

THE WARRIOR WITNESS

The latest news and updates from the Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation.

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FOR SUCCESS**

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and more!



JOEL KOUAM FOR REUTERS, COURTESY OF QUARTZ AFRICA.
DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST INDEPENDENCE FOR
ANGLOPHONE REGIONS OF CAMEROON, LATE 2017.

Africa Is Bleeding

By Marie Toure

In Nigeria, the EndSARS movement has caused protests to erupt all over the country and some Nigerian celebrities even used social media as a platform to speak on this. This is because SARS, the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, has been targeting and killing Nigerian citizens for no apparent reason.

There's no denying these protests deserve international attention, but many other countries in Africa are experiencing crises that are not getting that same attention. For over four years now, a civil war called the Anglophone Crisis has been raging on in Cameroon. The bilingual country has been divided because the English speaking Cameroonians want to create a new nation called Ambazonia. As a result of this thirst for independence, "they have terrorized civilians and attacked government forces," pushing the military to retaliate with brute force.

According to QuartzAfrica, “over 5,000 soldiers, separatist fighters and civilians have been killed” since this crisis started. Even more recently, 6 children were killed and 13 injured in a fatal school shooting. As of today in Cameroon, 969,000 people are displaced, 855,000 children remain out of school in the Anglophone regions and over 60,000 Cameroonians have fled to neighboring Nigeria. To add on, Liberia declared rape a national emergency. Since the pandemic hit, rape against young women and children has increased by 50%. Tensions have erupted in Guinea and Ivory Coast over

🇳🇮 Nigeria #EndSARS 🧢

🇨🇩 Congo-#CongolsBleeding

🇳🇦 Namibia #ShutItAllDown

🇿🇦 South Africa #AmINext

🇨🇲 Cameroon #AnglophoneCrisis

🇱🇮 Liberia #RapeNationalEmergency

🇮🇻 Ivory Coast and 🇬🇦 Ghana

#ChildTrafficking

Africa is bleeding 💔

Africa deserves better 💔

Justice for Africa 💔

their presidents' running for controversial 3rd terms. Protests and riots have become the new normal, leaving hundreds dead and injured at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them. Child trafficking rates have been skyrocketing in Ghana and Ivory Coast. The children in question are being taken from Mali and Burkina Faso and are being forced to work in cocoa farms in these countries. In Senegal, over 400 young men and women died at sea while trying to reach the coast of Europe. Senegal and the whole of West Africa is grieving the losses of so many young lives. As an African, I am hurt and very saddened by what is going on in Africa. Africa is bleeding. Africa deserves way better than this.

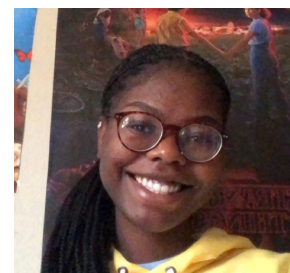
6 Inno Seniors Accepted to Virginia State University

by Warrior Witness Staff

On November 12th, Innovation hosted our second annual onsite admissions event with Virginia State University. Organized by our very own Ms. Tina Jones, an alumna of VSU and the 11th grade CCR teacher, the event was a great success. Six seniors were accepted on the spot! Many CONGRATULATIONS are in order to:

Terrell Anderson
Darnell Bates
Joyce Fezeu
Hulaymatou Tambadou
Alliyah Noble
Zoë Whitehead-Evans

Zoë, a staff writer for *the Warrior Witness*, was "really excited," about the acceptance. "It's my dream to go to an HBCU," she told *the Witness*. "I think the culture [at VSU] is amazing and I would feel comfortable If I went there."



INNO NEWS

Over a Hundred Students Attend Virtual College Info Sessions

by Warrior Witness Staff



Although it feels more and more like time is standing still these days, one thing will never stop: the college admissions process. Juniors and seniors have been anxiously researching, trying to make their plans for the future in this unprecedentedly unstable time. Innovation's College and Career Readiness department has risen to the occasion, organizing online, Zoom-based information sessions so that students can ask questions to college representatives directly.

Over the last few weeks, over a hundred juniors and seniors attended some of these info sessions, meeting with representatives of SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Geneseo, Mercy College, Lincoln University, and Virginia State University--which accepted six seniors in a whirlwind of an on-the-spot admissions session (see above). "The sessions have been great," reports CCR teacher Tina Jones, who organized many of the sessions, along with Melissa Johnson, Martha Sotelo, and Tereena Somayya. "And students have been asking amazing questions!"

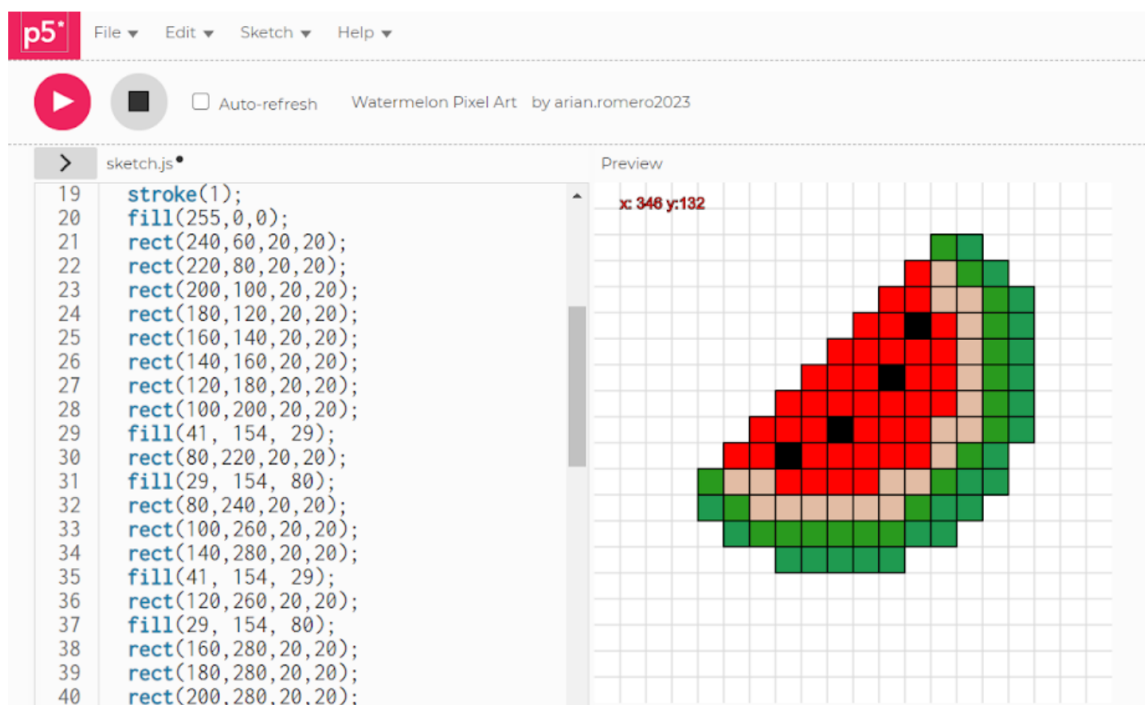
201 SEP Students Complete Pixel Art Graphics Project

Multiple Contributors: special thanks to Sean Pawlec and Matthew Boyle

In Innovation's Software Engineering Program, students have created pixel art pieces. We believe the students' voices speak volumes, so please view their art, including their code and descriptions of their work. In some cases, the pixel art pieces below took hundreds of lines of code to create and some images of code have been removed due to space constraints.

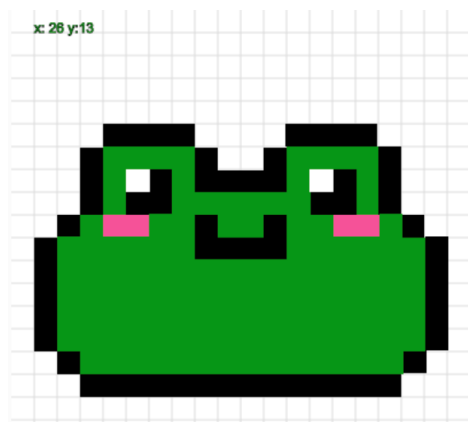
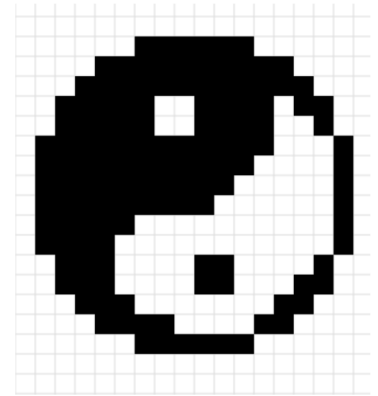
Editor's note: It's amazing how much work and attention to detail went into these projects. We were blown away reading about how these were made, and all the thought and choices that went into each one. Many, many thanks to Matt, Sean, and the SEP students who were kind enough to let us feature their work in the Warrior Witness. Congratulations on creating these beautiful and personal pieces of digital art!

Arian Romero: I wanted to create something that was simple and really nice looking at first glance. So, I created a watermelon. I had to get the outline of the watermelon first. Once I had the outline, it was simple from there to add the colors but I wanted it to look real or close to real. So I used a color picker and looked at an image of a watermelon to determine what colors looked closest to the shell of an actual watermelon. I then added the seeds to the watermelon which was a bit difficult because I had to use at least 4 fills to change the colors over and over again to make it look nice. For the final part, I added a stroke to the code because without the stroke code, there were no lines that separated each pixel from each other which made it look like a mush and not like pixel art. Stroke increases the width of the lines so they look visible and fill lets you pick which color you want a pixel to be or a square if you will. It follows a R,G,B format (255,255,255). The watermelon came out great and it was a really simple but awesome little thing to work on. Even though it's small, creating it took over 100 lines of code!



Nguiba Ouattara: Making a pixel arts project is not easy if you are making a big one, and that is what I did because I wanted to show off what I can do. First thing I did was think of what I wanted to do. Next I had to find the picture to illustrate for my drawing and then code it. The project was easy but it was time-consuming since I had so many codes, but I had fun and would like to do something like this again in the future.

Marie Toure: For these past few weeks, we have been working on Pixel Art design in SEP. First, I had to get an initial code from Matt, one of the SEP teachers, to get me started. Then, I had to choose a design and start working on it just by looking at a picture. Getting the design perfect wasn't easy. I had to start over a few times to get everything in the right spot. I had to use codes such as conditionals (if... then) and loops and a lot more. My pixel art design is the symbol for yin and yang. I picked that one in particular because the meaning behind it is amazing.



Lailah Melendez: In SEP, we created a pixel art piece. For my pixel art project, I created a frog using different types of code. In my code, I used `rect(x,y,w,h)` and `fill()` to create the frog. We were provided with a grid in the preview section where you can see how your project is coming together and the squares in the grid allowed us to know where to code our rects. It took a while to get the color in the correct place because I didn't want the green color to overlap any of the other colors but in the end I was able to avoid that. In conclusion, this was a fun project to create.

```

> sketchjs Saved: 9 days ago
1 function setup() {
2   createCanvas(400, 400);
3 }
4
5 function draw() {
6   background(255);
7   //Don't change any code below....
8   stroke(220);
9   for(i=20;i<400;i+=20){
10    line(i,0,i,400);
11  }
12  for(i=20;i<400;i+=20){
13    line(0,i,400,i);
14  }
15  stroke(0);
16  text('x: '+mouseX+' y: '+mouseY,20,20);
17  //Don't change any code above...
18  //Start your code below, for example:
19  noStroke();
20  fill(0,0,0);
21  rect(160,141,80,20);
22  rect(160,121,20,20);
23  rect(220,121,20,20);
24  rect(239,100,80,20);

```

```

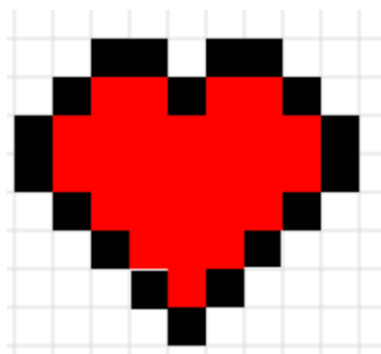
> sketchjs Saved: 9 days ago
25 rect(80,100,80,20);
26 rect(60,121,20,60);
27 rect(320,120,20,60);
28 rect(40,180,20,20);
29 rect(340,180,20,20);
30 rect(20,200,20,100);
31 rect(361,199,20,100);
32 rect(40,300,20,20);
33 rect(342,299,20,20);
34 rect(60,320,280,20);
35 fill(5,150,22);
36 rect(80,120,80,20);
37 rect(80,120,20,60);
38 rect(60,180,20,140);
39 rect(40,199,20,101);
40 rect(60,300,282,20);
41 rect(321,179,20,140);
42 rect(341,200,20,100);
43 rect(300,160,20,20);
44 rect(300,120,20,40);
45 rect(240,120,80,20);
46 fill(255,255,255);
47 rect(100,140,20,20);
48 rect(260,140,20,20);
49 fill(0,0,0);

```

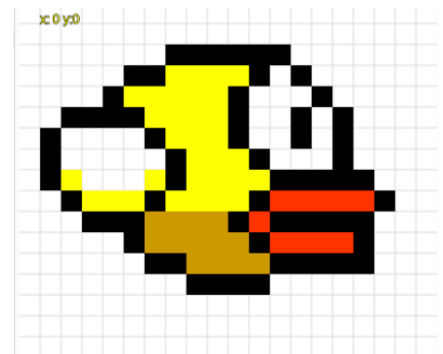
```

48 rect(260,140,20,20);
49 fill(0,0,0);
50 rect(121,140,20,40);
51 rect(100,160,21,20);
52 rect(281,140,20,40);
53 rect(261,160,20,20);
54 fill(5,150,22);
55 rect(140,140,20,40);
56 rect(160,160,101,20);
57 rect(240,140,20,20);
58 fill(245,81,152);
59 rect(80,180,40,20);
60 rect(281,180,40,20);
61 fill(0,0,0);
62 rect(160,180,20,40);
63 rect(180,200,40,20);
64 rect(220,180,20,40);
65 fill(5,150,22);
66 rect(180,180,40,20);
67 rect(240,180,41,20);
68 rect(120,179,40,20);
69 rect(80,199,80,101);
70 rect(240,199,81,101);
71 rect(160,219,90,90);
72 }

```



Aaniyah Johnson

Gianmarco
Tenescamoraes

Precious Delgado

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AND CLASSES

Google Classroom Codes for After School Clubs and Activities:

Please reach out to teachers for more information if you would like to join!

Wellness 360 with Kamona

CODE: qm42e7p

Creative Writing with Leighton

CODE: yx43d62

She Unit Divine with Tina and Melissa

CODE: wugvpw4

Kicks Academy with Michael

CODE: 5z2xkhh

Culinary Arts with Chef G

CODE: tuupqmn

Run for Ahmaud and Social Justice with Joey

CODE: 74wutxp

Debate Club with Ivan

CODE: q67cwlj

Software Engineering with Matt and Sean

CODE: dqniyoz

Movie Club with Leslie and Chris

CODE: om4iod

Recording Studio with Damen

CODE: 5chbsa

Rainbow Rangers with Tyree, Anna S., Anna P., Rachel, Karen, and Andrew

CODE: dag2emb

Inside Innovation's New Debate Club

By Abou Togola

Ivan Nikolov, ELA teacher and the host of the debate club, came up with the debate club to help the students develop essential skills of public speaking, using persuasive techniques, logical reasoning and research that they will use later in college. Ivan's intention for the club is to have students discuss various controversial issues of their own choice and sharpen their skills of argumentation by preparing and participating in debates over zoom.

Students meet every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. where they come prepared with their own topic to discuss. So far debates have covered a range of topics that have included women's right to abortion, invasion of privacy by the government, and conversations centered around personal freedoms.

There is an open enrollment for the club and they are always looking for new participants to join! I would recommend everyone to join this club as it sounds fun and engaging! Email Ivan with any questions.

ivan.nikolov@innovationhighschool.org

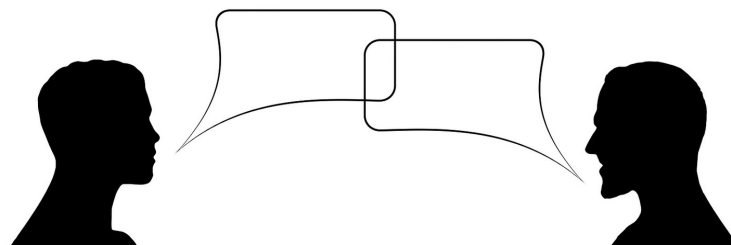


IMAGE COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Culinary Arts CTE Program is a Recipe For Success

by Warrior Witness Staff

Even in a digital learning environment, Innovation Chefs-In-Training were able to have a memorable experience entering the Jr. Chef Cooking Competition held by the Culinary Arts program at Innovation High School. Led by “Chef G,” Gerardo Vega, our Chefs-in-Training were encouraged to enter video recordings of their cooking process as they presented meals that were creative and well balanced. Students used an array of virtual skills to display their knowledge and mastery over their craft. They received feedback, the quality of which could only be rivaled by professionals on the Food Network, from a panel of judges that included Patrick Donovan, Jamilah Abdul-Majid, Don Q, and David Bermudez.

Chef G told *the Warrior Witness*, “I wanted to provide an opportunity for students to test their cooking skills and allow them to forget, if only for a moment, the emotional distress that they are feeling due to COVID-19. I believe that this competition achieved that purpose. It provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships between students and their respective families as it transformed each individual kitchen into an interactive environment conducive to learning.”

This Jr. Chef competition marks the dawn of a truly transformative time for the Culinary Arts program at Innovation as the school awaits state certification to further our Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings for all students. After a long hiatus,



PHOTO BY RADOMIR TODIC

contractors have installed a hood system with overhead ducts and a new ventilation system in the school kitchen. In the coming months, contractors will work to finish professional tiling of the island in the hot cooking line area, and will be installing top of the line commercial equipment like grills, griddles, stoves and ovens. Our school community eagerly awaits the launch of the spring Jr. Chef competition which will already holds the promise of being a smashing success! After years of planning, patience, and hard work it is a joy for all to see this come to fruition.

Distance Learning: How do students really feel?

By Chanel Moris Garcia

As of March 2020, most schools in NYC have resorted to distance learning due to COVID-19. Innovation High School is just one of many teaching and learning in an entirely online format, and our students have been deeply affected. One topic that has come to light during this pandemic for students is mental health. I'm positive that we've all had negative thoughts, or even gotten in moods that we were unsure of during this time.

I hope everyone reading this understands that you are not alone. We are a community that will forever be there for each other. School can be very stressful and it's okay to feel overwhelmed. Make sure to stay positive throughout all the madness! In order to lighten the mood and get some insight into how others are feeling, I've interviewed Nathalie Pineda, a senior at Innovation, in order to get more intel on how the shift has impacted her mental health. She too has struggled mentally and she wants to ensure that people understand that it can get better. I got straight to the point, asking, "Has your mental health gotten better or worse due to distance learning?"

Nathalie stated, "My mental health has definitely gotten better. I don't struggle to get ready in the morning or take the long trip to school. I can finish my school work on my own time while still focusing on my business. I'm also glad I'm not being exposed to any viruses in school."

I'm sure we can all relate to that, right? I also wanted to know how Nathalie had been feeling before the pandemic hit and distance learning started. She explained, "My anxiety would get the best of me in school. It was hard to interact with the students and teachers around me and I would constantly be late to school due to stress." The last question I asked was, "How have you stayed positive through distance learning?" Nathalie lit up. She told me, "I spend time perfecting my craft and hanging out with my loved ones. It feels good to be comfortable with where I am now mentally. It definitely gets better!" That brought an end to my interview with Nathalie. I encourage students to take her answers into consideration. If she can do it, you can too. Always remember, it's a bad day, not a bad life.

If you're feeling down, first remember, you're not alone. Reach out to your counselor if you need to vent! Here are some numbers you can call too. Mental Health Hotline: 800-662-4357 Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255

Introducing the Warrior Witness' First Student & Staff Art Contest

by Warrior Witness Staff

Calling all painters, sketchers, collagers, photographers, designers, and doodlers - the Warrior Witness is organizing our first art contest for the students and staff of Innovation.

Submissions will be judged blindly, meaning no identifying information will be included when the judges see the work.

Our judging panel will be chaired by the lovely Anna Sgherzi, who will be joined by two other staff members not participating in the contest.

Thanks also to Pablo for generously offering prizes from the school store! The top three pieces will be featured in Issue 3 of *the Warrior Witness*.



THE WARRIOR WITNESS
art contest

Students and staff are invited to submit one piece of artwork (any 2-dimensional media) for the Warrior Witness' first ever art contest. Submissions must be original and appropriate for a school audience.

THEME: Winter Wonderland

Email submissions to Andrew Cortazzo
by Monday, December 14th 2020



Senior Committee wants you to know...

Here are some events to put on your calendar:

- Senior Trip: Friday, May 21st, 2021
- Prom: Thursday, June 3rd, 2021
- Graduation: Tuesday, June 29th, 2021

Students must be on track to graduate by August 2021, cannot be missing more than 2 credits, and cannot be missing more than 1 Regent with 15 points away from a passing score to walk.

Questions? Email:
senioractivities@innovationhighschool.org

To attend the senior trip and prom, you must earn 500 I-Bucks and not have any major disciplinary infractions.

For the trip: you cannot receive two or more final grades of 55 in Semester 1.

For prom: same - but through Marking Period 5.

Announcements

From Senior Committee & Yearbook

SCHOOL-WIDE REMOTE PICTURE DAY

- December 9th from 9am - 3pm
- Look out for more information! Questions? senioractivities@innovationhighschool.org

From the College and Career Readiness Department

All grades are invited to attend STEM CAREER EXPLORATION virtual Zoom meetings

- December 8th - Panel and Q&A with STEM professionals @ 3:15pm
- Email Martha with any questions and to RSVP
 - Martha.Sotelo@innovationhighschool.org

From the Yearbook

SENIORS! We need photos from you!

- Please send a landscape (horizontal) photograph of yourself, head and shoulders, for the cover of the yearbook
- If you want to, send a baby picture (up to age 5)
- Email Anna P. with any questions and to send photos:
 - Anna.Press@innovationhighschool.org

From the Digital Resources Team

There will no longer be set distribution times to pick up laptops or wifi hotspot devices, but you may make an appointment to come by for tech support/replacements.

If you have any tech issues, email the Digital Resources team and someone will reply ASAP.

Digitalresources@innovationhighschool.org

Have a story for The Warrior Witness?

We'd LOVE to hear it! Reach out to any of our student reporters or to Anna or Andrew if you've got an announcement, scoop, story, suggestion, or question for *the Warrior Witness*!



New Section Alert!

We're proud to introduce our Fun & Games section, at the end of *the Warrior Witness*. This month, we have a crossword puzzle, a Sudoku, and a Thanksgiving-themed word search to keep you busy over the holiday break.

Students, if you think you've got the crossword solved, email your answers to Anna or Andrew, and get 50 I-bucks deposited in your account!

Next time, look forward to Mad Libs written by our student reporters, and horoscopes by Innovation's own resident astrologer, Ben Caraballo.

Shout Outs!

From Emily and the Office

So far, the following students are doing an amazing job of keeping up with their work and have perfect, or near-perfect, attendance for Marking Period 2! Keep up the great work, folks! We're proud of your efforts and you should be too!

Acevedo, Evalyn
Adorno, Edgar
Akthar, Lebeyah
Almonte, Wilson
Alvarez, Troy
Amastal, Joceli
Arcos Acosta, Wilmer Josue
Ayende, Kiaralis
Baez, Armelle
Bah, Elhadj
Balla, Amina
Bates, Darnell
Belduma, Kimberly
Benitez, Omarielys
Binion, Chelsea
Burke, London
Calderon, Adison
Carlos, Arianna
Cerrato, Arianjeliz
Chisholm, Jade
Cole, Kemani
Cortes, Brianna
Cruz Velazquez, Aidyl
Cuesta, Wilmarie
Da Silva, Ines
Davis, Taylor
Delgado, Precious
Diallo, Bailor
Dubose, Dante
Encarnacion, Julio
Falcon, Mia
Fofanah, Alpha
Garcia Lopez, Jada
Garcia, Gabrielle
Gonzalez Lucero, Arianna

Gutierrez, Albanely
Habersham, Jordan
Henry, Avaysia
Hill, Emmanuel
Hill, Kashiya
Hopewell, Kayla
Hunt, Jalaine
Hunt, Salajah
Islam, Mohammad
Jackson, Ayana
Jimenez, Anderson
Lewis, Qi'ane
Luzon, Liliana
Maldonado, Keira
Maxwell-Bowden, Isaiah
McBride, Aaron
McTeer, Jeremiah
Melendez, Lailah
Mitchell, Teleshia
Morillo, Lis
Myles, Nieam
Ortiz, Angel
Paniagua, Christopher

Pearson, Aniya
Pedro-Hernandez, Alexander
Ramdeo, Justin
Ramirez, Oscar
Richardson, Rebekah
Rivera, Brianna
Rivera, Giovanni
Rodriguez, Breanna
Romero, Arian
Rosser, Jaden
Russell, Lawrence
Sanchez, Lucas
Sharwah, Faez
Soumbounou, Fanta
Sow, Sekou
Tacuri, Alan
Tacuri, Angelica
Toure, Marie
Trent, Nasir
Washington, Adonis
Whitehead-Evans, Zoe
Wigfall, Kashif
Zhibri Tamay, Edison



SayHerName:

The Movement that Recognizes Black Women

By Zoe Whitehead-Evans

The Black woman is said to be one of the most unprotected in the world. They are also said to be the most disrespected and discriminated against. The SAY HER NAME movement advocates for the overwhelming number of Black women harmed or killed by police brutality. It was painful to watch Black men become more names on a very long list of police-related deaths. Now we have to add Black women to that list, women who are mothers, daughters, aunts, grandmothers etc. People in their own right. The phrase SAY HER NAME was around for a very long time, coined by the AAPF, the African-American Policy Forum, but was maximized by the suspicious death of Sandra Bland in July 2015. Bland was found dead while in police custody after allegedly assaulting a police officer during a traffic stop.

This phrase allows people to never forget these Black women and for people to know that we will never stop looking for justice for these women. There are hundreds and hundreds of women whose names we cannot forget. Black women are almost always unseen and unnoticed and their pain is ignored. They are the most susceptible to sexual assault and abuse at the hands of authority figures such as cops. The same goes for Black trans women, lesbians and gender non-conforming people.



PHOTO BY IRA L. BLACK/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES

"Black women are almost always unseen and unnoticed and their pain is ignored."

For example, the death of unarmed Mya Hall, a 27-year-old Black transgender woman, shot to death by officers in 2015, or Nina Pop, who was murdered this year, only 28 years old. This statement, SAY HER NAME is a call for attention to recognize the frequency of violence against Black Women and to ensure their stories are heard and understood.

#SayHerName: this is only a partial list of women recognized by the SayHerName movement. For more information about the movement, and to read more about the history of violence against Black women in America, visit the AAPF's website: <https://aapf.org/sayhernamereport>

Aiyana Stanley Jones
Cynnya McMillen
Kayla Moore
Alesia Thomas
Alexia Christian
Atatiana Jefferson
Aura Rosser
Duanna Johnson
Eleanor Bumpurs
Bettie Jones
Nina Pop

Alberta Spruill
Breonna Taylor
India Beaty
Kemora James
Charleena Lyles
India Kacer
Kisha Aaron
Danette Daniels
Janet Wilson
Kindra Chapman
Kathryn Johnston

Deborah Danner
Janisha Fonville
Kisha Michael
Decynthia Clements
Jessica Williams
Korryn Canines
Frankie Ann Perkins
Joyce Curnell
Kyam Livingstom
Gabriella Nevarez
Latandria Ellington

Did you know?

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual, national event recognizing and commemorating transgender people whose lives have been taken by hate crimes. It began in 1998 when a Black trans woman, Rita Hester, was murdered, and a trans rights advocate, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, organized a vigil the following year in her memory. Since then, TDOR has been observed every November 20th, an opportunity for collective mourning, grief, memory, and resilience. Smith explained, "With so many seeking to erase transgender people - sometimes in the most brutal ways possible - it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ERIE READER

Read more about TDOR and violence against transgender people in America on the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's website: www.glaad.org

A Woman's Right to Abortion

By Qi'Ane Lewis

In America women have been fighting for abortion rights for since abortion was first legislated in the 1800s. The situation has only gotten worse in recent years. The government has started putting restrictions on women getting abortions because they feel it is wrong to have an abortion. Every woman should have rights to her own body but according to new laws passed by state politicians, "a woman's ability to get access to an abortion depends on her zipcode," (NWLC). According to the National Women's Law Center, "Anti-abortion politicians in the states are creating a patchwork of laws that make the ability to get an abortion subject to where you live. And some politicians in Congress are trying to limit abortion nationwide." Many people, such as the men that govern this country, are trying to take away rights to abortion. These restrictions can cause many problems in today's society and can cause many health issues and that could lead to possible deaths.

According to Nora Ellman, "anti-abortion legislators at the state level continue to advance dangerous, medically unnecessary abortion restrictions. These laws disproportionately affect those whose access to abortion care is already most limited, including people of color, young people, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, LGBTQ people, and people in rural areas, among others." Since these increasing

restrictions predominantly affect women, I asked a woman how she feels about her right's possibly being taken away. She preferred not to be named, but told me, "I feel a woman should be able to make a choice with her body and her decisions. I do believe in cases if a woman is raped, she may not want to carry a child," and that she should not be forced to carry that pregnancy to term. She added, "I also believe women should practice precaution of unwanted pregnancies to avoid having an abortion, as it is a human life."



IMAGE CREDIT: SIMONE NORONHA / FOR NBC NEWS

Editor's note: Qi'Ane recommends the NWLC website for further reading on this topic.
<https://nwlc.org/issue/abortion/>

The Supreme Court Hears a Case About LGBTQ Rights

By Lailah Melendez

In 2018, the Supreme Court was presented with a case from a Catholic adoption agency named Catholic Social Services. CSS stated they believe same-sex households shouldn't be allowed to foster and adopt children. They believe if they match foster kids with same-sex couples, it violates their religious beliefs. Philadelphia refused to refer the agency new foster kids after finding out CSS' policy, and the agency filed to sue. CSS claims that Philadelphia violated their First Amendment right, and they want Philadelphia to both renew their contract and allowing them to refuse same-sex couples as foster parents.



ABOVE: JUSTICE AMY CONEY BARRETT, A LAST-MINUTE NOMINEE BY FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP, IS VERY CONSERVATIVE AND POPULAR AMONG THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT. PHOTO BY ERIN SCOTT FOR REUTERS, COURTESY OF CNBC.

Philadelphia can, and has chosen to enforce anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBTQ people. On November 4th, the oral case was heard by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court could create a law that allows agencies to deny service to LGBTQ citizens hoping to be foster parents or to adopt. LGBTQ people get discriminated everyday and this case shows that they are facing more discrimination. While this is said to be an issue of religious freedom, CNBC reports that some are concerned a future ruling by the Supreme Court could even affect other vulnerable groups such as Muslims and Jewish people - making this not an issue of religious freedom, but about certain groups' deeply held beliefs. It is said the Supreme Court is supposed to give their answer by June.

RIGHT: DEMONSTRATORS OUTSIDE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT ON OCT. 8, 2019 - FOLLOWING THE ORIGINAL CASE IN 2018 REGARDING CSS' RIGHT TO DENY LGBTQ FAMILIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER OR ADOPT. PHOTO BY SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Natural Disaster In Central America

By Diego Abarca-Ortega

A storm is causing chaos in countries that are located in Central America, but the country that is most affected by the hurricane is Nicaragua, where parts of the country are underwater. Households were destroyed by the high winds, and strong rain. According to CNN, "the torrential rainfall came in unceasing waves and the subsequent flooding wiped entire communities." In Guatemala, a landslide followed the rain, leaving mud 50 feet deep in some places. Some people lost their families, friends, and other loved ones. More than 3.6 million people across Central America

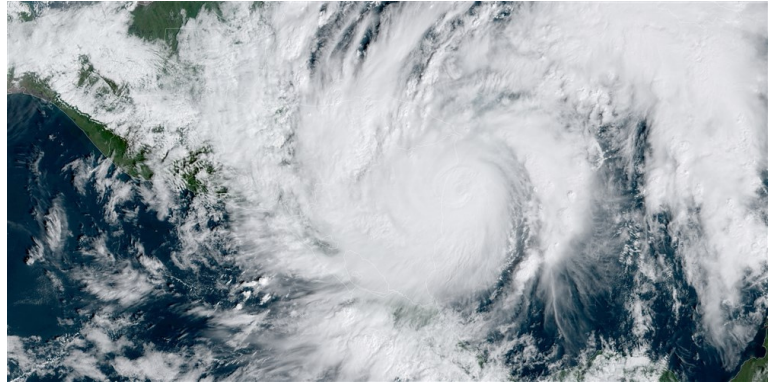


IMAGE CREDIT: NOAA SATELLITE IMAGE OF HURRICANE ETA NEAR NICARAGUA ON NOV. 3, 2020. COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

have been affected. This is not all, after this natural disaster countries are in the process of recovery from the storm, Hurricane Eta. But there is another storm called Iota. Even stronger than Eta, Hurricane Iota continues to hurt the Caribbean. Iota brings potentially catastrophic winds and life-threatening storm surge, winds about 90 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. They report that "Iota is expected to intensify and be at or near major hurricane strength when it approaches the coast of Central America." The National Hurricane Center warned that dangerous wind, storm surge, and rainfall could impact portions of Honduras and Nicaragua, with additional danger in parts of Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia.

College Students and the Psychological Battle with COVID-19

By Breanna Rodriguez

Our current pandemic has affected college students' mental health to a great extent. A plentiful amount of students attending various colleges, tested positive for this virus and were quickly required to shift their daily lives. From being on campus and being taught face to face, to being educated from behind a computer screen, many of these teens and young adults did not handle the rapid change very well. Some of the challenges college students face include making an effort to maintain their physical being, financial complication, difficulty completing course work that is designed to obtain higher levels of hands-on interaction, lack of access to a laptop or a stable internet connection, and so much more.

These setbacks result in college students suffering from psychological distress. This distress can turn into permanent future behavioral issues, anxiety, and/or depression. The often mis-spread information on COVID 19 through the media (which most young adults use nowadays) can also produce a significant amount of stress among this particular age group.

Younger generations are more heavily influenced by social media and are more prone to react in a gullible way towards information that they may come across. For example, if they see a huge spike of COVID 19 cases through an Instagram story, this can possibly lead to a more fearful state of mind. It is also said that a rise in mental health issues such as depression, can likely cause college students to even drop out. The chances of students dropping out or thinking of dropping out, is predicted to change if more mental health resources are provided to those in desperate need. However, because of most college students' financial status, not many can afford these services. Students are then trapped in a repetitive cycle of stress, anxiety, depression, and low academic performances. A hopeful outcome from this ineluctable time is to create more affordable mental health services for college students so they're able to keep their heads above water during this global misfortune.

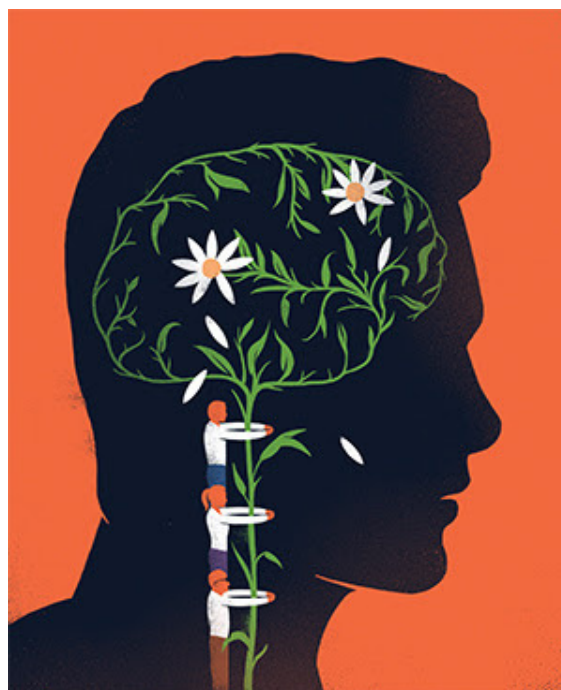


IMAGE CREDIT: UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

CUNY vs. SUNY: What's Right for You?

By Danette Rivera

Attention all juniors and seniors, now it's time for you to start thinking about colleges. As New Yorkers, one of your first decisions should be about whether you want to go to a CUNY or SUNY, or a private college. I will focus today on CUNYs and SUNYs, the city and state universities of New York, because they are affordable and offer great degrees in a wide variety of fields.

SUNY and CUNY colleges are very much different from each other. For example, CUNY colleges are exclusively located in New York City, and SUNYs are spread throughout the state of New York, a good choice if you want to have the experience of going away from home. PrepScholar, a college prep organization, explains on their blog, "You can get an excellent education at schools in either systems". So it's really up to you which one you want to go to. The blog also states that "SUNY colleges are often larger and more academically rigorous."

To decide whether you want to go to a CUNY or SUNY college, first decide what you want to study, and look to see which schools offer the majors you're interested in. There's no point in going to a school if they don't have the programs you want! Then consider the type of college experience you want.

For example, are you interested in athletics? According to the SUNY blog, "SUNY hosts over 80 (88 to be exact) Division 1 athletics programs," as opposed to the CUNY colleges, which serve only Division 2 and 3 athletics programs.



Consider costs and look for hidden fees. And last but not least compare schools, see the graduation rates and the retention rates, which will give you an idea of whether students are happy there. Hopefully this information was helpful. Good luck! Reach out to your college counselor or CCR teacher to discuss your specific goals.

Martha Stewart's Easiest Thanksgiving Desserts

By Tahjanay Turner

Ladies and gentlemen, its that time of the year! The time for family gatherings, fresh food out the oven, thankful thoughts and fresh-baked desserts. Instead of the regular sweet potato and pumpkin pie everyone eats around the holidays, let's spice it up a bit - while still keeping it simple. Martha Stewart, former television show host and chef, has some desserts that are easy to make and worth a taste! One of these desserts are her individual Cinnamon-Apple Tarts, a great choice for Thanksgiving during a pandemic, when you don't want anyone else touching your food. A chewy, yeasty pizza dough served as crust for your single- apple tarts topped with a scoop of icing. This easy dessert will make your mouth WATER.

Another easy dessert to make on Thanksgiving is Martha's Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Squares. These pumpkin chocolate chip squares are a Thanksgiving take on blondies! The kids will enjoy them, and so will the adults. With pumpkin puree and a generous tablespoon of pumpkin pie spice, you can take over the holidays!

Finally, you can find these easy recipes at www.marthastewart.com. Happy Holidays Innovation, from myself and the entire staff of *the Warrior Witness* to you.



LEFT: TAHJANAY RECOMMENDS MARTHA STEWART'S PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE CHIP SQUARES. RIGHT: MARTHA'S INDIVIDUAL CINNAMON-APPLE TARTS. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTHA STEWART.

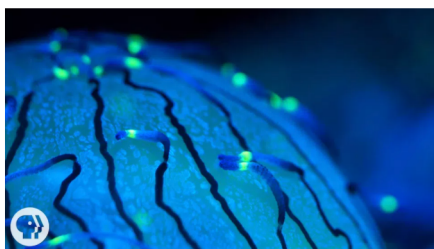
5 Reasons Why You Should Watch "Deep Look" on YouTube

By Keira Maldonado

No matter what you love, between YouTube and Netflix, there's something out there for you. If you love nature, like I do, today is your lucky day. One show I would recommend is Deep Look, on YouTube. I bumped into Deep Look about a year and a half ago. They caught my eye with a video about kittens, and how to care for them when they're newborns. After that episode, I was automatically hooked on the show, which has been online since 2014, so there's plenty of episodes to binge-watch. All the episodes are very short, but very informative and entertaining! Sponsored by PBS and produced by KQED San Francisco, one of the coolest things about Deep Look is how high quality the video is. They film in "ultra-HD (4k)," and capture things the average person won't see in everyday life. As they describe themselves on YouTube: "We use macro photography and microscopy in glorious 4K resolution, to see science up close ... really, really close."

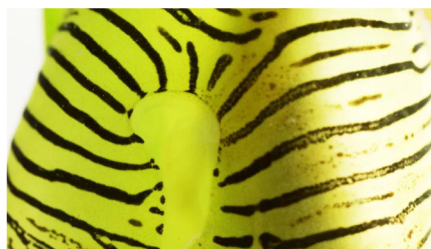
The top 5 reasons I would recommend Deep Look are:

1. They have playlists based on your nature favorite
2. They do weekly videos
3. They can help you out with pests (they have videos related to it)
4. They have amazing behind the scenes videos
5. The videos are awesome!



Why Jelly Fish Float Like A Butterfly, and Sting Like A Bee

S2 Ep8 | 2m 55s



See Sea Hares Scour Seagrass by the Seashore

S7 Ep19 | 4m 14s



Ensatina Salamanders Are Heading For a Family Split

S7 Ep12 | 4m 38s

Relating to Shawn Mendes' Anxiety

By Natasha Marrero-Keppis

Shawn Mendes is a Canadian singer and songwriter. You probably know some of his songs such as "Senorita," "Stitches," "If I Can't Have You," "There's Nothing Holding Me Back," or even "Mercy." Other than being known for his amazing hits, Shawn Mendes has been recognized for opening up about his anxiety. In 2018 Shawn released a song named "In My Blood," which quickly won four awards: Juno Award for single of the year, Juno award for songwriter of the year, MuchMusic award for fan favorite video and Teen Choice award for Choice Pop Song. What an accomplishment!



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID LIVINGSTON,
GETTY IMAGES

Shawn wrote this song to speak about his anxiety. Lyrics such as "I'm looking through my phone again, feeling anxious / afraid to be alone again, I hate this / I'm tryna find a way to chill, can't breathe, oh / is there somebody who could help me?" automatically connected with the crowd. So many people are dealing with anxiety and finally an artist speaks up about it. In his interview with "Your Morning," Shawn mentions how when he is feeling anxious he just sits and writes how he feels into lyrics.

Before COVID-19 became a thing, I always struggled with anxiety. There were times where I would feel alone or was scared of feeling alone. There were times where I would feel like I was in danger or as if the world was going to collapse. When the pandemic came, everything got worse. Being indoors for months just didn't do me good. When school started my anxiety got a lot worse, along with stress. My weakest subject in school is geometry. Math and I just do not get along. Having class through Zoom doesn't help either. Knowing that I already struggle just makes me more anxious.

I personally deal with anxiety by writing down my thoughts/feelings (like Shawn does), drawing what goes on in my head and listening to music. When I feel comfortable I speak about it with my best friend. It feels good to talk to someone who understands where you're coming from and how you feel. When I draw what goes on in my head it releases stress and makes me feel a lot calmer. The anxiety has become harder to deal with ever since we've had to make drastic changes in our everyday lives to survive the pandemic. A way to help someone with anxiety is by asking them what they need or asking them to share how they feel. And for those who don't have anxiety, you are blessed. Make it your job to help those who do.

A Look-Book for Thanksgiving

By Caitlin Diaz

In this look book I will transform your strut from your bedroom to the living room into your cat walk next to famous celebrities. Trying to do the casual style this year? These looks will give you the inspo you need to take those ripped jeans and beat up vans from the back of your closet and rock this holiday. These looks go great with layered jewelry and simple hairstyles. Everyone will look great in this cute and casual look - see below.



STRIPED SWEATER AND RIPPED JEANS. IMAGE CREDIT: DAILY DRESS ME

If ripped jeans and vans aren't your speed? Speed up this holiday with this super chic mini skirt (bottom left). This look is simple, sweet, and ultra chic. Pair this look with any thigh high and neutral colors. Even layer it up with different textures, for example, an awesome denim jacket. This look could go with small detailed jewelry or the chunky punk rock look. Anyone could rock this look and feel great.

Trying not to break your ankles? Break in the ol' holiday spirit with an extra cozy chunky knit sweater look. If mini skirts and turtlenecks aren't your thing then this divine chunky knit sweater look is perfect for you. With so much texture you can go simple with the bottoms with tights and tennis shoes. On the other hand you can spice up this sweater look with some ripped jeans and ankle boots. Either way, you will definitely be extra cozy, warm and adorable!



PLEATED SKIRT FROM TORRID.COM



IMAGE CREDIT: HERTRACK.COM

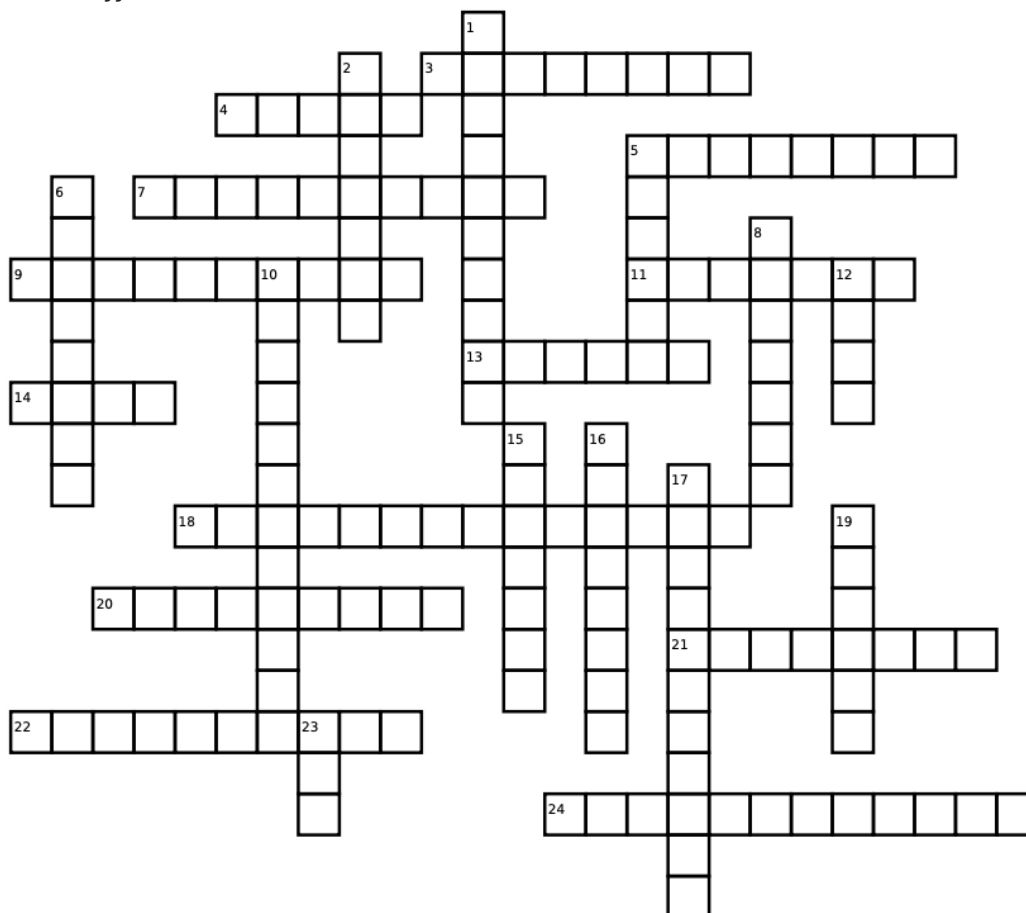


PINTEREST

Crossword Puzzle

by Innovation Staff

FUN & GAMES



Down

1. Where you must send doctor's notes to be excused from class
2. School principal
5. History teacher known for wearing banana suits
6. Interactive slide software with a fruit mascot
8. State exams canceled for January 2021
10. Work completed outside of class
12. The online classroom
15. The W in TWR
16. The L in ELA
17. Third grading category along with synch and asynch
19. Virtual reward you can use to pay for hoodies and t-shirts
23. Vice Principal

Across

3. _____ Martin, half of our fearless dean team
4. Marketplace near school for a bacon, egg, and cheese
5. Scheduling website used to book meetings
7. Computer given out by the school
9. Science class with a conservation mindset
11. Anna _____, beloved art teacher
13. Teachers' fuel that keeps us going
14. _____ Pawlec, head of the STEM dept. and SEP co-teacher
18. The first ever school newspaper
20. Jon _____, respected and feared
21. Developing this kind of routine helps reduce stress
22. The U in CUNY and SUNY
24. a holiday celebrating the things we feel grateful for

Sudoku

by Innovation Staff

Difficulty rating: Easy

Instructions: Complete the grid so that each **row, column, and 3-by-3 box** contains the numbers 1-9.

Hints:

- Start by looking for the number that appears the most.
- Look for the rows and columns that have the most numbers in them
- Look for the 3-by-3 boxes that have the most numbers in them
- Use process of elimination!

	4		3	7			5	8
			9	6		7	3	
					8			
							1	7
		4		2			8	
5	8	9	7	1				
				8		5		6
	6	8	5			1	2	3
			1	3	6	8		4

Thanksgiving Word Search

by Innovation Staff

Q X E I N C N O H G B L N Z B M F R A C B F A X A
W J F U Y J H B G I O W M F S T U F F I N G Y K N
A N V I G N M X M T W W D T U G B C E O H C G B Z
G D J C J R O V D A R V O D M O F X O R Z F L L B
R F P Z Q S E Y B G C V K F R F X Z D B V L G I X
A U M N L S P E U M H N W E X H B K P D E P T H H
T L D E M G M Q N B Z S C U V E H G F H T R E Z L
I T C R N G Q B G B E Q W H N S V P S Z D K N T J
T H U K X P C D C S E Z B E E Y N B E I R M A O A
U A N R R I Z V C Z G A E C E E A Z Q R X T W G P
D J V B K Z X C T O W H N A S T S G R I N D A R Z
E L E Z R E R R U M Q L D C Z D P E H L U I M A F
C P N V J Y Y A E Z G S B H A X R O V G Y G L V O
S O F D U L C N C W W Z H E H S K A T F T X P Y O
R F S F Z P X B J Y C P T S G T S R A A T E H U T
B S F A M U B E U M G W U Q W U S E A P T Q E R B
K Y B M O M H R J T S J D M J R C V R R V O Y B A
B J W I O E E R D W O R P T P O D H C O U L E Z L
R E B L Q P O Y R T F G D E Q K S W V O L W K S L
Z Q B Y O Z S S E W R R E Y C U I F L N K E K J A
K Z L U S F G A A L I C N T N A O N H A R R E M S
J S X O Y G Z U D E E O D Q H N N X P J A M Q H L
G I L T P H C C V G N E K R I E A P W I O U B H W
L Y D K N F I E G P D T H H Z O R Z I V E Y Z J H
A P P L E P I E Z O S S B S C T V Z J E W N A S Q

Word Bank:

turkey
stuffing
pernil
gravy
sweet potatoes
apple pie
mac n cheese
green bean casserole
pumpkin pie
cranberry sauce
pecan pie
football
family
friends
together
gratitude

The Warrior Witness

Meet our staff

Diego Abarca-Ortega, an 11th-grade student, loves topics relating to math. He is friendly, and likes to hear music when he is studying to concentrate better. Find Diego's article, "Natural Disaster in Central America," on pg. 16

Caitlin Diaz, a senior, loves photography and music. She enjoys going out and taking photographs of random things. Find Caitlin's article, "A Look-Book for Thanksgiving," on pg. 22

Qi'ane Lewis is a junior at Innovation High School. She loves watching *Grey's Anatomy* with her family, and her favorite class is Culinary Arts. Find Qi'ane's article, "A Woman's Right to Abortion," on pg. 14

Keira Maldonado is a sophomore. Her favorite classes are Geometry, Journalism, and Culinary. A fun fact about her is she loves Deep Look and other videos about nature. Find Keira's article, "5 Reasons Why You Should Watch Deep Look on YouTube," on pg. 20

Natasha Marrero-Keppis is a sophomore new to Innovation and we are lucky to have her! Find Natasha's article, "Relating to Shawn Mendes' Anxiety," on pg. 21

Lailah Melendez is a sophomore. Her favorite classes are Painting and Drawing and English. Lailah is a part of the movie club and loves to play volleyball. Find Lailah's article, "The Supreme Court Hears a Case about LGBTQ Rights," on pg.15

Chanel Moris, a junior at Innovation, enjoys writing and photography. Find Chanel's article, "Distance Learning: How do students really feel?" on pg. 8

Danette Rivera is a sophomore. Her favorite class is Pop Vocals and she loves watching Netflix in her spare time. Find Danette's article, "CUNY vs. SUNY: What's Right For You?" on pg. 18

Breanna Rodriguez is a junior. Her favorite class is ELA since she has always enjoyed writing. Breanna really likes listening to music on her free time. Find Breanna's article, "College Students and the Psychological Battle with COVID-19" on pg. 17

Abdrahamane Togola is a junior, and he goes by Abou. Find Abou's article, "Inside Innovation's New Debate Club," on pg. 6

Marie Toure is in the graduating class of 2023, so she is a sophomore. She cannot decide her favorite class between art and geometry. She loves playing volleyball and she reads a lot in her free time. She is also a part of the movie class. Find Marie's article, "Africa Is Bleeding," on the front page.

Tahjanay Turner is a senior. She loves watching Grey's Anatomy on her free time and she's a piercing apprentice at Tuff City. Find Tahjanay's article, "Martha Stewart's Easiest Thanksgiving Desserts," on pg. 19

Zoë Whitehead-Evans is a senior. Criminal Minds is her favorite show, but she also loves Grey's Anatomy. She enjoys listening to music and she cannot ride a bike. Find Zoë's article, "#SayHerName: The Movement That Recognizes Black Women," on pg. 12

Thank you so much for reading *the Warrior Witness*! From the bottom of our hearts, we wish you and your families a healthy, happy, safe, and restful Thanksgiving.

