
Dragondale

Denver, Colorado - October 2020 - Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy - issue #1

DRAGONDALE #1

Welcome to the first and most spooky issue of Dragondale news! This issue we will discuss some spooky, heartwarming things such as day of the dead and what to do on Halloween while quarantined. Well also be discussing folklore, but also covering topics very prominent in our lives recently such as the BLM protests and mental health. Stay tuned for more information on our school's clubs and check out our kcaa student's amazing pieces of artwork!

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Day of the Dead

By: Victoria O'Neal

el Día de Los Muertos

The roots of the Day of the Dead, celebrated in contemporary Mexico and among those of Mexican heritage in the United States and around the world, go back some 3,000 years, to the rituals honoring the dead in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica. The Aztecs and other Nahua people living in what is now central Mexico held a cyclical view of the universe, and saw death as an integral, ever-present part of life. This celebration Begins Midnight **October 31st** ends **November 2nd** In actuality, Dio De Los Muertos is not one, but two days spent in honor of the dead. The first day celebrates infants and children who have died. The second day is in honor of adults who have passed away. While Americans tend to avoid discussing the idea of death, people in the Mexican culture embrace death and celebrate it.



Humor is a big role played during this holiday

Given that Day of the Dead is a festivity, it has become common to interject classic Mexican humor to add to the light-heartedness of the occasion. Day of the Dead art often features skeletons drinking, dancing, celebrating, and these skeletons are often depicted in humorous situations. Since the 19th Century, the holiday has become synonymous with the art of Mexican cartoonist José Guadalupe Posada.

Visiting Cemeteries: A

central part of the holiday involves going to the cemetery and spending time at the graves of loved ones. In preparation for Day of the Dead, families will clean and wash the graves of their departed, and decorate them with candles, and flowers such as marigolds. They will bring offerings of food that the deceased enjoyed and objects that were meaningful to them in life. In the case of children, toys will be brought to the gravesite. In many parts of the country, families will share a meal alongside the graves of their relatives, while sharing stories and memories about the loved ones they have lost.

BLM Protests

By: Dazhay Aguirre

What They Are and Why:

The BLM Protests are protests obviously, but they're much more than that. They are a way to speak up and advocate to get attention for all of the enormity, discriminatory actions, and the justice that no one seems to be getting. POC have been unjustly killed by cops which has been an ongoing problem across America. The stereotypes we've seen have greatly affected that. Although it's risen a lot throughout 2020, POC have been getting killed for years without reason and we don't see much justice. Throughout the summer of 2020, we've seen people getting unjustly killed and many people have things to be said about it including students at our school. I have interviewed two high school students at KCAA because they attended the protests and I wanted to see what their intake was on them and how they felt about what should change. Here's what they said.

1- Did you have any negative experiences? If you did, what were they?

Luna- I would say the negative experiences came from the oppressors. 12 gassed our people along with arresting and pressing unjust charges that will follow

Lali- No, I had no negative experiences, I went during the day when things were calm.

2- What do you think would be the perfect outcome from all of the protests?

Luna- The perfect outcome is to receive justice for our fight. If we are protesting for Breonna Taylor we DEMAND justice for Breonna Taylor and nothing less. Yet, it has become very evident that our government does not care to serve it.

Lali- I had hoped that each of the people who had been unfairly treated by police would get justice, whether they are alive or have passed. I had hoped that Breanna Taylor got her justice, clearly, it didn't work out like that, but I was hopeful.

3- Do you think the protests impacted anything? If so, What?

Luna- Protesting definitely made changes happen. Yet for the most part, it wasn't for the genuine good of our people. It was either a front to look good or a way to sell and brainwash many.

Lali- I think that the protests made people more aware of what is truly going on in America. Of course, things won't be solved overnight and this has and will be a struggle for many years.

4- Do you think the protests were a success? If so, Elaborate.

Luna- Protests were successful in the fact that many people are finally using their voices for social issues. But overall we have not received what we are truly looking for which is justice for our passed brothers and sisters.

Lali- Like I said in a way I do think they were a success. They opened up the eyes of many people to see what America is like for POC. Things aren't going to be solved overnight but making sure people hear and are aware is a success in my book.

5- How was your overall experience? Was it positive, negative, or both?

Luna- My experience was positive. I was able to use my voice for causes I believed in. I got to become educated on these topics and made some of the greatest connections in this movement. I am so glad problems are being brought to the light and I only hope people stay mad and keep fighting.

Lali- I enjoyed being at the protests. Everyone was there with the same common goals. It was amazing seeing everyone joining together.

them for years.

Mental Health & Awareness

By: Marlenni Ortiz Perez

CAUTION: !!Trigger warning!!

Mental health: What is mental health? Moreover, Why should we be informed about it? Each year we all grow, mentally, physically, and emotionally. With such growth, many can also develop disorders or issues. In 2020, we faced various challenges, such as the global outbreak of Covid-19 to social injustice and the backlash it created. Moreover, how have people dealt with these challenges? Even now, how can everyone deal with the stress given after trying to face protests and quarantine this year?

Mental health affects how we react, think, speak in certain situations and scenarios, and forms our personality. It connects our physical and emotional health as one, and it provides the ability to cope with problems and prepare us for negative or stressful scenarios.

What are the pros and cons? Many inform us that the pros can be a better lifestyle or better reactions. But the cons can vary. While mental health and mental disorders both mention mental, they are two contrasting subjects. [mentalhealth.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.gov) informs us if

someone is aware of their mental health and cares for it, It can help them "realize their full potential, cope with the stress of life, work productively, and make meaningful contributions to their communities." On the other hand, there are adverse outcomes, signs of disorders, and illnesses related to Mental health also known as mental disorders.

[health.usnews.com](https://www.health.usnews.com) mentions, "Mental illness can take a variety of forms, from anxiety and bipolar disorder to schizophrenia and major depression." But what does all this mean? By taking care of our mental health, we open up and can work or live efficiently. Some ways to take care of our mental health include, Maintaining a healthy diet, Exercising, Practicing Meditation, Taking breaks, Setting realistic goals and or expectations, and Keeping thoughts organized. It can help us learn patience and timing. While maintaining mental hygiene, there are people who may experience mental health problems, these are also known as cons or difficulties. While they can be self-diagnosed, it is highly suggested to visit a professional.

The following can be helpful to determine the beginning of mental health issues, disorders, or illnesses. "Eating or sleeping too much or too little, Pulling away from people and usual activities, Having low or no energy,

Feeling numb or like nothing matters, Having unexplained aches and pains, Feeling helpless or hopeless, Smoking, drinking, or using drugs more than usual, Feeling unusually confused, forgetful, on edge, angry, upset, worried, or scared, Yelling or fighting with family and friends, Experiencing severe mood swings that cause problems in relationships, Having persistent thoughts and memories you cannot get out of your head, Hearing voices or believing things that are not true, Thinking of harming yourself or others" (source: [mentalhealth.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.gov))

How have people dealt with mental health and 2020? Many people consider meditation, many useful apps that guide them into a remote calmness and help them distance themselves from work and stress. Alternatively, help prepare for the stressful day or evaluate on their day to provide the advice for tomorrow. Some apps include:

- Calm (available on apple store)
- Insight timer (available on google play & apple store)
- Headspace (available on: google play, apple store, and website)

Other great apps are located under the well-being or health tabs of your local device's app store. Some hold a free trial or are

free; others are listed for a specific price. Some last words include making motivational reminders throughout the day, Make some reminders on a device; these can help push past a tough day. Everything happens for a particular reason. Taking a deep breath, or just putting a small minute timer will help bring a little break to process a thought. Each month I will cover topics related to health, specifically resources, and how each helps us during the school year. Stay positive!!

Folklore from Around the World

By: Gene Knapp

Halloween is filled to the brim with spooky urban legends, in American Halloween stories if it's not ghosts and zombies, it's witches or vampires! But what about the folktales you haven't heard? All across the world, there are fables about ghouls and spirits, legends, and stories involving spooky stories and experiences. Most people think these legends are exactly that; legends, just another fiction story, but there are many people who have had very REAL encounters with these myths.

NIGHT MARCHERS: This legend is present on all of the Hawaiian islands, night marchers are fallen soldiers who rise and march to a

rhythm along the beaches. They are known to come out on the nights where Hawaiians celebrate their four main gods; Kū, Kane, Lono, and Kanaloa. These spirits of fallen soldiers usually march to ancient Hawaiian battle sights/sacred places.

ENCOUNTERS: Most people who have encountered them say they are ghostly apparitions that move to the same beat, others say that they are armed with traditional Koa weaponry (Hawaiian warriors with spears, clubs, daggers, and weapons made with animal teeth). The common belief is that these warriors are looking to reclaim their own territory, avenge battles that have gone awry, or even avenge their own passing. Some even say that they are searching for an entrance into the next world, but alas, we would never be able to know their true intentions.

If encountered, you will hear the faint spine chilling sound of drumming, and you will see the light from their torches. If you show them respect through solitude you will be spared, it's also rumored that if you are a part of the lineage of one of the soldiers you will also be spared. If you happen to be in the direct path of the night marchers, you are to strip naked and lie face down, you are not too look at them, and all you can do is hope they don't notice you.

LA LLORONA

La Llorona (or the Weeping Woman) is an urban legend from the Mexican culture about a woman who drowned her children in a river. It is said that she mourns their death for eternity, roaming riverbanks searching for her children. Rumor has it that when she was still alive she would mourn them day and night, walking along the river in a white gown. She refused to eat or drink and the more time she spent outside, the more torn up and dirty her dress became. Her lack of eating caused her to become thinner and thinner by each passing day and was said to look like a walking skeleton until she died on the bank of the river. Shortly after her passing, her spirit was released and said to appear near the Santa Fe River at dusk. Her weeping and wailing was a clear indicator that she was near and was seen as a 'curse of the night', people were in fear to leave the house at night, and they definitely wouldn't let their children out in fear that La Llorona would think they were her own and drown them as well.

ENCOUNTERS: People who have sighted her say she was floating in between trees on the shore or floating above the river with her gown being caught in the current. They also say that she is walking along the river bank, wailing and crying for her children's names, hoping she'll find them.

SKINWALKERS

Skinwalkers are the more known topic of discussion of all these chosen legends. Skinwalkers are a type of harmful witch with the ability to morph or disguise themselves as animals.

Skinwalkers are known mostly in the Navajo culture, who say that to become a skinwalker you must be taken in by a secret society that requires you to kill a close family member. After this, the individual develops unique supernatural powers and shapeshifting abilities. Most often they are seen as coyotes or wolves but can take the shape of any animal they choose. They wear the skins of animals, which is where the name originated from. Skinwalkers can also take possession of humans if human victims lock eyes with the skinwalker. After taking control they control the victim fully, making them say and do whatever they want.

How do you spot a skinwalker:

Usually, you can tell because their eyes are very different from an animal's eyes. Instead, they are human-like and glow, and when the light shines on them, they turn red. And vice versa, when they are in human form, their eyes are animal-like. They also have the ability to say certain things depending on the person they are trying to lure out, but you can tell that they are not human because of the way their voice sounds. It

often sounds broken and like a recorder being played on repeat-almost too perfect for a real human. Most reports say that they call for help, but don't seem agonizing or genuine.

This topic is not at all talked about in the Navajo culture, though there is a basic understanding of what they are and why they are evil. The Navajo say even saying their name will bring them to you. So, if you ever come in contact with a Navajo, don't bring up skinwalkers.

These are three generally unknown legends that are said to sneak around our world, but if you ever encounter one for yourself, you can count on being the center of attention the next time you tell a ghost story.

Halloween During Quarantine

By: Iris Cruz

How Did Halloween Start And Why? Halloween started off as a tradition formed by the Celtic Festival of Samhain. In this festival, people would light up bonfires and wear costumes to scare off ghosts. Over time Halloween turned into a day of festive gatherings, people trick or treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, and other fun activities.

"Halloween" means "Saints Evening" which comes from a Scottish term.

5 Facts About Halloween :

- Jack-o-lantern comes from the Irish legend of Stingy Jack
- Candy Corn was originally called "Chicken Feed"
- Trick Or Treating comes from "Souling"
- The most lit Jack-o-lanterns on display is 30,581
- Halloween folklore is full of fortune telling and magic

10 Things To Do For Halloween For Quarantine :

- Decorate House
- Carve Pumpkins
- Make Halloween Treats
- Dress up and take pictures
- Play a Halloween Game
- Do a tarot card reading
- Watch a scary movie
- Paint your face
- Deliver Treats To Your Loved Ones
- Go On a Family bike ride



Upcoming School Projects

By: Marlenni Ortiz Perez

Upcoming Projects and virtual clubs

2020 has been a memorable and important year. Students and teachers have been struggling and thriving in any way they can. While most people miss school and want to find that connection of socializing again, there has been an opening to various communication methods. One of them is through virtual school clubs; As students split into virtual or in-person learning, there have been some virtual clubs opening. Here are a few:

Dragon Crew: For any student wanting to get involved in the dancing community, Hosted by Mr. William Starn, we have Dragon crew. An afterschool team of dancers focusing on creating dance productions while in the struggle of virtual learning. This club is from 4-5:30 on Tuesdays. To get more information about this, please contact Mr. Starn wstarn@dpsk12.net.

Culinary Club: For students interested in culinary arts, explicitly cooking, joining Mr. And Ms. Burke afterschool for the Culinary Club is for you. With the struggles of being online, who would not want to make some snacks while enjoying some time

What Is The Real Meaning Of Halloween? The word

with others? Please contact Ms. Burke for more information at Krtistie_burke@dpsk12.net.

The newspaper club: They are currently in need of some strong Spanish-speaking journalists, photographers, or any contributions. A paper copy of the newspaper is not available due to the virus, but the website is here:

<https://dragondalenews.weebly.com/> . If students are interested in joining, please contact Gene (chief and editor) at 740261@dpsk12.net or Ms. Amy Hempe

Amy_hempe@dpsk12.net.

Students are welcome to join through the google classroom code: **ryks3xm**

MSU tutoring: Students struggling with homework, classwork, or just hope to be entertained with others are welcome to join. The Classroom code is **alhp65y** or available from Mondays through Fridays from 4-6 pm. They will use Blue Jeans; a Verizon powered video call platform. You can join through <https://bluejeans.com/360578998>.

Currently, there are many projects made by students with teachers. The following are upcoming projects. Coming

"She Kills Monsters" will stream November 12-13. This play was supervised by Michael Burqueist and lead director Eloisa Trujilo, with the leads, Lorena Hernandez, Cas Truong, Isaac Chavez, and Anthony Digisualdo. A small summary of this play: She Kills Monsters tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she stumbles into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was Tilly's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and 90s pop culture, playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all

Contact Mr. Berquist:

Michael_berquist@dpsk12.net

The KCAA A/V production team is in the process of making a short horror film. This will be starring Jennalee Casias, Fernando Gutierrez Jr., Alexandra Flores-Plata, and Christina Rocha. With Mr. Tony Abel-Pype, as the supervising teacher. Stay tuned! **Contact Mr. Abel-pype:**

mr.abelpype@gmail.com

soon, or in the current process
being completed.

Newspaper News!

By: Gene Knapp and Gabe Duke

Welcome to the first issue of the 2020 year. I will be going over some quick ideas for you all to think about.

Personal Articles: Even if you are not in the newspaper, but want to submit your writing into 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. If you choose so contact Ms. Hempe at Amy_hempe@dpsk12.net, Gene Knapp at 740261@dpsk12.net, or Gabe Duke at 718366@dpsk12.net and they will get back to you!

Art Gallery: If you want to submit art that you have done to the newspaper's very own art gallery, feel free to! Use Gene's contact information up above to submit. The only requirements are your first and last name and grade. We **will not** accept any NSFW art, gore art, or heavily triggering art. Teachers, you can also submit students' artwork into the paper if you so choose.

Suggestions: If you have any suggestions on how we could

Akira Movie Review

By: Sophia Porreca

If you're looking for an intense, vibrant, unique movie that pushes the boundaries of storytelling then Akira is a great movie to check out. Akira is a Japanese animated movie that was released in 1988 written directed by Katsuhiro Otomo. It's based on the manga series Akira that's also written by Katsuhiro Otomo. It's renowned as a classic for anime and is one of the first Japanese movies that gained traction in America. Akira is a very complicated and mature film that shouldn't be taken lightly.

A lot of misconceptions about animation as a medium is that it's for kids, this is not true; animation can be a perfect medium to explore darker themes in a more visual way. Akira is a great example of this due to the film having extreme violence, twisted characters, and a plot that's built on interpretation. So Akira definitely earns its mature rating despite being animated.

The film takes place in 2019 and the environment of the film is quite advanced and innovative, a wonderful example of the 80s fixation of the future leading to so many classic action movies taking place in today's present like Blade Runner, Escape From New York and Road Warrior. The basic plot is the leader of a biker gang Kande and his friend Tetsuo in Neo Tokyo get accidentally involved in a

The artwork in this movie is breathtaking and stimulating. Akira is a movie that is visually stunning due to bright vibrant colors and interesting visuals that were influenced by the future time period. There's lots of disturbing and freaky imagery that is unlike anything I've ever seen. The soundtrack is fascinating and really takes you to the world of Akira. It's unique and helps build suspense in the story. However, there are many moments in the movie where there's no music or sound and there's nothing but your thoughts as you watch the screen. It's an interesting choice that creates unease.

The characters in the movies are super unique and their intentions and actions are illustrated in an understanding way. The relationship between these two characters Tetsuo and Kaneda feels so real you sense the strain of the relationship. No character feels the same Akira. The best way to describe the plot of Akira is complicated. It's a film that makes you think and confuses you but that's what's so appealing about it the movie is like a puzzle and it's different for everyone.

The film challenges themes of power and the importance of using power wisely. It dives into the corruption of power and a damaged mindset that is powerful to watch. The film is also philosophical at times talking about the secrets of human evolution and how that plays with our demise. The film lets you interpret things instead of spoon-feeding you every detail. This film isn't for everyone due to the extreme nature. But if you're a fan of this type of movie and want to watch Akira it's free on Hulu in two version

improve the newspaper, what you want to see, or just ideas for cool stories, feel free to tell us.

covered-up government program 31 years after world war 3.

subtitles and dub.

The artwork in this movie is

Student Art Gallery

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

Maksym Obrochan

11th

(Submitted by Mr. Able-Pype)



Celica Munoz

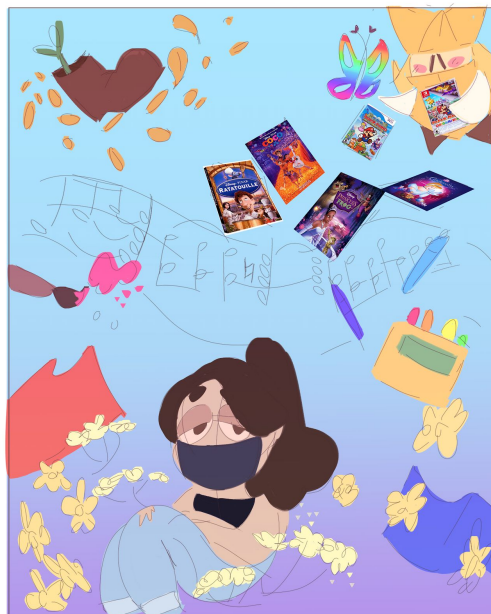
11th

(Submitted by Mr. Able-Pype)

Ariana Koon

11th

(Submitted by Mr. Able-Pype)



Jayden Castaneda

11th

(Submitted by Mr. Able-Pype)

Gunnison Custer

8th

(Submitted by Ms. Fulton)



Haven Chase

8th

(Submitted by Ms. Fulton)



Cain Purdy
9th
(Submitted by Ms. Fulton)



Lily Holmes
8th
(Submitted by Mr. Neal)



Shea Anderson
12th
(self-submission)

