockdown is necessary

## Staff Editorial

With the recent identification of a variant strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the United Kingdom, global concern has risen regarding its spread. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the UK variant has a higher rate of transmission, as well as a higher amount of mutations than other strains of the virus. In light of this discovery, countries such as the UK, Germany, some parts of Australia and most of California have imposed lockdown restrictions. Even though Governor Greg Abbot announced March 2 that the state would reopen and the mask mandate would be lifted, considering the new variant was identified in Texas on Jan. 7, and infection rates are rising in Collin County, the state and county should enact a second shelter-in-place lockdown period in order to slow and prevent the further spread of SARS-CoV-2.

Following the emergence from the last lockdown period last year, people began to act less responsibly in terms of reducing their movement in public places, use of masks and social distancing. According to Our World in Data's analysis of the Google Mobility trends prior to and during the pandemic, movement levels have increased from their initial drop during the March to April period of 2020. As of Jan. 17 in Collin County, there was an approximate 10% increase in Retail & Recreation during the week of Dec. 25 as well as a 40% increase in Grocery & Pharmacy visits. Though this development can be attributed to holiday celebrations, there is a clear steady increase in movement outside of residential spaces throughout the county and state, indicating the lack of seriousness people associate with their actions as contributors to the spread of the virus. Because people have become so accustomed to and possibly desensitized to the severity of COVID-19's spread, a full shutdown must be issued in order to reinforce protocols surrounding the virus. This will create opportunities for people to relearn safe habits which reduce public

interactions and high-risk behaviors. The instance of recorded rates of infection is beginning to increase again, and demonstrates the direct effects of community neglect. (Testing accessibility factors may skew this data.) Similarly, at the end of April there was an average of 32 deaths occurring per day in Texas, whereas this week there is an average of 228 deaths per day due to COVID-19 according to the New York Times. The alarming nature of this increase in new deaths should be enough to convince state and local governments to pursue a lockdown to preserve the most amount of lives. Since higher transmission rates also increase the rate of variation of viruses, allowing the continuation of this rate of movement could lead to the creation of a possibly deadlier strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The UK variant has demonstrated the danger of quicker transmission but more strains could emerge with more severe and longer-lasting respiratory effects or other unpredictable symptoms.

People are hoping to avoid another lockdown due to the disastrous nature of the first, but fail to recognize that experience gained from challenges presented in the spring and summer will allow people and policymakers to better handle these challenges. For example, education systems were thrown into a panic when they were forced suddenly into an online setting, in which much of the intended content and testing was not completed or else underwent severe modifications. But education systems have had a year to create new learning plans and make the necessary adjustments to optimize online learning, so a new shelter-in-place order would not significantly affect the quality of schooling. Additionally, the availability of mental health resources for managing mental health and addressing crises have grown in the past year. The CDC provides a list of practices and phone and online resources on its page under COVID-19 information entitled "Coping with Stress."

The increasing use of virtual plat-

forms like Zoom, Discord and Teleparty also allows for friends and families to connect more quickly and easily than before the pandemic. Therefore, enacting another lockdown would have a much less drastic effect on productivity, social interaction and mental health than this past spring.

The greatest concern regarding a possible second lockdown would be the effects on the economy. It's no secret that COVID-19 has created a pause — and even complete stop — in several business projects and individual work opportunities. Many retail, dining and entertainment companies such as Studio Movie Grill have recently filed for bankruptcy as a result of the pandemic, according to CNN. Locally, restaurants including Cafe Bohemia and Starwood Cafe have closed down during the pandemic, though exact reasons for shutdown are unknown. Lockdowns prohibit necessary customers from contributing to businesses, resulting in a cycle of economic downturn and unemployment due to job losses. Additionally, due to the general public's increased time spent at home, larger retailers may benefit disproportionately compared to local businesses. These short-term effects are unsettling, but the long-term effects of allowing businesses to continue as usual are not worth preserving current "peace." The aforementioned death toll most affects low wage essential workers according to Brookings Institute. This could result in the debilitation of this necessary base of the economy.

In order to prevent the decline of the working class, a second lockdown would help ensure everyone can work healthily and sustainably.

Considering the contributing factors and effects of the pandemic, a second shelter-in-place order would be the most effective solution to the rising numbers of cases and growing spread of COVID-19. The best option to reduce movement, infection, death and extended effects of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is another shelter-in-place lockdown.



# GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

By Abby Nguyen



Climate change and environmental concerns are at the forefront of the issues that endanger human health, safety and the planet. Although the Trump administration failed to ensure the future of this Earth by neglecting the Arctic Refuge, pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement and rejecting California's request for wild-fire aid, the Biden administration can implement new plans to reverse the damaging effects of Trump's careless behavior. Taking measures to save the environment should not be a political issue or a topic that is up for debate because issues such as global warming are not the real problem; they are just symptoms of human behavior.

The money-hungry mindset of the Trump administration led to detrimental effects in vulnerable habitats like the Arctic. While Alaska is home to Indigenous communities and endangered animal species, Trump auctioned off drilling rights for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain. Having no regard for the lives and ecosystems that rely on the Arctic as homes is not only reckless, but it makes Americans question if the Trump administration truly cared for the people. According to the Native American Rights Fund, Indigenous peoples such as the Gwich'in have spiritual and cultural ties to the environment and animals in the Arctic, so by prioritizing a financial profit over human lives, Trump stripped away Indigenous cultural identity. With the Biden administration, a temporary ban was placed on all oil and gas leasing activities in the Arctic Refuge so the drilling program can be thoroughly reviewed and actions can now be taken toward permanent environmental protections. Although some people may believe drilling for oil and gas provides a large source of income,

drilling requires expensive equipment and electricity since the Arctic Refuge has little infrastructure. Gaining a profit is not worth putting the environment and its inhabitants in danger.

Climate change continues to negatively affect the planet through the melting of glaciers, more extreme weather, the rise of sea levels and the rise of temperatures. In 2017, the Trump administration withdrew the United States' involvement in the Paris Climate Agreement, a global agreement that encourages the use of clean energy and deals with greenhouse gas emissions, because the administration believed the agreement would hinder job growth, waste money and cause declines in nonrenewable resource industries. While the Trump administration believed that the climate agreement can damage the economy, it actually can create 24 million new jobs by 2030 in growing renewable energy industries with policies to create a sustainable economy according to the International Labor Organization. In fact, climate-related disaster costs totaled to be \$2.3 trillion in the past two decades according to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. As a country that has emitted more carbon dioxide than any other country since the industrial era according to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, the U.S. needs to work with other nations to ensure that the health and safety of the people and environment are prioritized. With goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. electric sector by 2035 and make the country carbon-neutral by 2050, one of Biden's first decisions in office was to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. Since climate change can worsen air and water quality, increase infectious diseases and cause deadlier heat waves and floods, the U.S. cannot tackle this global crisis alone.

One of the worst natural disasters in 2020 were the California fires, and as 100,000 acres burned down, the Trump administration threatened to cut federal funding and rejected California's request for a major disaster declaration. With 1.9 million acres of land scorched, over 3,000 homes destroyed and at least three people dead, the administration put their own political agenda above an environmental crisis. In 2018, Trump threatened to cut federal aid during the most deadly fire in California's history that killed 86 people. Instead of cooperating with the state to take control of the fires, Trump blamed California's governor Gavin Newsom by saying that he had done a terrible job with forest management. Calling Trump a "climate arsonist," Biden argues that burning fossil fuels causes extreme weather which explains the California wildfires. Since he places the reduction of climate change as one of his top priorities, Biden introduced his \$2 trillion environmental plan, similar to the Green New Deal, that puts "climate change at the center of our domestic, national security and foreign policy." This plan aims to achieve a 100% clean energy economy, reach net-zero emissions by 2050, fulfill obligations to workers who have fueled the country's economic growth, and take action against the fossil fuel companies that disproportionately harm low-income communities and communities of color.

During a time of major environmental emergencies, Trump has argued against science, calling climate change an expensive hoax and telling the Washington Post that he does not believe in it. With a new administration, Biden can lead the nation in fighting environmental injustices and pave the way for a healthier and cleaner future.

## SWIMMER WINS AT STATE

By Mohammed Modi

Senior Trey Dickey won the 500 freestyle at the state meet on Feb. 26. Junior Gio Linscheer was also a finalist and the team placed 13th overall, with it being the second year in a row that both Linscheer and Dickey attended the state swimming tournament.

“I’m pretty happy to win the 500, as it’s been a goal of mine since freshman year to win an event at state,” senior swimmer Trey Dickey said.

The swim team’s ultimate goal was to have a relay participate in this year’s state meet which hasn’t been done in recent years.

“Plano East had a really strong team at the state level back in 2014,” head coach Lena Harrington said. “That was the season prior to my first season that spring, the team graduated 22 seniors, and we have been re-building the program ever since.”

Dickey finished 5th place in the

200 freestyle and first in the 500 freestyle and Linscheer, who committed to Florida University, placed 6th in the 500 freestyle, Linscheer also finished 10th in the 200 medley.

“I’m proud of the team’s performance this year, as I know that COVID had a factor in slowing everyone but we still tried our hardest,” Dickey said.

Preparing for state wasn’t easy for the swim team, largely due to the pandemic and the separation they faced during practices. Additionally, they were out of the pool for eight days prior to the meet due to the snow-storm.

“This year we’ve been split up into three different groups, so we haven’t had a practice this year with the whole team,” Linscheer said.

The biggest hit from these new practice protocols is the challenge to

the team’s chemistry since most of them haven’t even met their teammates.

“It’s very difficult to have some freshmen and new kids on the team that we’ve never met before,” Linscheer said.

Along with the team being disbanded, the amount of time they had for practice was cut by nearly half, which by face value made a huge impact.

“The practices have definitely been decreasing in volume but we have increased in intensity,” Linscheer said.

As the final year to represent the gold and black, Linscheer and Dickey look forward to continuing their sport at the collegiate level and embrace this win both as individuals and as a team.

“I will remember this for the rest of my life,” Dickey said.

## SOFTBALL TEAM BONDS DESPITE COVID-19

By Risa Khawaja

For the women’s softball team, spring is all about new beginnings. The season started Feb. 2 with their first scrimmage, the score being 12-3. Now, despite this setback, they are in full focus, not letting the pandemic affect their passion. Despite not being able to do their annual team bonding at the Bryan College Station tournament, they have been getting to know each other and are ready to have a good season.

Junior Annalisa Gonzales feels confident about the year. Tryouts finished in the third weekend of January, with hitting on the 15 and fielding on the 16. Between her own activities and schoolwork, she was able to scout out the new group.

“Our team seems pretty strong,” Gonzales said. “We had a lot of freshmen come in that were really good.”

As well as admiring their skill, the upperclassmen are happy to bond with the new players. While online school may separate them, practices give them time together, and they’re

making more of an effort to care for one another.

“The chemistry this year is going to be so much better,” junior Payton Leonard said. “Our seniors want everyone to come together and be a really good team for each other. We’re more like a family this year and I think that will definitely come into play.”

The team has been talking more and more during practices and have started to cheer each other on. Their main focus has been on supporting everyone and everything they do on the field.

“Bus rides are a big part of team bonding,” Gonzales said. “Long rides are opportunities for us to play ice breakers. We learn about each other, tease each other and make a comfortable atmosphere that improves our gameplay.”

Alongside the players, the coaches are also building an open safe space for the team. The head varsity coach Cindy Mosteller and the assistant head coach Kodie Garner pay

close attention to the players and are ready to be there for them whenever they need help. The junior varsity coach Lewis Blount specifically supports his students by connecting with them and checking up on how they are doing.

“He’s been really on top of kids with depression,” Gonzales said. “He notices the small things and makes sure everybody’s okay.”

Individual struggles can be hard to spot if you aren’t familiar with that certain person, and this becomes a bigger problem when you spend less time face-to-face with them. In comparison to prior years, the coaches have put in more effort to form deep relationships with each player, keeping up with their personal lives and being there to listen and to give advice.

“It’s so comforting to know that despite the limitations that come with the pandemic our coaches are still there to guide us,” Leonard said. “This season will be the strongest yet.”





## STRIKING INTO BOWLING SEASON

By Haris Kalam

Photo by Brooke Humphrey

The bowling team got off to a late start this year, due to the pandemic. Typically starting in November, the team began this season in January. Even with a late start, the bowling team has been putting up notable numbers. The boys varsity team currently sits in 4th place in the district. With an anticipated win this weekend, it could bump them to 3rd. The girls varsity team is in 2nd place right now and even with an anticipated win for them, they should hold steady in 2nd.

As sports seasons slowly come to an end, the bowling team season kicks off with a promising year. With the continuing threat of COVID, sports have adjusted to maintain the safety of students and staff. With new obstacles and hardships, the journey of the bowling team through their season has been much different with new challenges.

“The season is going well,” bowling team Coach Dawn Klapper said. “Dealing with COVID-19 has been a little tricky by making the season different but all the players are dealing with it well.”

The typical bowling season has been altered in order to meet the safety requirements. Everyone wears masks during the games and uses different pairs of lanes so that each high school

has their own pair of lanes. As soon as an individual team finishes the match they have to leave the center immediately. For example, if the boys varsity team finishes ahead of the other two teams, they have to leave the building, in previous years they were allowed to stay and cheer for their teammates that were still bowling. At the end of the match players always shake hands with the competitors, but this year they are limited to elbow bumps and toe taps only.

“Normally, I am not too worried about [COVID], but it has already affected one of our tournaments,” varsity bowler Alexa Shelton said. “The other team had a case and it was kind of worrisome because you do not know if they could be spreading it or even if we are spreading it.”

On the other hand there are some who feel perfectly unfazed by the virus and trust the precautionary measures being taken.

“I feel fine, I think they are doing a good job,” Christner said. “We have had one of our teammates test positive for COVID but he quarantined and there have not been any signs since then, so it has been going good.”

On top of these new restrictions and setbacks, players have to still worry about personal issues such as

their performance.

“I feel our team is working very hard to improve,” Shelton said. “Even though it’s hard not to get upset when you’re not doing too well, and you feel like you are not improving at all, they are keeping positive attitudes and working toward improving their game.”

According to Klapper, team efforts and participation and attendance in practices and matches have been the best in the district.

“Many new players are eager to learn and actively striving to get better, attending the optional practices after school, and working on their games,” Klapper said.

A typical week in the life of a bowler means attending the weekly team practice on Tuesday nights at Plano Super Bowl where they practice for an hour and a half and all of the team coaches are on deck to offer guidance. Every day after school from 3:30 - 5:30, they are welcome to bowl for free and get an extra optional practice in, which is highly encouraged.

“Most of the players on the team have been showing very good improvement,” Shelton said. “I like watching all of us grow as a team, we all have great chemistry.”

# THINGS TO FIND FOR SPRING BREAK

By Risa Khawaja



Photo by Risa Khawaja

March 2020 is a time we will all remember. What first started out as an extended spring break morphed into adapting to a COVID-19 lifestyle. With a year of quarantine rounding off on us, we are left with the question: where can we find fun in safety?

While trips to the park with your friends aren't plausible, going to the park yourself is just fine. Look out for the wildflowers that will start springing up. Snowdrops are the first flowers to bloom after winter, the tiny, six-petaled bells droop over and look exactly like their name. Blue bonnets with their soothing color can be seen from March until mid-April. Wild poppies fill the plains and set grass afire. While most art galleries might be closed, it's easy to find color all around you.

If that isn't enough, manipulate the colors. Even if you don't think you're good at painting, give it a try this spring break. Apple Barrel paints are sold for \$0.50 at Walmart and are extremely opaque. Virtually watch a Bob Ross tutorial with your friends and try following him. There is so much technique you can learn, and aside from that, you can just have fun with it. Relax, unwind, find and explore the artistic side of yourself.

Dalgona coffee and banana bread were a staple of early quarantine, but you don't have to stop there. There are plenty of easy recipes you can try out. Focaccia is an easy flat bread that is made from six ingredients you can find in your house: flour, olive oil,

yeast, sugar, salt and warm water. It's extremely easy but also customizable. It's up to you what herbs you put into it, but rosemary is the most popular. Chocolate truffles are also simple, with multiple ways to make them. You can melt a chocolate bar and mix it with heavy whipping cream and butter to pour into a mold, or you can mix cocoa powder and condensed milk. The YouTube channel "Nino's Home" has tutorials on truffles, as well as other sweet and savory snacks such as corn dogs, cheesecake and donuts.

When it comes to night-time activities, the spring sky pulls in constellations harder to spot in other seasons, Cancer being one of the easiest to find. Framing the beehive cluster, Cancer the crab is a simple wishbone-shaped constellation. Its center star, Asellus Australis, branches out towards three other stars, two reaching up into his claws and one reaching down to his left leg. Other constellations can be seen year-round. Orion is a good start; three stars that are evenly spaced and of the same size form his belt. If you look upwards, you can find to the north, Betelgeuse, and to the south, Bellatrix. The stars make up his shoulders, and if you go below the belt, to the north is Syphe, his left hip, and to the south, Rigel, his right hip. Orion the hunter rises over the eastern horizon immediately after sundown. Directly over him is a sideways triangle formed by three key stars: Aldebaran, Hyadum I and Hyadum II. These make up the head

of the bull. Northward of this triangle are two bright stars, Tien Kwan and Elnath, who make his right and left horns respectively. In the middle of the sky every night lies Cassiopeia, the queen of Aethiopia. While she can rotate, she is best described as a wide W. Once you find these constellations for the first time, you have something to look forward to every night.

Aside from that, watching movies is the perfect way to end a night. Studio Ghibli makes the best cozy movies for home, specifically movies done by Hayao Miyazaki. His world building is complex and easy to immerse yourself in. The incorporation of magic equips you with whimsical glasses and transports you to your childhood, yet the underlying anti-war and environmentalism themes add a more mature taste, allowing people of all ages to enjoy his films. His lighter works include "My Neighbor Totoro," "Kiki's Delivery Service," "Ponyo" and "Spirited Away." His darker works include "Princess Mononoke," "Grave of the Fireflies" and "Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind." If fantasy isn't your taste, the creators have also made realistic coming of age films such as "Ocean Waves," "Whisper of the Heart" and "Only Yesterday."

This spring break, stay safe and limit going out. There is so much you can do from home. Admire nature, make art, look around your world and maybe find yourself.



# MOVIES FOR WHEN...

By Claire Tweedie

With spring break travel plans put on hold due to COVID-19, the prospect of spending your vacation on a sunny beach seems nearly impossible, but the safe alternative of a staycation might not be so bad. Despite the pandemic, new movies are still being released on both streaming services and for rent, giving everyone a chance to catch up on the newest entertainment without leaving your couch. Grab some snacks, snuggle in your blankets, and rather than scroll mindlessly through Netflix for 30 minutes, ask yourself: What kind of movie do you want to watch?

### You want something with a little soul: “Soul” (dir. Pete Docter)

Voiced by a star-studded cast including Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey, the newest Disney and Pixar animated movie has just enough heartwarming moments to make it sweet without being too cheesy. The story follows Joe Gardner (voiced by Jamie Foxx), a jazz musician who just got his big break and is convinced his life is finally on track ... until he falls down a manhole and promptly dies. From there, his soul attempts to escape the “Great Beyond” and regain his life with the help of 22 (voiced by Tina Fey), a soul content in the “Great Before.” Throughout witty and touching adventures, the movie begs the question, what makes you, you?

Available on: Disney+



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. pictures

### You want something to think about: “Tenet” (dir. Christopher Nolan)

As the newest addition to Christopher Nolan’s list of mind-twisting films, Tenet chooses to focus on the subject of time. More specifically, what if time could be altered, or inverted? John David Washington’s engaging performance as the Protagonist keeps the viewer hooked for 150 minutes of pure confusion as secret CIA agents bend the laws of time while trying to prevent World War III from both the past and the future. As always, Nolan provides the viewer with as much action and mind bending content as possible and even with a deafening sound mix, it’s still an intriguing watch.

Available on: Rent only through Apple TV, Amazon, Youtube, etc

### A bad movie doesn’t sound so bad: “Wonder Woman 1984” (dir. Patty Jenkins)

With the wild success of the first Wonder Woman movie in 2017, the sequel had been long anticipated, but unfortunately, missed the mark. The cheesy script and disjointed storyline makes it the lowest rated DCEU movie on IMDb, with the first Wonder Woman being the highest rated. Even the stellar cast of Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Kristen Wiig as Barbara Minerva and Pedro Pascal as Maxwell Lord can’t save it. With all of it’s faults though, sometimes it’s fun to watch a bad movie, whether it’s to make fun of it, analyze it or just have some mindless entertainment. Plus, who doesn’t love looking at Gal Gadot?

Available: In theatres and for rent through Amazon, Youtube, Redbox, etc



Photo courtesy of DC studios

### A dramatic romance seems intriguing: “Malcolm and Marie” (dir. Sam Levinson)

Completely created during COVID-19, this fully black and white movie tells the story of Malcolm- a filmmaker-played by John David Washington (yes, him again) and his girlfriend Marie, played by Zendaya, as they return home from a movie premiere that’s guaranteed to be a critical and financial success. As the night progresses, they discuss their relationship and discover how much their love can withstand. Directed by the creator of “Euphoria,” it’ll tug on your heartstrings and make you question what love is really worth.

Available on: Netflix

### A bit of revenge is just what you’re looking for:

“Promising Young Woman” (dir. Emerald Fennell)

When femme fatale Cassie Thomas, played by Carey Mulligan, chooses to take revenge into her own hands, she soon realizes that a little bit of manipulation, and a whole lot of cunning, is all she needs to punish the Mr. Nice Guys of the world. The common revenge trope takes on a wildly unique form as Emerald Fennell’s directorial debut proves she’s a force to be reckoned with. With lots of heavy content and just enough humor to make it palatable, this dark comedy thriller keeps you engaged and rooting for Cassie with endless twists and turns.

Available on: Rent only through Apple TV, Amazon, Youtube, etc



Photo courtesy of FilmNation Entertainment

### Which recently released movies do you plan on watching during spring break?

