

THE JAGS JOURNAL

The latest news and updates from the LCCS newspaper staff



COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**LCCS THANKSGIVING
SING ALONG**

LCCS WINTER CONCERT

**WHAT DID
THANKSGIVING LOOK
LIKE FOR LCCS
FAMILIES THIS YEAR?**

**KAMALA HARRIS: FIRST
BLACK, ASIAN, AND
FEMALE VICE PRESIDENT**

Help Is on the Way: New COVID-19 Vaccines Arrive in the US

by Gabriela Lavarro

Here is all you need to know about the new Moderna and Pfizer vaccines so that you can be informed about them when they are available.

How They Work

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines. This stands for Messenger RNA. The vaccines use a spike protein that makes your body think you have covid (when you don't). When your body detects the protein, it will think it has a virus. Then it will start to produce antibodies to fight the virus if you happen to catch it.

Who Will Get Them

The very first people to get them will be healthcare workers, doctors and nurses, and then people in nursing homes. The next people will be other first responders like firefighters and other essential workers who are not healthcare workers. The next wave will be adults of high -

Help Is on the Way, Continued

risk conditions and people of 65 years or older. The last wave will be all of us, the “Normal” people. Different states have different standards for “Frontline workers” or “People of high risk,” so depending on where you live you might get it sooner than others.

Other facts

- The new vaccines need to be kept at very cold temperatures.
- The first person in NJ to be vaccinated is Maritza Beniquez, who is a nurse.
- Taking the vaccine will not make you test positive for COVID-19.
- The Pfizer vaccine is about 95% effective against the virus and the Moderna vaccine is 94.1% effective against the disease.



The LCCS Thanksgiving Sing Along

by Tanay Tabhane

We might not be in person to celebrate the holidays, but LCCS still found a way to keep us connected and have fun! On November 24th at 6:30pm, LCCS had their annual Thanksgiving Sing Along on Zoom. There were more than 200 people that attended!

Mr. Brown and Ms. Jaffrey started the first song of the Thanksgiving Sing Along called “Hello Everybody Hello.” This song was sung in 3 different languages. This really emphasized how many different people there are in LCCS and made everyone feel thankful. This was also shown during an event where a student read a land acknowledgment statement to acknowledge that we are on the land that once belonged to the Lenape Native Americans. We also sang songs including Charlie on the MTA and more.

Overall, it was a great sing-along and it worked out well despite being on Zoom instead of in person. A big thank to Mr. Brown, Ms. Jaffrey, and everyone else who made the sing-along possible this year!

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**JOE BIDEN: 2020
PRESIDENT ELECT**

**LIFE ON
VENUS?**

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

**WINTER
HOLIDAYS**

**HOLIDAY
RECIPES**

What Did Thanksgiving Look Like for LCCS Families This Year?

by Madeleine Schwarzer

This pandemic has changed our lives. Families need to see each other, and that's what the holidays are about. Thanksgiving is all about family. People need to see each other, and Thanksgiving is the perfect time to do so. With the pandemic our lives have changed and the way we live now is the weirdest it has ever been. Thanksgiving has gone differently this year, and here are some people who have kindly volunteered to tell us about how they did Thanksgiving this year.

Omainah Rizvi celebrated the normal way by getting together and eating food at her house. Gabriela Lavarro did a big Zoom with her family. They ate food and talked for the special holiday! Ms. Turnpaugh only saw her immediate family like her mom, dad, sister etc. Theodora Wadid only saw some of her family and ate Thanksgiving cake! August Passafiume did a social distanced Thanksgiving party. Maeve George had a Zoom Thanksgiving as well! Hans Holgado saw her grandparents and called her aunts and uncles.

These people came up with creative ideas as well as some celebrated the same as always. Either way, they all found a way to celebrate even though it has been tough! Surprisingly, most (as well as myself) watched movies as the special day ended.

The LCCS Winter Concert

by Landon Leigh

What did the Winter Concert look like this year? We all had to stay home, but still we were still able to watch the concert on Zoom. The Early Morning Singers sang some of our usual songs, and this year was a great year because we did a few extra songs. The concert was on the 16th of December at 6:30pm.

Though we weren't able to be together in person, we were all singing and had smiles on our faces. Hopefully for the next concert, we will all be able to see each other again. We hope that you loved the concert and that you enjoyed seeing the performances by the Early Morning Singers and other LCCS students. If you didn't get the chance to see the concert, make sure you check the Friday Flyer from December 18th for a link to the video of the concert!



Kamala Harris: First Black, Asian, and Female Vice President

by Hans Holgado and Maeve George

Family

Kamala Harris is the daughter of two immigrants who came to the United States to study at the University of California at Berkeley. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, was born in India, and her father, Donald Harris, is from Jamaica. According to Harris' website, she said she had a "stroller-eye view" of the Civil Rights movement. Her parents eventually divorced when she was only 7 years old. Her mother was a breast cancer researcher and her father was an economics professor. Kamala Harris credits her mother in raising her to be a "strong Black woman." Kamala Harris married Doug Emhoff in 2014. She has two stepchildren who call her "Momala." She also has a sister named Maya.



Making History

Kamala Harris is 56 years old. She was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California. She is the first Asian and Black woman to become the Vice President elect of the United States! She is a member of the Democratic Party. She will become the Vice President on January 20, 2021, and she also is the highest ranking woman. Kamala Harris was the attorney general of California. She graduated from Howard University and the University of California. She was elected senator in 2017. Some of the most inspiring words that she has said were in her victory speech on November 7th: "Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourself in a way that others might not see you, simply because they've never seen it before. And we will applaud you every step of the way."

Fun Facts About Kamala Harris

- Her first name means "lotus flower" in Hindi.
- Her full name is Kamala Devi Harris.
- Her zodiac sign is Libra.
- She was the first woman and the first person of color to become a District Attorney in California
- Some of her favorite books include *Native Son* by Richard Wright, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, *Songs of Solomon* by Khaled Hosseini, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis
- [Click here to see how she felt when she and Joe Biden won the 2020 election.](#)

Joe Biden: 2020 President Elect

by Frania Czerniak

As you may have learned, Joe Biden will be our next president! The final electoral votes between Biden and incumbent president Donald Trump were 306 (Biden) to 232 (Trump). On November 7th, 2020, major news outlets declared Joe Biden the official winner and the new president elect.



Some believe that Trump's defeat was caused by a mishandling of the current coronavirus pandemic, which has killed over 300 thousand Americans. The pandemic also exposed the difference in character between the two candidates. Joe Biden, as a young man, suffered the deaths of his daughter and his first wife in a car crash. More recently, his older son died of brain cancer. He is a man of compassion and understanding. Combining all circumstances and Joe Biden's long political career won him more votes in the election, especially from women and young people.

Biden was also very wise to choose Senator Kamala Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican father and Indian-American mother, to make history as the first ever Black, South Asian woman to become a Vice President. The speech she gave in Delaware explaining why Biden should become president mesmerized millions. Many people were astonished of why she picked to speak in a small place like Delaware. She explained that she wanted to give a speech to people that did not expect it. Harris said, "John Lewis, before his passing, wrote: 'Democracy is not a state, it is an act.'" I think we did it - we acted; so many people voted!

Joe Biden spent over forty years in Washington working so hard and always tries to make our country amazing, like when he was the vice president to Barack Obama. Biden's dog Major will be the first ever rescue dog to live in the White House, along with his other dog, Champ. Biden recently turned 78 years old, which makes him the oldest president that we have ever had in the US. Hopefully, he will do great things for our country.



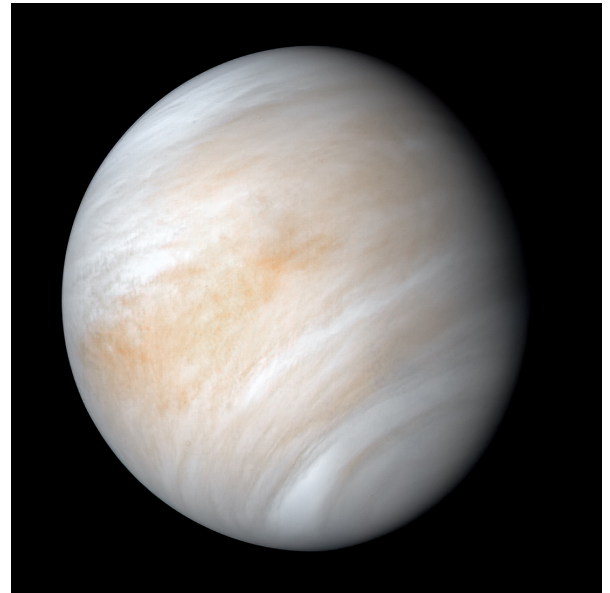
Life on Venus?

by Estelle Rozenberg

Today, nobody has found life on Venus. There are surface temperatures reaching very high, and the pressure is 90 times that of Earth. The conditions on Venus make water-based life as we know it unlikely to survive on the surface of the planet.

The possibility of life on Venus is a subject of interest in astrobiology, “the branch of biology concerned with the study of life on earth and in space.” To date, no proof has been found of past or present life on Venus. Theories say significantly since the early 1960s, when spacecrafts began studying the planet, it became clear that its environment is extreme compared to Earth's. However, there is ongoing study as to whether life could have

existed on the Venusian surface before a “runaway greenhouse gas” took hold, and a related study as to whether a relict biosphere could persist high in the modern Venusian atmosphere.



Winter Holidays: Do You Know What People Celebrate?

by Hans Holgado and Madeleine Schwarzer

Christmas: Is your friend Christian? Then they likely celebrate Christmas. Christmas is the historical celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas traditions vary around the world. Christmas falls during Australia’s summer, where it is popular to go camping or to the beach over the holiday. Some Australians decorate a “Christmas Bush,” a native Australian tree with small green leaves and flowers that turn red during the summer. In England, Christmas traditions are similar to those in the United States, but instead of leaving milk and cookies for Santa Claus, children leave mince pies and brandy for Father Christmas! Cool right?

Hanukkah: Hanukkah, which can also be spelled Chanukah, is an 8 day celebration. Jewish people celebrate this holiday. They light a candle on each of 8 days on a menorah, which is a special “lamp holder” meant to hold candles. This started because the Jewish people had won a war and went to a temple where there was only enough oil for one day, but it lasted 8 whole days.

Kwanzaa: Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. He founded the US Organization, a cultural organization, and started to research African “first fruit” (harvest) celebrations. Kwanzaa comes from the phrase “matunda ya kwanza” which means first fruit in Swahili. Families celebrate Kwanzaa with singing, dancing, drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large feast with family! It is held on December 26 and ends on January 1.

Winter Holidays, Continued

Boxing Day: Boxing Day also starts on December 26. It is not celebrated in a lot of countries. The holiday started in the United Kingdom. It was the day when the alms box, collection boxes for the poor often kept in churches, were opened and their content distributed, a tradition that still happens in some areas. It was also the day servants were traditionally given the day off to celebrate Christmas with their families. Boxing Day has now become a public holiday in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, among other countries.

Happy New Year!

by August Passafiume and Theodora Wadid

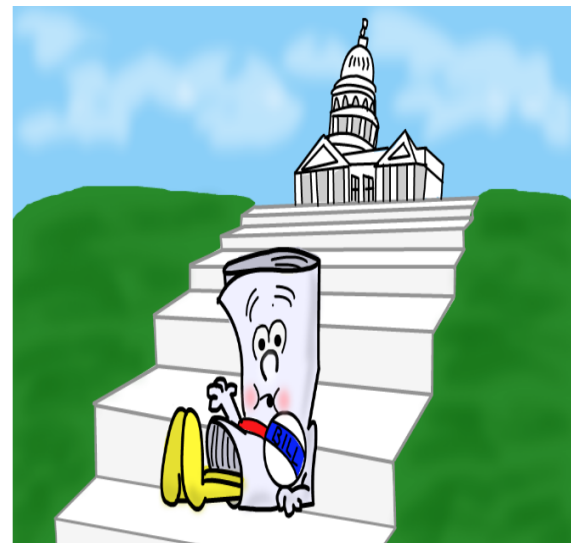
It is the last month of the year! So it has become time to say goodbye to 2020! The new year is almost here! People look forward to the new year because it is a fresh start. People stay up until midnight to either watch or go in person, to see the ball drop in Times Square. Some people eat 12 grapes on New Year's Day to signify the new year! There are so many fun new year traditions from around the world! Some of them are: Wearing White (Brazil), Spring Festival (China), Carrying Suitcases (Colombia), Smashing Plates (Denmark), Burning Effigies (Ecuador), Festival of Saint Basil (Greece), Rosh Hashanah (Israel), and Oshogatsu (Japan). On New Year's Eve, lots of people like to make new year's resolutions. Here are some from our school: A lot of people said helping the earth. Some said breaking bad habits. Some said they did not actually have one. I talked to them, and they said, "I don't have a New Year's resolution because I try to be my best every day." So there you have it. I hope you have a wonderful new year!

4th Grade Presents Bills to President Hogan

by Brandon Robinson

The fourth grade has been studying how a bill becomes a law. We have created bills, and we voted on which should become a law. We were preparing for a class in which Mr. Hogan would be the president of the school and he would decide which bills were passed. Our bills were voted on, and those that won got to go on to Mr. Hogan (President Hogan). They practiced for when they would have to present. When they presented they knew Mr.

Hogan was going to ask tough questions, so the groups that won the votes had to try and edit anything that was incorrect or misspelled. When they finished fixing up the mistakes, they talked about the bills with Mr. Hogan. He gave the people their results and some groups won. Some of the bills that won were no smoking near the school and the other one was not to kill endangered animals.



Holiday Gifts and DIY Projects

by Fatima Bibi

Ho ho ho! Are you tired of staying quarantined for so long? Well, I have the best solution...Holiday crafts! These crafts can be used as gifts, or you can just do them for fun.

Snowman Sticks

All you need: Shish kebab sticks, scissors, tape, white paper, black paper, red paper, orange paper, and glue.

Directions: Using white paper, make a big circle, then make a medium circle, and after that make a small circle. When you are done with that, glue them together by overlapping them like in the picture to the right. Then, using the white paper, make two small circles for the arms and glue them like in the picture. Then, make a nose, a smile, eyes, a Santa hat, or anything else you'd like! Finally, take your stick and tape it to the back of your snowman.



Christmas Tie Dye

All you need: A plain white t-shirt, fork, green and red dye, water, squirt bottles, and large rubber bands.

Directions: First, take your white shirt and set it on a flat surface. Then, make a swirl in your shirt by placing the fork in the middle of the shirt and spinning it. After you do that, secure it with rubber bands around the entire shirt. Mix your red and green dye with water in your squirt bottles, and then you are ready to start coloring! Color the entire shirt in red and green (or you can leave some places white). When you are finished, let the dye soak in for at least 24 hours before rinsing the shirt in cold water, then wash it before wearing.



Grape Leaf and Ground Beef Recipe

by Theodora Wadid

You will need:

- 1 lb of grape leaves
- 1 lb of ground beef
- 2 medium onions
- 10 slices of garlic
- Salt & black pepper
- Ground green parsley

Grape Leaf and Ground Beef, Continued

Instructions:

- Step 1: Chop the onions.
- Step 2: Add the ground beef, onions, salt and pepper, & ground green parsley together in a bowl.
- Step 3: Wash the grape leaves, take off the little end part, and unfold the leaves.
- Step 4: Make the ground beef the size of your index finger and put it on the grape leaves. Roll the leaf around the ground beef. Repeat this step until you run out of beef or grape leaves.
- Step 5: Put all of your beef-filled grape leaves in a pot with 1.5 cups of water, more salt and pepper, and garlic. You can also add 2 tablespoons of butter.
- Step 6: Turn the burner to high for 30 minutes, then low for 30 minutes.
- Step 7: Enjoy!

Cookies & Cream Cheesecake Bundt "Box" Cake Recipe

by Tanay Tabhane

You will need:

- 16 oz cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 box chocolate cake mix, prepared accordingly to box instructions
- 10 chocolate sandwich cookies
- 8 oz high quality chocolate, 60% cocoa content or higher, chopped finely
- 2 cups heavy cream

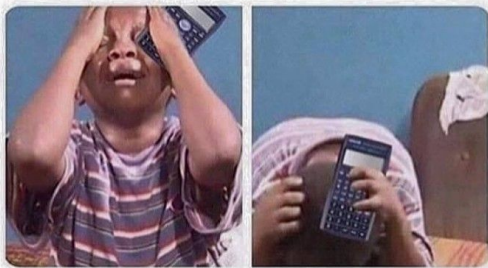
Instructions:

- Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C).
- In a medium bowl, whisk together the cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla extract, stirring until smooth.
- Pour half of the cake batter into the bottom of a greased bundt cake pan, smoothing it with a spatula.
- With an ice cream scoop, scoop the cream cheese mixture evenly onto the cake batter, making sure that it does not touch the sides of the cake pan.
- Place a chocolate sandwich cookie on top of the cream cheese scoops, making a circle around the ring of the pan.
- Pour the rest of the cake batter on top of the cookies, smoothing it evenly.
- Bake for 45 minutes, then cool completely.
- Invert the cake onto a wire rack set on top of a baking tray.
- To make the glaze, microwave the chocolate and the cream together in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until the glaze is smooth and glossy.
- Pour the glaze over the cake, letting the excess drip off the wire rack and onto the baking tray. Once the glaze has set, slice the cake and serve. Enjoy!

Mememes of the Month

by August Passafiume

Option A: 567.89
Option B: 455.78
Option C: 0.3467
Option D: 0.7743
My calculator: 125,990
Me:



One for the kids...



**And one for the parents
(and teachers)!**

**Thank you so much for reading! Look out for Volume 3 in 2021.
Happy holidays and stay safe.**

- The LCCS Newspaper Staff