The Governor Elections

By: Shriyan Dhannode

Did you know that as of November 9th, Ralph Northam was succeeded by Republican representative Glenn Youngkin as governor of Virginia? Glen Youngkin is a 54 year old, 6’7 man who started his political journey this year. He is married to Suzanne Youngkin and has four children.

Youngkin won the election by a very slim margin of 63,480 votes; he won about 50.57% of all the voters. Terry McAuliffe, our governor from 2014-2018, received 48.64% of the votes. Youngkin rallied his voters by telling them that he would get rid of many of the public Covid-19 mandates, remove critical race theory from school curriculums, and remove grocery taxes.

He also called Donald J. Trump on an 11 minute phone call. During that talk, Trump stated that he was a “fantastic guy” and would “do a job like nobody can do.” Glenn Youngkin was inaugurated to office on January 15th, 2022. Youngkin met with our present governor (Ralph Northam) to plan a smooth transition of power on the date of the inauguration. All in all, Youngkin has promised his voters that he will make many changes to Virginia.
COVID-19 update
By Olivia Marcello & Akshay Chapuri

As you probably know, COVID-19 is a deadly virus that has infected millions of people on earth, causing a global pandemic. The pandemic began affecting all LCPS students on March 13, 2020, when an LCPS administrator stated that we would not be attending school for two weeks. Those “two weeks” turned into nearly two years.

The first few cases were recorded in November of 2019. On March 13, the virus started spreading internationally. Lockdowns were initiated and stores and schools started to close. Eventually, the pandemic turned into what we continue to experience today. Luckily, COVID-19 vaccines have now been developed.

The two main vaccines are Moderna and Pfizer. Recently Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine has been certified for the usage of kids from ages 5 through 11. This is a huge step for us as we battle COVID-19. Now, all students that attend elementary school and above can be vaccinated. This is very good news because now students are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, which makes school environments much safer.

Sadly, there are different variants of Covid-19. We just got through the Delta variant but a new one has emerged: Omicron. Therefore we still have to keep our masks on at all times and remain 3-6 feet apart.

According to Our World in Data, over 209 million of 329.5 million people in the United States have been vaccinated. Sadly, there have been 70 million cases and over 880 thousand COVID-19 deaths in the United States alone. Since almost everybody can receive the vaccine now, it is recommended that you get your vaccine as soon as possible!

An Unusual Shortage of Ketchup

By: Supreetha Chennuru

Many students at Stone Hill are now noticing the short supply of ketchup packets available in the cafeteria. This raises the question of why there is such a limited amount of ketchup. Well, it turns out, there is currently a nationwide shortage of it.

As restaurants begin to reopen, there seems to be a preference for single servings of condiments. Hence, there is a limited supply of ketchup packets. Another reason that there seems to be an increase in the demand for ketchup is the large number of people now ordering takeout from restaurants.

Think back to the last time you ordered takeout. Do you recall the number of condiment packets you received? My guess is that the number was much larger than required. To make up for this shortage, Heinz made a statement in which they said that they are working to increase ketchup production by 25%, making a total of 12 billion ketchup packets a year. This is just one shortage in the growing list of items gone scarce due to the current pandemic.

Native American Heritage Month

Rishi Selshe & Karthik Uppalapati

November was Indigenous Peoples Month! November is about honoring Native American traditions, learning about their culture, and admiring their contributions. Did you know that there are still 600 official native tribes in the USA? Even though Europeans nearly wiped the native population out with diseases and brute force, their traditions still lived on. For example: the successors of the Navajo still make the mud-houses called “Hogans” that keep them insulated during the day or night. They even made irrigation canals to get the water from the streams to infiltrate into their crops. There is a lot we can learn from Native Americans.
There are Native Americans all around the country. They could be friends at school, your neighbors, or even people in the news! It’s important to respect all cultures including Native American cultures. Let’s celebrate these amazing Native Americans!

How did Native Americans originally come to North America?
Anthropologists believe that the first inhabitants of America originated in Eurasia (a combination of Europe and Asia). About 20,000 years ago, they crossed the Bering Land Bridge that connected North America and Eurasia. Eventually, the land bridge melted and sea levels rose due to the end of the last Ice Age. It also released huge amounts of fresh water. Over time, the Native Americans adapted to their environment based on the climate, choices of food, and surroundings. It even impacted the traditions they have to this day.

Native Americans have a rich history from the last Ice Age to the present! They made peace with the British, and had a feast together (in 1621) which became known as Thanksgiving. Even though Europeans took over the Native American’s land and tried to get rid of their customs, they managed to keep their traditions alive by relying on their language, paintings and sculptures. Today the tribes located in the Columbia River Basin are trying to restore whole ecosystems in their area by using science, and traditional ecological knowledge: the methods tribes have used in the past. Now you know a few facts about the first people of America, but there is still plenty for all of us to learn. Happy Native American Heritage Month everybody!


Sports Section

Novak Djokovic’s Way to Victory

Diya Chada

Serbian 20 time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic is one of the most talented tennis players of the early 21st century. Djokovic was born on May 22, 1987, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. He took up tennis at age four and quickly ascended
the junior ranks. He became Europe’s top-ranked 14-and-under player and later, the number one 16-and-under player before starting his professional career in 2003.

Novak Djokovic came to the Tokyo Olympics aiming for a Grand Slam. Sadly he left without any medal and needed time to recover from a draining game in extreme conditions that didn’t meet his expectations.

In many of Novak’s matches, he loses the first set but has a major comeback later in the game and ends up winning the next three sets. Novak Djokovic has the grit to push through his troubles, and usually ends up winning. Students at Stone Hill can be inspired by Djokovic’s perseverance and try their best to achieve their goals.

Editor's Note: Since the writing of this article, Djokovic has withdrawn from the Australian Open due to a legal issue with his visa to Australia.

Entertainment

Music in 2021
Cheytna Chepuri

As many people have different tastes in music, but according to Spotify there were a few different songs and genres that were the most popular last year. Pop won the most popular genre in 2021. Hip-Hop was the runner up and got second in the most popular music genre. Rock is the 3rd most popular genre. Electronic and Dance is the fourth most popular genre. Latin is the 5th most popular genre. These are the top music genres in 2021.

The most popular song released this year is Drivers License by Olivia Rodrigo which garnered over 1.1 billion streams! The runner up for most popular song is Call Me By Your Name by Lil Nas X. Kid Laroi enters third place for the first time with his and Justin Bieber’s collaboration titled Stay. In fourth place,
Olivia Rodrigo enters once again, this time with her wonderful song Good 4 U. Her song won Spotify Song of the Summer. Finally, in fifth place is Levitating by Dua Lipa.

The most popular songwriter in 2021 is Olivia Rodrigo. Olivia Rodrigo took the top prize at the Apple Music Awards this year. She also wrote and released the most popular song this year! The most popular songwriter and guitarist is none other than Ed Sheeran. The one-man pop song writer won the MTV Europe music award for best song in 2021. There are so many popular artists. Who is your favorite?

The most liked song in SHMS is Industry Baby by Lil Nas X, according to a poll conducted by SHMS resource teacher Mrs. Ryan. The second most popular song is Sweater Weather by Neighborhood. The third most popular song is Heat Waves by Glass Animals. The fourth most popular song is House of Memories. The fifth most popular song is Levitating by Dua Lipa and Dababy. Is your favorite song on here?

Among Us
By: Siddarth Palaniappan

Among Us is a video game that took the world by surprise. It is enjoyed by millions of people around the world, including many Stone Hill students. Among Us games are each 5-10 minutes long and full of mystery. Among Us is a 2D game. In these games, you have a chance to be the Imposter or the Crewmate. Being the Imposter is a lot rarer than being a Crewmate. The Crewmate’s job is to complete tasks to save the spaceship, while the Imposter’s job is to sabotage them by killing players in private. The crewmates can vote on who is the Imposter to knock them out.

One example of a Crewmate’s task is to slide a digital card through a card reader. While doing all these tasks they have to try to find the Imposter. Most people prefer playing as an Imposter, since it’s known to be a lot more fun.
Imposters have special abilities like venting and eliminating other players. Venting is when you go into a vent and emerge from somewhere else. Recently, they added new roles like Engineer, Shapeshifter, and even Scientist. Each of them has special abilities. For example, a Shapeshifter can change into someone else. There’s a term in Among Us when someone thinks someone else might be the Imposter. They call them “sus.” Among Us is known as a game full of mystery and suspense.

Popular content creators such as Sundee make videos about Among Us. Among Us also comes with a lot of mods. Mods change up the game. It might add roles or even change the whole game mechanics. Among Us will remain popular for days to come!

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**Viewpoints**

**Christmas Traditions from all over the World**

By: Aditi Annamareddy

Did you know that Japan eats KFC for Christmas, and that Italy’s Santa is actually an old witch who eats broccoli instead of Christmas cookies? Our world is full of interesting holiday traditions that you may never have heard of before. Do you want to know what Iceland, Mexico, and other countries do for Christmas? Then keep reading to find out.

**The Yule Cat- Iceland**

The reason behind every native Icelanders supposedly strange desire for new clothes around Christmas time is not strange at all due to the scary and not so merry, Yule Cat. The Yule Cat is a furry black cat who eats every person who doesn’t buy new clothes around Christmas time. The festive feline likes to warn...
couch potatoes or children of unproductive workers. What a strange way to spread Christmas spirit!

The Night of the Radishes - Mexico
It is said that in Oaxaca, a Mexican state, there is a rather... peculiar relationship with radishes. Every night, a couple days before Christmas, there is a festival. Thousands of sculptures made out of vegetables present themselves, and the people have a feast at the end. The winner takes home a big prize, and millions of sculptures come to present their sculptures.

KFC for Christmas Dinner - Japan
In Japan, you won't find Eggnog, Pudding and Gingerbread Men. Instead, a huge platter of burgers and chicken nuggets is laid out in front of you. Many people in Japan enjoy a nice meal of KFC chicken. KFC dinner at Christmas is so popular that you have to order this crispy treat 2 months in advance in order to have it ready by Christmas!

La Befana - Italy
A kind old lady, by the name of Befana, is said to come Christmas night, through the chimney, and instead of Christmas cookies, find a plate of spiced sausage and broccoli to eat before stuffing the stockings on the wall and leaving gifts at the tree. She flies to the next house on her chimney and does it all over again. Children wake up on January 6th to find beautifully wrapped presents on Christmas morning.

Did you enjoy learning about these interesting holiday traditions? I sure did! Please share your favorite holiday traditions with us on our website.
Coming Back to School
By: Divy Mahesh

After a long year of distance learning, being back at school was a relief for many students. As an 8th grader, I was in school for most of my 6th-grade year before going virtual. Virtual school had its pros, such as attending class in the comfort of one’s bedroom, eating in class, and not having to walk through the crowded hallways to each class. However, virtual school posed a large number of problems as well, such as glitches, internet problems, and noise issues. Now that we have transitioned back into in-person school and been in school for nearly a semester, I decided to ask some people and see which type of schooling is better, and the problems they faced in in-person schooling.

“Being in in-person school for a quarter now, many ups and downs have stood out to me. Getting to class on time, doing projects with friends, opening the lockers, meeting and talking to new people and making friends, and studying for tests are just some of the challenges that I faced.” says sixth grader, Leana Paradkar. “Many pressure points of in-person school were presenting items and taking tests. Standing up in front of the room was always nerve-racking and now after a year of seeing people on screen, it was hard to face everyone in person. Something I had used to overcome this struggle was first presenting it to my family and then to my class.”

In the end, both types of schooling held its pressure points and struggles, but coming back to school was hard to cope with. Whether you were a 6th grader, 7th grader or an 8th grader, in person school creates lots of stress. However, coming back to school also made way for students to connect, participate, and interact more. Students and teachers were able to enjoy school seeing faces instead of the same, old icons. Both first quarters had their own ups and downs, but I’m confident that our next quarter this year will be even better. Remember stingrays to always S.W.I.M together!
Is Math The Most Important Subject?

By: Clara Vernon

Many think that math is the most important subject, but is this really true? Let’s look at the facts.

Math seems to pop up a lot in everybody’s life with this ongoing debate going on and on. A Gallup survey taken in 2002 seems to seal the deal: 34% of people who took this survey voted math was the most important subject. Despite the tremendous amount of votes for math, English still came close with 24%. This may not seem like a lot but you may be surprised by the votes for other subjects. Other subjects such as science and history got very low votes with science at 4% and history at 7%.

These results seem to prove that most people would agree math is the most important subject, but is it? A later *Gallup vote taken in 2013 showed higher results in science and history; however, math seemed to stay put (though it still came out on top with 34%). As of 2013, English dropped to 21%. It seems that more people started to move towards other subjects and leave English with even lower votes. Besides the clear champion math and the runner up English, more and more people seem to notice the importance of science and history. Science rose to 8% and is now at 12%, while history went 1% higher to 8%.
Still a lot of people would not agree with these results. In fact in the 2013 survey, 2% voted Art, Theater, and Music; 1% even voted for a foreign language. Although these are important results, they only come from adults, and when we lean towards people of different ages, results start to change. Math votes from people that are in high school or younger are much higher at 43%. What happened to English: It has fallen even lower now at 19%, with science at 9%. History stays the same at 8%. As you can see, people vote differently based on their opinions. Though this debate will probably never have a factual answer, it is your opinion that counts. What do you think? Is math the most important subject?

Extras

Fun Trivia!!

By: Akshay Chapuri

Try your luck at our fun trivia quiz!

https://forms.gle/TwNy1yRZJdLMRcAeA

Thank you for reading this week’s edition of The Stingray Times!

Keep scrolling down to see our photo credits & link to our website

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Native American Heritage Month


COVID-19 vaccine now available for ages 5-11!

"United States of America." Data Commons, datacommons.org/place/country/USA?utm_medium=explore&mprop=count&popt=Person&hl=en.


Our World in Data, ourworldindata.org/.


An Unusual Shortage of Ketchup

Leffler, S. (2021, April 7). There’s a shortage of single-serve ketchup packets because people have been ordering so much Takeout. Food Network, There’s a Shortage of Single-Serve Ketchup Packets Because People Have Been Ordering So Much Takeout | FN Dish - Behind-the-Scenes, Food Trends, and Best Recipes : Food Network

Heinz ketchup shortage 2021: The condiment is in high demand at restaurants, fast-food chains. (2021, April 6), USA TODAY. https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/food/2021/04/06/heinz-to-mato-ketchup-shortage-2021/7105139002/

Novak Djokovic’s Way to Victory

Novak Djokovic - Students | Britannica Kids | Homework Help