

## A Year Of Covid: A Great Effort

**Candice Millow**  
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**Staff Writer**

I remember Thursday, the 12th of March, 2020 vividly. I was out of school for lunch when my phone began to ring repeatedly in my pocket, getting updates on some virus I had heard about once or twice. The plans I had to travel for a competition, spend the upcoming spring break at a beach, and a fun-filled summer had disappeared. Throughout the day, the news became more and more alarming. It started with a travel ban, and within hours, sports are no longer being played. That night, I was almost excited to hear we would get three weeks off from school without knowing it would be the last time I would attend school for a year. The same night I went to my local Walmart. The shelves were empty.



There is no doubt that in one's lifetime, one will encounter struggles to overcome. Usually, there are books, counselors, videos, and tips to help get through those challenges. However, living in a pandemic was a struggle that had no handbook. There was no "how-to" video on youtube to teach you how to get through what we all did this past year. Although not everyone experienced this past year the same, I would

In our first published Covid-19 update in May 2020, there had been 1.7 million global cases and 98,000 deaths. As of March 11th, 2021, there are roughly 118,318,924 cases globally and 2,623,789 deaths. As we continue these Covid updates, one thing is apparent; we are waiting for the day when the cases are no longer multiplying by the minute, and we can go back to a safer and more social life again.

School had begun virtually toward the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and after an "indoor summer," it remained virtual for the first semester in the 2020-2021 school year. Although some students may have benefited from virtual learning, many students had to adjust and lacked the motivation to engage in school. It has taken a mental and physical toll on many. These factors came from stress, confusion, politics, and many other situations that made the past year a roller coaster of emotions and challenges.

The spirits of those who have been struggling



After a while, the streets became empty. Schools were empty. The overall word to describe that first month was 'empty'.

like to glance at what the past year has held and not only take it all in but appreciate how far we have come by also mourning all the lives lost due to Covid.

began to lift once the news that Clovis High School would be entering hybrid in-school learning beginning February 8th. Shortly after practicing hybrid learning for a few weeks, news that school would now be returning fully live was news that caught people by surprise. Slowly but surely, cases are slowing down in many areas, vaccines are being distributed, and students are going back to school.

As for the *Purple Press*, this news excites us because of the opportunities to inform our audience about what's to come with the recent news and the CHS sports that we can now attend and cheer for. CHS students in-person has recently accompanied football games, and it's a feeling like no other.

This year has brought unexpected challenges, but we can look back and see the bright side: many families have gotten closer during lockdowns, social media has brought people from all over the world together, and we were able to appreciate something we had never thought twice about: the opportunity to be united.

**Covid Update:** As of March 19th, there are approximately 30,000,000 total cases in the U.S and 552,000 deaths. There has been a total of 118 million vaccines administered in efforts to decrease the number of cases.



# The Age of Artificial Intelligence

**Alayna Mayo**  
Staff Writer

The human species is currently living in the golden age of technological advancements. In almost every first-world country, individuals carry small electronic devices in their back pocket, where they can access everything the internet has to offer in less than three seconds. All around us, we see security cameras monitoring our movements in grocery stores, gas stations, and public transportation. The youth of today, are entertained and educated largely through the use of technology. Infants are given tablets to keep them occupied, set in front of televisions when their parents are tired, and given smartphones in public restaurants to ensure they stay quiet. Teenagers build entire relationships through their cellular devices; college students receive their secondary educations largely through their computers. Families check in on one another by using programs such as FaceTime or Skype that enable them to see the other person (even halfway across the world). The point is this: technology is essential in our daily lives.

track our exercise, and so much more.

But therein lies the ever-present question threatening our existence: what if the technology we hold in such esteem became too great for humankind and became the very cause of our extinction?

Merriam-Webster defines artificial intelligence as a “branch of computer science dealing with the simulation of intelligent behavior in computers” and “the capability of a machine to imitate intelligent human behavior.” This could seem simultaneously wonderful and threatening, and both of those thoughts are completely valid. Technology can do wonderful things for us. An electronic device mimicking human intelligence could be as simple as a washing machine cleaning our clothes or as complex as a computer program infiltrating a government database and deploying foreign nuclear missiles. The plot of several blockbuster films seems to revolve around the idea of artificial intelligence (AI) becoming more intelligent than humans and turning on them, threatening them with impending doom.

However, it seems that the benefits of artificial

tions artificial intelligence can have, and how AI can change civilization as we know it. A few examples are increased efficiency, an

that the benefits outweigh the risks, only if managed properly. According to Forbes, “the legal, political, societal, financial and



increase in knowledge and understanding, as well as the perception of power and control, an increase in societal participation, and a better sense of general connectedness between humans. Tools such as Zoom, Skype, Google Meets, and FaceTime have allowed humans to remain “together” despite being hundreds of miles apart.

In regards to security, AI has allowed us to keep ourselves and others safe. Facial recognition and security cameras have allowed safety officials to not only find a suspect but also initially identify them and log them into a database for further accountability. Artificial intelligence has been proven to contribute significantly to national and international security. Furthermore, AI allows military officials to man UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) without directly endangering the lives of those in service to their country.

There is great concern, however, of artificial intelligence being weaponized or outsmarting humans and somehow taking over the world. According to Forbes, Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk have expressed concerns about the potential risks of artificial intelligence in the future. Bill Gates also believes that there is reason to be cautious, but believes

regulatory issues are so complex and wide-reaching that it’s necessary to take a look at them now so we are prepared to safely operate among them when the time comes.” The article continues to say, “Outside of preparing for a future with super-intelligent machines now, artificial intelligence can already pose dangers in its current form.” These issues include social manipulation, autonomous weapons, invasion of privacy, misalignment between our goals and the machines, and discrimination.

There is no reason to live in fear, however, though caution is the best way forward. With safety regulations implemented within the general public’s technological access, we can avoid major incidents with catastrophic consequences. Individual protection against privacy or security breaches can be avoided by regularly surveilling credit card and bank account information, updating passwords, and avoiding websites that seem unreliable or ask for private information.

In conclusion, it’s important to work *with* artificial intelligence while being aware of the dangers that AI is capable of. We, as a species, can work to evolve and strive towards efficiency while also being aware of how powerful AI truly is.



We use technology to give us directions, order our food, talk to our friends, educate our children, wake us up,

intelligence far outweigh the hopefully unlikely dangers of artificial intelligence. Forbes published a few different future applica-

# Is Your Teenager Okay?

**Hailey Larson**  
**Staff Writer**  
**Kiara Brooks**  
**Staff Writer**

(For this editorial, <https://www.healthychildren.org> was the main source used for this article.)

Since Covid-19 began, teenage depression rates have gone up a tremendous amount. This is not every teenager, but it is quite a lot. Times are tough, and there is great uncertainty that teenagers feel. Times have become challenging for everyone, especially in school and home lives. Not all of it can be positive. People are learning things about themselves and are afraid.

Covid-19 has hit the world hard with half a million people who have passed due to it. There are so many things going on globally, and the biggest concern to some parents is grades. Teenagers' mental health is going downhill fast. There has been an increase in suicide rates between the ages of 11-19. The main reason for this is a feeling of isolation and major stresses with online schooling. Some kids do not know how to adjust to this learning environment, and it causes stress and anxiety.

What people believe is that teens are too young and



rambunctious to know what they feel. Yes, as teens, we have more emotional reactions, but it doesn't mean that teens don't know what they feel. Adults invalidate teenagers' emotions a lot less now than when the pandemic started. As parents, they should bring up depression as a topic, so it tells the children that their parents know and will be there. Teens need time; people should be patient as we are getting into the new normal. It's hard to adjust to a new normal. It takes time and brings stress.

The pandemic's impact on mental health is not only on teenagers, but everyone has shown that even the happiest person can be suffering through this time. People have been isolated and don't know what to do with themselves. There are healthy ways to cope; one of the best ways is finding a new hobby. People have opened up little online businesses, started YouTube

channels, or made a Tik Tok account. Whatever the hobby is, it's a great way to keep your mind off of what could be causing stress. Another way to cope is to clean or rearrange your room. It makes you feel a lot less stressed being in a comfortable environment. Take up meditation or yoga.

How should you bring it up to your child? Well, you could start off talking about what is happening in the world. You should give them time to talk about what they need to say without getting angry. Let them know you listen to their feelings and let them know that their feelings are valid. Do not invalidate their feelings because it will make them feel so much worse. Therapy might be an option if it is too bad. Let them know you love them and do not ever make them feel less than they are.

To make your children feel less isolated, play a game and have a family

night. This is a great way to have them feel more included and less isolated. Make an effort for your child so that you can let them know you are there and will be patient. They're the future generation, let's try our best to prevent their lost opportunity to a bright future. Let your child have a mental health day once in a while that's an excellent way to help them.

One of the noticeable symptoms of depression is sleeping all the time. This is a huge indicator for parents. This is when people would rather be in a dream world than a real world. If your child's room is messy, and it's usually clean, or they lack the motivation to clean their space, it goes as a big indicator as well. Mood swings: if you notice their emotions are changing a lot more than usual, this could be a sign of bipolar depression. The most typical indication is if they seem down so much more than they were before the pandemic.

Be patient with your children; they are just as stressed as you are. This pandemic has affected everyone. Let your child cope; don't invalidate them. As we are finally going back to the old normal, slowly let them adjust. This is a scary time for all of us. Remember that everyone has struggles, and you are valid.

## The Spring In Your Step

**Noah Luscombe**  
**Staff Writer**

The spring season can be a beautiful time in many countries. With blossoming trees and flowers, more rains, and less snow, the world seems almost at peace in many regions. There is an abundance of myths and legends around spring, from Persephone

and hades to groundhog day. There are undoubtedly many ideas on what spring is about and meant for.

Almost every culture has seen a myth about spring and how it's come about. With the ancient Greeks, there was Persephone, goddess of spring, and queen of the underworld. Rabbits were believed to represent rebirth and intuition in some places,

making them a staple of springtime. Of course, Easter is a Christian holiday that centers around the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many cultures also held festivals and other events around the springtimes and their meanings.

Spring also holds in its hands new trends and a fresh start in the fashion season amongst us. We have all been wanting to be in

person for over a year now, and according to Vogue, we will see "bright, bold prints." Basically, our great-grandmothers' old curtains are back as some new designs you'll see all around.

Spring 2021 will meet us with various holidays around the globe that need some balloons filled with helium after a year sheltered away from some much-needed joy. March

3rd in Japan was a celebration of "Hinamatsuri," also known as "Girls Day," where people eat traditional Japanese food such as rice, wine, and rice cakes. People purchase Hina dolls, as well as play makeup and jewelry for young children. There is also what is known as "White Day" on March 14, which is the inverse of Valentines in Japan, where men give gifts to women (as in Japan, only men receive gifts from women on traditional Valentines). March 8th was International Women's Day, and while we didn't get to see the beauti-

ful marches this year, we are again reminded of the necessity of gender equality. In the States, St. Patrick's Day is around us as well as Mother's Day. Mark your calendar for your Mom, or mom-like figure in your life on Sunday, May 9, 2021.

Spring will also be providing us with some music from some very anticipated albums that are going to drop. Lana Del Rey, "Chemtrails over the Country Club," will be released on March 19, 2021, along with Loretta Lynns, "Still Woman Enough," and Ringo Starr's "Zoom In." Greta Van



Fleet will provide us with their new album, "The Battle at Gardens Gate," on April 16. I'm anticipating Weezer's 2021 record, "Van Weezer," on May 7, 2021.

Spring 2020 for everyone, even on a global scale, was a very frightening and

uncertain time. This year safely and with precaution, let's take chances with our wardrobe, dance to a new song, and spend more time experiencing all of what 2021 Spring has to offer. Let's get the spring back in our step.

# Holidays On The March

## Jovany Gomez Staff Writer

March could be one of the more forgotten about months. It could be due to the fact that it's after the more hectic months, those being December, January, and February. March sneaks in with a few notable holidays within the month. March consists of Saint Patrick's Day, International Women's Day, and César Chávez Day, just to name a few. Let's get more in-depth about what some of these holidays are.

Beginning with one that has already passed but is still good to get a little more information on is International Women's Day. This holiday was suggested

by Clara Zetkin, the leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany, in 1910. It was first celebrated in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, and Germany. It is now celebrated every March on the 8th. We show women's appreciation on this day by proclaiming our appreciation for women and their achievements in history. This is undoubtedly a day worth appreciating.

Another notable day is César Chávez Day, which is March 31st. Its purpose is to recognize Chávez who, according to [timeanddate.com](https://timeanddate.com), "became active with the Community Service Organization, which helped fight racial and economic discrimination against

Chicano residents," including "focused attention on the plight of migrant farmworkers and gained support to have his organization be the first successful farm workers' union in the



United States. He used principles of non-violence, with strikes and boycotts." César Chávez has made an amazing impact in the United States. Schools and parks were named after him, and to this day, community leaders speak greatly on the effects he has made. Although many people share their appreciation in different ways, they all work together to honor César Chávez.

One of the most notable holidays in March is St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. According to [timeanddate.com](https://timeanddate.com), this holiday's purpose is "... a global celebration of Irish culture on or around March 17. ... It particularly remembers St. Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints, who preached Christianity in

Ireland during the fifth century. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in countries with people of Irish descent." Traditionally in the United States, it is represented by luck and all things green.

There are plenty of national holidays that are included in March, such as National Nap Day (March 15), International Day of Happiness (March 20), National Puppy Day (March 23), and many more. It is important to cherish every day and recognize some of the important days that shaped our history. Purple Press wishes you a happy March!



# Feeling Lucky

**Noah Luscombe**  
Staff Writer

What's something you consider lucky? We all have a thing. Whether it be a gift someone gave us, a family heirloom, or just something from our culture. There will always be that superstition that thing can make our day better. Sometimes it may have religious ties, other times, it may be related to an important person in our life, but all lucky things have something in common; they are in some way so special that they almost seem magical.

Different societies have different charm-like items, things that relate to gods or something else the culture worshipped. As in ancient Egypt, cats were worshipped and believed to bring good omens to those around them; this was partly believed due to the goddess Baset who had the head of a cat and the body of a human woman. Cats were also considered lucky in Japan, which resulted in the creation of Lucky Cat Statues, also known as Maneki-Neko ("beckoning cat" 招き猫, ). Other animals considered to be kismet include dragons, cranes, and elephants in China, beetles in ancient Egypt, and crickets across Asia and Europe.

Jewelry can also be

considered lucky. In many cultures, jewelry can mean different things based on the crystals or symbols in the pendant. Gems like peridot and citrine are rumored to attract money, while rose quartz and malachite attract blessings and love. Jewelry may also hold religious sym-

Even acorns can mean that you'll heal and get sick less often.

Where did all these ideas come from? Well, a large number may stem from religion or traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. Many superstitions

animals or insects.

Another thing about luck is that sometimes it can be perceived as a form of karma, good or bad. Karma is the idea that what you do will come back to you three times stronger than what you gave. Karma is believed in many religions to be the cause of good or bad luck in life, and it is always encouraged to be kind. Whether karma exists or not, be kind anyway. The act of kindness is a necessity in this world.

Anything can be considered lucky, and no matter what it is, we should always appreciate what others find sentimental just as much as we appreciate our own charms. Every culture and belief is different, so the idea of luck is subjective. I feel like we can all find a bit of luck helping one another in these uncertain times.



bolism, such as a rosary or crucifix necklace.

Not all things considered good luck are physical possessions, though. In some cultures seeing certain animals or specific numbers can mean something. Angel numbers are a common phenomenon that may go overlooked but can mean a great deal. Angel numbers are when a number is repeated three or more times, such as seeing 5:55 on a clock or 111 likes on a social media post. Each angel number means something different, so it can be fun to look them up and see what they might mean. Seeing a four-leaf clover in a field means that luck may be coming your way.

come from different periods, but not all of them are related to good luck. Small things like breaking a mirror will give you bad luck for seven years, or walking under a ladder will result in spirits causing trouble. These usually concern the idea of spirits and ghouls that you would be bringing into your life by doing certain actions. Spirits are a very common depiction in the concept of luck and good fortune. Spirits are found in a multitude of cultures, whether it be the way of connecting with the afterlife or simply those who have stopped guiding you. Spirits may come in many forms linked to good luck, such as



# An Astronomical Year In Space

**Candice Millow**  
Editor-In-Chief

It is safe to say that some of us have been through such an unpredictable and crazy year here on earth that we may not have remembered the mass of planets, stars, and galaxies around us. As small as that may make you feel, big things are happening in space. Let's blast off and

take a look at what happened in this astronomical year in space.

2020 seemed to be a year that had the potential for a variety of space discoveries. The year was a great window to send rovers to Mars for research and exploration. Therefore the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), along with China and the United



Arab Emirates, constructed a 2020 Mars mission. Taking a deeper look into NASA's mission, according to spacecentre.co, "The rover will collect and analyze promising core samples, but it will also store them for future missions for later return to Earth." This rover is also accompanied by a helicopter that can cover more terrain.

This 2020 Mars mission did not touch the ground until February 18th, 2021. According to space.com, "The life-hunting robot will also help a little bit of Mars make it to Earth a decade or so from now if all goes according to plan. Perseverance, the centerpiece of NASA's \$2.7 billion Mars 2020 mission, touched down inside the Red Planet's

Jezero Crater on Feb. 18, 2021."

The year has already started well regarding space, but what else could we look forward to? Expect to see astronauts participating in more test flights sent to space by SpaceX, NASA's double asteroid redirection test, and NASA's new \$9 billion James Webb telescope. 2021 will hold plenty

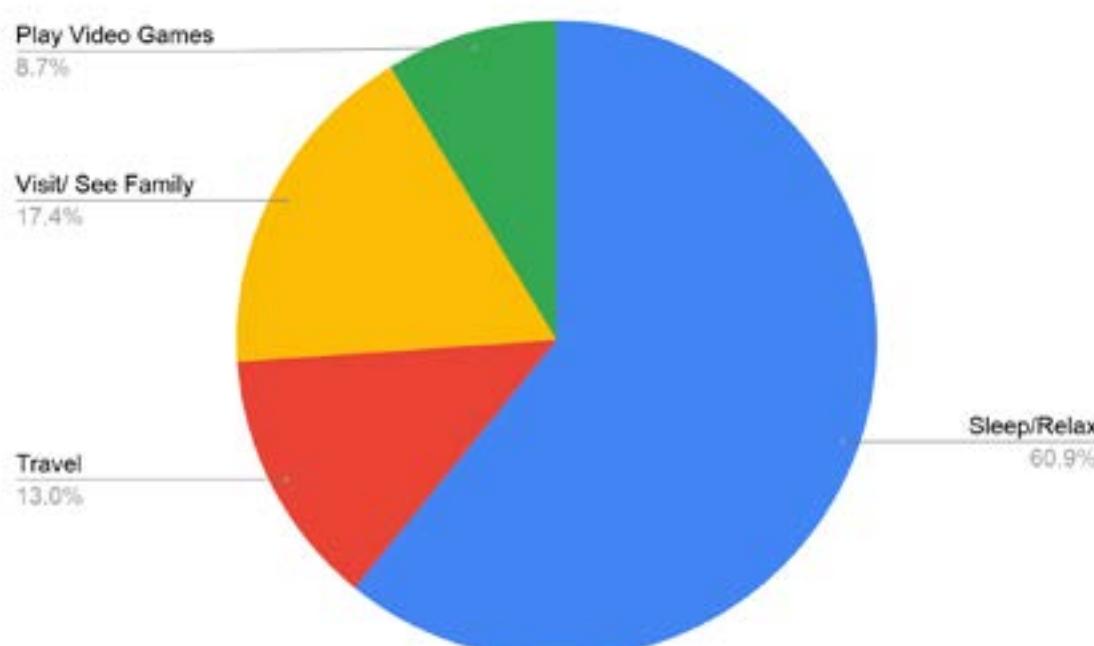
of progress for future space travel, including sending the first woman to the moon and sending a crew to Mars for the first time. We are hoping to see this progress or possibly occur in the next 5-10 years. With that, what we may see in the near future will be out of this world!

# Break Into Spring

**Candice Millow**  
**Editor-In-Chief**  
**Nicole Neyra**  
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This school year has flown by so fast. There were many changes during the year and many adjustments. As we get back to the habit of going live for some days, those days can seem tiring, though. Even though in-person is great, it is also a lot for the brain to process. With many Covid restrictions being lifted in some places, there is a chance of traveling and having somewhat bigger gatherings. In this article, we asked students what they planned to do for Spring Break. The options to choose from were playing video games, visit/see family,

travel, or sleep/relax. Here are the results.



According to the poll, 60.9% of students from the poll would rather be at home to sleep and rest, 17.4% would

visit family, 13.0% would travel, and 8.7% would

better. Just as time flew by, in time, things will become somewhat normal again. No matter what, spring is something we can all look forward to. To be able to enjoy things that will help keep your mind off all troubles.

Purple Press wishes you a great Spring.

spend their time playing video games. Even though the school year, or this year, was not what we were expecting, things will get

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# CHS Football: A Great Scene



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