

# Dragondale



Denver, Colorado - May 2021 - Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy - issue #8

## DRAGONDALE #8

We did it! As of publishing, there are only two weeks left of school for everyone but the seniors! Everyone, please give a large round of applause to the seniors who put up with so much this year.

May is mental health awareness month, along with Asian Pacific American Heritage month, so stay tuned for those articles! Also, check out the winners of the two writing contests! Stick around for a fun article on pride month, as well as a teaser of our guest author's upcoming book! And possibly a few pop culture reviews!

### *Featured Articles:*

1. **Writing Co ntests Winners!**
2. **Eye On Pop Culture**
3. **Clubs**
4. **Newspaper**
5. **Mental Health Awareness Month: MAY**
6. **New Murals!**
7. **Pride Month**
8. **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

## **Congrats To the Winners of the Writing contest!**

### **Here are the works of the best entries!**

Short story winner: Jade Rose Branza, 9th grade

My eyes wandered along the dark treeline of the forest. As I squatted against a tree surrounded by foliage my breathing became shallow and quick paced. I knew they were looking for me. Suddenly off to my right a twig snaps, and I flinch hard. I can't let them see me. How are they so quiet? I moved, as much as I could, closer to the ground. The feeling of earth and midnight dew on my skin would usually be comforting, but not here, not now. I did my best to slow my breathing down, and to listen closely to the sounds in the night. I had always wondered what it was like to be a fox hunted by dogs. I wondered just how much fear they felt, well, now I know. Suddenly I can hear the light shuffling of leaves and the whispering of men, men who see it fit to have slaves, to treat people as absolutely nothing, god knows what they would do to me. I don't know how they spotted me, but as I stood at the edge of their camp in the dark, listening to their talk trying to get any scrap of information, one of them yelled out and

I quickly realized they had spotted me. From that point I ran fast and hard deep into the wood off to the side of their camps. I ran until the firelight faded and until the smell of man disappeared. But they were relentless, I had gone far from the camp and yet I could still hear them, they whispered words among themselves, and I could only hope they were getting tired of searching.

It had felt like hours that I was crouched against the cold ground. My body ached and my vision seemed to get blurry at times. I stayed listening from my spot of hiding, no sound came from any direction except the light movement of the trees in the cold winds of the night. I had heard no sound for a long time but stayed where I was. What if they are just waiting for me to think they are gone? How stupid would the men think I was hearing how I was caught and killed? I can't let that happen, not after I convinced them to let me do this. Slowly and carefully I lifted myself from the ground. Peering into the darkness, using the moonlight to see, I saw nothing but trees. I may be safe for now but I didn't let my guard down. I had to report back to the colonel, if he wasn't dead anyways. As I stood thinking I realized how dirty I was. My uniform was covered in dirt and my short black hair was damp.

I noticed a cut that ran along my hand, warm blood dripping down it. Shoot. I started hiking through the woods to the spot where I left my pack for safe keeping.

If you'd like to read the full story, please click [here!](#)

**Honorable mentions from Nancy Cantor-Cervacio and Maksym Obrochan!**

**Nancy:**

Maria Sanchez grew up in Jalisco Mexico; she loved everything about it. She lived in a rancho and always heard the rooster in the morning, the cows, the horses, everything. As she was milking the cows she saw her mom at the distance, Rosario Sanchez. Maria was only raised by her mother because once she was born her father fled. As her mom came closer she saw her mom's bright eyes seemed glowy, she stood up to see what was wrong and her mom cried. Her mom told her "Necesitamos irnos al norte hija, no puedo mantenerte bien aqui" I looked at her confused "Que?"

**Maksym:**

Everyone wants to achieve that sweet American dream. That white picket fence in a middle-class home. Having a loving family with 2.5 kids. For this dream, many people give up sleepless nights and even love once for. However, no one thinks about what happens, after they finally are able to achieve this dream. I was just like them, working hard, saving, and even praying for this dream.

Now? I have it, the white picket fence, the middle-class home in a suburban area, and even my own family with 2 kids, 1 boy, and 1 girl, yet I still wake up every day and ask myself the same question over and over. Am I living the dream? By all standards, I should be, right? When I look at my past this is more like heaven to me now. I grew up in the slums of Detroit stealing bread for my siblings, I couldn't even dream of being able to buy any food I wanted, anytime. I couldn't dream of living in a real house where I don't need to be afraid of being robbed every night. Having an actual family with a father in a stable and loving environment. How is this not a dream? That was the concussion I came up with every single day. After That I would go to work, I had a standard office job working in the IT department during, It wast anything special but it paid more than I needed.

**Poem Contest winner!**

Faith Watts, 11th grade:

The world is haunted with fear.  
Fear of one another  
Fear of yourself  
Fear of the past  
Fear of the future

The world is haunted with passion  
Passion for life  
Passion for work  
Passion for happiness  
Passion for compassion

The world is haunted by hate  
Hate of another's skin  
Hate of another's sex  
Hate of another's happiness  
Hate of one another

The world is haunted by survival  
Survival in society  
Survival in your own head  
Survival in your own skin  
Survival of the fittest

But what if I told you that your  
haunted not the world  
Look at the sky its blue  
Happiness  
Look at the sky its gloom  
Sadness

Gloom skies do not decide behavior  
Blue skies do not decide action  
Rain is meant to dance; not mope  
Snow is meant to be cozy not cold

Flip it around  
Cold snow is not cozy  
Rain is meant to mope not dance  
Behavior is based of the gloom  
skies  
Action is made by blue skies

If you would like to read the full poem, please click [here!](#)

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## Eye on Pop Culture: The Nevers

**By: Miss Amy Hempe**

I don't know if I am anybody's idea of a sci-fi nerd. There are, however, a few things that I am a sucker for, and some Victorian steam-punk is one of them.

Victorian steam-punk gives us the entry point into this occasionally muddled but very entertaining HBO limited series. What we know at the start is this: it is 1896 London: a heavily class-based, top-hatted society with rigidity and a miserable underclass with Eliza Doolittle accents. A few people who live in the margins, namely some women, a few people of color, and otherwise shy folks have been "touched" by some unknown force, meaning they have special powers. The powers can range from anything to magically healing any ailment (very cool) to being extremely tall (kind of inconvenient) to seeing snippets of the future without understanding it (annoying).

The elite of society are terrified of the Touched because, as a member of the House of Lords puts it, "God's natural order is being disrupted." Yes, a man in power proclaims that the patriarchy and white supremacy was all God's idea. But now this order has been threatened, and the Touched are in danger.



Got that? Good. Because then it gets weird. There are aliens, maybe, and fears of a serial killer, who is genuine. In Hollywood's serial killer tradition, she is charming. But against these rules, she is, well, a she. The chief antagonist is a woman, as are the two protagonists who run a safe haven for the Touched.

As I said, the plot gets muddled at times, and there are a few characters who probably deserve to get pushed into the Thames River. But overall, the pacing and the production design are well done.

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**A warning:** a few episodes were directed by Joss Whedon, a former wunderkind-turned-exposed creep. Whedon's former work includes Buffy, The Vampire Slayer and Justice League. His TV shows and movies have a whimsically wry tone that has gained him a huge following, but his hideous behavior towards women has landed him in the doghouse. I understand that this might leave many potential viewers unwilling to watch one second of his work. I've chosen to look at others' work on this show, particularly the actors and costume designers, and am leaving it at that.

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### Culinary Club

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

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**If YOU would like to be a part of the dragondale news team for the 2021-2022 school year, please contact Gene at [740261@dpsk12.net](mailto:740261@dpsk12.net) to be updated as soon as information is given!**

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## Mental Health Awareness

### Month: MAY

By: Marlenni Ortiz- Perez

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on people of all ages' mental health. It is more important than ever to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues, as this stigma often prevents people from seeking help. While one out of every five people will suffer from a mental illness at some point in their lives, everyone faces challenges that can affect their mental health. Overall it is believed that those who suffer from mental illness are categorized as crazy or lunatic. That is false, students, teachers, parents, family, even children are affected by mental illness or under the topics of mental health. Foundations such as the **National Awareness on Mental Illness(.N.A.M.I.)**, will amplify The message of "*You Are Not Alone*". Through their blogs, personal stories, videos, digital toolkits, social media engagements, and national events, they will focus on the healing value of connecting in safe ways, prioritizing mental health, and acknowledging that "it's okay to not be okay."



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The goal of Mental Health Awareness Month is to raise public awareness and educate people about mental illnesses such as depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder, which affect 18.1 percent of Americans, the realities of living with these conditions, and strategies for achieving mental health and wellness. It also aims to raise awareness about suicide, which can be triggered by certain mental illnesses. Furthermore, Mental Health Awareness Month aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental illnesses (negative attitudes and misconceptions). A presidential proclamation established the month. For these and other reasons, it's critical for those with eating disorders to pay attention to their mental health this month (and always), and for those who aren't to join us in raising awareness.

It is critical to recognize Mental illness is still widely misunderstood. More people are aware that they are suffering from treatable issues, more loved ones are encouraging earlier access to care, more attention is paid to the need for research, and more people are willing to donate to organizations that help raise mental health awareness. Individuals are unable to seek medical help because of stigma.

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Loved ones are not encouraging those who are suffering from mental health issues to seek help, instead of stigmatizing them as shameful. Many people still believe that mental illnesses are caused by poor choices and a lack of willpower to "snap out of it." This isn't correct! Take the time to explain mental health issues like eating disorders, anxiety, and depression to one's loved ones.



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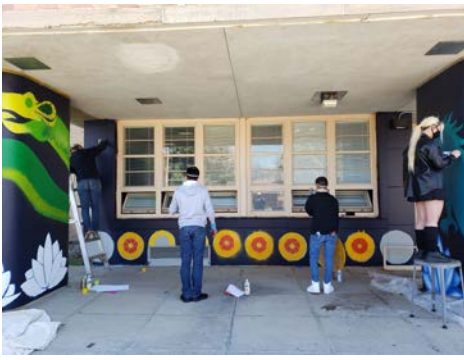
## New Murals!

By: Gene Knapp

Those of us who are in person learners may have noticed Ms. Harkey's class near the main entrance of the school with buckets of paint and lots of brushes. Here are some current progress pictures of the new murals going in at KCAA!







## Pride Month

By: Victoria O'Neal

**What is pride month:** Pride month is the promotion for dignity, equality, and to increase awareness and visibility of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders etc. Pride is also opposed to shame and it's the predominant outlook that bolsters most LGBT right movements..

**What does pride stand for?** The set of values are organized under **PRIDE**, stands for

Professionalism  
Respect  
Integrity  
Diversity  
Excellence.

**When is pride month?**

Begins on June 1st  
Ends on June 30th

**Who invented pride month?** On November 2, 1969 it was invented by Craig Rodwell and his partners Fred Sargeant, Ellen Broidy, and Linda Rhodes who was the first to propose the first pride march, held in New York City.

**Facts You Didn't Know:**

**There was a "mother of pride" who was bisexual.** The mother of pride was a woman named Brenda Howard who was known for her work in organizing the Christopher Street Liberation

Day March. Howard was also credited with laying the foundation for the weeklong celebrations of Pride leading up the modern day Pride parades. She also cofounded the New York Bisexual Network in 1988.

**Pride Month has only been acknowledged by two U.S. presidents.** The first president to acknowledge pride was President Bill Clinton in 1999. And George W. Bush never issued a proclamation commemorating LGBT Pride. The other president that acknowledged pride was President Barack Obama declaring June Pride Month since 2009. Which lead Obama to saying "All people deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and protected against discrimination, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month, we celebrate the proud legacy LGBT individuals have woven into the fabric of our Nation, we honor those who have fought to perfect our Union, and we continue our work to build a society where every child grows up knowing that their country supports them, is proud of them, and has a place for them exactly as they are."



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**Every color of the rainbow flag means something and ever wondered who designed it?** The first original flag was made in San Francisco in 1978 designed by Gilbert Baker. The meaning behind all the colors were

- **Hot pink** represents sexuality
- **Red** represents life
- **Orange** represents healing
- **Yellow** represents sunlight
- **Green** represents nature
- **Turquoise** represents magic and art
- **Indigo** represents serenity and harmony
- **Violet** represents spirit



# Student Art Gallery!

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

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Christina Martinez  
10th?  
Submitted by Ms. Harkey



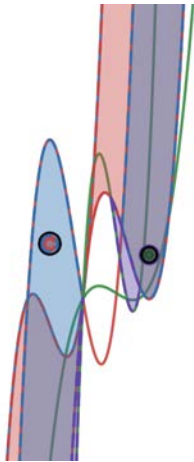
Keit Phan  
10th?  
Submitted by Ms. Harkey



Tabitha Martinez  
10th?  
Submitted by Ms. Harkey



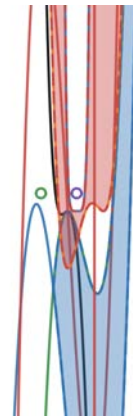
Diana Madera-Garay  
11th  
Submitted by Mrs. Becker



Rose Bowers  
11th  
Submitted by Mrs. Becker



Oscar-Rodriguez-Garcia  
11th  
Submitted by Mrs. Becker





9th  
Submitted by Ms. Fulton



Anna Zertuche  
9th  
Submitted by Ms. Fulton

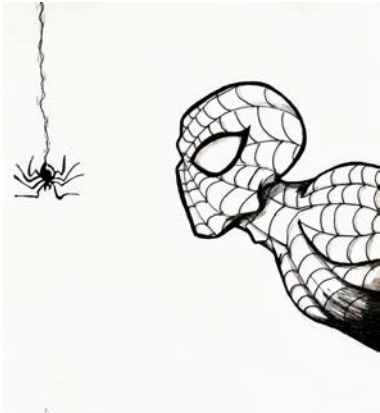


Jasper Young  
9th  
Submitted by Ms. Fulton





Faith Watts  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca  
11th  
(Newspaper Staff Submission)



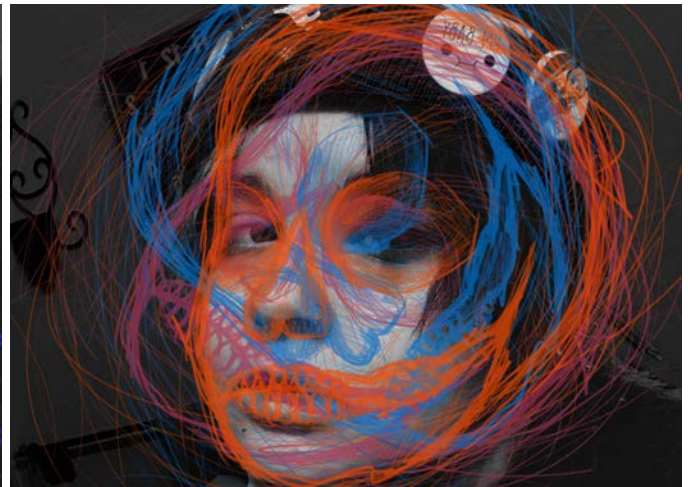
Gene Knapp  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Gabe Duke  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Gabe Duke  
11th  
(Self Submission)



FayeEtta Johnson

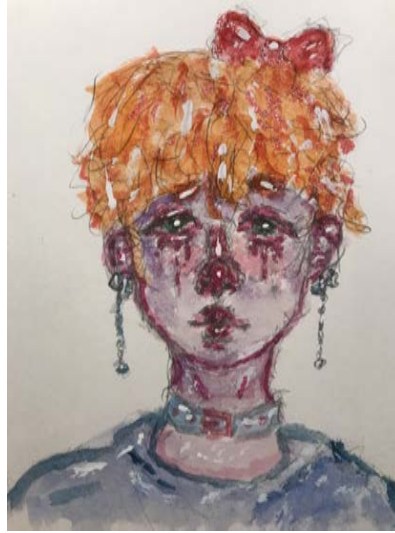
Sophia Porreca

Sophia Porreca

11th  
(Self Submission)



11th  
(Self Submission)



11th  
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Rose Bowers  
11th  
(Self Submission)



Rose Bowers  
11th  
(Self Submission)

