

# Class of 2023

LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

WRITINGS, ART, CONVERSATIONS

**NEW NORMAL,  
DISTRACTIONS**

STUDENT VOICES

**QUARANTINE  
REFLECTIONS + ACTIONS**

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL | 2019 - 2020

---

---

# To the Reader

*Consider what is inside as parts of a conversation*



What if a global pandemic suddenly shuts down your school for the rest of the year?

What if Post-Its become your refuge?

What if your daily exercise regimen is confined to your attic?

What if you have to wear a mask every time you step outside?

What if you unknowingly perform the Russian National Anthem to your health class?

What if jail is a place where you are able to see friends while eating pie?

What if the only way to travel outside your house is through a video game?

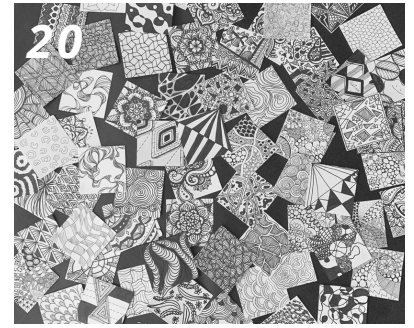
What if your life was dependent on strangers' individual choices to do the right thing?

What if you had to witness the death of another innocent black man?

What if you honestly talk about race?

All of this happened. Read on.

—THEO



## **Class of 2023 Officers**

Theo Luu, *Class President*  
Grace Kirk, *Vice President*  
Haven Trodden, *Secretary*  
Matthew Korbin, *Treasurer*  
Coco Kouyoumjian, *Student Advisory Council Representative*

## **Class of 2023 Student Council**

Caroline Curley  
Sofia Desio  
Shreya Mehta  
Henrik Stjernfeldt  
Elle Sumsion

*Found Object Origami Artist:*  
Austin Osborn

*Front Cover Artist:*  
Natalie Zhang

OBSERVED FROM SPACE THE PLANET DRIFTS AWAY,  
I WATCH ITS WAVING SILHOUETTE ON SCREEN  
FROM DUSK TO DUSK, LIFE'S LOST TRACK SOFTLY PLAYS,  
AS STATIC NOISE DROWNS OUT THE EARTH'S SCREAMS

# Sonnet

JBC

Perceptions of what prison is can change  
Depending on who you ask, it can feel  
Like being trapped within a too small range  
Or having to eat a disgusting meal.

No freedom does tend to scare people most  
And future plans can sometimes be ruined  
Thought of no cell phones can turn some to ghosts  
Plus, you can't be around fellow students.

But nowadays young folks like you and I  
Instead think of jail as a place where we  
Are able to see friends while eating pie  
And can get away from our families.

So strange how crazy periods like these  
Make us want for weird things, and fear a sneeze.





# STUCK AT HOME

STAYING FIT, HAPPY, AND BALANCED



Over quarantine I have been going on lots of walks with my family around our neighborhood. Also, the fitness YouTuber, Chloe Ting, has been a huge trend over quarantine, so my friends and I have all been doing her workouts together. We have used that as one way to stay connected.

Haven Trodden

MULTIPLE MIA  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIK LAMBERT

**"THERE WAS A  
TIME WHEN  
YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU KNOW  
TODAY"**  
—MALCOM X

If someone had asked me,  
"Do you wish you were back  
to before quarantine?"  
I would say no.  
And It's simple, you see.

There was "normalcy"  
Before quarantine.  
Normalcy for me.  
Normalcy for those  
Who bore my pale tones.  
Normalcy for those  
Who read our white-washed  
American history  
And cheered for all  
of the white man's good deeds.

Now that we are in quarantine,  
People like me have begun to see  
The country's lack of this "normalcy."  
Now our eyes are set  
On a supposedly "new-found" debt.  
But it's not new.  
We just ignored  
And ignored  
And ignored  
And ignored  
And ignored

## **And Ignored**

Until this quarantine  
Made us look right at what we had done.  
Made us look at the white silence  
The white violence  
We had become.

Those who are not white  
Have endured this lacking “normalcy”  
For so long  
that the innocent men and women  
Lying dead in the streets  
Became a tragedy  
Overlooked,  
Everyday,  
On our TVs.

But because of this quarantine,  
Our attention as Americans  
Has turned to the **death**  
**Of another**  
**Innocent**  
Unarmed  
Black  
**Man.**

George Floyd  
Had a knee on his neck  
For eight minutes,  
And watching him,  
We put our privilege in check.

This quarantine has given us  
An inability to look away.  
We have no choice.  
We cannot ignore.  
We cannot continue to write  
“Justice for.”  
We cannot go back to how it was  
Because then we are right back  
at square negative one.

I have hope  
That this quarantine has opened our eyes,  
Enough so that we won't want  
to go back in time.  
Communities coming together  
All different, facing the bullets and gas  
Because all that we ask  
Is that our friends,  
Classmates,  
Teachers,  
Peers,  
Are treated as they should be.  
I see people my age  
All backgrounds,  
All skin tones,  
Fighting to change  
this country's "normalcy"  
Fighting to change a normalcy of  
Corruption,  
Injustice,  
And supremacy.  
Into an equality  
For everybody.

I am beginning to see  
The “Justice for all,”  
That was promised to Americans.  
And Although The war is not won  
Although there is still much to be done,  
I am beginning to see the America  
That I want us to become.

CAROLINE CURLEY

# STUDENT TALKS ABOUT REMOTE LEARNING WITH MS. LANGSDORF

MACKENZIE MORONG

*What about the remote learning in Geometry could be improved and how?* SFH started suddenly, we were sent home and sort of thrown into this. I don't mean that negatively, but there was a little scrambling to put stuff together. Should it come back, now that everyone has experience, we'll have more lead time to put things together that can work remotely.

*Is there anything that is limiting your ability for teaching online?* It is harder to not see students, see what they're working on, see who's getting stuck. There is less visibility to what's working for students. Early on, there were a lot of distractions that took some getting used to.

*Are there any difficulties with SFH that aren't tech related?* There are a lot of distractions - my husband is also working from home, we are monitoring our kids' schoolwork, and although my dog loves the attention, he doesn't always know when we need to be alone to work. Also, the news is giving us lots to think about right now, which can make it hard to concentrate, and make things like surface area seem much less important.

*If we have to continue into the fall, is there anything you would do differently?* We will have to think really carefully about that, about how to get to know students. In-class relationships are very different than online ones.



**"MOST OF US  
HAVE NEVER DONE  
THIS BEFORE, SO  
WE ARE STILL  
LEARNING WHAT  
WORKS BEST."**

ORIGAMI FACE BY AUSTIN OSBORN



# PERCEPTIONS

THROUGH AN AMERICAN TEEN LENS



DIGITAL COLLAGE BY KENDAL PARKER