

THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

THE HOME EDITION



Above: Some good advice.

Let's Catch Up

BY MR. APA

Well, it's been a scary and strange two months as our schools continue to be closed due to COVID-19, and remote learning continues to be in effect. On Monday, May 4th, Governor Murphy closed the schools for the rest of the academic school year, with hopes of opening again in September. In the meantime, it is our responsibility to continue our social distancing, despite how difficult it may be at times. Remember, we are the greatest weapon in this fight.

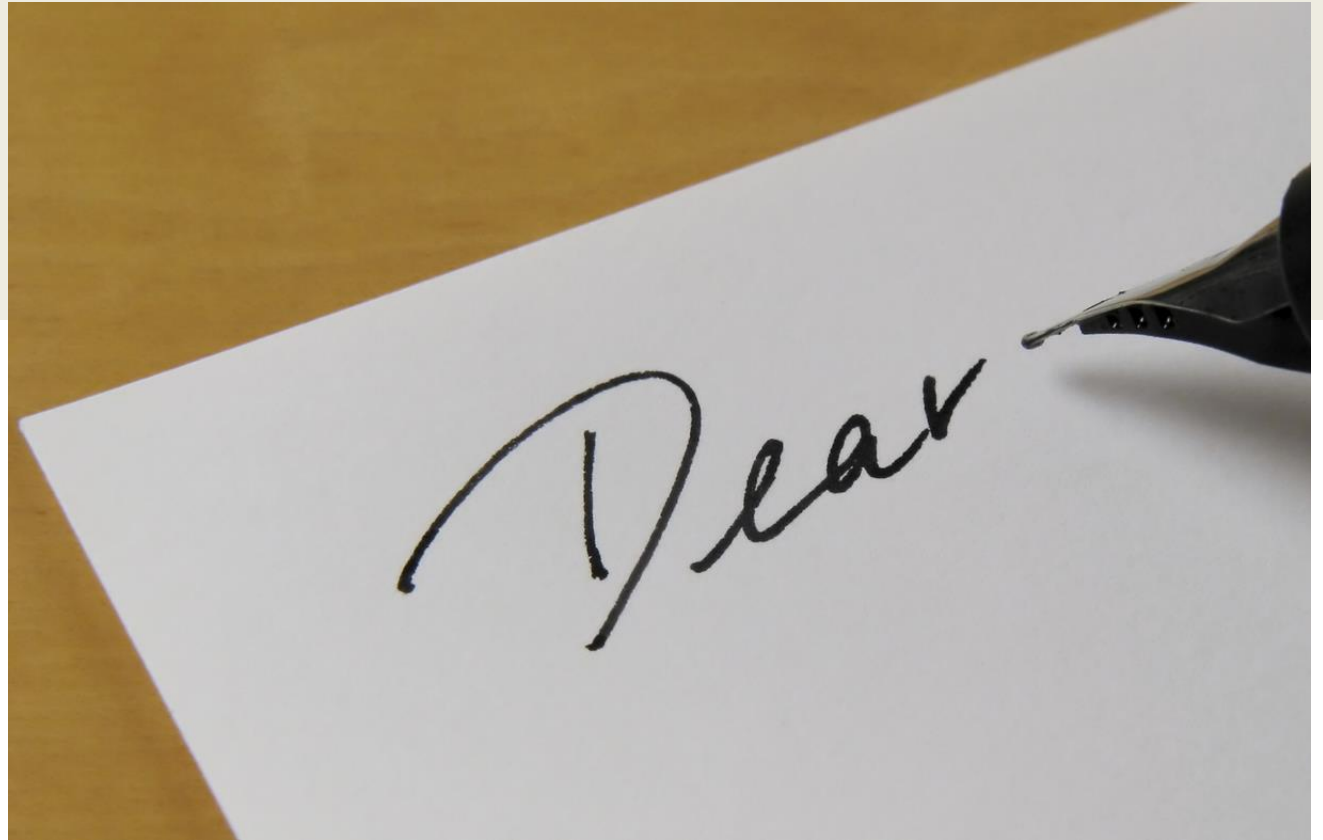
The good news, Jags, is that while we are separate, we can still see each other and talk to each other thanks to technology that is easily accessible. Teachers have utilized this to keep in touch with their classes, and if you need that face to face contact, you can utilize it as well. Set up a Google Meet with your friends or family. We can and will get through this, so hang in there.

To our seniors, who may feel like they missed out on some tentpole moments of your high school experience. The school and the student council are keeping you in mind.

For the Jaguar Class of 2020, Mr. DiEugenio had this to say:

"Please stay focused on the remote learning experience and know that a great deal of time will be spent focusing on the class of 2020 to make their spring as positive as possible. We will be reaching out to the senior leadership, class president Shane Neilen and Student Council President Antonio Farias for input. We have already had Google Hangouts with them and will continue to plan meaningful experiences for the class of 2020."

We miss you all. Stay home, stay safe. And keep reading through our Jaguar Journal Home Edition for other news and fun.



The Fifty-Cent Path to Joy

BY MS. REGAN

What can you buy for 50 cents? Some gumball machines will dispense their contents for two quarters. A cup of cheese sauce at Wawa goes for fifty cents. Maybe you can find a treasure at a garage sale (someday!) and haggle the price down to four bits.

So can a measly fifty cents really make someone happy? Yes, if it's spent on a stamp affixed to a letter written in your own handwriting to someone you care about. Nowadays we text, post or email and keeping up with all of that can feel like a chore. It's so anonymous, so generic, so vanilla.

But a letter or a note is personal. It means someone thought about you and took the time to find some paper and a pen and an envelope and your address, and then actually write the letter! Yes, it's more work than texting is, but the rewards are so much greater, too. No matter what the letter talks about, the subtext is that someone cares about you. The point is that it's personal, in an age when so much isn't.

And there's something so refreshing about organizing your thoughts to put them on paper for someone else to read. Is the weather changing? Describe the view out of your bedroom window. Have you listened to new music or read a great book? Talk about that. If you've been experimenting with new hobbies like cooking or painting or writing poetry, tell your reader about the epic victories and fails. You can draw a little picture or a doodle. You can tell your reader what you are looking

forward to doing instead of what you have already done. The only rule is to write about what you are interested in and your reader will be, too.

Whom do you write to? How about a cousin, grandparents, aunts and uncles; any relative would adore getting a letter from you. If you have a friend who lives away, write to them. How about a letter to your parents, thanking them for all they do for you? Imagine their delight when they open the mail that day! And if you can't think of anyone who might like a letter from you, why not write a letter to yourself? And mail it!

What's to be gained? You practice the dying art of letter writing. You practice your handwriting. You practice being sincere and real. You are giving the gift of your time and effort and your reader will save and reread your letter. But as is often the case in life, the more you give the more you get, because making someone else feel special makes you feel special, too.

So put on some soft music, light a candle and find some clean paper. Then tell someone hello the old-fashioned way. Yes, it's true: 50 cents can bring happiness.

(Note: a stamp now costs 55 cents but it's more poetic to round it down.)



Fun Fact:
Chef Boyardee canned pasta sales are up 146%.

HERE'S WHAT I'VE BEEN STREAMING

Some suggestions for when you finish your school work.

BY MR. APA

As we continue through our isolation, I find that sometimes I have time on my hands, and other times I'm just as busy as ever. When I do get that lucky half an hour or more, I catch up on some viewing pleasure. Below, you'll find a list of the different things I've been watching...

On Hulu

Scrubs

This comedy focuses on the bizarre experiences of medical intern John "JD" Dorian as he embarks on his career in a surreal hospital crammed with over-the-top staffers and patients, where humor and tragedy collide at every turn.

Malcolm In the Middle

Malcolm is a genius born into a dysfunctional family. His mother Lois is a control freak, his father Hal is loving, but ineffectual. Malcolm also has three brothers. His eldest brother Francis is waging a war in military school, his older brother Reese is a juvenile delinquent, and his younger brother Dewey is a bit of an oddball.

Bonus: Everybody Hates Chris

This sitcom chronicles the misadventures of teenager Chris as he grows up in 1980s Brooklyn. Chris is surrounded by eccentric family members, including frugal father Julius, intimidating mother Rochelle, spoiled sister Tonya and younger brother Drew, who is more popular than Chris.

On Disney+

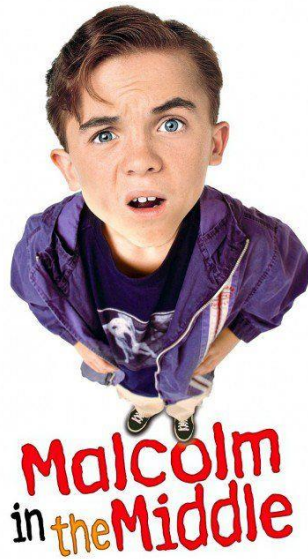
The Mandalorian

Set after the fall of the Galactic Empire, The Mandalorian follows Mando, a lone bounty hunter on the outer reaches of the galaxy. And if that isn't enough to pull you in, there is also a baby Yoda might be the cutest star wars character ever (sorry fans of Jabba the Hutt).

The Simpsons

If you've never seen an episode of The Simpsons, then what better time than now to start. The Simpsons is in its thirtieth season and is still going strong.

Bonus: Disney movies, and Marvel movies, and Star Wars movies
Nuff said!



PICTURE CAPTION: Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce vel laoreet orci. In eget auctor mi.



Netflix

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (Original 1990 movie)

This was one of my favorites growing up, and I rewatching it recently, it's still just as good. Sure, you could catch the Michael Bay reboot, but nothing catches the true spirit of the turtles like this original movie. If you like it, the sequel is also on Netflix now.

Stranger Things

If you're a fan of super powers, government conspiracies, and *The Goonies*, then *Stranger Things* is probably a good match for you. Season one introduces the main characters and follows the group of friends as they search for their missing friend. Now is a good time to catch up on all three seasons, because season four will be here before we know it.

Bonus: Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Well, this one just seems appropriate, the difference being you may feel a little jealous as Ferris and his friends skip school to hit the streets of Chicago for a day of fun.

And, if none of these choices strike your fancy, you can always pick up a book.

Fun Fact:

Animal adoptions have soared during the quarantine and many shelters have temporarily closed their doors.

You Knead to Try This Bread Recipe

MS. REGAN

What smells better than warm bread fresh from the oven? Not one thing on this planet. But who has time and energy to knead bread dough several times and let it rise for two days? Nobody.

If being homebound has spurred your inner baker, try this recipe for slow cooker bread.

This is the best bread that you will ever eat that takes five minutes to mix and two hours to cook. Seriously. Mix it at night, let it rise while you sleep, and bake it in your slow cooker the next day. It's delicious and perfect. Eat it fast-there are no preservatives! But it won't last long anyway.

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 cups (455 g) bread flour
- 2 1/4 teaspoons instant yeast, (1 envelope)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 cups warm water, (105-115°F)

Instructions

- In a large bowl, combine the flour, yeast, and salt. Stir with a whisk. Slowly pour in the warm water. Stir with a wooden spoon until well blended and the dough forms into a ball. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap or a towel and let it set on the counter overnight, 8-18 hours.
- Line the bowl of the 6-quart slow cooker with parchment paper.
- Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. With well-floured hands, flatten the dough into a 9-inch circle, then fold it over onto itself and shape it into a ball. Place the dough into the prepared slow cooker. Place a double layer of paper towel under the lid to prevent condensation from dripping onto the rolls. Turn the slow cooker on high and cook for 2 hours or until the bread is cooked through. The temperature should register 190°F on an instant-read thermometer.
- Remove the bread by lifting it out with the parchment paper.
- The fully cooked bread will have a light, soft crust. If you desire a golden crispy crust, place the bread under the broiler for 5 minutes. Set the bread on a wire rack to cool completely before slicing.

Note: I floured my hands and folded the bread into a ball while it was still in the bowl without the flattening step and it turned out wonderfully. I baked loaves for all of my neighbors and it was a hit with all of them.

Source:

<https://www.bakedbyanintrovert.com/slow-cooker-bread/>

Day 6 of quarantine:
my cat is still trying to figure out
why I'm in his house after 8 am

My new social distancing outfit just
arrived from amazon



Celebrating Decision Day at JMHS

May 1st was Decision Day and our Senior Class Advisors Mrs. Fecak and Mrs. Scott, along with TV Tech Coordinator Ethan Noble, have put together a video celebrating those seniors who have made a decision for what they will be doing next year - whether college, military, or the workforce.

Thank you to our seniors who sent in submissions for this video. We are so proud of all the accomplishments of our senior students and wish them all nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

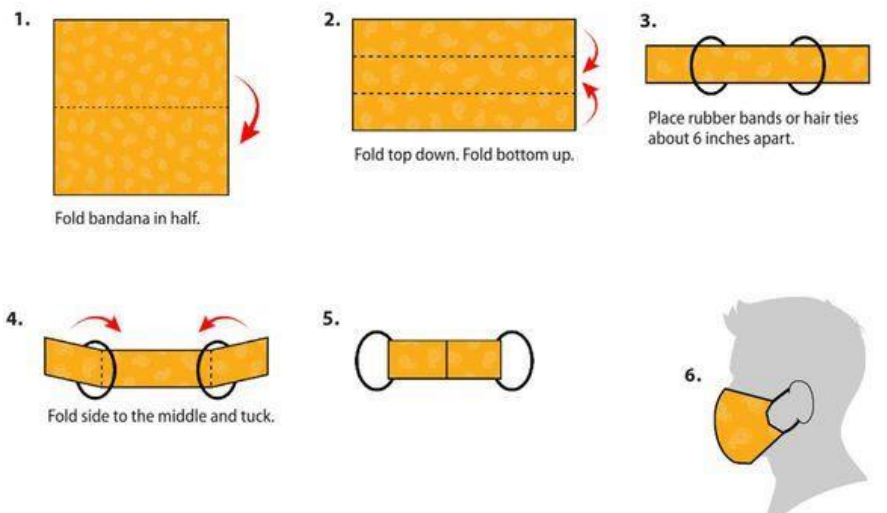
Please click on the following link and [enjoy the video](#).

Make Your Own Mask Without Sewing

The CDC suggests you can make your own face covering from a bandana, scarf or old tee shirt.

You will need:

- A bandana or scarf
- 2 x elastic or rubber bands, or hair ties
- A coffee filter (optional)



Fun Fact:
Sales of jigsaw puzzles and other games are up 370% over the same week last year.

We're all on the same page... We're all in this together

M. SILAGY, LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

Social distancing, isolation, quarantine, shut-down. These words can make us feel helpless but I want you to know we're all in this together. I usually find that when I'm feeling unsure or down, doing something to help others can make me feel better. Did you know there are websites that arrange for contribution to charitable causes simply by visiting them and playing games? Check out the two links below to pass some time, improve vocabulary (you know I had to slip in something educational) or test your common sense, all while contributing to a good cause.

[Free Rice](#)

United Nations World Food Program aimed at ending world hunger.

[Free Kibble](#)

Started by an 11 year-old in 2008 to support shelter animals.

Staying in is also the perfect time to catch up with what's been happening in the world of books. Check out these [12 Virtual Book Events You Can Attend from Your Couch in May](#)

One last note on books. While schools are closed [Audible](#), the audiobook platform is FREE! Get lost in a classic, or escape with a funny read such as [Rivals! Frenemies Who Changed the World](#) Just click on the Audible link above to get started.

I hope that you all are finding ways to stay safe, healthy, informed and entertained. And remember, we're all in this together.

Jackson Will Have Drive-In Movies In 2020

If you were born too late to get to drive-in movie theaters, you might still have a chance! The word about town is that Mayor Michael Reina has green-lighted a pop-up drive in to be located at Johnson Park, maybe even sometime in May. The way it works is that the whole family piles into the car along with a two week supply of snacks destined to be consumed in one night, pays a fee for the whole car, picks a parking spot and tunes in their FM radio to the designated station. Roll film. Spill popcorn. Oh yes-it's kind of a rite of passage to wear your pajamas, too.



Mother's Day 2020

Mother's Day is May 10th this year. But what if we still can't go shopping? And what if we're broke? Luckily there are still ways to show Mom your love and appreciation.

1. Create a homemade card.
2. Empty the dishwasher (extra points if you fill it, too).
3. Make homemade coupons promising to mow the grass, babysit, or cook dinner.
4. Bake her a cake, or brownies, or cookies.
5. Wash her car. Vacuum it, too!

However you decide to personalize your gift, Mom will love you for it. Just do it!



Fight Screen Fatigue

BY MR. APA

We're all facing it. We spend hours and hours staring at screens. Sure, even before the world was so changed by the pandemic that we are now living and fighting through, many of us spent hours staring at screens. But, now we have no choice in the matter because we need our devices to keep up while being in isolation. Now, we don't just stare for entertainment. Now these screens are our work, our new norm. What happens when you just can't bear to look anymore?

Well, the screen life we're living now cannot be avoided, but you can still do things to ease the burden. When you feel the fatigue rising,

take a break, step away from your computer, phone, or television and find something different to do.

Think about it, right now is a scary time, but it is our time. The point is, now is the perfect time to learn how to do new things. With our busy schedules before quarantine, we were always on the run, but now we find that we have time on our hands, and while, yes, we can waste away staring at our screens, try something different instead. Start an exercise routine. Go for a walk. Write that story. Draw or paint. You know that thing that you always wanted to learn how to do? Well, learn it. Do it. The possibilities are near endless.

Since we have the time, now is the time to try something new.



And Baby Yoda, just because.

