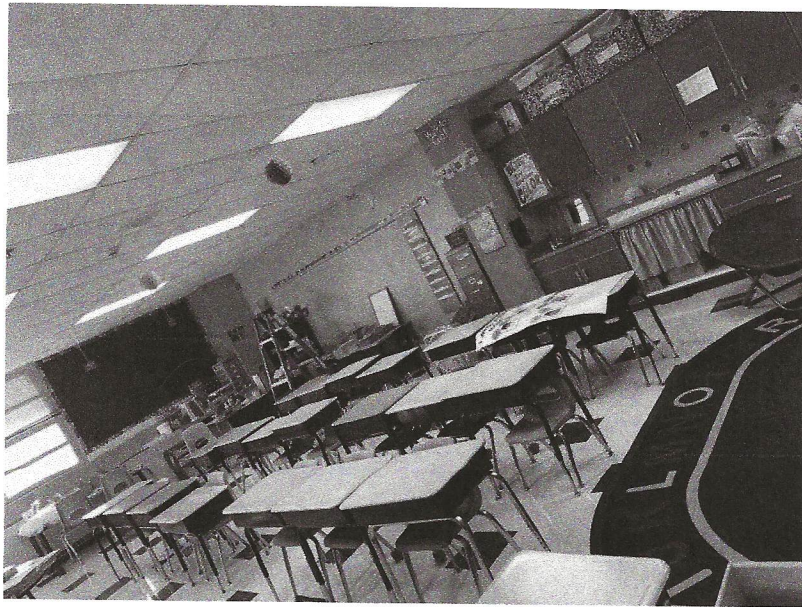


Harrisburg Public
Schools Foundation
2020-2021

MOSAIC 2021 AWARDEES

Prize	Name	Title	School
Overall Winner	Scott School Experience	Scott School Experience	Scott
High School 1	Cameron Betancourt	In 20 Years...	John Harris
High School 2	Asia Young	In Time	Cougar Academy
High School 3	Jennisha Harris-Colon		John Harris
High School – Honorable	Andy Eustache	Old Promise	John Harris
Adult	Kaitlyn Good	The Canvas	John Harris
Adult	Christine Anderson	Say Their Name?	Lincoln
Adult	Amanda Lightcap	Shady Pines	Rowland
Adult HM	Gerry Hutchinson	Three Days	John Harris

THE SCOTT SCHOOL EXPERIENCE



- 2020/2021 -

[STATEMENTS OF OUR COVID EXPERIENCE]

**WE AT SCOTT SCHOOL CONSIST
OF MANY RACES: BLACK,
WHITE, HISPANIC, ASIAN, AND
AMERICAN-INDIAN.**

**AT TIMES WE MAY NOT
UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER,
BUT THERE IS ONE THING WE
ALL EXPERIENCED TOGETHER –
2020/2021 !!!**

**HERE ARE OUR PANDEMIC
STATEMENTS:**

STATEMENT FROM MR. EUGENE SPELLS, SCOTT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

COVID is something that is beyond our control, and it has forced people to rethink how to go about their daily lives and how to interact with people. For me, with being a Principal and a member of a fraternity that is very active in our community, this pandemic has eliminated personal contact with others in so many ways. I enjoy traveling. That has also been eliminated - but on the bright side, it has forced me to do house projects that I had been putting off!

Of course, school is very different with no children in the buildings; but at the same time, it has allowed students to become more independent learners and helped them to become more computer savvy – all of which is enhancing their learning. Teachers, also, have become more creative with lesson planning and instruction. Although not dealing with kids in person on a daily basis, the teachers are still able to provide educational experiences that will impact our students in the future in how they are able to operate and function in the real world.

So – we continue, and we have hope for our future and our future generations !

STATEMENT FROM MS. ANA VARGAS, SCOTT SCHOOL SECRETARY

I have been with the District for 23 years, of which 18 years were here at Scott School! So, of course, I miss our students and staff.

When we started finding out about COVID in March of 2020, I felt panicked, scared, and I did not feel safe; there was not much information about the pandemic, and I had so many questions. I am very close to my family and friends, so I was also worried about everyone else, and hoping none of us would get sick. It makes me feel so sad every time I find out somebody was sick, no matter if it was family, friends, neighbors, staff, students or their families.

I've been back working in the building since August 2020; I'm not as panicked now, but still sad. Sad that our students are not here, and sad that our parents have to struggle so much and need so much help. I try to provide them as much help as possible, but so many don't have the computer knowledge to understand virtual schooling. I'm proud for those who try their best and I know our teachers appreciate them too.

One thing I must say I do appreciate is the Harrisburg School District for being strong in deciding to keep the children at home and safe, even against the protests and complaints. They were protecting the children, their families, and us. I do appreciate that.

All in all – it is lonely without the kids. I miss them, and I miss our staff! But this is all for the best – it has been safer for them to be at home. God Bless everyone and you're all in my prayers.

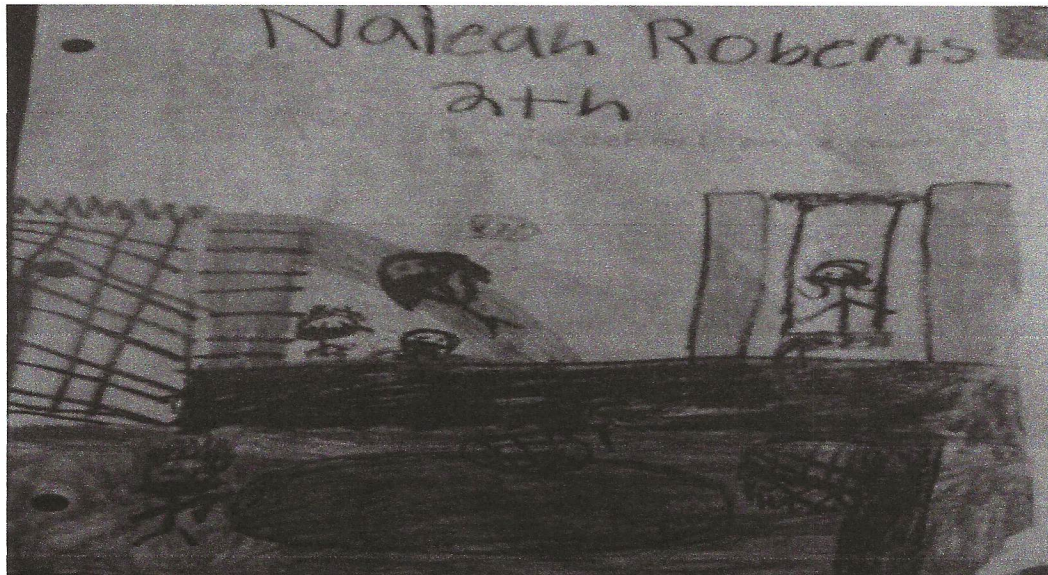
STATEMENT FROM MR. AHMOND BULLOCK, SCOTT SECURITY

It is sad that our children are not in school – they need school. Yes, they need to be here at school for education; but they also need to be here at school for the social aspect with other children, to have direct personal contact with their teachers – not to mention that some of them need it for the breakfasts and lunches!

I coached basketball here at Scott – and we had a good team that was in the play-offs when COVID struck. Those kids loved basketball. It helped them, because they knew they had to come to school and had to keep their grades up and their behavior in check in order to play.

I really miss the kids. For so many of them, I was a male role-model. I do my best to live up to that honor and respect!

I am so grateful that my grandmother, who is 83, survived having COVID – she made it through! It all had a big effect on my family. We're used to being together, especially at Thanksgiving and other holidays. Now we have a Party-To-Go! **It made us realize that we take so much for granted!** We've learned how to appreciate more, and to be patient – we have to wait, wait until this is all over!



STATEMENT FROM MS. BIANCA WILSON, FOOD SERVICE

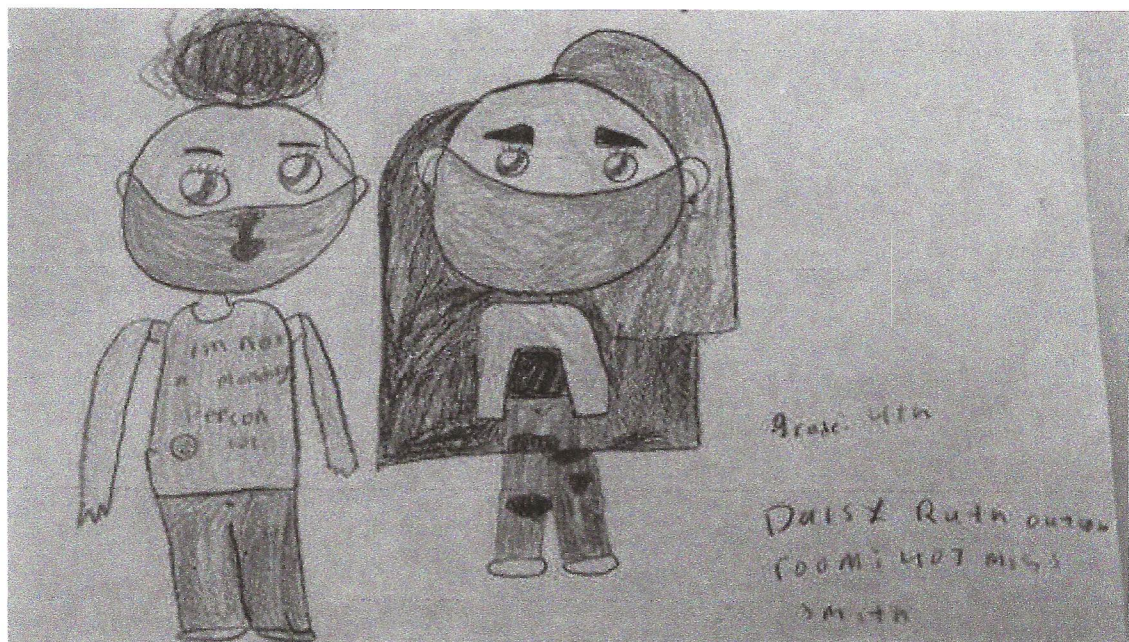
This whole COVID situation has been a roller-coaster – so many ups and downs going on in this world!

Things are so different. Everything is weird, and awkward, and out of place! I do miss the sound of the kids screaming here in the cafeteria, and hearing their chatter in the hallways.

At home, we are following the guidelines of social distancing – inside our house is now limited to only four people - we're being safe. But I'm not worrying, I have faith and am just waiting to see the results of all of this. God's Got It!!

But we, the Food Service staff, have never stopped working. We provide a needed service – we prepare and distribute the Grab and Go meals for our families. We come into the building four days every week. Sometimes we feel under-appreciated, but we won't stop. We wish more families would come for the food – I believe some are too proud, even though we would have been serving breakfast and lunch to their children if they were here.

To sum it up – I can't wait until this is all over !!!



**... AND THIS STATEMENT FROM OUR QUIET, HUMBLE, RESERVED,
INTROVERT CUSTODIAN, MR. DAVE WISMAN**

2020 did revitalize a sense of hope in me that I have not felt in a very long time. Even when Mother Nature unleashes a wrath not seen in over a century that effectively puts a stop/hold on every aspect of your life; hope persists! Even when daily routines and everyday responsibilities are interrupted and changed to the point that your very sense of purpose is diminished; hope persists! Even when you are isolated from the ones you love most and are forced to bear witness, from a distance, to the effects of this time on them with little ability to help; hope persists! Even when the powers that be seem to represent, even encourage, the worst in human nature and display an indifference to suffering and unfairness never before seen; hope persists!

Hope persists and is, sometimes, rewarded in the form of long awaited answered prayers or dreams come true. Even in the worst of times our first thoughts and instincts are ones of hope. When someone is hurt or ill we most often direct our thoughts or words to “Hoping that person was not seriously injured and Hoping they get well soon”. When someone dies, again, our thoughts and words are immediately drawn to a “Hope that they did not suffer, they went peacefully, or are in a better place”.

There’s an ancient Chinese proverb that my favorite Uncle used to quote whenever he wanted to sound wiser than his years. It goes: Change is not merely a part of Life; it is Life. Then he would tell me that’s half right and that the other half was hope. That life could be summed up in these two words: Hope and Change. The only two

things in life you can really count on. Other than taxes. While I may not completely agree with his philosophy, this year has given me a greater understanding and appreciation for his beliefs and advice.

Surviving this time has required an ability to cope with change in ways we have never really experienced before. And also a hope and belief that things must get better

So, while we are all still experiencing the aftermath and aftershocks of 2020, I walk the hallways of Scott School and listen to a quiet very rarely heard at this time of year. A welcome break from the managed chaos of everyday life in an elementary school, at first. But, now, is a daily eerie reminder that life is not normal at this time and the feeling that we may all be missing out on changes we may never have the chance to experience again.

I'm extremely optimistic for 2021 though. It seems all those hopes and prayers of 2020 are finally being acknowledged, validated, and, even though what seems to be at a maddeningly slow pace, somewhat answered. It seems the wind of change is blowing towards a more just and fair era of time for us all.

My hope now is that those who chose not to follow in the path of our better angels will accept the changes forthcoming or get the hell out of the way! My greatest encouragement and source of peace at this precarious time comes from the knowledge that these people, who will be proven to be on the wrong side of history, are outnumbered!

STATEMENT FROM MR. MALIK PARHAM, TEACHER-1ST GRADE

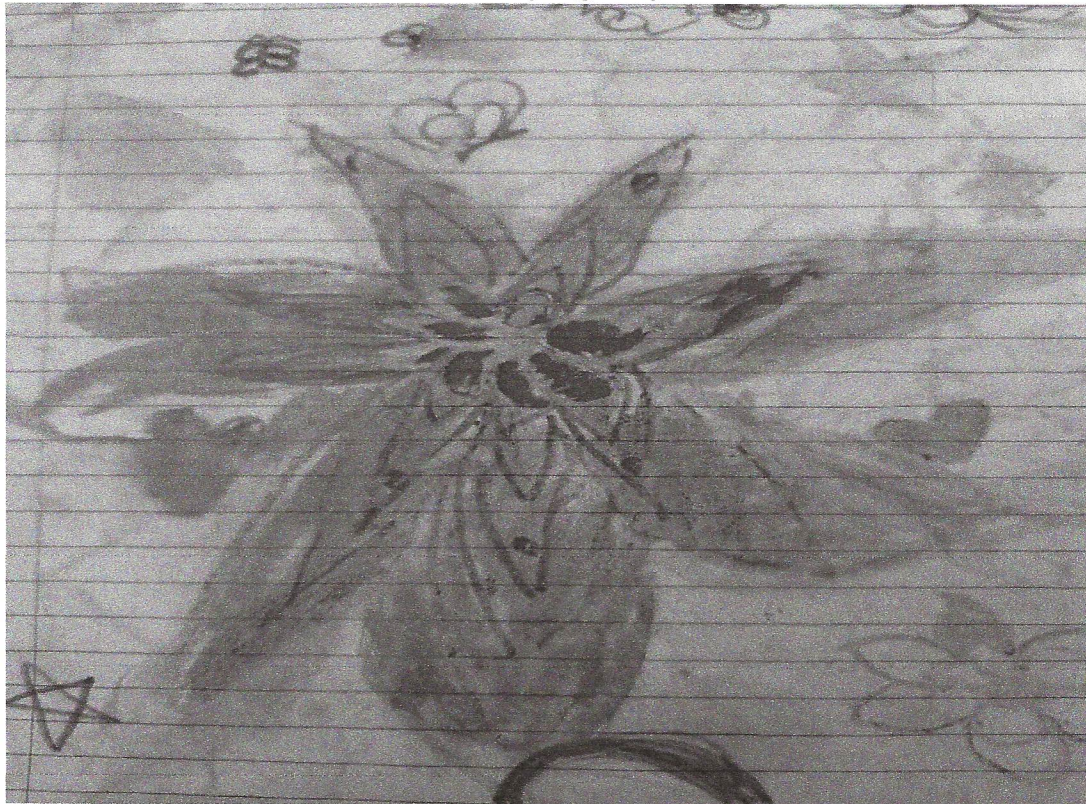
No existence is ideal. The current learning culture being a prime example. Much normalcy has been lost, with an unsure return.

This unexpected ordeal has given families time to spend time with one another. The outside influences have been limited. All of our students have access to the internet. Learning has become a family event - like never before.

I fail at telling others what it is not, and choose to succeed at acknowledging what it is.

A WORD TO THE WISE: See opportunity where others see failure. Never waste a minute with regret. As generations before have, we shall continue to - believe!

Rizwana Yuseff (2nd grade)



STATEMENT FROM MS. NICOLE SMITH, TEACHER-4TH GRADE

Covid, allowed for life to be on pause!

Covid, a time to reflect on what the world was, and what the world could be.

Covid, living in historic times, unprecedented, and a journey only GOD knows the next steps.

Covid, saddened by a sickness taking so many lives.

Covid, thankful for technology, small businesses, doctors and scientists leading the way to find the vaccine and cure.

Covid, as an educator to pause and reflect. It is my time to work with community, families, and parents to ensure their child are the next generation of scientist, engineers, activist, politicians, and entrepreneurs. We have no excuse anymore, and nothing in our way to ensure that post-

Covid, our kids are given the best education,

Covid, teachers reflect on their own cultural bias and ensure that our students have cultural confidence in knowing they matter.

Covid, each child given technology and families a chance to glimpse in the classroom.

Covid, allowed life to be on pause.

Covid, knowing that when we press play, and history is written, we will have gotten through this time, and had time to pause and reflect on being better for when we press play.

KINDERGARTEN POEM

*We've never seen our classroom
We've learned all day on zoom
Learning letters and numbers are routine
It's now done on our screen
We cannot wait until the day
When hugs and high fives are the way*

STATEMENT FROM KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Kindergarten Zoomin'

We wake up to eat and brush our teeth.
We gotta get our bag and books ready.
We sit in front of our laptops and say hello.
We have to pay attention to our teacher and be quiet.
We learn on our computers.
We sing songs and practice letters.
We read books and stories.
We count numbers and make number bonds.
We are learning to add.
We have learned to follow directions and calm down too.
We get to talk to our friends during our break.
After lunch...
We get on for special and then switch back to class.
We like break out rooms. They are fun and not as noisy.
We practice our words and letters some more.
We do our homework.
We gotta get on Imagine Learning for Mrs. Rivera-Bordner.
We get to choose what games to play and what to watch.

STATEMENT FROM FIRST GRADE STUDENTS

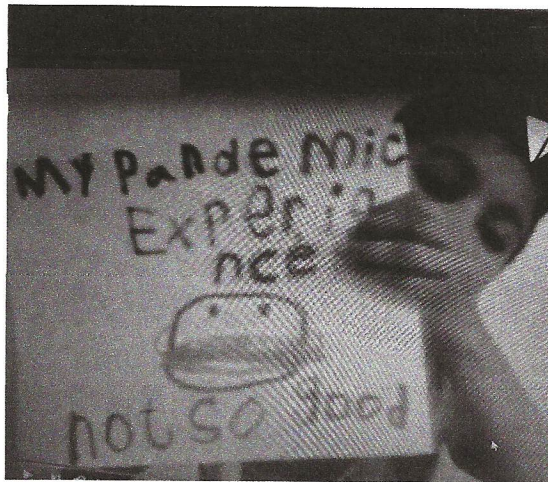
The first grade quarantine experience has been mixed feelings of good and bad.

We love being home but miss our friends and teachers.

We also miss the playground and recess.

We do love seeing everyone on Zoom!

We can't wait to be back in school!



STATEMENT FROM SECOND GRADE STUDENTS

Room 201 - Mrs. Roller' Class Poetry

Some say it's great, some say it's cool,
Others think it's boring and want to be in school!

"We miss our friends," so they say,

"But being online is awesome for some--virtual learning is ok!"

"I think we should be in school because we can wear face masks."

"I like to do online learning tasks!"

"I feel learning online is fun because I learn many computer skills."

Mixed emotions for 201... boredom, lonely, but many thrills!

Room 307 - Mrs. Benton-Hughes' Class Poetry

"I miss my friends for recess."

"Learning from my chromebook "In Distress!"

"I feel sad, I feel mad.

Cause I want to be at school."

"I'm happy, I like to be at home,

"Learning virtually is not so bad, it's really cool!

"Me too, me too!"

Although I miss our playground phoo!"

"Can't go anywhere, can't be a kid!

Oh my Goodness, "GET RID OF COVID!"

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I hate Covid because we can't go into Miss. Joppy's class. The new norm is everyone having to wear a mask.

Wearing masks and staying inside makes me tired. I hope after this school year Covid is expired.

In school I was able to have lunch with my friends, now I have to share all my food with my little brother Ben.

If I become President I will change the air. This way there won't be Covid ANYWHERE!

STATEMENT FROM THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

In March of 2020, a third grade student was watching the news one day and heard them talking about corona virus. His Mom told him to go to bed, but when our friend woke up – corona virus was still there. **And COVID is still here!!! We don't like it – AT ALL !!!**

We can't see our family, we can't see our friends or classmates – and most of the time we stay in the house !!

... and we wear

MASKS - a covering fitting over the nose and mouth to protect against dust or air pollutants (AND CORONA VIRUS), worn to prevent infection of the wearer and those they are in contact with.

WE HATE MASKS !!! We can hardly breath in them. But we must wear them to protect ourselves and others.

HAND SANITIZER- HUH? - a liquid or gel, typically one containing alcohol, that is used to clean the hands and kill infection-causing micro-organisms.

Make sure you sing the Happy Birthday song (2 times) while you wash your hands !!

AND WHAT IS ZOOM ? - Zoom is a cloud-based video communications app that allows you to set up virtual video and audio conferencing, webinars, live chats, screen-sharing – AND SCHOOL !!! OMG—who knew ??? **WE KNOW NOW !!**

COVID IS BORING – AND WE MISS OUR FRIENDS.

BUT WE ARE MASKING, HAND-SANITIZING, AND ZOOMING !!!!

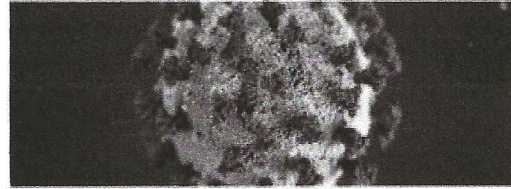
TO STAY SAFE, TO KEEP OUR FAMILIES & COMMUNTIES SAFE – AND TO RETURN BACK TO OUR SCHOOL SAFE !

How Has Covid-19 Affected Room 309?



Miss Ford's Third Grade Class

Jayden Mina-Salgado

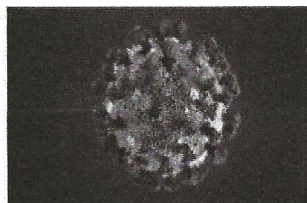


The virus infected people. When you go outside there's wind and stores are closed because of what is happening with the virus. Many schools are closed because of the virus and all people need to stay inside of houses. I like online school because we get to do homework and online school work. I want to go to the school building to start studying my school work.



Katy Matom Gallego

My name is Katy. Covid-19 has affected my life because I can't play with my friends at school anymore. I can't eat lunch with them, I have to wear a mask, and I have to try to stay inside because I might get sick. Some shops have closed because of the Covid-19 and people have died because of Covid-19. We also have to stay 6 feet away from someone. I hope Covid-19 ends soon.



MS. MORTON'S THIRD GRADE CLASS:

padlet


emorton17 + 16 + 76m

Quarantine Life

Tell me about your experience with the quarantine.

za'nylah


i dont like it i lik dont understand 100 feet apart like no my freinds and i wish i could see damyco my best freind



♥ 0

Littyz Montejo

I was playing with the tablet, and I also read books of some stories.



♥ 4

Nate rob

i hate Quarantine

♥ 4

dariel

i love school and my family and me

♥ 2

kelyshaa

i miss going to real school bc i want to see all my freinds and also almost every single fun place is closed

♥ 3

shana

i love my family and the school in personal

♥ 2

Darwin

I miss school and eating with my teacher.

♥ 4

Nate roberts

Quarantine is bad i hate it

♥ 5

Jayvion

i wish that Quarantine will get eradicated/ends so i can see my cousin i haven't seen him in about 2 to 3 years

♥ 2

Ms. Morton

I miss seeing all my students at the school, and all the fun activities we could do in class.

♥ 10

Samuel

I dant like online school.

♥ 3

Tony

Thanks i hate it

♥ 4

maziah

i cant wait till the water park open bc me and my mom is going

♥ 2

Nate rob

now i cat play football

♥ 2

Rauli

i miss seeing my teacher in real school.

♥ 6

Jasaiyah

i miss seeing my friends, teachers, school, and how we used to play talking at lunch.

♥ 6

damyco

the good thing about this i get to love my family

♥ 3

juleisy

i miss playing with my friends and eating with my teacher

♥ 5

damyco albizu

i wish i can go to school again i play with little brother and my little sister and i practice recorder and i play my switch

♥ 3

maziah< i miss playing outside and not laying in bed

♥ 3

ahar

It was boring but we still get to see each other on the computer

♥ 3

Darwin

I miss playing with my friends at the schools park, and eating in the cafeteria with them to.

♥ 4

STATEMENT FROM FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS

We're pretty disappointed because we were supposed to be the Scott School Seniors.

You know, the top grade, oldest kids in the school – the ones knowing everything.

We waited four years to earn the title of Scott School Seniors – and now this !!!

We don't even feel like seniors!

We don't get to walk around the school and look down at the little kids.

We don't get to make announcements on the school intercom system.

We don't get to show the little kids where everything is located in the school.

WE JUST DON'T GET TO DO A LOT OF STUFF – INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL !!

BUT – Enough of these negative thoughts and feelings.

Let's talk about positive things. We can't change what's going on.

But we can change the way we think and talk about this COVID Experience.

Even though we haven't been in school since March of 2020,

We're glad that our school has virtual learning,

--AND that we haven't been going back & forth, in and out of school.

And if we log into school and follow instructions, we CAN still learn.

We pray for our families and our friends that no one will get sick.

And we pray for all the people who have to make decisions about COVID.

WE PRAY A LOT !!!

You know what - It was really great getting a chance to talk about our COVID experience.

I feel better after expressing how I feel – I heard someone call that an EXHALE !!!

We hope all of you will do the same: TALK MORE, COMPLAIN LESS, PRAY ALWAYS!!!

Thank you for listening !!!

WE'RE THE SENIORS OF SCOTT SCHOOL – 4th Grade that is !!!

{Peace and Love}

STATEMENT FROM PARENT CHIFFON JOHN-LEWIS
(son, Zymere John-Lewis, 3rd grade)

Our John-Lewis family consists of me, my husband, and our six children.

During the pandemic we have experienced joy, sadness, stress, happiness and LOVE!

2020 began with all eight of us visiting our family in our home state of New York - family we had not seen in decades, some we had never met. At that time COVID-19 was not in the U.S. and life was normal. Normal for us also includes dealing with various health problems – especially for our youngest son who was born with sickle cell disease. During our time in NY, he was hospitalized and my husband and I had to remain in NY with him while the remainder of the family returned home to PA – **SEPARATION** had become part of our 2020!

GRATEFULNESS is an experience for us – as we received news from the doctors that our son with sickle cell would be able to proceed with a bone marrow transplant (which is something that will eventually cure him from this disease) – his 6th grade brother would be his donor! Even with the **JOY** of the good news, we felt **STRESS** (and I was very scared and nervous) with the fact that two of our sons would be going into surgery. Through much prayer, the surgeries were **SUCCESSFUL**, and our youngest son is showing great improvement. **JOY !!!**

We experienced a **SAD** occasion in the last month of 2020 – both my husband and I tested positive for COVID-19 -- a horrible and painful experience !!! We were in quarantine in our bedroom, with sons in the home who could not cook !!! And a son who was three months post-transplant -- a very dangerous situation.

Community **LOVE** stepped in and helped our family in this time of need – I mean every day. IT TAKES A VILLAGE, and we are overwhelmed with **APPRECIATION** for our village. With their help, and much prayer, we made it through – we are **COVID SURVIVORS !!!**

AND FINALLY, I am **HAPPY** to say – through all of this, God still Blessed us Our only daughter shared that she would be blessing our family with a NEW LIFE – our one and only granddaughter was born – what JOY !!!

Thus far, we have all survived the pandemic; and I would not have changed one thing that happened to us – maybe one thing: COVID. It is a horrible disease that I pray is cured soon. Please, everyone – from a COVID survivor – follow all instructions and stay safe !!! This is our 2020-2021 COVID Experience !

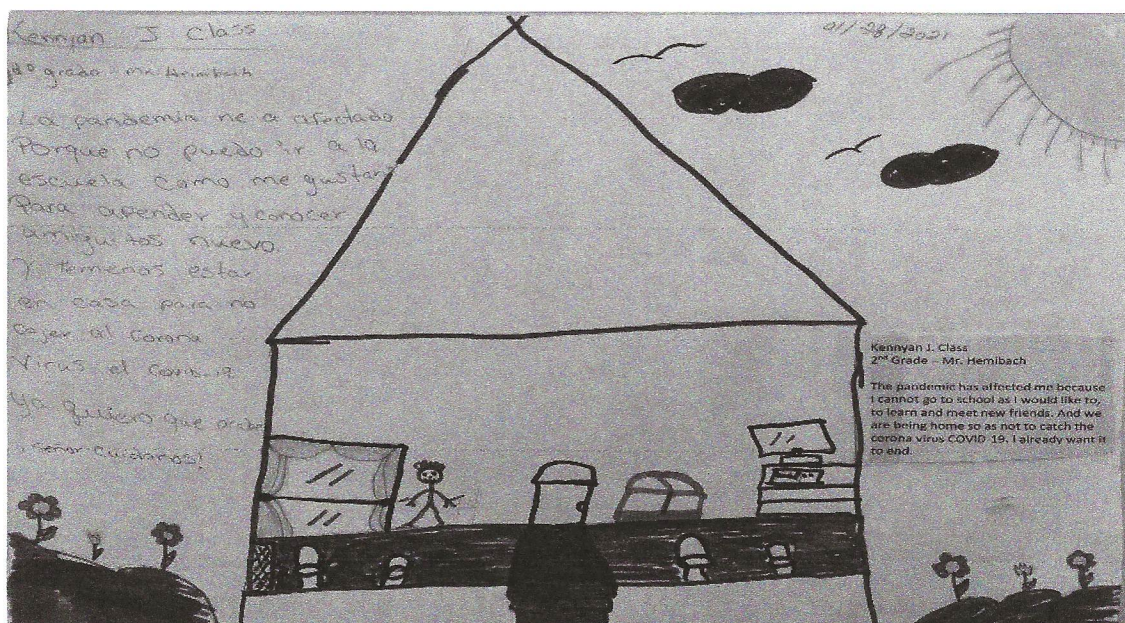
STATEMENT FROM PARENT SHELDON WARE
(son, Domani Powell, 2nd grade)

COVID changed things a lot in our lives. I am a single parent, raising my son. We both used to enjoy being involved in things inside and outside of school. Now we just stay in the house – 8 hours a day. Once school is done, it's too late to go out. One thing for sure – we eat more! We finish our day, then get up and do the same thing all over again.

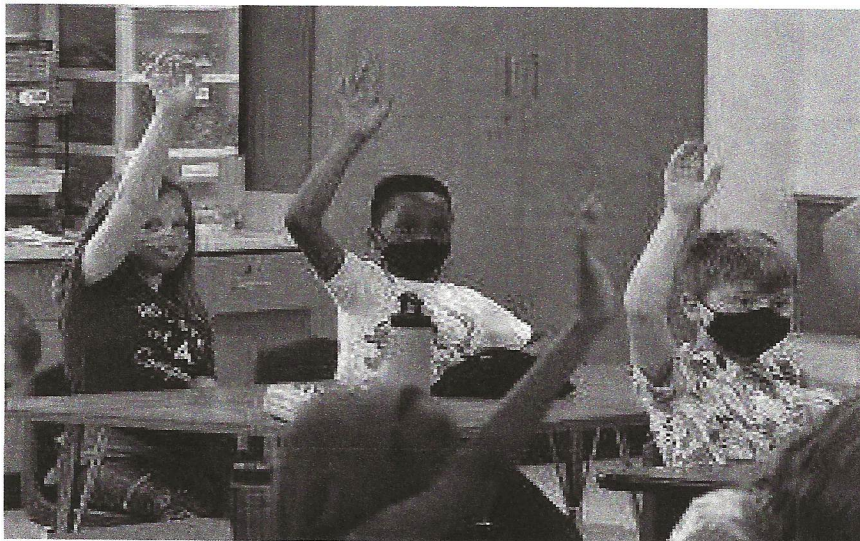
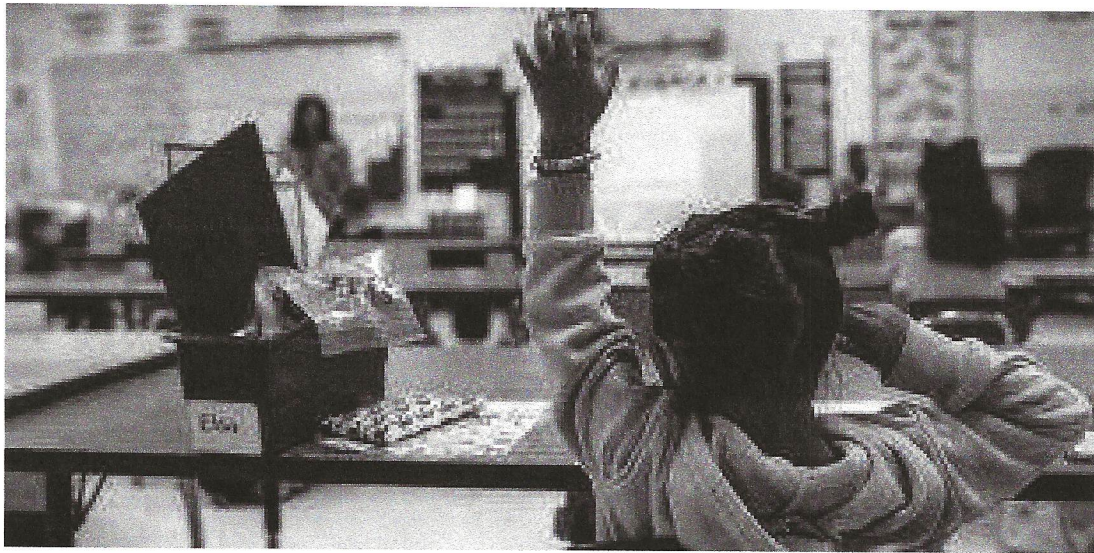
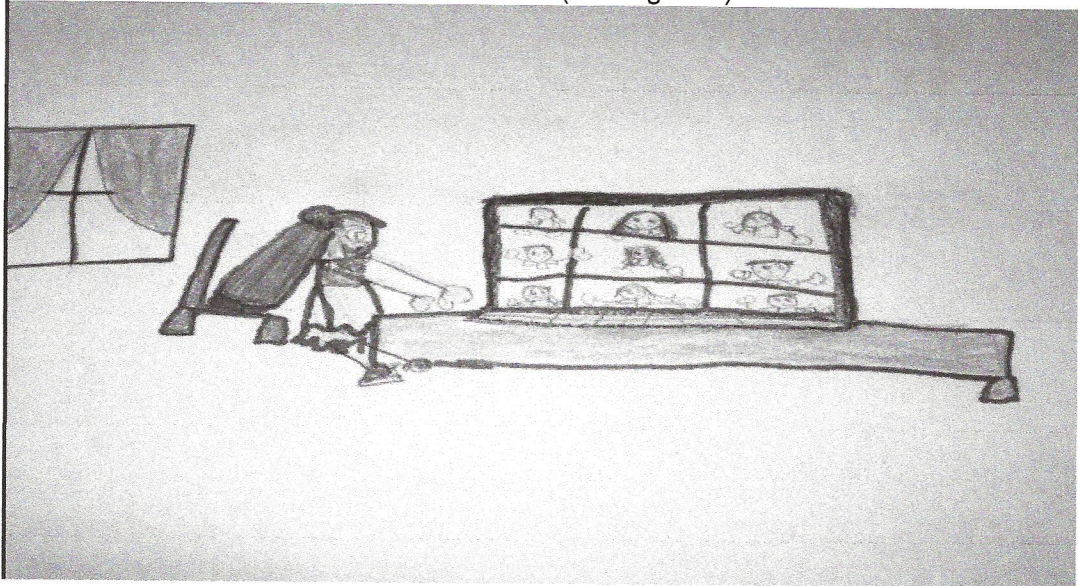
Being a parent and teacher was brutal last year when school first let out, my son and I started out pretty rocky. We both had to learn the computer. Now virtual school is better. With my son's learning condition, sometimes he gets off track, but he's trying to keep up – I'm trying to keep up.

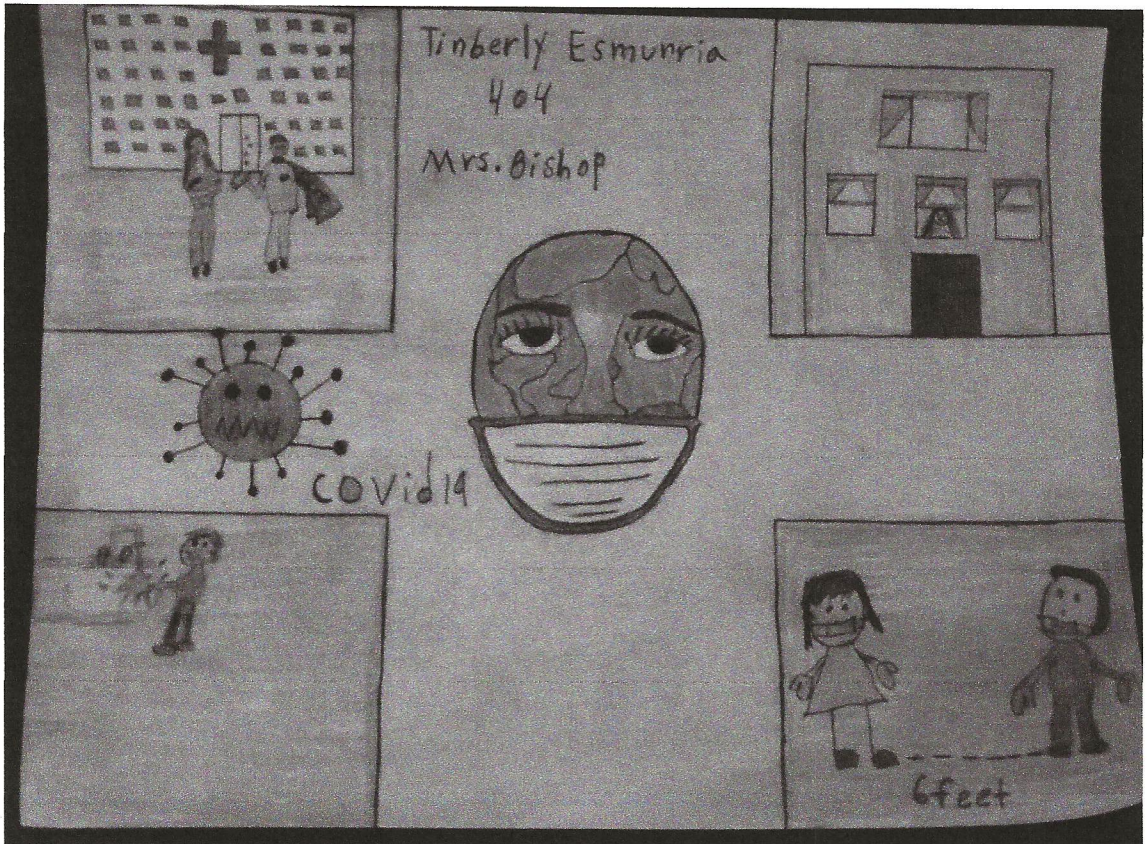
Some people like this schooling at home, it's more convenient for them, especially if they have other adults in the house, they can switch off on duties – but, most don't like it. I'm skeptical about going back, though – not until things are really safe.

This whole thing has its ups and downs!



Lia Silva-Arello (Kindergarten)





FIRST PLACE WINNER-ART CONTEST

SCOTT SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN – COVID-19 WRITINGS

KINDERGARTEN POEM

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SCOTT SCHOOL FIRST GRADE – COVID-19 WRITING

WRITING STATEMENT FROM FIRST GRADE STUDENTS

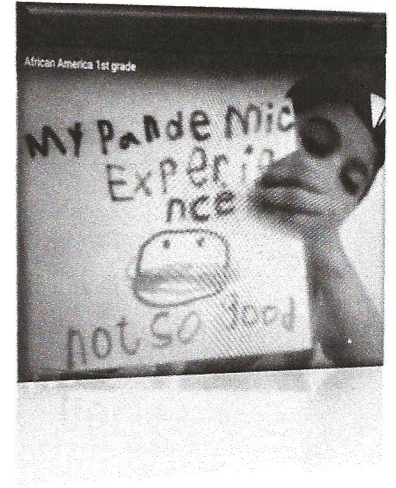
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We also miss the playground and recess.

We do love seeing everyone on Zoom!

We can't wait to be back in school!



SCOTT SCHOOL SECOND GRADE – COVID-19 WRITING

STATEMENT FROM SECOND GRADE STUDENTS

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SCOTT SCHOOL SECOND GRADE – COVID-19 WRITING

A POEM FROM OUR COMBINED SECOND GRADE CLASSES

SOME SAY IT'S GREAT, SOME SAY IT'S COOL!
OTHERS THINK IT'S BORING AND WANT TO **BE** AT SCHOOL!

WE MISS OUR FRIENDS, AND BEING WITH A TEACHER IN A CLASSROOM
OUR OLD FRIENDS FROM LAST YEAR
AND OUR NEW FRIENDS ON ZOOM

CAN'T GO ANYWHERE, CAN'T BE A KID!
YOU KNOW WHY – BECAUSE OF COVID !!!

I HEARD SOMEONE ELSE SAY, THEY DON'T MIND BEING AT HOME
BUT, **WHAT ABOUT OUR** EMPTY SCHOOL BUILDING, IT MUST FEEL ALL ALONE!

WE'RE ALL USING CHROMEBOOKS AND LEARNING VIRTUALLY YOU KNOW
BUT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE THOSE SKILLS **EVERYWHERE** WE GO

WHEN I BECOME PRESIDENT – I WILL CHANGE THE AIR
THEN WE CAN BREATHE WITHOUT A MASK
AND THERE WON'T BE COVID ANYWHERE !!!!!

SCOTT SCHOOL THIRD GRADE – COVID-19 WRITING

STATEMENT FROM THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

In March of 2020, a third grade student was watching the news one day and heard them talking about corona virus. His Mom told him to go to bed, but when our friend woke up – corona virus was still there. **And COVID is still here!!!** We don't like it – **AT ALL !!!**

We can't see our family, we can't see our friends or classmates – and most of the time we stay in the house !!

... and we wear

MASKS - a covering fitting over the nose and mouth to protect against dust or air pollutants (AND CORONA VIRUS), worn to prevent infection of the wearer and those they are in contact with.

WE HATE MASKS !!! We can hardly breath in them. But we must wear them to protect ourselves and others.

HAND SANITIZER- HUH? - a liquid or gel, typically one containing alcohol, that is used to clean the hands and kill infection-causing micro-organisms.

Make sure you sing the Happy Birthday song (2 times) while you wash your hands !!

AND WHAT IS ZOOM ? - Zoom is a cloud-based video communications app that allows you to set up virtual video and audio conferencing, webinars, live chats, screen-sharing – AND SCHOOL !!! OMG—who knew ??? **WE KNOW NOW !!**

COVID IS BORING – AND WE MISS OUR FRIENDS.

BUT WE ARE MASKING, HAND-SANITIZING, AND ZOOMING !!!!

TO STAY SAFE, TO KEEP OUR FAMILIES & COMMUNTIES SAFE – AND TO RETURN BACK TO OUR SCHOOL SAFE !

SCOTT SCHOOL FOURTH GRADE – COVID 19 WRITING

STATEMENT FROM FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS

We're pretty disappointed because we were supposed to be the Scott School Seniors. You know, the top grade, oldest kids in the school – the ones knowing everything. We waited four years to earn the title of Scott School Seniors – and now this !!! We don't even feel like seniors!

We don't get to walk around the school and look down at the little kids.
We don't get to make announcements on the school intercom system.
We don't get to show the little kids where everything is located in the school.
WE JUST DON'T GET TO DO A LOT OF STUFF – INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL !!

BUT – Enough of these negative thoughts and feelings.
Let's talk about positive things. We can't change what's going on.
But we can change the way we think and talk about this COVID Experience.

Even though we haven't been in school since March of 2020,
We're glad that our school has virtual learning,
--AND that we haven't been going back & forth, in and out of school.
And if we log into school and follow instructions, we CAN still learn.

We pray for our families and our friends that no one will get sick.
And we pray for all the people who have to make decisions about COVID.
WE PRAY A LOT !!!

You know what - It was really great getting a chance to talk about our COVID experience.
I feel better after expressing how I feel – I heard someone call that an EXHALE !!!
We hope all of you will do the same: TALK MORE, COMPLAIN LESS, PRAY ALWAYS!!!
Thank you for listening !!!

WE'RE THE SENIORS OF SCOTT SCHOOL – 4th Grade that is !!!
{Peace and Love}

Betancourt, Camron

Grade 11

Kali Brown

Harrisburg High School – John Harris Campus

“In 20 Years....”

In 20 years, I will be 36 years old.

I will live in peace and harmony.

I will endure whatever gets thrown at me, because I, by all means,
will have the guts to never give up.

I will be a successful entrepreneur, government agent, businessman, writer,
Or, whatever I choose to be.

I will help the next generation, and set a good example for them, and I'll be smiling the whole
time, because by then,

it'll be the only cool thing an old fart like me could do.

I will still love everyone and be kind to everyone, simply because I understand the fact that
people live their lives bound by what they accept as correct and true,
that is how they define reality.

I always question “but what does it mean to be correct or true”? They're merely vague concepts,
someone's reality may all be an illusion.

I will still love nature and it's many mysteries, because no single thing is perfect by itself,
that's why we're born to attract other things to make up for what we lack.

I still won't give up hope on the success of our future, and to put an end to racial conflict,
because I still believe that the day will come
when people can truly understand each other.

And most importantly, I will be the one person that everyone needs,
looks up to, remembers, and cherishes.

Last Name: Young
First Name: Asia
Grade: 10
Teacher: Taylor McKeown
School Name: Cougar Academy

In Time

A passing thought may stop by.

Becoming a reality, crushing a poor girl's dreams.

The church bells will ring once more, flower pedals consuming the sky.

What it may look like isn't what it seems.

A happy day yet again, but a sad one too.

For him it'll be true love.

For her, a distant memory; a bitter love song.

His mind will wonder, his attention gone from her reach, a new meaning to the hug.

She won't be the one that puts a sparkle in his eye.

The "apple of his eyes."

Not anymore will he be intrigued or amused.

The corpse of hope lay collecting with flies.

Can't say this is surprising news.

She gave her all, but still doesn't get him after all.

Harris-Colon, Jennisha

Grade 11

Kali Brown

Harrisburg High School – John Harris Campus

The expectations I have to uphold in my life both at school and home would be enough to drive any kid my age insane. I grew up in a household of my mom being a single parent raising four kids from a young age and I just so happen to be the oldest of the bunch. I didn't get to grow up having the best of life let alone be able to experience what it was really like to be a kid. My mom had me right before she turned 18 so we've kind of been growing up together.

I had to become more mature for my age to honestly survive and be where I am today. Being the oldest meant everything fell back on me when my mom couldn't be there. I had to set the example, be the backbone, do no wrong, have the responsibilities of both an adult and a child (at this point it's what it feels like), be strong for my younger siblings even when I was barely holding on myself. I won't get too into the things I had to endure growing up because I'd be writing a book by now, but all of those things led up to the expectations I hold myself to today.

I am just a kid trying to balance so many things at once. Once we graduate we are like bait thrown into a pack of wolves we call society. How can we be expected to do things like file taxes, sign documents, get a stable job, let alone try to find a place to live, when just a month ago we had to ask permission to use the bathroom? There's so many things we're expected to learn but only a handful of people get the privilege of knowing these things based on who they have in their life or the classes they took.

Last name: Eustache
First name Andy
Grade: 11
Teacher: Paul Wiegand
School name: John Harris

Old Promises

The first, told me she loved me.
The second, she will never leave me.
The third, we will start a family
The fourth, I was driving her crazy.

But the fifth,
Told me: "I love you so much you drive me crazy,
I will never leave you and we will start a family."
Should I believe her?
She made me all those old promises together.

I liked them all.
I believed them all.
I remember the third
We even chose the names of our future child

If it was a boy
Bill
Like her father
A girl
Bird like a bird

When she meets obstacles
She will be able to unfold hers wings and will pass over.
But our children were aborted before they were even born
In liquid form.

The second said me:
"I will never leave you even if you become a no walker (lose legs)"
When she found out I have cancer
She left me because I was losing my hair.

30 years to live, and she,
She promised me these old promises.
Dear reader,
In your opinion

Believe, the same
Or live a belief.
All women are the same

Maybe you are right.
In the depths of darkness is light.

I barely have 100 years left to live
If I calculate it in cat year.

Short, is life?
With cancer
Shortly become life.

So, forgive, and move on.
Fall in love, one two three...
Because like a tree
The roots of love are deep and numerous.

This is how I explained this story to my children: "Bill and Bird."

Andy Sebastien Eustache

Good, Kaitlyn
ESL Teacher
Harrisburg High School, John Harris Campus

This poem is dedicated to my childhood friend, K.L. (May 21, 1996 - January 6, 2014). It depicts the inner thoughts and feelings of a young teenager who is struggling with mental illness and bullying. If you or someone you know is experiencing bullying, feeling unsafe, or struggling with thoughts of self-harm, please reach out to your guardians, school teachers, counselors, or a trusted adult. We are here for you!

The Canvas

I march down the halls
Emotionless and numb.
No feelings,
No opinions,
Parading to the next room.

This is the way it has to be.
With a blank stare forward,
I fool the world.
They think I'm "okay"
They think I'm me.

I am hidden within myself daily,
Praying not to be found
By those they call my "peers".
My "friends".
The others.

In this place, I am not an equal.
I am a frog
Pinned to a lab table
Preparing to be slashed open.
Examined without permission.

Good, Kaitlyn
ESL Teacher
Harrisburg High School, John Harris Campus

School is no longer a sanctuary;
It is a prison.
It is a personal Hell
With demons of all shapes
That manifest in body and mind.

They belittle
Besmirch
Berate.
They keep me from being
Me.

Teachers ask why I have changed,
Why I don't draw anymore.
They don't understand
Nor will anyone ever understand;
No one but me.

My drawings have changed,
Become hidden.
They have less meaning,
And at the same time,
They mean much more.

There aren't any more rainbows,
Only dark clouds
That envelope all light.
I draw of being unwanted,
Unappreciated.

Good, Kaitlyn
ESL Teacher
Harrisburg High School, John Harris Campus

These walls hold me captive
And I feel there is no physical escape.
No mental escape.
No haven.
No love.

The inhabitants of this world criticize
My work,
My looks,
My grades,
My art.

I try to be “normal”,
But it’s impossible to conform.
I retreat to my own world full of pencils,
Brushes,
Paint.

My drawings are my sanctuary.
My release.

I am criticized for them too.

The world I know
Is against me.

They mock me
And laugh,
not understanding the pain in the strokes.
The paint is crimson red
But dries into a brown.

Good, Kaitlyn
ESL Teacher
Harrisburg High School, John Harris Campus

An Earthy tone.

A natural hue.

No one understands the beauty;

No one but

Me.

If they'd just try to understand...

If anyone would help me...

If they'd empathize

Instead of hate,

They too would understand.


I beg them to stay,

To talk with me,

Just for a while,

So I can roll up my sleeves

And finally show them my art.



Christine A. Anderson
Senior Administrative Assistant
Lincoln Administration Building

Say Their Name!

DANTE WRIGHT RAYSHARD BROOKS DANIEL PRUDE GEORGE FLOYD BREONNA TAYLOR
ATATIANA JEFFERSON AURA POSSER STEPHON CLARK BOTHAM JEAN PHILANDO CASTILLE
ALTON STERLING FREDDIE GRAY JANISHA FONVILLE ERIC GARNER MICHELLE COSSEAU
AKAI GURLEY GABRIELLA NEVAREZ TAMIR RICE MICHAEL BROWN TANISHA ANDERSON
MARVIN SCOTT PATRICK WARREN SR VINCENT BELMONTE ANGELO QUINTO ANDRE HILL
CASEY GOODSON JR ANGELO CROOMS SINCERE PIERCE MARCELLIS STINNETTE JONATHON
PRICE DIJON KIZZEE CARLOS CARSON DAVID MCATEE ELIJAH MCCLAIN DENNIS PLOWDEN
BIJAN GHASAR AARON BAILEY CHARLEENA LYLES JORDAN EDWARDS DEBORAH DANNER
ALFRED OLANGO TERRENCE CRUTCHER KORRYN GAINES JAMAAL MOORE SR JOHNNIE
WARREN TIMOTHY RUSSELL CHAVIS CARTER ALESIA THOMAS JERSEY GREEN WENDELL
ALLEN TARIKA WILSON HENRY GLOVER OOUSMANE ZONGO AMADOU DIALLO ELEANOR
BUMPERS EULA LOVE RITA LLOYD HENRY DUMAS
AND SO MANY OTHERS!

They come from all walks of life and different backgrounds, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, nieces, nephews, all loved by many in different ways, all have lost their lives being shot by police. The one thing you need to know, each time I heard their name (s) called, I shed tears for them just like their own mothers. I could feel the pain of being a mother (not someone who has lost), but someone who knows the fear when you get that call. This kind of pain really hurts your heart and cuts like a knife deep down in your soul. Do we have all of the answers no, but we can keep striving to make the necessary changes that it doesn't keep happening to **Anyone....**



Shady Pines

Windy roads and snowcaps
Away from phones pesky apps, and being plugged in.
Cozy fire and a great big book
Don't forget to take a look outside the window to find some critters
Across the mountain side are covered with stick snakes that do not seem to care
Log deer, rock turnkeys, and a stump bear.
We drive down to where the people are for Creamery Ice Cream
We'll go so far stopping by a couple of shops
Then make our way back to the top to hike and pick some blue berries big and round
There are so many to be found
Then to the swimming hold so cold or at least when you first get in.
Homemade meals make us nice and stuff
But save some to put on the stump
Gather around the table top under the beacon, games non-stop through the evening
Before we know it, it's time to go
Pack up the car and drive it slow
Back down the mountain until next time
We will wish and dream that we were back at Shady Pines.

Mr. Garry W. Hutchison
Social Studies Department
John Harris Campus
Staff

Three Days

Three days. That's what we all have; just three days in our lives. Now I know "We" are years, and years, even decades old. But all of that comes down to just three days. Our first day is;

Yesterday

Yesterday is full of warm summer days with the sun beaming on our body's, sand squishing between our toes. Days of sun and rain watching rainbows form as well as jumping in mud puddles and peals of laughter echoing through our homes and play areas. Yesterday is also filled with sorrow, an ice cream cone dropped in the dirt, skinned knees, anger at people and things. Yesterday is a place we seek for remembrances. Lost love, missing friendships, that set of car keys we never found again. As our yesterday's grow, we can get lost in it, we can live in our good memories or our darkest ones.

Our second day is;

Tomorrow

Tomorrow is full of both hope and dread. Tomorrow is full of plans for parties, trips, adventures not yet had nor dreamt of. Tomorrow is alluring, enticing, tomorrow is that perfect piece of cake, that perfect sunrise, that amazing sunset. Tomorrow is the day that you receive your first kiss from your first crush, the day you ask for your loves hand in marriage. Tomorrow, oh, tomorrow if only you would give me my wishes, I would be soooooo happy, so fulfilled, my life would be... Tomorrow is full of Hope, full of Dreams, full of Agony and Despair.

Our third days is;

Today

Today, Today, TODAY! Today is so special, so precious. Make today shine in your life of days, make the best of today. Tell the people you love that "You LOVE them"; Express the joy in your today; Express your anger in simple words, release that anger and frustration that we all have. DO NOT hold on to those emotions for they will destroy your today. Express kindness to people in need, you never know when that one simple act of kindness will change their today. Not all todays will be good ones, you will know sorrow, anger, frustration, despair at the loss of loved ones, lost jobs, lost opportunities. Do not live in your other days. Yesterdays can fill your mind and heart with longing and certainty of the past. While these memories are concrete they are as cold as a morgue. Tomorrows are full of hope and uncertainty they are smoke and mirrors. These hopes burn hot as a blast furnace. So that just leaves us Today.

Todays are so special that it is referred to as the present. A present to ourselves and those around us, wring every second from the day waste not a moment, express your joys loudly and sorrows quietly. Live, Love, and Enjoy Today. Because it is truly the only day we control. Carpe Diem.