Kids Get Creative During COVID

Mrs. Gadea, EP Nurse

Questions posed by Caitlin Hayes and Dai’Osha Stevens

How do you feel when school starts? I feel excited with the anticipation of a new school year. I start planning on how I am to make sure I do all that a

In-person or Hybrid??

A 3-part analysis

---

What Kids Think:

By Neve Schwarz

A little while ago, school opened back up. Quite a few kids chose to go back to
My Life is Not Like the Fairy Tale
By Anonymous

Intro
Hello, I’m Theo (short for Theodosia) Amore on the way to Camp Falls, full of absurd ideas of what I’m going to do at summer camp. My future teacher wants me to write my summer in a fairy tale style. I love writing, and my mom Camille is a New York Times bestselling author who has written many wonderful books, and my other mom Alex is a florist. I usually go to acro camp with my best school nurse does - planning for health screening, reviewing student health charts, taking care of the students, etc.

When a student comes into the nurse’s office, what do you think? I want to be sure that the student feels comfortable, so I ask them “How can I help you?”

Do you think the school could improve in its medical field? I would love to have the school health office be more connected to the community and be able to offer health fairs, telehealth services, and nutrition counseling.

How many masks do you think students should wear when coming to school? I think that students should wear only one mask. It should be a mask that fits well, snug around their nose and underneath the chin.

Why being at home is better than being in school
By Dai’Osha Stevens and Amaya McCants

I think being at home is better than being at school because: When you’re at home, you can get help with work. When you’re at home, you can eat snacks. When you’re at home, you don’t have to worry about wearing a mask. You can play with your pets at home. On break,
friend Evalan, but this year my mom's said I needed to be social with more kids than the ones I see every summer.

The Kick-Off
“Waaaaa-hooo! ARE YOU READY FOR SOME SUMMER FUN!?” Geez, peppy much? Everybody here seemed so excited, and I just don’t get why you would be all excited to sleep in a cramped cabin and catch slimy little animals in the lake. “Ok campers time to get to your cabins.” See what I mean? Not the most magical fairy tale.

The field trip
When we lined up for breakfast this morning the counselor of our cabin told us we were going on a hike or as they [Yes, the counselor is non-binary] called it, an exciting adventure “into the unknown.” Maybe it wasn’t like the crazy ideas I dreamed up on the way here, but at least there’s something for me to write about.
“Ok kids we’re halfway finished! 2 miles left ‘till the top of Mt. Auntie!” “Ugh, it feels like a hundred,” I muttered. “You’re not the only one,” said a girl about my height with brownish long hair, wearing a lavender shirt. “Oh um hi?!” I said. For some reason, I was really nervous. “Hi! My name is

How many students do you think should be allowed to come into the nurses office at a time? During a year without a pandemic, I feel that no more than 3 or 4 students at a time should be allowed in the health room (especially to prevent “germs” from spreading). Also, there is usually only one nurse in the office and having no more than 3 students at a time can allow that nurse to be able to give quality care to each student without feeling rushed.

During a pandemic, no more than 2 or 3 students should be in the health office at a time.

How many students would you say come to the nurse’s office a day on average? During a year without a pandemic, I can see about 50 students during the course of the day.

During the pandemic, I would say that I have you can go outside if you want.

When you’re home, you don’t have to worry about getting in trouble with your teacher. When you’re in school, you can’t join Meets to see your friends who are online. If you’re in the building and forget to bring something to class, then you just won’t have it. If you’re at home, you don’t have to worry about not having something. Like your math book.

Students may be more engaged in online classes because of how much we use technology now. There are many creative ways to get kids to learn online like Flocabulary, Kahoot, Khan Academy, etc. Apps like these make children enjoy studying and learning more than some would when at school. When it comes to presentations, students have apps like Google Slides, Canva, and Nearpod.

When you’re at home, you can take a nap during break time. When you’re in class, you can’t, unless you’re in Kindergarten. Also, at home during break time, you can play games and watch YouTube on your ChromeBook. When you’re at
Robin.” “Cool, do you wanna walk the rest of the way together?” We walked together, and just her being there made me smile. She asked me what music I listen to. I responded “I don’t know actually. I usually listen to Girl in Red.” She said that she listens to Adele and Mother Mother. When we got to the top of the mountain we went to go sit alone. A whole day, just me and her.

Writers Club

A few days later we both went to a writers club during our free time. I couldn’t decide what to write and kept looking up at Robin, then my pencil fell and I bent down to get it, but when I did I bumped into her. I felt her hand and a tingly feeling went through my spine. “Oh...sorry,” I said as she blushed and turned back to her story. Stupid! Who says “oh...sorry” Now what did she think of me? Why did I care? Another confusing day, and another day away from home.

The last day

As we parted ways she went to her parents and I did the same, we got each other’s phone number and said bye. She felt different from other friends but I was unsure why. Now I knew why, she was the best thing that happened that summer. I have the perfect Fairy Tale, well at least for my life.

What is the most common injury that you see? The most common injuries that I see are scrapes and bruises from injuries on the playground and blacktop.

Some of the serious injuries that I have treated as a school nurse have been head injuries (concussions), fractured bones, loss of permanent teeth, and eye injuries.

The school day has started, and if you’re in the hybrid school model, you might agree that in-person school is better than remote learning. We do too, so today we will talk about how we think in-person school is better than virtual.
Flag flies over Elkins Park School

Creative Solutions
By Tina Ramberg-Michael

Asher was a bright child, tired of seeing his mom come from the hospital at night and leave before the sun rose again with dark circles beneath her eyes. He set to work creating a vaccine.

In his basement, or his laboratory as he called it, was a table set with water, stones, herbs, and minerals he had collected throughout the summer on his many trips to the riverbank by his house. He sat on a folding chair with gloves on, ready to change the world as he knew it.

On his first attempt he failed, set his notes on fire, and was left with a smoldering pile of scorched aluminum and printer paper.

In the News...
By Finley Thomason
(As of April 2021)

As vaccines are being created and given to people, President Joe Biden is working in the White House. The White House is working to get the Third Stimulus Check to the people of our country. 1.9 trillion dollars has been put into Covid-19 relief, 10% of people have been fully vaccinated for Coronavirus. More vaccines have been purchased and sent to cities. Oil and gas drilling has been paused, and we have rejoined the Paris climate accord. We are nearing the end of Coronavirus, as people are getting vaccinated and the country is healing after the deep impact Covid-19 has made. Masks are still mandatory and as people are getting vaccines we are all hoping to get back to our normal lives. After a long year of Covid, we will all be able to hopefully see each other and all get back to school soon. - Sourced in part from Apple News

1. When we were in virtual school, it was harder to ask for help, but going to school has been way easier to ask for help, with homework or a lesson.
2. In remote learning, you have a little time for lunch, sort of alone, but you can sit with friends in hybrid. After, you can go to recess and hang out with anyone in your lunch group.
3. When we were at home, we got bored quickly, but at school, we can interact with classmates and talk to each other much more easily.
4. At home if you decide that you want to become friends with someone you couldn’t do that, but when you are at school you can make many friends and we all know that it is very important to have friends and classmates to socialize with during class and recess.
5. When we were at home, it was harder to get motivated and we know some people weren’t able to have a good place to work. Then when we went in person we both felt more motivated in a learning environment.

Scroll down for more!
On his second attempt, he created a mechanism designed to hold still the English marigold while the chocolate melted and boiled in a vial underneath it. The fumes rose into an old Target bag and from there they were the job of condensation. He put mica and mother of pearl into his mortar and pestle to grind into oblivion, then with a handmade funnel let it into the Target bag with the marigold fumes and the chocolate air. After a quick break he dissolved one-quarter teaspoon of sugar in two and a half drops of his sandalwood essential oil. This was dumped into the mix.

After a couple of days, he was able to sneak a syringe from his mom's bag. Now comes the hard part. Testing. One day, he worked up the courage to ask his mom - before she left for her morning shift - to take his vial, as well as a paper with a recipe and a description to work with her. She took him seriously and reached for the vial.

When at work, she delivered the vial to the manager; he stated that it would be a waste of time. She convinced him that it was a good decision, and he delivered it to the vaccine producers. After a long, treacherous month of waiting, the results were delivered. No, the vaccine was not 100% effective. But in the report that he wrote, Asher explained that sugar would help molecules stay in the right shape as they froze. He was right. With this information companies got to work and came up with a 99.9% effective vaccine.

More News...
By Finley Thomason

Many people are getting vaccines, summer is almost here for Elkins Park. We are all excited for the end of the school year and for the new summer. We are all working hard on the PSSAs, the White House is working to get vaccines distributed to cities and towns, the end of the COVID is approaching.

Dysphoria
By Anonymous

Part of the reason people think I'm antisocial is because I'll often find myself lost in my own mind. Whenever I have time to myself, either at home or at school, I'll start thinking of the questions that I can't answer, the questions about who I am.

6. For students who joined an orchestra, you may have noticed you could never play as a group, but in person, you can play together the entire time.

7. Hybrid school studies show that an in-person environment is a better way for learning and social friendships especially for kids under the age of 13.

There are many more that are not listed...
As you can see, there are many benefits of online learning. While we can see other points of view that say online learning is better, you are still staring at a screen for almost six hours a day! In hybrid learning, you read stories, learn ELA, math, and history through a textbook. So these are some reasons why we think that the hybrid school model is a better fit for the student body.
One day his mom came home early, tired as always, but beaming. She had gotten her vaccine.

Mrs. Abrams

Thank you for your time answering these questions for the EP Chronicle.
By Caitlin Hayes and Dai’Osha Stevens

What year did you have your first school dance?
My first school dance was in fifth grade in 1991.

Who has been your favorite teacher over the years?
My favorite teacher, Mrs. Adams, was my first grade teacher.

If you had a childhood pet, what was their name?
My childhood pet was a hamster named Fluffy.

Did you ever plan on majoring in something other than teaching?
I did not actually major in education. I was a Speech

I have a set of bracelets, one forest green, one lavender, and one aquamarine. On days where I feel like cutting my hair short and wearing a sweatshirt and jeans I’ll wear the blue bracelet. On days when I feel like braiding my hair and wearing my earrings I’ll wear the purple bracelet. On days when I feel like wearing whatever I want and tying my hair out of my face, I’ll wear the green bracelet. When I feel like I’m a hot mess and I just want to stay in my pajamas and watch TV all day, I’ll tangle the bracelets. This helps me sort everything out. On blue days, my name is Max, on green days, my name is Mare. On purple days, my name is Emily. On the knotted, confused, pajama days my name is simply M. Even my moms don’t know what the bracelets are for, but I do and that’s the only person who needs to know. Sometimes I wonder if there are other kids at school like me. With blue and purple and green days. With Max and Mare and Emily days. With stay-in-bed M days. Constantly changing, with dysphoria and certainty, being lost then found then lost again. With days full of knotted string.

Jelle’s Marble Runs
By David Brookes

You may have watched the Olympics before. But have you ever watched the Marble

Covid-19 Vaccines
By Emma Nicosia

We have come very far since the pandemic started, although there is still a lot to learn. From my own experience of losing someone I love to the virus, I am so thankful for vaccines. We are in a race to get as many people vaccinated as possible.

In the U.S. there are currently three vaccines available: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson.

Scroll down for more!
Communication major. I then went on to earn my certification and Masters in Elementary Education.

Who was your childhood best friend?
My childhood best friend was Samantha.

Are you still in contact?
Yes, we are still best friends to this day.

Favorite ice-cream flavour?
My favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla.

What was your first car?
My first car was a silver Volkswagen Beetle.

Olympics? A YouTube channel called Jelle’s Marble Runs has big competitions with marbles. They have assorted teams with a type of marble in each one such as the O’ranges, Team Galactic, the Savage Speeders, the Green Ducks, and many, many more!

The announcer also refers to the marbles as names, like Wispy (Midnight Wisps), Clementin (O’ranges) and Smoggy (Hazers). Each team has a specific captain, too, such as Captain Mallard.

Jelle’s Marble Runs features a variety of different events and challenges, most involving one marble from each team! There’s the Marble League / Marblelympics, Marbula One, Marble Rally, and some other cool marble competitions. Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYJdpnjuSWVOLgGT9flzL0g

They all prove to be very effective and reduce your risk of severe illness. These immunizations can only be given to people 12 years and older. There are studies going on right now to see if the vaccine is safe for children under 12.

The benefit of the vaccine far outweighs the risk of side effects. Almost 600,000 Americans have died, so getting the vaccine is crucial. The virus is mutating so only time will tell how effective the vaccine will be to these other strains. And like the flu, we may need to get a shot every year.

It takes about two weeks after you are fully vaccinated for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus. People who have been fully vaccinated may be able to start to do some things that they stopped before the pandemic like meeting in small groups with other vaccinated people, maybe eating in a restaurant if they feel comfortable.

Right now not enough people are vaccinated to let our guards down. It is still important to socially distance,

### Interview with our frontline worker Katie J. Huynh

Interview by Noriana Huynh, current student at EP and Daughter of Katie Huynh
Special Questions and Comments
by David Brookes

I have asked some of the Specials teachers from our school to answer some questions about the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are the questions and answers:

What is the first thing you might do when COVID-19 ends?
Ms. Fichtinger - Go on vacation!* I am also so excited to go out to eat.
Ms. Scheuerman - My extended family goes on a cruise every winter. I’m excited to go cruising again with my loved ones.
Ms. McKay - Go on a vacation to a warm place!
Mrs. Rosenberg - Take a vacation away from home!

*I will too! I can’t wait to see my grandparents again- my grandpa loves to play cribbage and so do I. We haven’t played since COVID-19 started.

How has the pandemic affected how you do your job?
It has been very different because covid affects every area in my job, and patients and staff have many questions about themselves and how covid might affect them.

How has it been different?
It has been very difficult because there were a lot of things we didn’t know about covid especially in the beginning. Many of my patients trust me and it’s a big responsibility to make sure I take care of them.

How long have you been a Physician Assistant?
Since 2002, 19 years!

How has this affected your personal life?
I have felt worried that I’d make my family sick and it’s difficult to balance home and work responsibilities. Sometimes I feel guilty for

wear masks, and wash your hands and above all get a vaccine when it is available to you!!

Information in part from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (May 2021)

Just Six Jokes
By David Brookes

Have you heard the rumor about butter?
...Nevermind, I won’t spread it.

Q: Where do mermaids look for jobs?
A: In the “Kelp Wanted” section of the newspaper.

Q: What did the big flower say to the little flower?
A: Hi, bud!

Dad, I’m hungry!
Hi, hungry! I’m Dad!

Q: What do you call bears with no ears?
A: b

Q: What rhymes with orange?
A: No it doesn’t.
Is it easier communicating with virtual or in-school students, and why?
Ms. Fichtinger - I have found I am able to communicate successfully with both virtual and in-school students as long as we can see each other and respond in real time.
Ms. Scheuerman - I think it’s easier to communicate with the kids in school because you can see their faces and read their body language. The virtual students have the option of having cameras on or off. When they are off, it’s difficult to communicate and to make connections.
Ms. McKay - I think it is easy to communicate with students online and in person as long as the technology is working and students are responsive in either environment.
Mrs. Rosenberg - In-school students. So many virtual students have their cameras off and even if they want to answer a question, it’s a delayed reaction, unlike the in-school students.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has teaching this year been overall?

not caring for my patients and family well enough. It is especially difficult because we don’t know when it will end.

Are there any benefits?
It is great to be able to help during such an important time in our history, it is very rewarding to empower patience to feel safe and healthy.

Were you happy when you learned you would be able to help with covid?
Yeah! Nervous but excited.

How do you like this interview?
Oh! I loved it! I wish that you could come with me to work some days.

Minecraft Dungeons Review
By David Brookes

Getting tired of the armor choices in Minecraft? Wish you had new and cool-looking weapons as well?

Learning to Fly
By Tina Ramberg-Michael

Despite my mom being a bike mechanic and my obsession with engineering, I never actually learned to ride a bike. Every once in a while, when my excuses fail me, and I’m forced against my will to actually do something productive and ride a bike, I fall. I crash into bushes, telephone poles, concrete, you name it. The balance part gets me, and I can’t lift both feet off the ground at one time. The problem is that being terrified to crash is what makes me crash every time. Even if I probably can’t ride a bike to save my life, my dream is to fly. To hover, to soar, to glide, to rise above gravity. Earth really sucks sometimes, with it’s sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and the list goes on. That’s why flying is the perfect way to escape. I have notebooks full of diagrams my mom Jessie drew me of the bikes she sells and fixes, and drawings of the outlandish blimps, aeroplanes, and things that don’t have a name because they’re so ridiculous that I drew. These doodles and designs litter my floor and walls, and the only thing peeking through is my Hidden Figures poster, with Kathrine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughn marching towards the world we have today on it. My other mom, Chana, hates movie theaters, but we went that one time for my 8th birthday. That night I looked up at it thinking about riding a bike and Dorothy Vaughn and how we went from the Wright Brothers to NASA and how the

Scroll down for more!
| Ms. Fichtinger - 8, it is challenging but we are getting better and better as a hybrid school each day. But I miss using the art room! | Minecraft Dungeons gives you just that! In Minecraft Dungeons, you play as an adventurous person favoring who decides to stop the evil Arch-illager from destroying peaceful villages.

There are many different levels that you can play on, as well as new mobs, weapons, and armor! Each level takes you to a place that has been inhabited by evil villagers (illagers).

To get through a level, you will have to defeat all the mobs and complete all of the challenges it has. Sometimes, you may have to pick up a walking key and put it inside a keyhole or defeat a boss such as the Redstone Monstrosity.

Once you have defeated the Arch-illager, you can go back and complete all the levels on harder difficulties, or go to island realms, where you will have to face new challenges.

Overall, Minecraft Dungeons is a really fun game and is currently available for Nintendo Switches! You should try it! |
| Ms. Scheuerman - 6. It was difficult to adjust to virtual teaching and when it was time to teach in the building it was difficult to adjust to teaching in-person and remote at the same time. It’s May and I’m still struggling. | Wright Brothers also ran a bike shop. About how bikes led to planes led to satellites led to rocket ships. About how rocket ships lead us to whole new worlds. About how I can fly.

The next day, I rush down the streets of Manhattan with my coat flying behind me, my bike glinting steel and green in the sun. |
| Ms. McKay - 7, It is not an easy situation for teaching, but we are learning and growing as we continue through the school year. | What is happening in Elkins Park
By James DeBerry

There was hockey at Elkins Park School on Thursdays.

And go check out all school lunches at cheltenham.org

Here are some things to do for the summer: #1- go outside and maybe go to the park. #2- maybe do a movie night with your family. #3- hangout with your friends. |
| Mrs. Rosenberg - 7 I’m giving it a higher than average rating because I feel like we’ve come such a long way since last spring. | Jokes for you
The answers will be posted below.

#1 What do you call a train carrying bubble gum?
#2 Why did the M&M go to school?
#3 Why do bees have sticky hair?
#4 What does the ocean do when it sees their friend? |
| If you were not the teacher of your current Special, what would be your second choice? Ms. Fichtinger - I really like reading and writing so ELA or gym. I love being active! Ms. Scheuerman - I would be a history teacher because history is a story of what’s gone on in the past. Who doesn’t love a good story?** Ms. McKay - I would probably teach ELA or Social Minecraft Dungeons gives you just that! In Minecraft Dungeons, you play as an adventurous person favoring who decides to stop the evil Arch-illager from destroying peaceful villages.

There are many different levels that you can play on, as well as new mobs, weapons, and armor! Each level takes you to a place that has been inhabited by evil villagers (illagers).

To get through a level, you will have to defeat all the mobs and complete all of the challenges it has. Sometimes, you may have to pick up a walking key and put it inside a keyhole or defeat a boss such as the Redstone Monstrosity.

Once you have defeated the Arch-illager, you can go back and complete all the levels on harder difficulties, or go to island realms, where you will have to face new challenges.

Overall, Minecraft Dungeons is a really fun game and is currently available for Nintendo Switches! You should try it! Wright Brothers also ran a bike shop. About how bikes led to planes led to satellites led to rocket ships. About how rocket ships lead us to whole new worlds. About how I can fly.

The next day, I rush down the streets of Manhattan with my coat flying behind me, my bike glinting steel and green in the sun. |

What is happening in Elkins Park
By James DeBerry

There was hockey at Elkins Park School on Thursdays.

And go check out all school lunches at cheltenham.org

Here are some things to do for the summer: #1- go outside and maybe go to the park. #2- maybe do a movie night with your family. #3- hangout with your friends. |
Studies because I enjoy reading and history. Mrs. Rosenberg - I would love to keep teaching something similar to my current special but with regular daily classes instead of once every 8 days.

**I certainly do!**

Thanks to these teachers for answering the questions! Since we haven’t been in school for a while, I wanted to get to know the teachers a bit more and ask them about some of their opinions. The results were really good! Thank again to the Specials teachers for answering these questions -- The EP Chronicle appreciates it!

***Find a mistake???***

Join our club! The EP Newspaper Club is always in search of more reporters and editors. You can sign up for our club in the After School Program or on Google Classroom, fall of 2021.

This refill station near the cafeteria has logged over how many bottles filled since it was installed three years ago?

- a) 40,000
- b) 65,000
- c) 15,000

Answer below

An afternoon breeze

An afternoon breeze
Expels cold air, along with
The fallen brown leaves
Fall is coming soon
The kids are in zoom
Some of the kids are in-person
Every day it worsens

By Gigi Fernandez

Water Refill Station Answer:

- a) 40,000

Answers to the 4 jokes:

Answer to #1 a chew chew train
Answer to #2 it wanted to be a Smartie
Answer to #3 they use honeycomb
Answer to #4 it waves

Calendar Reminders

Last Student Day
Wednesday, June 16th
(Virtual)

Last Teacher Day
Friday, June 17th

First Day of School
2020-2021 School Year
Monday, August 30th

Labor Day Weekend
Friday, September 3rd - Monday, September 6th

Holiday: Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday & Wednesday
September 7th & 8th

Elkins Park School Calendar
Academic Calendar 2020-2021
Academic Calendar 2021-2022
Academic Calendar 2022-2023

Scroll down for more!
Continue below for more

Stories & Images

Scroll down for more!
Student artwork hanging in the main lobby

Scroll down for more!
EP Celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week
Teachers enjoy a special lunch brought in by the PTO

Scroll down for more!
Appreciation Poster made by PTO with quotes from grateful parents/guardians
EP Celebrates Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss’ Birthday with Silly (Fox in) Sox Day

Scroll down for more!
A Big Fat (Video Game) Review
of The Legend of Zelda: Breath of The Wild
By Joshua Marcus

I have recently acquired a copy of The Legend of Zelda: Breath of The Wild, which I will be referring to as BOTW for the sake of time throughout this review. This game was published by Nintendo and was released back in March of 2017 for the Wii, WiiU, and Nintendo Switch. By the end of its launch month, this game had already sold over 1.3m copies, which no doubt is one of the most profitable opening months for a Zelda game or even a Nintendo game. Now I know you don't just want to listen to me rant on and on so I'll get into the real meat and potatoes of the review.

Gameplay and Mechanics

All Zelda games include items and powerups of some sort that you can unlock along your journey. BOTW throws this whole idea out of the window and instead opts for a more free-range version of the power-up system. When you start the game, you are thrust into a gigantic sprawling world. Then after activating an ancient tower, which I will talk about later, 4 strange objects start glowing in the distance. Next, you walk to the first “shrine” and can control metal objects and make them fly around, then you find another ability and now you can throw and remotely detonate bombs. When you get stasis it allows you to freeze most objects in time and fling them at 100s of miles per hour. Then finally you unlock cryonics which allows you to turn any substantial pool of water into an ice platform that you can use to cross big rivers or lakes. Now you pretty much have all the abilities and can do anything you want, except for 2 key elements that factor into how you play and enjoy the game: Health and Stamina. Your health allows you to get hit by enemies more times without dying, and stamina allows you to sprint and climb longer. Doing these actions reduces your stamina meter which is recovered when you are standing on solid ground. Both of these can be upgraded with 4 spirit orbs. You get 1 spirit orb each time you beat a shrine, with a total of 124 shrines in the game, ranging from solving hard puzzles to fighting a dangerous enemy. There is an abundance of joy and puzzles in this beautiful wild game.

What a Beautiful and Wild World

In BOTW there is no shortage of things to explore and items to gather. For instance, there are little plant creatures known as koroks which you find by looking around the vast expanse of mountains and plains. There will be mini puzzles that you must solve, such as having to move a rock into a circle or using magnesis to move metal blocks to form a pattern. In addition to shrines, there are clothing items you can find that give you specific stat boosts. Most armor pieces increase your defense which makes you take less damage from enemies. Some also increase your swimming and climbing speed, and they're stylish as well. 3 months after BOTW came out (June 30, 2017), Nintendo released the first of 2 DLC (Downloadable Content) packs for the game. They added many new quests, challenges, and adventures to go on, such as the champions ballad and the trial of the sword. In the champions ballad quest, you go back to the area where you started the game and grab a trident that allows you to one-hit kill all enemies but makes you a 1 hit k.o as well. Once you grab it, you are forced to unlock 4 new shrines by defeating hordes of enemies without getting hit. Once you do that and complete the shrines 4 new quests start that give you 3 riddles and puzzles for each shrine. If you complete all 12 you are rewarded with shorter cooldown times for your special abilities. The second main event is the Trial Of The Sword where you get teleported into a dungeon and are stripped of all your weapons and abilities. You start in a small self-contained room with 3 enemies. You must

Scroll down for more!
sneak around to their camp and steal all their weapons before you can fight. It takes a while to finish but the reward is great. Your master sword is permanently fully charged at 60 damage when it normally only does 30. There are also many new outfits like the tingle outfit which changes color whenever you are near a korok.

A Tall and Expansive Tale

With a world so open and expansive, there needs to be a way to nudge players in the right direction towards the true final boss. After you get the runes and head to Kakariko Village, you meet an old monk who tells you to free the 4 divine beasts which are massive mountain-sized mischievous mythological mad mechanical monsters, mnemonic. These beasts are animal-shaped. One named Vah naboris is based on a camel and can shoot lightning. There is also Va ruta an elephant, Vah medoh a bird, and Va rudana a lizard. You must make new allies and with their help travel inside the beasts and free them from Calamity Ganon’s control. Once you do, you are incentivized to fight Ganon and free the realm. If you recover all of your memories from before you went into a deep sleep for 100 years, and beat the final boss, you see the “true” ending. You get to see a cutscene of Link and Zelda watching Hyrule Castle fly up from the ground and into the sky hinting into BOTW 2, which is coming out TBD. This game has an open world, a free story, and beautiful graphics. While it is not the best game ever, it will surely be remembered as a wonderful and joyous experience.
Remember the 3 Cs

1. Clean
Wash your hands often. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

2. Cover
Cover your cough. Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Don’t have a tissue? Cough or sneeze into your elbow.

3. Contain
Contain germs by staying clear of others who are sick. If you are sick, stay at home until you are well again so you don’t spread more germs.
Mr. Freeman, EP Tech Staff, manages our critical infrastructure -- Chromebooks and their chargers!
EP Celebrates Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss' Birthday with Pajama Day

Scroll down for more!
Elly and Max were getting ice cream with their dad on a hot California night in LA. Elly saw something that caught her eye, a tiny thing flying in the air. It seemed like a blond fairy. When she told Max what she saw he said, “It probably is a fly wearing a wig,” as he ate his ice cream. Elly replied with “Flies can’t wear wigs.” Their father said “Stop being mean to your brother, Elly.”

Max and Elly got close to the flying thing, and whatever it was seemed to tell them to go to the park nearby. Their dad had gone back home because he had left his phone and didn’t want to be noticed with them when they were fighting, so Elly and Max went to see what Max described as “A fly with a wig.”

They saw the flying thing and when they got there it was a tall blond girl with a blue butterfly clip in her hair and a scaly blue and white shirt with a blue skirt with white trim. She wore long ribbon boots and big blue crystal wings that she had tucked under her long hair. She spoke in a soft voice and said, “Hello there, you guys are the ones I have been looking for, you must be the fairies!” Max and Elly were so confused.

Everything in Elly’s brain was thinking “Why am I a fairy!?” In Max’s brain, he was thinking “Ohhh so it was not a fly with a wig.” While not noticing that he had gotten smaller and had light blue wings and was wearing a white button shirt and black pants. Elly’s wings were light teal and were leaf-shaped and she was wearing a two-piece white dress with a teal collar and ribbon shoes (like the blond fairy). She also had a moon clip in her hair.
They got very dizzy and appeared in a large, fairy town. “Do we need something like fairy registration, like when you get a car, just to be here?” said Ellie. The blond hair fairy just asked, “What is a car, and oh by the way my name is Christie.”

They walked up to the building and they filled out tiny cards and got their pictures taken. Christie said, “We will now meet the royal family!” Max walked up to the building and said, “That’s a Big Building.” Ellie said, “Max that’s not a building it’s a castle!” Ellie said it so loud that the guards were so surprised but when they saw that Christie was with them they went back to guarding the castle. When they entered the room the king and queen were standing in the room and the king said “Hello! You are the newest fairies, I see that Christie has shown you around! Welcome to our kingdom!”

To be continued

Adventure of a Mermaid

(Based on a short story we wrote from when we were in first grade.)

A Short Story By Finley Thomason & Rebecca Li

It was a sunny morning in California and Maddy Walker was sitting on her porch in her new home looking at the clear blue ocean. She had just moved to Oxnard, California with her mother. The school would be starting soon and she would be going to seventh grade, at a new school, without knowing anyone. Moving from her closest friend was hard, she remembers how much she had fun swimming with her friends in Seattle, Washington. So she

Scroll down for more!
decided to go swimming to clear her head. She called to her mom, “I am going swimming, I will be back for dinner!” Her mom said, “OK, be back at 6!”

Maddy dove into the water and swam away as fast as she could. She saw a dark cave and went to investigate, she saw a bat that appeared to be made of jewels and gems and said “Hello!” in a deep low tone voice. Maddy was startled and she climbed up to a little island and said “Who are you?” The bat replied, “I am an Eastern Water Bat named Gerald! And YOU are a mermaid!” Maddy was shocked and fell back and hit a rock which caused her to fall into the water, stunned.

When Maddy was able to pull herself out of the water, she had a light gray tail and her short brown hair became extremely long. She noticed that she had a tiny compass tattoo on her wrist. Looking at the tattoo it seems like she has seen it somewhere before but she couldn’t put her finger on it. She thought she had seen it from a book before but she had other matters to think about, for example, the most pressing thought in her mind was “WHY AM I A FISH!”

Gerald was laughing at Maddy’s face when he said “Everybody is surprised when that happens and it always seems to make me smile.” Maddy said, “WHAT HAPPENED TO ME!?” Stifling a giggle Gerald said “You are a mermaid! Well, technically to me mermaids are fish.” “So I’m a fish?” Maddy asked, trying to find Gerald in the dark cave. Gerald could see her face looking and he giggled to himself as he said in the deepest voice he said “WHO GOES THERE” after seeing Maddy when he said that he giggled and then said “Sorry I scared you, but I am sure that it is almost six o’clock and your mom said to go home for dinner!”

Maddy was shocked that he knew this but he was right. It was almost six. As Maddy swam away Gerald yelled “Touch your tattoo to change back and forth from mermaid to human!” When Maddy got home she quickly changed into a long sleeve shirt so her mom couldn’t see her tattoo, but when she was at dinner she reached for a bowl of salad and her sleeve moved enough just so that her tattoo showed.
Her mother saw the tattoo on her wrist. “Madeleine Lily Walker, why do you have a tattoo on your wrist?” she asked coldly. Maddy replied with “Umm it’s a temporary tattoo?” Her mom said “It doesn’t look that temporary, you were gone swimming the whole time, when did you get a temporary tattoo?” “There were other kids there selling some temporary tattoos?” Maddy said without thinking. “Really ...?” Maddy’s mom asked. “So did you make any friends!?” Maddy’s mom asked happily while eating some more salad. “Yep I met this kid named Gerald. He was funny.”

Maddy’s mom could not have been happier to hear that, but she should have known that Maddy was lying because around one in the morning there was a loud thump, Maddy had turned into a mermaid when she was standing and had fallen onto her bed because she didn’t have legs.

The next morning Maddy went to the library and found a beat-up old book that had a working compass on the front. She spent hours reading through the book. She finally understood that there were other people that had magic powers: fairies, dragons, unicorns and mermaids. They were all linked together and she hoped that she could find them. She wondered if she would meet any other people like her. As she read through the book she got to a chapter about mermaids.

To Be Continued

First grade, First meeting

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

By Rebecca Li & Finley Thomason

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

First grade, first meeting
Met each other then proceeded to be friends

Scroll down for more!
Second grade, second meeting
Same teacher, Same friends

Third grade, third meeting
Went to the aquarium, three new friends

Fourth grade, fourth meeting
In different classes but one new friend

Fifth grade
We haven’t met each other in person but are still friends

---------------------------------------------
Friends for 5 years
---------------------------------------------

Our dogs
By Rebecca L. and Finley T

One dog is small and one dog is tall
They both eat all of their food
They both have some attitude

One dog is skinny and one dog is chubby
They both are fast and like to run

Scroll down for more!
They both like cats one to none

One dog is fuzzy and one dog is fluffy
They both like to get rubbed on their tummy
They both think their food is REALLY yummy

One dog is Kai and one dog is Rainier
Rainier likes walks, car rides, and getting pet
Kai likes running, treats, and meeting new people

We both love our dogs!
Introduction

Today, I will be telling you about The Poison Garden, also known as the Alnwick Garden. The garden is located at the wall garden of the old castle at Northumberland, in the UK. Everyday, new flowers are being added to the garden with the addition that there are already over 99 plants in the garden being tended to everyday. “Everything in the poison garden has the ability to kill you”, says Trevor Jones. He’s the head gardener of the garden and says that he enjoys tending to plants. Enough with the basics though, let’s get onto the real topic.

The Plants

The first plant that is talked about in the video is Giant Hogweed, also known as Heracleum. It will grow up to about 8 feet tall, and it’s “phototoxic,” meaning it can cause blisters and burns to your skin for several years. They have a toxic chemical in their sap called furanocoumarins. In addition to the blisters, contact with the sap will make the skin more sensitive to ultraviolet light and can result in phototoxic dermatitis. This basically means that it’s sensitive to ultraviolet light and an inflammatory skin reaction will happen when induced by sunlight. The plant overall looks like a small bush at the bottom with multiple different flower patches growing from stems to make a sort of umbrella or plate face at the top. The flowers are just plain, white, and small. So if you see a plant that is described like this in the wild, it’s best not to go near it. Although all of the plants are being held in the garden, it’s not completely impossible that they could still be in the wild so…just be careful-

The second plant is, surprisingly, the wonderful and beautiful Hydrangea. You might have heard of them or even have them in their own garden, but they actually have cyanide in every part of the plant. They can cause symptoms like vomiting, heavy breathing, lethargy (a lack of energy/enthusiasm), stomach aches, and in the worst case scenario, cause a coma. It’s a bit surprising that this beautiful plant can actually harm you. Fun fact though! The color of this plant actually depends on the soil PH level that it’s planted in. From what I know, they can be blue, purple, pink, white, and red. You can look on Google for what they look like, but a short description is that they’re round, ball shaped flowers that grow up to around 30 cm in diameter.

The 3rd and final one is Water Hemlock! To be honest, in my opinion I think it’s very pretty. Unfortunately, it can give you painful seizures and even kill you, so it’s not very safe for the public in my opinion. The Water
Hemlock looks like an orb with separated flower clusters. It’s similar to the shape of a Hydrangea, and the amount of flower clusters on each orb varies. The flowers themselves are small with white petals. The petals are flat making it seem as if the top of the flower is like a plate. The small flower clusters coming out from every side of the seed make them come out as if it were an orb.

Credits:

https://blog.fantasticgardeners.co.uk/17-toxic-plants-in-your-garden/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tboW11dMeKs&t=21s&ab_channel=GreatBigStory

The Simulation theory
By Caitlin Hayes

The Origin
The Simulation Theory was brought up back in 2003 by Nick Bostrom, but the idea goes back to the 17th century philosopher Rene Descartes. So even centuries ago the simulation theory was there.

Nick Bostrom
Nick Bostrom in 2003 brought up the simulation theory so let’s look at that shall we? Nick wrote a 14 pages long thesis about the topic, so I’ll just give the first paragraph which gives us an idea of what the thesis contains.

“This paper argues that at least one of the following propositions is true: (1) the human species is very likely to go extinct before reaching a “posthuman” stage; (2) any posthuman civilization is extremely unlikely to run a significant number of simulations of their evolutionary history (or variations thereof); (3) we are almost certainly living in a computer simulation. It follows that the

Scroll down for more!
belief that there is a significant chance that we will one day become posthumans who run ancestor-simulations is false, unless we are currently living in a simulation.”

The posthuman stage is the next stage in evolution if you needed that insight. What this means is that in Nick Bostrom's eyes we are certainly living in a simulation.

Tyson

The iconic Neil Degras Tyson stated “I think the likelihood may be very high,” noting it's a 50/50 chance that we are just a computer chip for a greater power.

Realities theory

Theory one: Maladaptive daydreaming or imagining a new realm or realities like Hogwarts, Camp Half-Blood, The Hunger Games, or Narnia creates a new reality which can be accessed through the reality travelling shifting technique. The reality can be accessed by anyone if they know it exists. This is one of the many reality theories I have. I have no structural evidence to support this theory but it's just an idea.

Theory two: We are in a reality, whether it be this single one or among thousands. This sounds straight out of a sci-fi movie, but that doesn't make it any less of a possibility

Theory three: We are the motherboard, the start, the tree of life -- however you say it

Theory four: Our minds are preset to create “worlds” or realities that we have knowledge of.

Conclusion

The simulation theory has been developing for centuries and in my opinion it's more complex than what we believe. The simulation theory is not complete nor is it solved or proven but it has been open to the scientific community and for now we can only beg to question.