

Tiger's Paw Volume 1, Issue 3

A newsletter published by A.B.G.S. Middle School Newsletter Club

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Check School Website!

WELCOME SUMMER!

A SCHOOL YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

We have all experienced a school year like no other! In March, two months ago, we were preparing for state tests, getting ready for lacrosse, baseball and softball tryouts and practices, hanging out with friends in the café, looking forward to cool class trips (like Splish Splash!) and to the 8th grade class activities and "moving up." Then a virus with a funny name came along and changed everything. Our last physical day in school was Friday, the 13th. We all left the building, armed with textbooks and packets, assuming we would be back in our familiar classrooms in a few weeks. Then we became aware of people falling ill and some losing their lives due to this mysterious deadly COVID-19 virus. The end of March came, and it became apparent to us that we would not be returning to our old school life any time soon. This was a sad realization because it meant we would not see our friends for the rest of the school year and would only be able to connect via FaceTime, Instagram, the phone or while gaming.

Now, instead of sitting in a class, we meet in TEAMS and complete assignments on our own with less teacher interaction and we wonder what is around the corner. Will we return to our classrooms in September and to familiar routines? Or will we continue learning on digital platforms that are ok at first like any shiny new object but lack the people to people

feeling that we have become accustomed to and that make school so much more real and fun.

Yes, it's sad that we haven't seen our pals and good friends since Friday, the 13th of March. We will overcome this challenge and we will be stronger for having lived through it and, though we didn't ask to be, we are now a part of history. One hundred years from now someone will read about kids all over the world whose lives were changed and altered by the onset of a virus in the middle of March.

We look forward to saying goodbye to Teams for the summer, maybe going to beaches and parks (with masks and maintaining social distancing) and hopefully entering the familiar front doors of ABGS in Sept. We salute everyone in the ABGS MS Family. We made it through! Adapted from text composed by Ms. Robinson's Lang. & Lit. class.
-The Advisors



MS Students & Families: Please check the school website for guidance on Summer School and Summer Enrichment programs. The website also has important information for parents and students, along with library and academic resources.

Also, visit the Hempstead Public Library Website to sign up for a fun Summer Reading Program!



Illustration by Elizabeth Pichardo

One piece of good news is that Disney will reopen July 11! But, like everything else, it will seem very different. For example, guests will have to wear masks, get temperature checks and observe social distancing.



INSPIRING MESSAGES FROM ABGS MS VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Val-Tania Rodriguez, Valedictorian

Our years at A.B.G.S Middle School will have a lasting impact, helping to shape who we are as we move on to high school. We've all worked hard to get where we are. To my fellow graduates, be reminded that your hard work will not go unnoticed. All your struggles, your stress, and doubtful moments are temporary. We're all young so its normal to make mistakes, it's important to learn and grow from them. We all may have not faced the same struggles, but what matters the most is the experience, because when you look back on your middle school years, you're not going to worry about who was the most popular, your grades, or even all the times you waited for the bell to ring. What you *will* recall are the memories you made, the friends you had and the experiences you shared with them. Experience is what is going to shape your mind and make you wiser. Stay true to yourself and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. *-excerpt from speech by Val-Tania Rodriguez, Valedictorian*

Nathaniel Jones, Salutatorian

Having the correct mindset makes all the difference. If you believe you can achieve, don't allow others to tell you differently. Continue to work hard and stay focused on whatever it is that you wish to accomplish. It won't be easy, but if you keep pushing forward, there's nothing you can't do! Harriet Tubman stated, *"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars and change the world."* To my fellow members of the class of 2020, I wish you the best of luck on your high school journey, and your future ahead. *-excerpt from speech by Nathaniel Jones, Salutatorian, ABGS MS 2020*

Reflection: Our Year in Review, Senior Edition!

To recap, this year was fun. Although the coronavirus ended our year early, we still had fun. We all made new friends, we had a Valentine's Day dance, we had trips, school sporting events and many more fun activities. We also learned a lot from our teachers. People, this school year wasn't as bad as last year in 7th grade because there were less suspensions.

Yared Alexis

This was my first and last year at ABGS and I never planned to get attached, for I knew that the time would be short, and I would have to graduate. So, I always thought of just keeping everything in and to just stay to myself so I wouldn't be hurt, when leaving the school. Just as unexpected, I met people, friends, friends of friends... they felt like family. In the beginning of it all in September, we all had the same thing in mind, wanting the year to end. We were all quick to count down the days that we almost forgot to make the days count. Sad to say, the school year is almost over and for us 8th graders, an exciting new chapter awaits. We can all say this school year was hectic and full of ups and downs. All the arguments, misunderstandings, drama, and stress of schoolwork. However, I look back and I wish to relive it all. It took me awhile to realize that in the end we only regret the chances we didn't take. Some of us will be having to say goodbyes and sadly because of Covid-19, we won't be able to say our farewells the right way. While some of us find it difficult to accept goodbyes, others are happy and relieved. All the exams and homework we had to do, finally it will be over with. We all deserve it, a break from the work. For all the students not graduating, cherish every moment for time goes by real fast. This school year was a school year I never hope to forget. -**Tabitha Marcel**



For all of us, this school year wasn't what we expected. It might've not gone by as fast as others, and probably not been the best but maybe, we should take this school year as a lesson. A lesson that proves that life is full of surprises and that we are not always, going to be ready for what we are presented with. However, that's okay, as long as we stay strong and keep our head up during the process. Some of us might've not gotten to go to our school dance, hang out with friends, and have an authentic graduation. But this school year was also full of surprises, laughs, and exciting events. Events that we'll perhaps never forget. Life is full of small moments like these. Moving forward, I encourage everyone to keep their heads up and never give up.

Danna Mendoza

Ever since the Corona Virus Pandemic, I haven't gotten to see any of my classmates, I miss school. Right now, I'm in online school, online school is probably the most stressful school experience. It's not easy to keep up with all my classes and meetings but I try to stay on task. The school year is about to end so I'm getting my last assignments of the year and I'm looking forward to my 9th grade year.

Rolando Osorio

This school year has been very distinct from other school years. The events of this year has impacted all of us. In September, the beginning of the school year everything was stable, and the school had a good environment. Everyone around me was motivated. Nobody expected this pandemic to happen due to covid-19. This pandemic has affected everyone, worldwide. The virus is so contagious that we had to be out of school. These last 3 months have been incredibly stressful with online classes. However, it taught all of us a lesson that we will keep in mind. The pandemic might be something overly critical, but we have had positive outcomes. This was a remarkably interesting experience.

-Ashley Perdomo





by Lee

Our lives our passing, time to rise.
 We are moving onto, the next stage in our lives.
 It's exciting as can be, but terrifying because
 soon we leave.
 To become graduated students, some with high
 honors
 And to become less stressed, so relieved.
 Now we question what's next?

Here is the step,
 We continue to thrive and never deny,
 Our abilities and time.
 Since it flies we have to stay high.
 High enough to grab hold of the next stage
 then put our learnings to play.

So, hear my call, you have it all.
 Take advantage and play what you saw.
 Don't let them get to you just keep going,
 you've done it now let your mind keep growing.



by Lee

So, you've then before felt uneasy for your
 mind was being compressed.
 Now you feel it was easy because your mind
 has less stress.
 I don't want to bother but need to remind
 you,
 That its challenges come yet again.

It will try to defeat you, but I promise you,
 it won't keep you, so to be said.
 You will thrive and you'll dive but you'll climb
 back up and feel again alive.

You can do this, no it's not the last time.
 However, you've done it before, so I have
 faith, don't sigh.
 You'll feel oh so mighty once you've
 completed the goal,
 Even though it resets but I doubt you'll forget
 the whole.

So, realize now, you can cope. Because soon
 you'll be wearing another coat. Not a heavy
 one but a light silky gown. With a cap design
 that makes you proud. So not for the last time
 but for now goodbye, I leave you with these
 words, "Dream big, fly high."



One of the sports highlights for ABGS MS this year was the success of the wrestling team. The team brought many thrilling moments and exciting “pins” and the spectators were never bored. “Tiger’s Paw” asked Coach Graziosi to take us through that special season.

The 2020 ABGS Wrestling Team Coach Graziosi

Each new wrestling season builds upon the foundation and success of the previous year. At the end of the 2019 season two seventh grade wrestlers shined and showed a ton of promise. Both Pedro Bonilla and Lakeem Callender worked hard at developing their wrestling skills as seventh graders and when the 2020 season began, they continued exactly where they left off from last year. Their dedication to the team along with their leadership and instruction to younger wrestlers helped this year’s team become the most successful to date. Along with eighth grader Obed Reyes, a newcomer to the ABGS Wrestling Family, the young team was able to gain confidence and individual wins. Pedro, Lakeem and Obed all had winning records that brought overall success to the 2020 ABGS Wrestling team. While Pedro won his matches with power, Obed relied on his technical skills and Lakeem combined speed, agility, mental



toughness to outwit and outmuscle his opponents. The 2020 ABGS wrestling team had great leaders to learn from and follow.

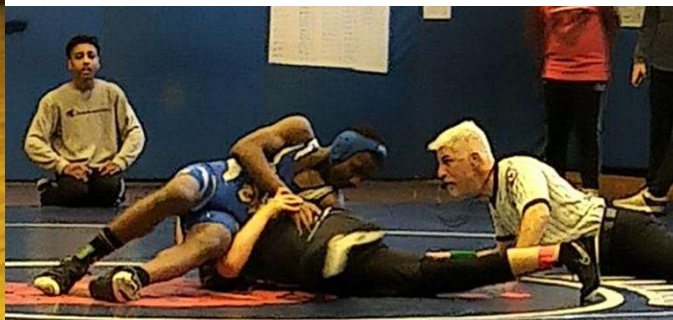
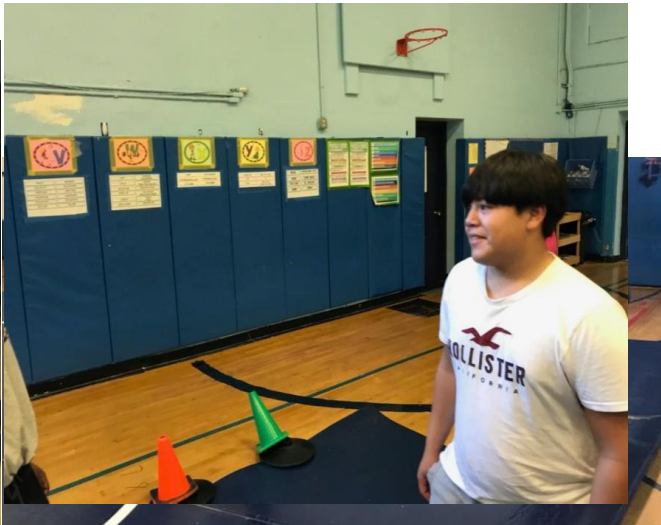
The two seventh graders that will continue to carry the torch for next year’s team are Hernan Morales and Marvin Velasquez. Hernan, an aggressive and fast as lightning fighter, loved to be compared to



Conor “Notorious” McGregor, and always had the challenge of wrestling the best opponents from other schools. He won many matches and even in his losses earned the respect of opposing coaches, wrestlers and fans. Marvin, a first-year wrestler had an undefeated record for most of the season and depended on his strength, speed and size to overpower opponents. Marvin and Hernan kept the other seventh graders in and helped everyone develop their skills. The other seventh graders who finished the season with the team and whom I look forward to coaching next year are Enri Paz, Nicolas Rivera, Mathew Steffers, Bryan Romero and Kenned Flores.

This team would not be nearly as successful if it wasn’t for the generosity and thoughtfulness of Hempstead graduate Marvin Stewart. He truly embodies the notion of giving back and helping the kids of our community. As an assistant coach he gave his time and freely and without hesitation. As a wrestling instructor he gave our boys the tools and confidence they needed to be successful. The team and I are indebted to his continued help and generosity. I would also like to take this chance to thank Mr. Crespo who also gave freely of his time to help our boys be successful. Coach Crespo got down and dirty and was able to teach the team power moves that made him a successful college wrestler. Finally, we’d like to thank the high school “Lady Tiger” volunteers who came to help on game day, the high school wrestlers that came to help with practice and all the teachers and students who came to support us during home matches.

MORE IMAGES FROM A MEMORABLE WRESTLING SEASON!



ABGS wrestling this school year was entertaining and fun; 7th grade spectators saw the sport for the first time!



'In the Time of Pandemic'

By Catherine O'Meara

*And the people stayed home.
And read books, and listened,
and rested, and exercised,
and made art, and played games,
and grew gardens full of fresh food,
and learned new ways of being,
and were still.*

*And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some prayed,
some danced.
Some met their shadows.*

*And the people began to think
differently.*

*And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people
living in ignorant, dangerous,
mindless, and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together
again,
they grieved their losses,
and made new choices,
and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live
and heal the earth fully,*

as they had been healed.

Catherine O'Meara, a retired teacher who lives in Madison, Wisconsin, actually wrote this poem in mid March, in the thick of the pandemic.

<https://the-daily-round.com/2020/03/16/in-the-time-of-pandemic/>



A Moment in Time...

Miss mom, miss sisters, nieces, nephew,
and upstate air

Am stuck in here, on this island, but wish I
were there

Miss room 115 and room 103

Miss the students who kept those rooms so
live-ly

My world changed a lot in March and
there's nothing I can do

Well, I could sit here and complain, or I can
share my thoughts with you

Or I can go for a walk, go shopping or catch
up on the news

Or I can grade work, read a book, or
welcome the blues

Can't see my sons or friends I adore
Miss life before Corona more and more

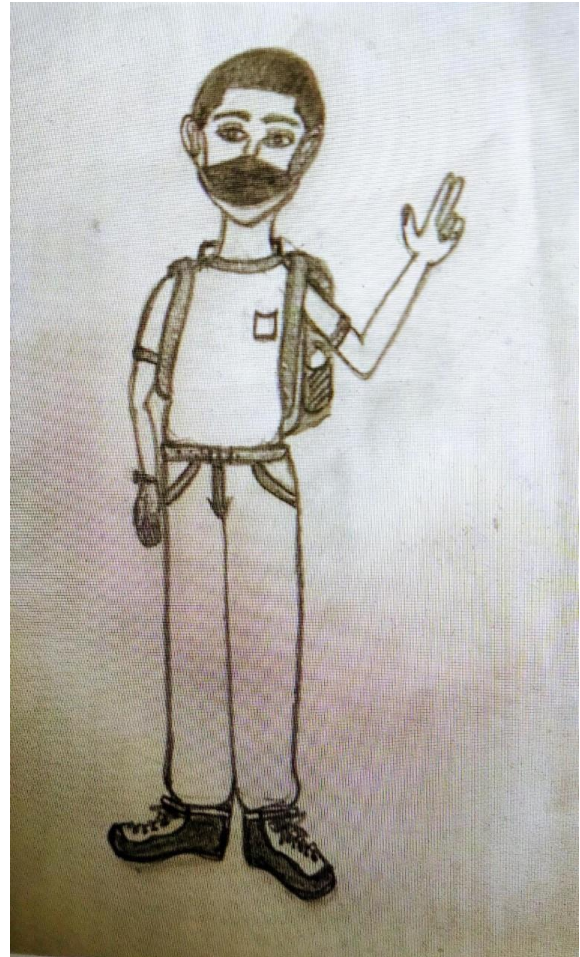
Yet I hang in there because that's all
we can do

That's my version of this moment in time,
shared with all of you....

-BJR

LIFE HAPPENS

Life is sometimes strange
It's sometimes cruel and it's mean
But there is still hope



Illustrations by Elizabeth Pichardo, 7th grader



HAIKU

Inspired by Coronavirus
By 7th Graders

Saving Lives
by Elizabeth Pichardo
Stay six feet away
Some people are dying
Actions can save lives.

Haiku by Miguel Sanchez
We must wear a mask.
We can say hello if far apart.
We miss Mickey Mouse.

Covid
by Maria Alfaro
Lost family & friends
To a virus that is cruel
Panic and fear reign.

One Sad Day
By Katherine Coreas
You entered our world
You took away tranquility
You stole precious life.

Not Fun
Jonathan Reyes
At home is not fun.
Lots of time spent with fams
Miss school friends a lot.

Changed Lives
by Iyanna Stephenson
Our lives have been changed
We miss our old lives so much
We stay safe at home.

Surprised by Alvin Moss
Surprised by weeks home from school
I realized we were not coming back
Felt good 'cause I don't like school like that.

Infection by Nasir Motley
It came from nowhere
It has infected many
It won't last forever.

The Future by Blossom White
The future looks bright
Vaccines are on the way.
The world will be ok.

Spreading by Myron Vasquez
Coronavirus
It's spreading everywhere
Be very careful.

Virus by Joseph Raudales
People are getting sick
It's all around the world
It's going to end.

Dying by Jordin Zavala
People are dying
Scientists search for a cure
We should stay at home

Sad by Sincere Nelson
This virus is sad
Because we have lost so many.
We hope for a cure.

The Spread by Wilmer Bonilla
It spread like wildfire
So many people were infected
I hope a cure is found.

Soon by Emanuel Joya
I hope it ends soon
We can be free from our homes
We'll travel again.

Caring by Jorge Galo
People are dying
Some were face covers and care are.
While some just don't care.

Missing by Psamonique Diedrick
Miss class, miss friends too
And I even miss teachers
Ready to be back.

Loss by Jonathan Maldonado
Many people are
Gone from us because of the virus
We miss them so much.

Infected by Ruben Garcia
Some people are infected
The world we live in gets worse
When will this all end?

IMPROVING POLICING

By Amaze Howard

7th grader

I think we can improve our community and our policemen, but the police departments must do the biggest part in the task. The police department will have to train their officers to NOT HARM AND KILL and just be a nice cop, but I think it's legal to HURT a suspect if they are resisting the cop, but not an innocent human minding their own peace.

• • • What's going on in 2020 meaning "COVID-19" and what's been going around the global nation as in "BLACK LIVES MATTER".

In my opinion, "Derek Chauvin," The man who MURDERED "GEORGE FLOYD" and any

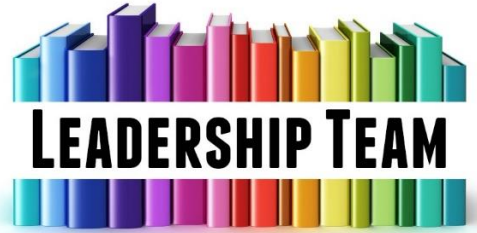


worldwide cops should not have any rights to put their knee on someone's neck for more than 9 minutes to hurt and kill. There was more than one cop; all four were charged because they sat there and watched him

suffer and not breathe. But, I understand why they didn't proceed to have any actions because the police departments don't train their cops correctly. The other three men tried to help but were scared to really raise their voice because they were really trying to obey Derek Chauvin, because he's been a cop for well over 19 years and the other three cops were not there for a good year yet so they were scared. Not all police are bad people. Some are nice and work well with the community. However, THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS NEED TO TRAIN THEIR NEW AND OLD COPS BETTER. #BLM #BLACKLIVESMATTER



A reminder to **read, read, read** over the summer! Also keep on top of the news and, if you decide to participate in any peaceful protest rallies, wear a mask, gloves and stay 6 ft. from others as you walk.



ABGS Middle School

Principal/Director:

Mr. Gray

Assistant Principals/Director Asistente:

Mrs. Moore-Drayton

Mr. Moore

Mrs. Ramsey

IB Coordinator:

Ms. Hood

Dean of Students/Decano of Estudiantes:

Mr. Davis

Mrs. Vanhook

Guidance Counselors/ Guia Consejeros

6th grade – Ms. Velez

7th grade – Mr. Isom

8th grade – Mr. Merolle

Community School Director

Mrs. Sowell

Newsletter Advisors: Mishka Fox & Bev Robinson

**If the schools are
closed for too long, the
parents are gonna find
a vaccine before the
scientists...**

