



The Blue and Gold

June 2020

the student newspaper of Murch Elementary School, Washington, DC

Founded 2013

The Pandemic Diaries

"I am not normally like this. I think it's because of stress."

By **RONAN SHAH**

March 26

My 10th birthday could have gone better, but then what can I ask for? A virtual party and some gifts? I mean it's not like I can ask the coronavirus to go on vacation, can I?

Today, I started logging what work I'm doing because my parents think I'm not doing enough schoolwork. I think it's unfair that just because I finished all my schoolwork early, I have to do extra work.

I am in a state where I get angry or sad after nothing much more than a few moments of not being able to do something that I need or want to do.

I am not normally like this. I think it's because of stress. I don't like getting angry or sad or frustrated easily.

(see **RONAN** on page 3)



This photo of The Blue and Gold's kid journalists was taken Jan. 30, when U.S. cases of the coronavirus disease were first reported. Soon schools were closed and students were confined to their homes. B&G editor Aaron Epstein then recruited volunteers to write journals for this edition.

"It's tough staying home all the time."

By **ABIGAIL DANNENBERG**

March 22-28

I love soup dumplings. I wonder if I'll ever have them again. We used to go to Bob's Shanghai 66 (in Rockville, MD) all the time. By the time it's safe to go out, all our favorite restaurants may be out of business.

It's tough staying home all the time. We have to make our own food every day, and, no offense Mom, but I'm sick of home-cooked meals.

That's not the worst of it. Technology is frustrating! I spend half an hour figuring out how to do the day's task for distance learning. It's only been a week and I'm already exhausted. Sometimes the computer will just delete a bundle of hard work.

Not to mention what happens when I go out. Coming back home, the sole of my shoe can't step foot in the house. I can't even hug my family before I wash my hands. Supermarkets are now unsafe. Delivery spots are slim. We have to wipe down anything and everything.

(see **ABIGAIL** on page 4)

One day you will tell your kids of our sad times...

By **JACK LEON**

March 25

My parents told me that this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing we're all experiencing now.

I won't be surprised that when (or if) you become a mom or a dad with kids, you will tell them the story of when it was a sad time and a lot of people got sick.

It has rained almost nonstop today. I mostly stayed inside and did projects around the house. However, I walked around the block and played some hockey outside. (I am obsessed with hockey, even in the rain). I also did some math, reading and writing.

I am missing my friends. But on the flip side, virtual morning meetings are fun. I think I will look forward to them every morning.

March 26

The food that we are eating tastes better since social distancing and distance learning began. This is because we have more time to make it, and lots of really good cooks in our house.

(see **JACK** on page 4)



"I didn't know when -- or if -- I would ever return to my classroom"

By **MOLLY SNYDER**

March 13-21

When I walked out of school on March 13th, I had a strange feeling. I didn't know when — or if — I would ever return to my 4th-grade classroom before the end of the school year.

Another strange thing was that I wanted to give my friends a hug goodbye, but I couldn't. That was a sign that every day was going to change for a while.

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) called this first week "spring break," but it sure didn't feel like spring break to me, or probably to anyone.

First of all, we were not going to see my cousins in New York and they were not coming to see us. My parents were not planning on seeing anyone for a while.

My best friend's birthday party was canceled so I was sad that I couldn't see her, and I was sad for her. I am sure she will never forget her 10th birthday, but we are already making plans to celebrate when we can see each other.

At first, they told us we would go back to school on April 1st, but then they said to keep people safe from the virus, we would go back on April 27th.

I'm worried that we won't go back to school at all for the rest of the year.

My sister, who is at

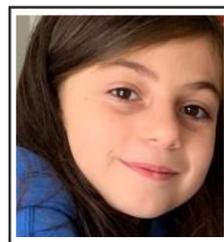
Deal Middle School, is getting used to distance learning and not seeing her friends,

My mom thinks this is the first week in which we didn't have any activities outside the home.

We've done a lot of new things to try to make the most of what's

happening. I learned how to make pie crust from scratch and paint a bird house. Also, I saw *Jumanji* and *Field of Dreams*.

And we are getting to know our city. My parents are taking us on driving tours through the different wards.



I miss school because I can see all my friends there. It's fun to play with them at recess. Also, I learn a lot at school. But I realize that life is changing for everyone.

My father usually travels a lot for work and he has been home and won't go anywhere for a while. We like having him home, but wish it was for a different reason.

March 22-28

This week has been different from last week because we started distance learning. The best part of that is seeing Ms. (Monica) Davis and Ms. (Amanda) Schack and all of my friends on Zoom.

(see **MOLLY** on page 3)

"The highlight of my days is math"

By LILLY SHAW

April 19-25

Two months ago, who would have envisioned that I would have doors -- stores, school, activities -- closed all around me, shut, locked tight to keep out the treacherous coronavirus? Not only did I look forward to long lunches with lively conversation but April also was a time of mall trips and sleepovers.

Not this April. During Deal Middle School hours, I slave away on my computer. My daily commute now is down a flight of stairs into the living room at 8 in the morning.

Although much has changed, each day, I have time for music, be it singing, piano or listening to music. Even in the face of conflict and disease in this most trying of times, music never ceases to bring me calm and relief.

May 3-9

Each day I participate in classes from 10 to 2, typically on Zoom. Technological complications pose difficulties for me every week. In fact, this week I accidentally deleted my work in an attempt to submit two distinct documents and videos. Unfortunately, I had to redo it.

I am occupying my time by practicing tae kwon do and working in the garden on tomato plants, a pepper plant, basil and other herbs.

May 10-16

My mother and I left the house Wednesday to roller skate in a parking lot. We skated around multiple cars, wearing masks and sunglasses, while a middle-aged man ran in circles and a woman sat in the sun waiting for him to complete his exercise. The absurdity of the situation dawned on me. But it's commonplace now. I can find a desolate, large parking lot, and no longer have to skate in a packed, stuffy basketball court at the Jelleff Recreation Center.

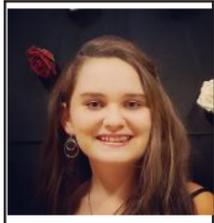
May 22

The days pass in a blur. Wake, exercise, work, sleep, eat. So uniform, that I have begun to lose track of the days. Tuesday found me late to a class because I thought it was Wednesday.

The highlight of my days is math. Since 2015 I have had private math lessons, learning new theories and topics to excel in math. I am discovering that the most exciting part of my day occurs not in the real world, but in the world of numbers.

Next week will be my final week of school. But there still will be math classes with my private teacher, and the church choir. I will always find new alleys to uncover and explore.

(Lilly Shaw, a 9th-grader at School Without Walls HS, was a B&G reporter in 2015-16).



"You never know what might be on it"

By EMMA CAPELLONI

March-April

A normal day now consists of at least one walk, online schooling, gymnastics, and lots of movies.

My dad is especially careful about what comes into the house because you never know what might be on it or who

touched it. We order food online. It takes a long time for the delivery to get to our apartment and, when it does, we wipe everything down with Clorox..

One day during the quarantine, I sat outside on the balcony when I heard police officers driving in circles around Meridian Park with a speaker,

telling people to leave if they were not exercising. But most people were not listening and continued to do whatever they were doing.

Right before this, I went on a long walk to the National Cathedral and back with my dad. Along the way, we looked at different houses and decided which one we would buy.

"Nature Bridge, graduation, the musical -- all down the drain"

By CORA NUAMAH

March 22

At the beginning of this pandemic, I thought: "Two weeks isn't that long." Well, I thought wrong. It's been only one week, and I'm already forgetting the days of the week.

I miss all my friends. We can only use texting, FaceTime or Skype for a social life.

I forgot to mention that they dumped way too much homework on us 5th graders. And what's worse, now instead of two weeks without school, it will be six! HELP ME!

March 23

Today I solved a Rubik's Cube in 20 minutes, a record for me.

My brother Jason and I will have "office hours" from 9:30-11:30 and from 1-3. That's when we can ask a teacher questions about our work, such as "when is XYZ due?" and "are we going to still check homework?"

March 28

My friend Victoria Greene is making candles. I'm super jealous because I wanted to make candles, too. But I don't have any of the materials I need for that. So my crafty project today was a shadow box that I got for Christmas.

Bella, my cousin, and Zia, my aunt, are driving nine hours from Boston to Pittsburgh to get Nonna, my grandma, who got a little scared about the virus. Then they'll drive another nine hours tomorrow back to Pittsburgh. We FaceTimed them every few hours.

March 29

We had a Zoom church meeting today. I got to "see" all my friends from church.

Mom made red velvet chocolate chip cookies, orange muffins, empanadas and butter biscuits for my brother, my dad, herself and me.

March 30

Today I accomplished a lot. I finished my summary for the Book In A Box project and my inventor/innovator graphic organizer. I have only two pages of review math left. That was satisfying and fun because when you push the turn-in button, you see something like an octopus getting ice cream.

April 1

APRIL FOOLS DAY! The day when I can pull pranks.

For mom, I put a sheet of plastic over the top of her soap

bottle, so the soap would not come out.

For dad, I pretended to sneeze, then flicked water on him to make it feel like a real sneeze (it might not have been the smartest prank, considering the pandemic we're in).

And for Jason, my little brother, I made his sheets extra short so that he couldn't stretch out. I'm happy today.

April 7

Distance learning got a little better and a little worse this week. Better because I liked turning in the assignments on TEAMS. Worse because more schools are using TEAMS, and it's getting really slow. Mayor Muriel Bowser just told us that she doesn't know when we're going back to school, but it's certainly not going to be as early as April 27.

And today my family actually tried to make cloth masks. The process needs some work.

My cousin Ana Paula, who lives in Argentina, told me how she was doing with the quarantine. She's an active person, and takes dance and ice hockey after school. But now that school's canceled, she takes workout lessons on YouTube. Her school is not having virtual classes. Instead, her teachers send activities to her home, and that keeps her busy. During her downtime, she tried to bake a cake in a mug.

May 22

I've had some exciting news! I'm getting a new bed and a new chair to go along with my new desk! I've never had a desk in my room before, so I've been doing my Zoom calls and school work on the floor. I'm getting a new bed because I've outgrown my old one.

I learned that school is ending May 29. There goes a lot of things: Nature Bridge, promotion, graduation, and for the people in the musical, we will never perform. All that down the drain.

I think I've gone crazy! I have three rubber balls, who I call Lora, Jolina, and Kevin Ballington. I talk to them a lot, and bathe them once a week in my bathroom sink.

"So long, Murch. I'll miss you."

By SAHAR GIOVACCHINI

April 6-12

I am starting to like online school, aside from the fact that I am not with my friends.

One day I had a productive meeting with my stuffed animals. I greeted them and named a few of them. On another day, my kittens' harnesses arrived and I had fun walking them.

April 13-19

We had a family of doves nesting on our porch and the mother left her two young doves alone. We were considering taking them in. But the next morning I saw that the little doves had left the nest. Upon seeing that they could fly well, we decided they did not need our assistance.

Online karate was enjoyable, even though I hurt my foot when we were learning the exceedingly complicated lunge kick.

I had not talked to my uncle in eight years, but I called him one day. He is much like my dad, except that his face is longer. They definitely are brothers, so my dad was not found on the highway in a basket, which is what my uncle told my dad when he was little.

April 20-26

Twice this week I read books right through school. One was a long, gripping mystery and I had to find out who the thief was.

In Saturday's online tap dancing class, we learned a dance from the movie *Singin' in the Rain*. The only difference between me and Gene Kelly is that he can dance at the speed of light, while I'm at snail speed.

April 27-May 12

I had a virtual sleepover Friday. My stuffed animal and I changed into PJ's and we talked to my friend. And to all who wonder, my stuffed animal does have pajamas, and I do have friends.

On the first day of Spirit Week, 5th-graders dressed as movie stars. I went as Marilyn Monroe with a blond curly wig, a vintage hat and a long dress. I looked ridiculous.

The next day we dressed as Chris Cebrzynski, our principal. I wore glasses, a button-down shirt, a tie and a lanyard. Mr. C talked during our afternoon meeting. It was fun but also a sad reminder that we had only 12 days of school left. So long, Murch. I'll miss you.



"I'm not too excited about this"

By KLEMENTYNA McGUIRE

March 22-28

The first week of online learning has been strange. I find myself hunched over a computer all day. It is harder to get outside and breathe fresh air without people around you. People sometimes yell at us for climbing trees. They will have everything their way because they are afraid. This virus is changing everything. I worry about the young, innocent kindergarteners, who were my sweet little friends. How is this affecting them? The school day is different, but not in a good way. When our "school day" on Zoom is over, I still feel the lack of socializing, that there is nothing to look forward to. Nothing seems special any more, But there are some good things happening, like ice cream for dessert, or video games before bed. But something is missing in my days now.



March 29-April 4

I had an online rehearsal of Mary Poppins Jr., the Murch musical. I'm playing Mary Poppins. I was able to video chat one-on-one with the music director. We worked on one of the songs, "Practically Perfect." It's challenging because there's a wide vocal range from very high to very low. The connection kept breaking up and he couldn't always hear me.

May 5-9

It seems that Mary Poppins Jr. is going to be done remotely. The play directors want us to film ourselves singing and dancing our parts, which they'll put together into a final film version of the play. I can't imagine what that will be like. It will be so different from doing a play together on a stage with costumes and sets and a live audience. So I'm not too excited about this.

They're talking about maybe streaming the film on Facebook for Murch families and teachers, or posting the video on YouTube. I rehearse in my bedroom via Zoom. It's hard to have enough space to execute the dance moves correctly.

I eat lunch outside a lot in the back yard of our apartment building, which helps me get more fresh air and sunlight. We try to get as far from our neighborhood as we can during the weekends by taking long bike rides. I like to get carryout from Seoul Spice or District Taco in Tenleytown. The signs on their doors say "No Mask No Service" so we wear our masks inside.

Last week we went on the Capital Crescent Trail and found a flat, smooth rock, where we could eat in the middle of a creek in Little Falls near the bike trail.

A birthday 6 feet--apart

By RACHEL KOLKO

April 26

My dad's April birthday fell during the home quarantine., But my mom got creative. She organized a surprise "drive-by" with some of our family and friends. He sat outside for the afternoon while his visitors took their turns, all from a safe distance, of course.

On the day of the drive-by, the weather was perfect. When the first family arrived, we brought my dad outside. He was shocked and excited. The next guest was my grandmother, who wished my dad a happy birthday from her car.

Our cousins and an aunt and uncle threw him a roll of toilet paper from their car window. A friend brought goofy photos from when my dad was a teenager. A colleague gave him a mini hand sanitizer bottle and a homemade mask with the Washington Nationals logo on it. A friend brought a trumpet and played Happy Birthday. Finally, my uncle called from Vietnam. The party was over, and it was a success.

Rachel, a Deal Middle School graduate, was a B&G reporter in 2016 and 2017.

"I am still scared about what the future holds"

By SIMON HOLLAND

April 25

The sixth week of remote learning and social distancing is wrapping up. School work has become less difficult as the weeks have progressed and I have finally fallen into a regular routine.

Oddly, these past few weeks have provided lots of room for self-care. I have been able to get more sleep, now that I don't need to wake up too early to go to school, and I have been able to relax more. During the regular school year, I am at Deal late most days due to rehearsals for school theater productions, or I have lots of homework to do.

Now, I am able to call it quits for the day after lunch time, so I have the rest of the day to crap around. During "crap-around time", I have been able to do things I've wanted to do, such as listen to musicals, slowly tackling my movie/ TV show watch list, reading books and doing more baking.

Also, I have been able to spend more time with my little brother, Ben, on 45-minute walks around our neighborhood. We've grown even closer than before. I have also been able to spend

more time with my parents.

This involves more baking with my mom and doing movie nights with both parents.

When I think about what is happening in the world, I consider myself beyond lucky. I live in a stable house, with two parents who have been able to work remotely. I have been able to tune into my two daily video classes, and complete all of the assigned work. I was scheduled to perform in a Shakespeare show weeks before this health crisis hit, but that has happened to many other teenagers, too.

My family recognizes that many people are struggling financially. We support our local businesses, such as getting food shipped from Comet Ping-Pong or books from Politics and Prose instead of buying them from Amazon. We also help people in the community to the best of our ability.

But I still am very scared about what the future holds. There is so much uncertainty about what is to come. Luckily, I am able to talk through these fears with my family

Simon, a Deal Middle School graduate, was a BG reporter/photographer in 2016 and 2017.

"It feels weird. People see us coming and cross the street."

(MOLLY from page 1)

The worst part is not being able to see my friends in person.

The days are going by quickly because I am exercising, doing work, playing with my sister, and Face-Timing my cousins. This week I painted a memory box and the first things I put in it will remind me of this time.

I've also still been able to Zoom with my Girl Scout troop. We decided to do a community service project. We're making signs of appreciation for all of the people who are still working in the community, such as grocery store workers, mail delivery workers, trash collectors, and employees at our fire station.

I'm also spending a lot of time with my dog. Sometimes I think he wonders what is going on. I don't think he has been alone in the house for three weeks. He gets all the walks he could want. I can't wait to go back to school, but when he's home alone again, I bet he will miss us. My mom thinks he will sleep the whole first week.

May 10-16

We have been social distancing for over two months now. But in some ways, I feel like I see my grandparents and cousins more now. They live in New York and Massachusetts, but we Zoom every day.

We have a book club with

my grandfather. We have read about Helen Keller, Marie Curie, Ellis Island and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It's a fun way to stay in touch. We also try new recipes over Zoom together. We even made ice cream bread.

Now that the weather is nicer, we go for a lot of bike rides and walks. It feels weird when people see us coming and cross the street. But I understand that everyone has to be careful.

It's really hard to walk with our dog Moose. He still wants to play with other dogs and say hello to every human he sees. Moose is really friendly, which is great except during social distancing.

"But most of all, I am going stir-crazy!"

(RONAN from page 1)

Today's events consisted of launching a new unit in ELA (English Language Arts) that had to do with rocks and minerals. And I had to stop my work because my dad has to take a call where I work, or my mom has a very important meeting. So I had to drop everything and go into my room.

Anyway, I'm stressed out and I started getting mad at myself. I can't get over the feeling that no matter how many days that seem worse than before, this one is so much worse than all of them. But most of all, I am going stir crazy!

April 20

I am soooooo sorry for not writing anything for a long time, but with all the stress and shortage of time lately, I have not been able to.

Anyway, I just wanted to say that I don't have the coronavirus yet, yay! At least I don't think I do. It's still been stressful being inside almost every day all day, as well as working at a screen all the time. There are reasons why I like having to work on a screen, like being able to copy and paste things and type (my handwriting is not the best).

But there are also bad things about working on a screen. I am not the best at typing, either, so it's kind of hard looking for a scientific perspective on things, and it's bad for the eyes to be looking at a screen all day.

On the bright side, though, I am now going to Camp Half Blood after school. It's a combination of history, fun and creativeness. Also, I have nature classes, thanks to our friend in Colorado. Since they are virtual, I can attend them.

Anyway, it's time that I go to sleep. Bye.

"As I wallow in self-pity, I feel only outrage..."

(ABIGAIL from page 1)

As I wallow in self-pity, I feel only outrage because I know a ton of people have it even rougher. Take the delivery guy for instance. He's risking his life for money. Those who have coronavirus suffer terrible pains.

However, every cloud has a silver lining. During late nights, in cozy blankets, I've been watching a TV series about John Adams and his political career, beginning to end. I liked it but it was upsetting. He was an awful man. Abigail Adams was very patient with him. My parents usually never allow that much TV.



Abigail Dannenberg

I really miss my friends, but I get to Face-Time them. I've gone out for more bike rides lately. I've also had more snacks and sweets 'cause we're so stressed. I guess that's the silver lining. But there's not much of it.

March 29-April 4

It's Week 3 of the coronavirus lockdown and I may not be sick from it, but I'm beginning to get cabin fever.

My friend's birthday party was canceled. My family dropped off a gift, anyway, although we couldn't shop for a new one. I rode my scooter to her house, taking care to not get too close to anyone. They were home when we arrived (of course they were, where else would they be?). We chatted a bit from a distance and then left.

Her virtual party through

Zoom was at first kind of weird, but then sort of fun. We also got to see our friend Rebecca, who moved away to France in 2018. But there was no cake or anything.

Each day, I dealt with the day's distance learning and then went out on my bike or scooter. We ventured one day into Forest Hills. I had no idea it was so lovely! When I go outside, though, I have to wear a homemade, and not that great, face mask that offers a small bit of protection. A craft! My mom hates doing crafts. Now she willingly — and even wanted — to do one. This is what it's come to.

April 5-11

Coronavirus still stinks. Following the optimal schedule for schoolwork, I have plenty of free time. But there are more upsetting videos every day. Thousands are dying. Most others are self-quarantining.

We did, however, go out walking. I felt that life is so depressing, and the only thing that kept me going was the gorgeous plant life in yards and outside of houses. I wished I could tell the owners how nice it felt to see their lovely flowers, bushes and trees. So I decided to start a nonprofit business called FlowerNote. We would leave short notes about their gorgeous plant life.

Our family and friends invited us to an online Seder through Zoom.

They are all serious Jews (which we are not). At one point, a Hebrew song started playing, and our friends said we should sing whatever we knew. I stayed silent the whole time. It was confused about who was supposed to speak and when.

Moving to a happier note, we were finally able to get a spot on Whole Foods delivery. It's so hard to clinch because the demand was so high. My dad is our hero. We've been trying to get a delivery at least five times a day every day, for weeks. My mom has been so stressed over this.

Lots of people are still enduring great pain and there

have been many deaths from the coronavirus. Why did it even have to show up in the first place?

April 12-18

We've had only a month of quarantining, but it feels like ages. I'm mostly numb with despair. It's hard to believe I won't see my teacher face-to-face for the rest of the school year. Schools have been shut down until summer, at least.

A friend named Vivi and I were running out of things to read, so we did this "Great Books Borrowing Project" thing. We live about 15 minutes from each other. We exchange books and return them when we are done reading.

This is how it works: We leave our books on each other's doorstep, ring the doorbell, then wave to each other, and finally leave. With libraries being closed, it is a good way to read new content.

I've also been playing wall ball to occupy myself. My dad taught me how to play alone because he used to do it as a kid. I'm getting better at it. I use a brick wall on the back of our house and use a tennis ball. It's fun but tiring. It's something to do alone and passes the time.

Overall, I feel kind of like Red Pollard in the book *Seabiscuit* (ask your parents or look it up if you don't know that book). Red got hurt when he tried to ride an untrained colt and was thrown to the ground. But he was a person who never gave up. It took him a year to recover from a shattered leg — and he wasn't ever the same after that.

Just like Red's injury didn't last forever, I know we'll eventually get through this coronavirus. We don't know how long it will take and some small businesses may not return. But the situation will improve. I just know it.

April 19-25

Remember when being sick was the only way to stay home from school? I do. And it cuts to the very heart of me. I know

some may disagree, but staying home from school for coronavirus stinks.

Before, there was something new every day, whether it was where you ate dinner or what you played on the playground. Now, there's never anything new. It's the same routine every single day and I'm sick of it.

Oh, what I would give for takeout. But alas, I can't get takeout and that's not the worst of it. The thing I'd rather not think about is how restaurants may be unable to support themselves and go out of business. By the time this is all over, businesses may be ruined and home cooking could remain strong. That would officially stink because I would kill to get my hands on a burger from Shake Shack.

I know coronavirus will eventually end, but it's been over a month now, and I'm sort of going crazy. Few people are outside their homes, and when they're not there, the place looks like a ghost town. It feels so good just to wander outside aimlessly because I'm stuck inside all the time. Oh, how I hate the coronavirus.

May 3-10

Two events this week showed me that even though the coronavirus limits our lives, we can have fun anyway.

The first was a four-hour virtual slumber party for my friend Maisie's birthday. There were about 12 of us on Zoom. We played a few games and did a couple of quizzes.

Mothers' Day was the other event. My father and I got bagels and lox delivered from New York and served Mom breakfast in bed. They were the best bagels we'd had in a long time.

We made fudge brownies but, unfortunately, we had to wait for them to cool. So we went running. That's not my favorite thing to do, but it was Mothers' Day and I love my mother so I did it.

By the time we got back, the brownies were finally ready. They were a delicious treat.

"... and I will miss my first-ever graduation."

(JACK from page 1)

I love to cook, too. So far my favorites have been a cheese and veggie plate for lunch, homemade bread, homemade pizza and grilled steak.

March 27

With my parents working from home and me and sister, Anna, doing distance learning, we are working around a hardware shortage. We had to use my dad's old work computer for my morning Zoom meetings. I quickly claimed it.

But I still get to play a lot on my video game system when my schoolwork is done.

March 28

My family and I went on a 6-7

mile bike ride. Along the way, we saw the cherry blossoms in Bethesda's gorgeous Kenwood neighborhood.

We also rode to a tiny Japanese grocery for ingredients for tonight's Japanese food night. My babysitter, a professional chef, organized all this. She showed us how to make seasoned rice, hand rolls, and sashimi. She even used her super-sharp Japanese sushi knife. So even though we are in this quarantine, we can still do pretty cool stuff at home.

March 29

My family and I made 50 brownies to give to families who aren't sure where their next meals will come from. My mom's colleague runs a food truck that

delivers food to such families every day. I felt that I was doing some good for the community.

March 30,

Today my mom had to work a lot. She is teaching a culinary medicine course online for the first time. I felt that she was really stressed, and I had empathy for her.

We were not able to play much hockey for the past few days because we kept getting interrupted. I hate that.

March 31,

I am scared that we might not go back to Murch this year. And for us 5th graders, that means we won't go back at all. and I will miss my first-ever graduation.

April 1

It's April Fool's Day! This morning when I woke up, I walked on my carpet and stepped on the bubble wrap hidden under it. My mom started laughing. And when I squeezed my toothpaste, a raisin fell out.

I got her back, though. My sister and I put red pepper flakes inside her breakfast muffin. Her mouth was on fire for a while.

April 7

My friend and his brother wrote a message in chalk in front of our house. It said: "Go Leons! You are the best!" This showed that I am not alone. It was a nice thing for our neighbors to do.