

# Dragondale



Denver, Colorado - April 2021 - Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy - issue #7

## DRAGONDALE #7

Happy April! Were almost to the finish line! Only a few weeks left of the school year, and were all hoping for a (somewhat) normal year.

Prom! Everyone's dream (or nightmare), get your tickets soon! Enter our writing contests to win a gift card prize! And you can still buy a yearbook, but do it quickly! Learn the warning signs of mental decline and how to safely celebrate earth day. Learn about a lovely group for youth called Youth Roots, and listen to a detailed dive into an anime and the totally not horrible netflix adaptation!

### Featured Articles:

1. Junior/Senior Prom 2021 is On!
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4. Mental health- recognizing the warning signs
5. YEARBOOK FOR SALE!
6. Earth Day
7. YouthRoots 2020-2021
8. Death Note
9. Student Art Gallery

**Suicide hotline**-800-273-8255  
**Crisis text line**- text HOME to 741741

**Trans hotline**- 877-565-8860

**Colorado crisis services**-  
1-844-493-8255 or Text "TALK" to 38255

## Junior/Senior Prom 2021 is On!

### A message from Mrs. Waugh

Hello, all juniors and seniors! This year's prom will be held in the beautiful gardens at Stonebrook Manor, in Thornton, on April 24th from 7 to 11 pm. Bring your favorite person and dance the night away! Our theme this year is Enchanted Forest Masquerade. We will be serving dessert and music will be provided by Tono Productions. Tickets can be purchased in the main office or from Ms. Waugh. The cost is \$20 per couple and \$10 for individuals. Only 150 tickets are available so get yours as soon as possible!

## Writing Contests! 6-12

**(More information will soon be coming, so check with Gene or Ms. Hempe for more updated info.)**

KCAA is having a short story contest! If you are a high school or middle school writer looking to get your work featured in the newspaper, well this is the contest for you! Create a short story about quarantine, or school, or really whatever suits your fancy, as long as it is school appropriate (aka no smut, heavy gore, heavily triggering content, etc.) there isn't much restriction on what you can or can't do.

The winner will receive a gift card and their story in the newspaper. The final day to submit is May 14th, send short stories to Ms. Hempe: [ahempe@dpsk12.net](mailto:ahempe@dpsk12.net) or Gene: [740261@dpsk12.net](mailto:740261@dpsk12.net). Good luck, and we can't wait to read your stories!

KCAA is also having a poem contest! Similar to the short story contest, any middle or high schooler wanting to enter are allowed to as long as they create an original school-friendly poem. Also, like the short story contest gift cards and newspaper exposure will be given to the winner. The last day to submit is May 14th, email your poem to Ms. Hempe: [ahempe@dpsk12.net](mailto:ahempe@dpsk12.net) or Gene: [740261@dpsk12.net](mailto:740261@dpsk12.net). Good luck!

## (Maybe) A Fun Time At Prom!

By: Sophia Porreca

**THIS IS SATIRE I'M HALF JOKING**

Well if you haven't heard prom is coming up (not for you lower classmen you're not allowed, wait your turn I'm just kidding I like some of you ;). Prom! Every teenager's dream/nightmare for one student in particular (hint a gamer who hates socialization). What even is prom? Good question.

It's a magical night where you can dance, have a good time and dress up like a princess or prince or whatever floats your boat. So what makes this prom special? Well, first of all, let's be honest, who has actually left their house in let's say about a year? None of us and if said yes you're lying. Life has been kinda crazy lol :p So since we have a chance to have a good time this year (am I, right seniors!) let's take up this opportunity! The prom theme this year is drum roll badadaaaaa is enchanted forest masquerade (cue me singing masquerade from Phantom of the opera I KNOW I'M A THEATER KID LEAVE ME ALONE). Here's a message from Mrs. Waugh: Junior/Senior Prom 2021 is On! Hello, all juniors and seniors! This year's prom will be held in the beautiful gardens at Stonebrook Manor, in Thornton, on April 24th from 7 to 11 pm. Bring your favorite person and dance the night away! Our theme this year is Enchanted Forest Masquerade. We will be serving dessert and music will be provided by Tono Productions. Tickets can be purchased in the main office or from Ms. Waugh.



The cost is \$20 per couple and \$10 for individuals. Only 150 tickets are available so get yours as soon as possible!

Wow that was beautifully written I could never. Claps for Mrs. Waugh everyone! And for everyone who made this possible! Well, this all I have to say oh wait I forgot if you're reading this and you're going to prom make sure to tell Gabe and Jazzy how amazing they look (I'm also forcing Gabe to go so it will be funny). Thank you for enjoying your time at the prom (except for lower classmen...just kidding).

If you want more information email [jwaugh@dpsk12.net](mailto:jwaugh@dpsk12.net)

## **Mental health- recognizing the warning signs**

**By: Marlenni Ortiz Perez**

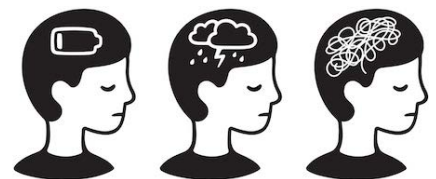
**TW: mentions topics that may be uncomfortable for some readers.**

By the age of 14, half of all people who will develop a mental health illness in their lifetime have begun to show symptoms. By not recognizing symptoms or potential warning signs many out of these feelings and can worsen these mental illness symptoms. Through the stressful year of 2020-2021 various events may cause problems that may influence both adults and younger generations, it is important to acknowledge these symptoms and take forms of action for an individual, or their peer's wellbeing.

It's not always easy to tell the difference between normal behavior and signs of mental illness. There is no simple test that can determine whether someone has a mental illness or whether their actions and thoughts are typical of their personality or the result of a physical illness.

Each illness holds its own symptoms, but the following are some of these symptoms:

Excessive worrying or fear, Feeling excessively sad or low, Prolonged or strong feelings of irritability or anger, Avoiding friends and social activities, Difficulties understanding or relating to other people, Changes in sleeping habits or feeling tired and low energy, Changes in eating habits such as increased hunger or lack of appetite, Difficulty perceiving reality (delusions or hallucinations, in which a person experiences and senses things that don't exist in objective reality), Inability to perceive changes in one's own feelings, behavior, or personality ("lack of insight" or anosognosia), Overuse of substances like alcohol or drugs, Multiple physical ailments without obvious causes (such as headaches, stomach aches, vague and ongoing "aches and pains"), Thinking about suicide, and an Intense fear of weig



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There is no medical test that can accurately diagnose mental illness, unlike diabetes or cancer. To assess symptoms and make a diagnosis, a mental health professional will consult the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. In order to be officially classified as a mental health condition, the manual lists criteria such as feelings and behaviors, as well as time limits. Getting a diagnosis is only the first step; you must also understand your own preferences and goals. Treatments for mental illness differ depending on the diagnosis and the individual. There is no such thing as a "one-size-fits-all" treatment. Medication, counseling (therapy), social support, and education are all possible treatment options. Symptoms must be taken seriously, If you or someone you know needs assistance, don't be afraid to ask. The first step is to learn everything you can about mental health.



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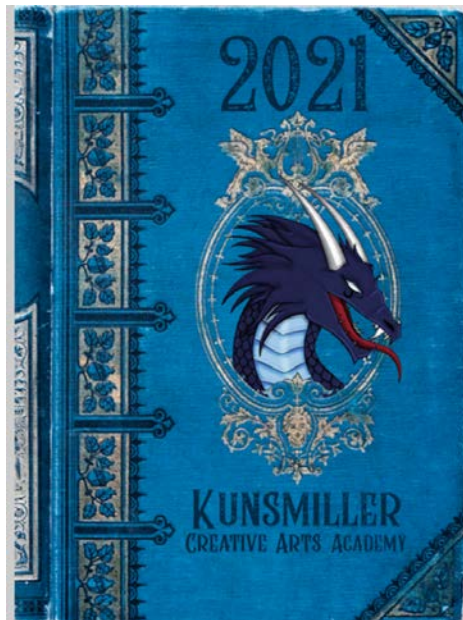
To some, we have already passed it, and to others, we have little time to

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KCAA! There's still time to get a yearbook!

The wonderful yearbook team led by Ms. Ayres has finished the yearbook! Purchase a unique yearbook for only \$25 dollars [here!](#) Grab one while you can, there's very limited stock!

If you're a senior, Ms. Ayres raised money for the entire senior class to get a yearbook for free!



Don't forget to thank the yearbook team and Ms. Ayres for putting together an amazing yearbook for us!

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## Earth Day

By: Gene Knapp

2021 marks the 51st anniversary of earth day, with the theme being 'restore our earth'. Earth day is a yearly event that takes place on April 22nd that is to raise awareness and support the environmental protection movement. This holiday first took place on April 22nd, 1970, and ever since this holiday has been widespread and globally celebrated. But, why is earth day important? Well, earth day is the largest civic event in the world and aims to raise awareness about the current climate crisis and the process of global warming. It acts to inspire the protection of the environment and encourages the need for the conservation of natural resources all around us

**. Why do we need to protect our earth?**

Earth is the third planet from the sun and the only confirmed host to humans, and unless we find a new habitable planet and make large improvements in our space travel, we only have this one earth to keep us alive. Our lovely planet is the only known planet in the universe to have liquid water on the surface, a perfect distance from the sun, and the resources to maintain life. However, we are quickly traveling toward a point of no return with our habits.





spare. With our greenhouse gas emissions being trapped in the atmosphere and the depletion of natural resources, our temperatures are rising and the weather is becoming more severe. Sea levels are rising and we're slowly writing our own fate. If we do not change the way we live soon, we won't have a healthy earth to live on and human existence will suffer. For more information, you can check out the earth day official website, [earthday.org](http://earthday.org).

### What to do on earth day

Here are some activities to do to celebrate earth day!

- SUPPORT OUR POLLINATORS! - Bring native bees and other pollinating creatures to your garden. One way to do this is by selecting the right plants.
- CLEAN UP PLASTIC IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR LOCAL PARK - One of the best ways to connect with the Earth is through cleanups! Go on a walk with a trash bag and help to clean up any plastic that you find.
- PLANT A TREE! - We love our trees! They capture carbon, cool overheated places, benefits agriculture, support pollinators, reduce the risk of disease transmission, and boost local economies.
- USE WILDFLOWERS AND NATIVE PLANTS - Wildflowers and indigenous species are not only beautiful

- but also attract native and beneficial insects that improve both pest control and pollination—meaning bigger flowers and bigger harvests. Try to simply add a couple of native plants to your garden each year, and you'll be amazed at the difference—they'll bring in pollinators as well as birds!
- REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE IN THE GARDEN - Caring about yourself and nature means being less wasteful and saving money, too. Who could argue with this?
- STOP PESTICIDES AND CHEMICALS IN THE GARDEN - Most of the beginner gardeners whom we meet want to start growing without chemicals or pesticides—in a way that works and even saves money. Much of this is simply about focusing less on the plant and more on the health of the soil that supports the plant. If it's nutrient-rich with organic matter, plants thrive.
- CONSERVE WATER! - We waste a lot of water. Avoid overwatering your plants and improve their health by knowing how much your garden really needs. Avoid watering your garden vegetables and plants from overhead, which invites fungal disease.

- THINK ABOUT YOUR DIET! - About one-third of the food that we produce every year goes to waste annually! Usually, this happens after we buy the food.

(sourced from [almanac.com](http://almanac.com))



### Culinary Club

March or April-Currently to be determined

Mrs. Burke:

[Krtistie\\_burke@dpsk12.net](mailto:Krtistie_burke@dpsk12.net)

Google meet code: KCAABAKES

### Newspaper club:

Tuesdays or Thursdays at 4:45 pm

Gene Knapp: [740261@dpsk12.net](mailto:740261@dpsk12.net)

Ms. Hempe: [ahempe@dpsk12.net](mailto:ahempe@dpsk12.net)

classroom code: ryks3xm

### MSU tutoring:

Monday-Friday 4:00-6:00 pm

Classroom code: alhp65y

**Personal Articles:** Even if you are not in the newspaper, but want to submit your writing to the current month's newspaper, you are more than welcome to! Whether it be a poem, a short story, a movie analysis, etc. you will always be welcome to submit an article to the paper.

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## YouthRoots 2020-2021

By: Victoria O'Neal

**TW: Might bring up sensitive topics, proceed with risk.**

YouthRoots is an organization of 8-16 intelligent high school individuals who live throughout the southern part of Colorado, in which youths make decisions, foster their passions, and align their strengths. These students focus on making awareness and conquering major issues that our society faces every day; dealing with food security, gender equality, climate change, unemployment, etc. Furthermore, this year they picked 3 major issues that affect not only adults but affect teenagers. These issues are sexual assault, homelessness, and mental health.

### **How and when did these individuals pick these specific issues?**

The past couple of months through 2020-2021 these students have created a survey that has been spread through schools, families, programs, and social media that contains a list of major issues in Colorado; such as homelessness, mental health, systemic racism, Climate Change, Drought and Pollution, Immigrant Rights, Education Inequity/"The Opportunity Gap", Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, and lastly Childhood Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes.

After they have gotten over 160+ responses they carefully look at what issues have been placed first, second, and third. That's not all, these individuals also have done the research and got feedback from the survey on why and how these issues affected teenagers.



### **Background information:**

YouthRoots was first launched in 2010 by Lacey Books. Did you know that they have additional YouthBoards that have made partnerships with the Community Foundation of Boulder County, to Center for Arab American Philanthropy, to Sioux Falls, and lastly to Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation through the years?

### **How do these youths get money to donate to these issues?**

Each year 2 individual teenagers in the youthroots program are trained for hours and partnered up to address 2-3 major issues to impact partners. "Impact partners" is just a fancy philanthropy lingo, which the youths are engaged in this call "participatory grant-making."

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### **If I was able to help, how can I?**

There are many ways to help fund this organization however the main way to help YouthRoots is donating any amount of money, this would be a major help to our organization. Any amount of money would help fight these major problems. This year one of our YouthRoots set a goal of at least \$4000 by the end date of April 18, 2021. They have chosen this goal this year because last year they got cut off from their donation time, which encouraged us to do 2x the amount this year.

The link to donate:

<https://www.coloradogives.org/southyouthboard21>

### **What happens if I still want to help but I can't until after the end date?**

There are actually two major things you can do. First off is simply making awareness of this amazing organization that would help the following year's donation and letting people know that there is a group of intelligent individuals trying to make a difference in our community. The second thing you could also do is donate to the YouthBoard which is the main border that helps getting YouthRoots started, but any money would help even just \$1.

The link to YouthBoards and if you wanna learn more:

<https://youthroots.org/youthboard/>

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## **Personal viewpoints on YouthRoots:**

“I think YouthRoots is an amazing organization that everyone should experience. It has taught me collaborative skills, communication, and skills I will use for the rest of my life. I have gained a love for philanthropy that I want to continue to hold onto in my future”- Victoria Majeske

“I believe that everyone should get the opportunity to be in this extraordinary program that helps with our community and works for high expectations. This program has brought many different points of view to me and taught me many things that all of us face mentally and physically. I have got the opportunity to be a part of this fantastic organization and hope to spread awareness and make our community a better place.”  
-Victoria O’Neal

“I think that YouthRoots is dope because it elevates youth voice and perspective and trust/empowers youth to make complicated decisions that most adults don't trust teens to make”- Z. Booz

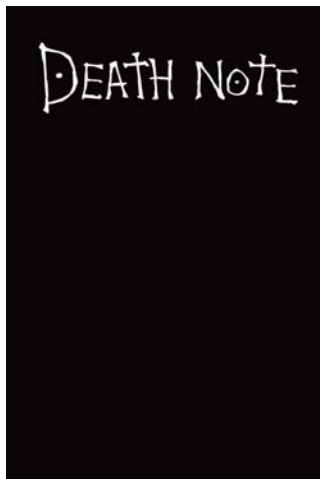
“Youthroots is an amazing organization, one that empowers the youth to identify and solve community issues to help make the world a better place. Young adults can find their strength and confidence in this program which will help them flourish into leaders!”- Kristie Burke

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## **Death note: Netflix adaptation vs. Original Anime Series**

**By: Marlenni Ortiz Perez**

Death Note is a series of Japanese Tsugumi Ohba mangas, illustrated by Takeshi Obata. This bases on a character, Light Yagami, a brilliant adolescent who discovers a mysterious otherworldly notebook, known As “Death note” or notebook of death. This notebook gives the user the supernatural power to kill anyone whose name is written in the book's pages. The series follows Light's subsequent attempts, under the alias of a god-like vigilante named "Kira," to use the Death Note to carry out a worldwide massacre of individuals he deems morally unworthy of life in order to transform the world into a utopian society free of crime. The main characters consist of, Light Yagami, L Lawliet/Ryuzaki, Ryuk, Misa Amane, Rem, Nate rive/Near, Mello/Mihael keehl, and the Japanese Task Force.



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From October 2006 to June 2007, Nippon Television broadcasted a 37-episode anime television series adaptation, produced by Madhouse and directed by Tetsur Araki. Nisio Isin wrote a light novel based on the series, which was published in 2006. In addition, Konami has released a number of video games for the Nintendo DS. The series was adapted into three live-action films in Japan, which were released in June 2006, November 2006, and February 2008, respectively, as well as a television drama in 2015. In 2016, Death Note: New Generation, a miniseries, and a fourth film were released. In August 2017, a Netflix-exclusive American film adaptation was released, and a sequel is reportedly in the works.

Following the release of 37 episodes, Instead of simply "focusing on morals or the concept of justice," director Tetsur Araki said he wanted to convey aspects that "made the series interesting." Toshiki Inoue, the series' organizer, agreed with Araki and added that in anime adaptations, highlighting the things that are "interesting in the original" is extremely important. He came to the conclusion that Light's presence was "the most compelling" aspect, so the adaptation focuses on Light's "thoughts and actions to the greatest extent possible."The Death Note anime, directed by Tetsurō Araki and animated by Madhouse, began airing in Japan on October 3, 2006



and finished its run on June 26, 2007, totaling 37 twenty-minute episodes. The series aired on the Nippon Television network "every Tuesday at 23:34".



The series was co-produced by Madhouse, Nippon Television, Shueisha, D.N. Dream Partners, and VAP. (source: Wikipedia) the anime followed a concurrent plot in which light Yagami gains possession of the death note notebook, upon certain events in which he confronts the alleged L, a private investigator, who believes Kira is not justice, he is able to outwit his investigation and be proven innocent through using the rules of the death note. By episode 25 of the animated series he proves himself innocent, and using Rem (a god of death) he kills L and passes through years of committing a worldwide massacre. Upon its ending in episode 37 two successors of L, Near and Mello both are able to provide evidence and finally convict Light Yagami as Kira, and ending the animated series in Ryuk writing Light

Yagami's name and his death. The Death Note live-action adaptation arrived in 2017. Fans of the anime may be surprised by the number of changes made. While the plot is straightforward, director Adam Wingard chose to leave Death Note on a rather large cliffhanger. This live-action series narrates rather the character Light Turner and Mia, these characters follow a similar plot to the original manga and anime but rather focus on Light having control of the situation; High schooler Light Turner stumbles across the "Death Note", a mysterious leather-bound notebook with instructions that state that by writing a person's name down within it, that person will die in the manner prescribed. Light meets the death god Ryuk, the notebook's owner, and the two decide to work together to rid the world of criminals and terrorists. Light uses the name "Kira" to draw the attention of enigmatic international detective "L", who deduces Kira is a Seattle-based student with close ties to the police. L has several FBI agents track Light and other suspects, but soon the agents commit mass suicide, which Light believes Ryuk made them do. Towards the ending, Mia meets Light at a Ferris wheel, and they ride to the top of a building, where Mia steals the notebook.



Light realizes too late that Mia's death is contingent on her taking it. Ryuk makes the wheel collapse, sending Mia falling to her death, while Light and the notebook fall into the nearby waters. The page with Light's name lands in a burning barrel in front of L's eyes.

Upon further research, There have been a number of Death Note-inspired copycat crimes all over the world. Two notes written in Latin characters stating "Watashi wa Kira desu," a mistranslation of "I am Kira" (Watashi wa Kira desu), were discovered near the partial remains of a Caucasian male in Belgium on September 28, 2007. In Belgian media, the case has been dubbed the "Mangamoord" (Dutch for Manga Murder). Four people were arrested in connection with the murder only in 2010. This film and series have also been banned in various countries due to negative impact to students or young generations upon wanting to imitate this series. In the end, these series have both influenced the creativity of the people in their works, inspiring famous cosplays, and providing ideas on how the world could be improved. The series is not recommended for young audiences and should be considered to be yet another creation of someone's imagination, attempting to set forth various people's ideas and presume a point of view from a serial killer with a god complex, who believed to be changing the world for its better.

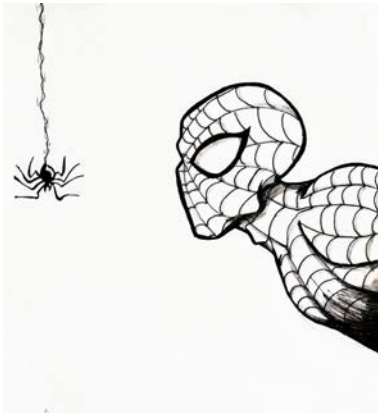
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# Student Art Gallery!

Come see your peer's amazing artwork! - Submit [here](#)

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Faith Watts  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca  
11th  
(Newspaper Staff Submission)



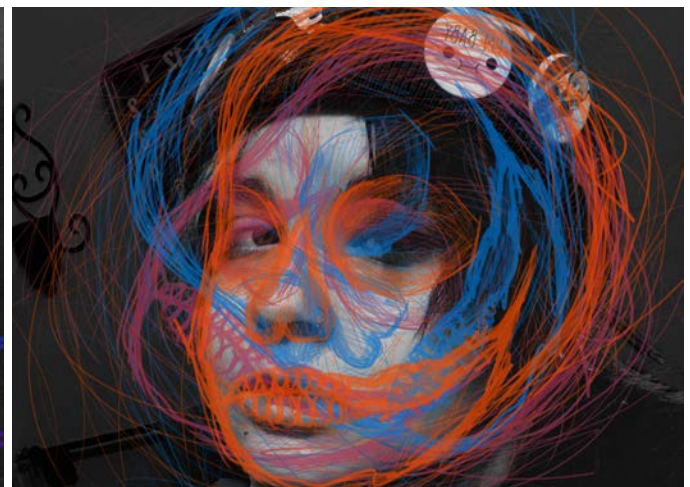
Gene Knapp  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Gabe Duke  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Gabe Duke  
11th  
(Self Submission)





FayeEtta Johnson  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Rose Bowers  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Rose Bowers  
11th  
(Self Submission)

