

# THE POINT

The Official Newspaper of Poinciana High School

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## SPECIAL EDITION

EDITORS NOTE: This edition features student perspectives on the COVID-19 virus and how it affects students, teachers, our community and our lives. We as THE POINT staff urge you to stay inside, social distance, wash your hands, and take every precaution possible to stay safe and healthy.

### Corona Virus and Us

By Jalise Martinez

Grab your masks and stock up on your toilet paper, the infamous Coronavirus is in town. With about 2 million confirmed cases worldwide and 500,000 confirmed cases in the United States, Covid-19 is sweeping the nation as the first pandemic since 1918. Now, what does this mean for the world? It means that thousands of people have risked their own lives by working in healthcare in the hopes of putting an end to all the madness. It means that thousands of people have banded together in a movement to stay home to prevent the disease from further spreading. What does this mean for the economy though?



Since the virus has struck the United States, there have been millions of unemployment claims each week. Thousands of people are losing their jobs, as many well-known companies such as Apple and Disney have closed to contain the coronavirus. The majority of lawmakers in America don't want to spend additional money on benefits or tax cuts for hourly workers; they fear that having paid leave will burden employers. This has shot the rates of unemployment high, leaving many people worried for their next moves. Not only are hourly workers being affected by unemployment, small business owners are being affected as well. Many small businesses, such as corner stores in New York, are dependent on the large population that surrounds them. With people resorting to staying inside and not being able to make money to spend at these stores, these stores are losing customers quickly. Without a flow of income, these small business owners must lay off their employees, which is leading to the downfall of many of these businesses.

Many Americans are urging towards society starting back up and businesses reopening in an attempt to stop the recession of the economy, however, this simply cannot be the case without the risk of the virus spreading even further. Forecasts of when the virus will wither out are unreliable at this point, due to many leading factors. The properties of the virus are not yet fully understood and may change and mutate at any moment. There has not been a sufficient amount of research on what roles asymptomatic patients play in this outbreak. Testing for the virus is currently very limited so the true rate of infected is unknown. Until these factors and more are weighed into fixing this pandemic, the number of cases will continue to rise, continuing to change life as we know it.

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### BOREDOM BUSTER

Throughout this edition of the Poinciana Point, we are featuring "boredom buster" suggestions from the Journalism 1, 2, and 3 teams. These suggestions are all hobbies and activities that you could try out while social distancing, which is the perfect time to try something new!

# Corona Virus's Entertainment Impact

By Doel Montes

Social distancing, curfews, even having online school are some things that are happening currently due to the Covid-19 pandemic. One huge thing that happening right now are entertainment issues: studios putting productions on hold. With everyone worrying about this virus and the spread, a lot of large studio companies are putting everything on hold so that people would be safe. Disney has even stated that they are losing millions because of the virus. "While there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on our productions, after considering the current environment and the best interests of our cast and crew, we have made the decision to pause production on some of our live-action films for a short time," as stated by Disney representatives to Hollywood reporter. Some delayed films from the Walt Disney Company include the live action Little Mermaid, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, and Mulan. Many companies are pushing their movie releases back to avoid anyone getting sick, both in production and their viewers. The health and well-being of people and families around the world remains the most important thing, but these movie cancelations affect more than just the balance sheets of major studios. Movie theater closures are just one sign of the disruption the coronavirus is wreaking upon people and businesses around the world. Some companies, like Universal Pictures, released films straight to on-demand, like Trolls World Tour. You can also stream a bunch of recent releases early after having their theatrical run cut short, but a return to the movies will signal a return to normality when we come out the other side of this strange time and can enjoy it all together.

## Entertainment: Tiger King Review

By Doel Montes

People with unusual pets can be very strange when it comes to their lifestyle. Whether is wolves, raccoons, or even foxes but the strangest of all are the big cats like Lions and Tigers. Netflix has a new series called "Tiger King" which showcase a man and his life having pet tigers in the mix. Surprisingly with this document many people are very interested with the series, some even stating its addicted to watch. This show is currently one of Netflix's most watched. The Netflix series follows a man Joe Exotic, the one-time successful owner of a zoo with more than 200 tigers and other huge felines. He's a man who ran for president of the United States, at that point legislative head of Oklahoma, and afterward at some point after, may have attempted to employ somebody to execute his enemy, a lady devoted to closing his zoo down. It's fantastically convincing, and horribly so. It is about as gutting as it is thrilling. In seven episodes, Tiger King goes on a wild ride through what brought Joe to that point, Tasmanian deviling itself around the world of exotic cats and the people who love them without a lot of direction The daring Netflix show is very popular ranking of the top viewed Netflix shows now. Many reviews have shown that this show has a weird vibe but in an addictive way. If you're a person that like suspense and a documentary and are into shows like this than go on Netflix and go watch the show and have a feel of this man's interesting life.



# The New “Normal”

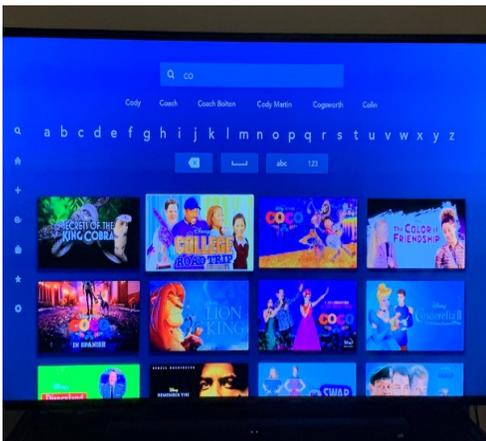
By Johvan Merilus

Nowadays the world seems to be upset down from everything that’s been going on the last couple months. COVID-19 otherwise known as the Corona virus which is a global pandemic due to the health hazard that it’s become. People all over the world are becoming infected by the disease while others are being made to isolate themselves from the rest of society. But there’s one group of people nobody’s quite focus on at the moment who are being affected by the situation. Teenagers are a group of people who are being effected yet not spoken about.

Teenagers are being affected by the disease in more ways than others. Academically, teenagers will face a series of trials of the remaining school year. All over the country there have been programs installed into the school system to help the transition of continuing the curriculums being taught. This may be helpful in helping students continue their schoolwork but can be detrimental. Many students may gain devices from the school such as laptops to do the online work yet may struggle due to the lack of internet at home. Many High schoolers may be positioned to not be able to use resources in aiding with their education due to lack of availability. Along with that there are also students who will struggle with doing work online for they have no teacher and will not understand the material to the same capacity as being in the actual classroom. Teenagers need an actual experience. Yes we are highly favorable in technology but think about those who can’t even access an internet bar at all.

Along with that comes the social aspect of life which gets stripped away for everyone’s protection to oppose the chances of spreading the virus. The social life of a teenager is one of the upmost importance. To an adult it’s meaningless and sometimes overdramatic yet we benefit from it very much. Social interaction opens up doors of meeting people. Being social as a teenager gives us opportunity to seek out new things which may symbolize with who we are as a person. Being a teenager and engaging within society allows us to potentially gain new insight on the world. Isolating does nothing more but make us feel suppressed to a limited space which can contract nothing but loneliness and boredom.

## BOREDOM BUSTER



Janay Barrett recommends checking out Disney+! You can catch up on old DCOMs, or discover a new favorite movie!

Ayana Cade recommends playing with your pets! This is a great time to play catch, go for a walk, or teach your pal a new trick!



Abria Clark recommends trying a new skill: yoga! Yoga can help you relax, get some exercise, or even just become more flexible

# ENVIRONMENTAL

## The Environment and Corona

By Cheyene Pero

While the majority of the population around the world are rightfully social distancing to avoid exposure from the pandemic taking over, new changes in the environment have captured our attention.

Due to the substantial decrease in factory working, the extent of pollution in the atmosphere has experienced reduction.



According to data taken by The European Space Agency, nitrogen dioxide levels in cities such as New York have minimized greatly. This results from lack of human impact on the environment, albeit, as China resumed labor, nitrogen dioxide levels in the atmosphere increased.

Many people have reported the beneficial impacts of the decrease in air pollution, a monumental one being that for the first time in thirty years, the Himalayas can now be seen clearly in certain parts of northern India.

Not only has the atmosphere relished positive impacts from social distancing, but certain species of animals have endorsed freedom with the lack of human proximity. Wildlife animals such as goats and boars have started roaming streets, and oceanic animals have experienced less water traffic.

While boats that swim through canals and rivers remain stationary, certain sea creatures such as dolphins and swans have started roaming closer to cities like Venice, Italy, where they've been hard to spot in decades.

Though many tweets and social media outbursts have celebrated these effects, these animals still remain within a matter of miles afar from populated cities.

As we reap the benefits of these social distancing outcomes, it's vital to remember that effects such as air pollution are seen as only temporary in the mandatory following of people returning to their jobs.

However, let this remind us that where negative human impact is no more, Earth returns to what it was before.

# Senior Changes

By Paola Andujar

No one could have seen these current events coming. It has surprised us all how quickly things can change in our world, and how greatly they can affect us. Covid-19 has brought many hardships and has affected every single person at this moment, in one way or another.

The virus had also hit us a little close to home with the closing of all schools and activities. While many underclassmen may simply shrug at this, the senior class must deal with the consequences. Covid-19 upon causing the close of all schools, has also canceled prom and Grad Bash, and graduation has been delayed.

One could only imagine how it feels to be a senior right now, knowing you may not finish your high school career at school, but rather online. Not getting to celebrate one last time with your close high school friends at prom or grad bash before you all go your separate ways upon starting your new life. It's a scary time, a sense of uncertainty is never pleasant, it's frightening not knowing what will happen in the next few months.

Some seniors shared their opinions with me on this matter. Akaya Atkinson was more than passionate about this topic when I asked her how she felt about the schools closing due to Covid-19: "Well, I feel upset that I never got my end of senior year fun, like grad bash and senior events. I'm happy of what I got to do but I feel upset that me and a bunch of other seniors will never get to experience somethings. I'm also mad that my graduation may get pushed back and that I never knew it was my last time ever seeing some people."

When asked what was one event she wished to still be a part of, Atkinson answered, "Graduation, I have been dreaming about the day I walked across the stage and got something that I strived to get. Graduation would have been a time to show my family and my friends that even though I'm a huge procrastinator I actually did it and it only took my 13 years."

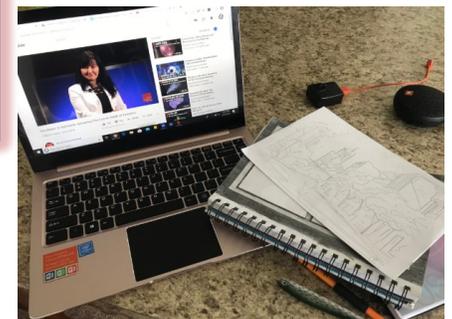
I'm sure many seniors agree with Atkinson, graduation is a milestone in life, getting to walk across that stage and receive your diploma in front of all those people is the end of an era. Celebrating this right after high school is like the closing of a book, reading the last chapter and putting the book away before grabbing the one that follows.

We hope these students can stay positive during this time and be reminded of the memories of their high school career, the year is almost over and then real life hits you. Whether you go off to college or go straight into the work force, or even simply take a year off, wherever life may take you, you take the memories you made in high school wherever you go.



Tiana Guzman recommends getting into art. Try drawing, painting, coloring, or anything creative!

Jack Kenny recommends playing video games! Any game is a great escape, so it's a great time to try out something new, or even those old favorites. Animal Crossing, anyone?



Jelly Ramos recommends getting into your hobbies! Drawing, music, and online videos are a great time passer!

## BOREDOM BUSTER

# Opinions Straight From the Front Lines

By Paola Andujar

As many know, recent events have caused people to stay at home. Whether you can no longer go to work or school, most people are stuck in their houses with nowhere to go. How do we cope with this new string of events? How do we get used to staying at home doing nothing and slowly losing our minds with the immense amount of boredom?

For us it may seem bad, ruining our sleep schedule just to wake up late and have to do homework and then sit in bed with nothing else to do until we fall asleep again. It doesn't sound great, and some students are just waiting for the day we can go back to school just to get out of the house. I understand it can be frustrating and boring, I have had my fair share of boredom these past few weeks.

However, all that matters is that you keep an optimistic outlook on all of this, at first, I'll admit I was crazy to leave my house and hangout with friends. But leaving your home to meet up with people, is not helping the situation. I have seen many people meet up with their friends and hang out with them for hours, but that isn't helping. If we keep going out, it will just take longer for this to be over.

There are doctors out there everyday risking their lives to help those who are infected but the patients never end because people continue to go out and act as if this isn't a big deal when it is. So many essential workers out there are also risking their lives. Careng Colon, a manager at Walmart, shares her opinion on the quarantine and how things have changed since this has started:

What is it like working during this pandemic?

"It is a different kind of stress because you have to manage your daily routine but you also have to be careful and make sure your associates are safe. It is scary, of course, because you don't know who has the virus, even though I have my mask, you never know."

What differences do you see from before this pandemic and now?

"Sales have decreased, not only because the store is closing earlier but also because there are not that many people on the street. There are more people buying essential things, people are still buying regular things but there has been an increase in essential buys, it still effects the business."

In your personal opinion, by what you see every day, do you think this will all be over soon?

"No, I do not, because a lot of people don't realize how serious this is. A lot of people are not taking the safety precautions, I see a lot of people just at the store hanging out, like families and little kids. Instead of following the stay-at-home, they are going to Walmart just to hang out, not to buy anything essential. While people keep doing that, it's not going to stop."

It may not be easy to stay at home and have nothing to do, the but sooner we stay home and obey the law, the sooner this can be over and we can go back to normal. There are many things you can do at home, you just have to be a little creative.

You can paint your wall, color, play board games, play video games, call your friends or text them, clean the house, reorganize your room, exercise, do TikToks, or even start a Youtube channel. There are many things you can do, but the important thing is you remain safe and stay home.

# How is the Country Supplying Needs?

By Crystal Maldonado

The country has been under a lot of stress during this time and it hasn't always been easy. The constant need for supplies and masks is tremendous. The government doesn't know how to address a situation like this, as nothing like this has happened in recent history. They are making decisions as new situations arise, as unexpected and difficult as they may be.

President Trump has banned exporting supplies to other countries. He is under a lot of pressure especially when justifying decisions to other officials, as well as to the American population. Everyone is worried about the production of masks and supplies and Trump has banned the exporting of supplies, because exporting supplies would lessen the amount the needed supplies accessible to the United States.

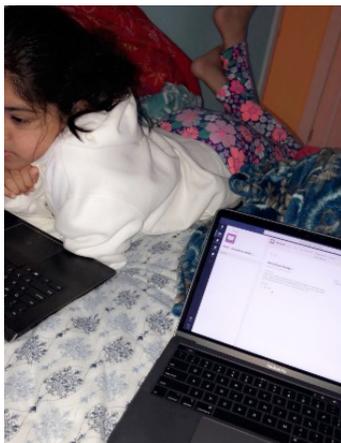
Trump says, "The Secretary of Homeland Security will work with FEMA to prevent the export of N95 respirators, surgical masks, gloves, and other personal protective equipment. We need these items immediately for domestic use."

Trump is fully aware of the hoarding of supplies and is attempting to address it. When you go to the store for certain supplies, the prices are high due to demand and people are hoarding these supplies for themselves making it harder to find for others. Some stores have even limited access and quantity to supplies to help them go further.

Trump states, "...the Department of Health and Human Services working with the Department of Justice took custody of nearly 200,000 N95 respirators, 30,000 surgical masks, 600,000 gloves, as well as bottles...and disinfectant sprays that were being hoarded." These supplies are in need and people are keeping them, attempting to turn a profit.

Not only are the citizens of the United States being affected by the COVID-19, but so is the President and all government officials. They are under pressure trying to make sure we have the supplies we always need.

## BOREDOM BUSTER



Amina Ahmed recommends getting caught up on school! It's so easy to forget to get work done, but working with siblings is a great motivator!

Michael Rodriguez recommends playing card games. It's fun to play with family and just as fun by yourself. Learn a new skill, even if it is just UNO!



Yulianna Santiago recommends hair and makeup. It is a great time to fine tune any skills, or even start to learn. Those nails look great!

# Moving to Online

By Crystal Maldonado

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused more damage than you could imagine. Not only students but people who have jobs are also being effected with this outbreak. Throughout this time, it has not always been easy, everyone is trying to get through it, but some people are taking it harder than others.

For people who have jobs, this has taken a toll in their lives. Even before the COVID-19 got serious they were getting effected. People got fired and lost their jobs and managers being forced to do the firing when they don't want to are happening. This occurred due to the safety precautions that the state needed to take to remain safe. Rudy Maldonado was a manager at his job and said it was hard to let people go.

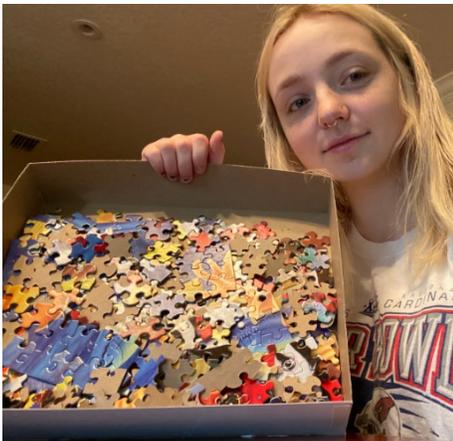
He explains, "These people weren't only my employees, but they were also my friends who have been with me through everything. Firing them wasn't easy and I wish I didn't have to do that." Many people are going through this and it has a big effect on them.

Students are being affected by this, as well, in multiple ways. Think about the kids who can't learn through a computer screen and who is confused on all their work and isn't learning anything but instead being stressed. How about the kids who thought of school as a "safe place" from home but now since everything is moved to online and self-isolation and stay at home orders are happening, they can't go anywhere and forced to stay home? Students are being affected in many ways.

Julien Ortiz is a student at Poinciana High School and says, "I haven't learned anything, this isn't the way I learn I need to be hands on I need to be able to be in a classroom setting, it has been extremely hard to keep track of my work and on top of that, trying to figure out how to solve my work."

Moving to online is causing more problems than people realize, not only on students though but on workers too.

## BOREDOM BUSTER



Shannon Lynch recommends doing puzzles! They are a great solo and group activity and are so satisfying when done!

Yan Maldonado recommends working on your skills, like auto maintenance. Making sure your car is in the best condition is great, especially since you will be able to show it off again soon!



Louis Pena recommends playing sports. Getting outside and practicing is great for some fresh air and gets a workout in too!