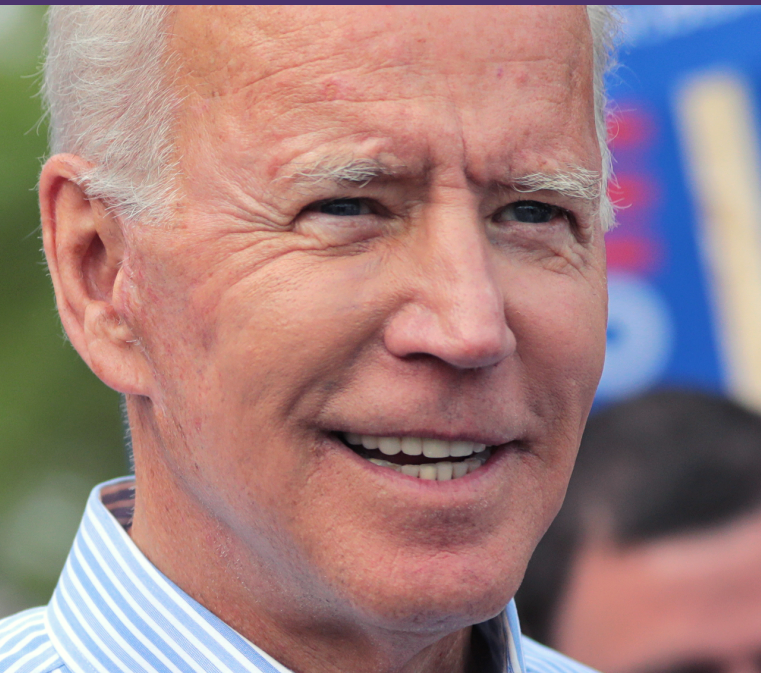


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LO-ELLEN PARK'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER



FEATURED:

AFTERMATH - THE 2020 US ELECTION, FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES

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OPINION: Donald Trump's False Rhetoric Is Nothing New, and it Undermines American Democracy

By Eli Paibomsai

With this election now behind us, many terrifying aspects of American political culture have come to light. Donald Trump still refuses to accept the fair and proper democratic process, claiming that the election was the "GREATEST ELECTION FRAUD IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY!!!" as per a tweet put out on December 20th.

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OPINION: Media Needs Accountability, GOP Sees Fresh Candidates, Promising Results

By Paul Giles

All throughout the election, and the legal challenges that followed, the legacy media were quick to show us their bias. By preemptively declaring Joe Biden President-elect, the media should be held responsible for increasing levels of polarization, allowing Democrats to believe that the election was all but over.

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He cannot accept the facts, even when the current President-elect, Joe Biden, has a lead in the popular vote by upwards of 5,000,000, and was certified by the Electoral College as the definite winner of the Presidential Election on December 14th.

Following the election, Donald Trump sowed seeds of doubt regarding the legitimacy of ballots to his supporters, stating “We want to have — get rid of the ballots and you’ll have a very peaceful, there won’t be a transfer, frankly. There’ll be a continuation” Trump said during a press conference on November 23rd.

What Donald Trump is stating was predicted as far back as the 2016 Presidential Debate between himself and then-Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, where she remarked:

“You know, every time Donald thinks things aren’t going in his direction, he claims whatever it is is rigged against him. The FBI conducted a year-long investigation into my emails. They concluded there was no case; he said the FBI was rigged. He lost the Iowa caucus, the Wisconsin primary; he said the Republican primary was rigged against him.”

This exact response from Donald Trump has been seen time and time again. When Trump loses, it is never his fault, but rather the system. He has surrounded himself with devoted loyalists his entire life, and refuses to accept any valid criticism or face simple facts. He chooses instead to discredit any who talk negatively about him, a pattern of behaviour that is not compatible with fundamentally democratic values.

Following the election, Trump’s conspiracies have reared their ugly heads yet again. He (as predicted), claimed that the election was rigged, despite being “one of the most secure elections in US history” as per a statement issued by the Department of Homeland Security. Trump must be removed from office at all costs on January 20th. His rhetoric of a false election represents a fundamental danger to western democracy, and the sanctity of the process.

It seems clear that the mainstream media’s goal is not to provide citizens with truthful and accurate information, but to further divide us, and push the Democrats’ left-wing agenda, censoring any ideas coming from the right.

Currently, the Electors have certified the vote for President-elect Biden. However, these results have yet to be reviewed by a joint session of Congress to be held on January 6th. This is the final hope for Republicans who wish to expose what they claim is significant voter fraud and irregularities that call the projected results of the election into question. During this session, several Republican representatives have declared that they will exercise their right to make objections over the results of the electoral vote. These include future stars of the Republican Party Matt Gaetz of the 1st District of Florida, and freshman congressman-elect Madison Cawthorn representing the 11th District of North Carolina. We are now seeing a profound schism within the GOP, between establishment Republicans such as Mitch McConnell and Susan Collins, and the fresh populist ideals of Gaetz and Cawthorn.

Regardless of the challenges coming to the Houses of Congress on January 6th, populist Republicans should be overjoyed at the down-ticket results. The GOP swept all 27 of the “contested” House races, and are likely to hold a majority in the Senate by winning 1 of the 2 runoff races in Georgia on January 5th. These Republican victories add fuel to claims of voter fraud as some on the right feel it is unlikely for Biden to have won over 80 million votes, with a surge of GOP support down-ballot.

With the presidential election aside, the sanctity of the union rests in the Senate races in Georgia. A Republican Senate is crucial in order to stop the agenda of Joe Biden’s presidency.

When Trump loses, it is never his fault, but rather the system. He ... refuses to accept any valid criticism or face simple facts.

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Blue Door Soup Kitchen, Student Council Fundraiser sees Record-breaking Donations

By Aidan Kallioinen

From November 24th - December 4th, the annual Blue Door Soup Kitchen fundraiser, an initiative directed by the Student Council, has shattered its previous fundraising record. Between homeroom contributions of essential goods and monetary donations, the students and staff of Lo-Ellen Park managed to raise over \$2,200 to assist Blue Door's mission of providing meals and principal necessities to Sudbury's homeless. The community of Lo-Ellen Park has proven, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and social isolation, its ability to pull together and work towards a common goal. A statement from the Student Council's Instagram page echoed this sentiment, noting "We are apart, but still together." Much of this effort was directed at Homeroom Challenges, in which students were encouraged to bring in as many supplies as they could over a two week period. The winner of the challenge was Ms. Yauk's homeroom class, which managed to raise over \$1,300 alone during the fundraiser!

Student Council's fundraising efforts were immediately directed towards "Toonie Tuesday" on December 8th. In cooperation with Lockerby Composite School, Knights were encouraged to show their support by donating \$2.00 if possible. Together, Knights and Vikes raised over \$1,000. The proceeds of the fundraiser will go directly to the Children's Aid Society, which serves to promote child and family well-being. Given record levels of participation in the previous fundraising efforts, the Student Council is galvanized and working hard to ensure future initiatives are just as, if not more successful.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Nordic Knights: Staying Strong

By Kai Nener

Winter is here, and that means snow... eventually. While it may be beginning to look a bit like a green Christmas, that isn't stopping the LEP Nordic Ski Team from getting into full swing with their training. Coming off of a rather uneventful, yet always successful cross-country running season, Mr. Ward and his athletes have been training hard as always to stay fit and kick the COVID blues. Needless to say, 2020 has been a big disappointment for much of the team, sort of like the year that keeps on taking. For the Nordic Knights, that came in the form of races.

Despite COVID restrictions, they have been holding pandemic-friendly practices and staying strong (mentally and physically) through the season. Whether it is running, roller skiing, or strength-training, these persistent athletes have been finding ways to train and stay social (...ly distanced) during these trying times. Extra-curricular activities have never been so important, and after an incredibly strong 2019-2020 season with multiple OFSAA wins and podium placements, our Nordic Knights simply can't wait for the snow to come back. In the meantime, there are still hopes for races to come later in January should Covid efforts be sufficient to keep cases low, and with any luck, some snow to ski on. Best of luck to all of those participating in LEP athletics!



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Spirit Days: Encouraging Participation from Both In-person and Remote Learners

By Aidan Kallioinen

Over the course of our first semester, Lo-Ellen Park students have shown, despite the challenges and sacrifices we've made in the common interest of keeping our community safe, our school spirit has never been more profound.

Throughout the passing months, the Lo-Ellen Park Student Council has encouraged students and faculty engaging in both in-person and online learning to participate in a series of spirit weeks. These spirit weeks range from encouraging those to wear orange on October 30th in solidarity with those affected by the residential school system, to more lighthearted affairs with a Halloween costume contest, twin day, and funny hat day. Through it all we've seen record numbers of participants in these exciting shows of school pride. Inspired by the recent success of these events among students, the Student Council has expanded their scope, introducing colour wars day (in which each grade was assigned a particular colour to wear), as well as jersey day, and mismatched colour day. In addition, the Student Council planned a final holiday spirit week, which had students partake in a variety of holiday-themed activities, such as Santa hat day, red and green day, and ugly Christmas sweater day.

By including remote learners in these relatively simple, yet enjoyable competitions, Lo-Ellen Park has demonstrated that, despite our distance, everyone can still be proud to be a Knight!



"2019-2020: JUNIOR BOYS NOSSA CHAMPIONS"
PHOTO SUPPLIED

Lo-Ellen Park Basketball: An Unprecedented Start to the Season

By Aidan Kallioinen
(with additional reporting
by Callum Betrand)

Lo-Ellen Park Basketball has once again begun for our Novice, Junior, and Senior teams. With the current global pandemic, Lo-Ellen Park's sports teams have seen an unprecedented start to the school year, with drastic changes in the ways in which they play.

For basketball, that means little likelihood for tournaments or games this year. Players are not permitted to scrimmage, and must wear a mask at all times. Players only participate in the most rudimentary of drills (dribbling, shooting, passing) and must avoid prolonged contact. This presents a challenge for players who wish to develop their skills through games, and there are some concerns from teammates with regard to the heat that develops through the mask itself. Not only that, but athletes (at least for the time being) are not permitted to play defense at all due to the aforementioned rules regarding prolonged contact. Many team members have voiced their worries that they may struggle on defense when real play comes back into action. However, given the current COVID-19 pandemic, these rules are unlikely to be altered, leading to an abnormal and unparalleled season when compared to any other year.

Though Lo-Ellen Park athletes must make sacrifices, we never fail to see Knights bring their best, no matter what the circumstances.



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

The Veiled Reality of Education in Canada

By Kerry Yang

The issue of inequalities in education is often dismissed as a problem exclusive to developing countries far from Canada. After all, Canada consistently ranks in the top 5 for our education systems. But is an education in Canada really as picturesque as its international rank?

The reality is that our education system isn't all that it seems. Graduation rates among Indigenous youth diverge dramatically when compared to non-Indigenous students. Students in remote Northern communities struggle to buy the most basic learning supplies to support their education, and there's a clear correlation between poverty and academic success. In order to tackle these problems, the first step is to dismantle the idea of perfection in our education system. This starts with educating ourselves with accurate information.

According to Indigenous Services Canada (Government of Canada), the national high school graduation rate for Indigenous youths on reserves is 44%, which pales in comparison to the national graduation rate of 88%. Indigenous students living off-reserve have a 75% graduation rate which is still a startling gap for a country renowned for our education system. So why do these gaps exist, and how do we fix them? First, we need to acknowledge the history of residential schools and their potential ramifications for Indigenous students' relationship with the provincial school system. However, despite some attempts at reconciliation, schools on reserves are significantly underfinanced with dangerous structural problems in school buildings, a lack of learning resources, and underqualified or undertrained teachers. We need to make sure that adequate funding for education is directed in the right areas by making decisions with the consultation of teachers and staff from the schools in need of help.

If you want to help students across Canada obtain a quality education, you can donate any new or gently-used education materials to the Sudbury School Supply Drive. You're welcome to donate books, writing utensils, craft supplies, art kits, bags, calculators, tablets, or anything else. Collection boxes are located across Sudbury as well as the Lo-Ellen foyer where they can be dropped off. You can learn more about the drive @sudburyschoolsupplydrive on Instagram.

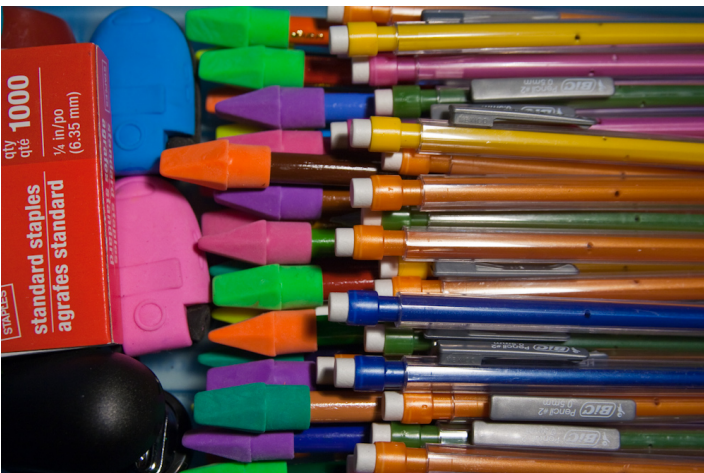


PHOTO COURTESY OF QUEENSEAGLE.COM



Students in remote Northern communities struggle to buy the most basic learning supplies to support their education ... In order to tackle these problems, the first step is to dismantle the idea of perfection in our education system.

At-home Extracurricular Activities for Great College/University Applications!

By Joseph Priolo

As the COVID-19 pandemic puts limitations on the extracurricular aspects of student life, many students look to remote activities for university application-boosting extracurriculars. Although the world's current condition puts restraints on students with regard to their options, it has additionally opened up opportunities for students to take initiative and create personally fulfilling experiences from home. Taking an interest (or a potential interest) and discovering something particularly enriching from it on your own is a fantastic way to stand out in the post-secondary admission process. Here are 4 extracurricular activities that you can do at home to impress universities:

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For the Holiday Season: Test your Knowledge of Christmas Traditions from around the World!

By Aidan Kallioinen

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Lo-Ellen Press! As the festivities approach us, why not test your knowledge of how other regions of the world celebrate the season? Inspired by Mr. Peloso's World Issues Class.

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

1) In which country do people traditionally mark the holiday season by lighting candles at the graves of deceased loved ones?

- A. Turkey
- B. China
- C. Finland
- D. Mexico

2) Which country is Sinterklaas originally from?

- A. Belgium
- B. The Netherlands
- C. Germany
- D. Poland

3) In what South American city are residents known to roller-skate to mass on Christmas Day?

- A. Bogotá
- B. Caracas
- C. La Paz
- D. Rio de Janeiro

4) In what country is it a common tradition to eat at Kentucky Fried Chicken during Christmas?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Malaysia
- C. Indonesia
- D. Japan

5) In 2017, the average American spent how much on Christmas gifts?

- A. \$1100
- B. \$2300
- C. \$540
- D. \$1500



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAVIM.COM

Extracurriculars cont'd

1) Pursuing a Remote Internship

The coronavirus has led to the cancellation of many conventional internships, but remote internships are a wonderful alternative. Remote internships give you the opportunity to participate from across the globe and not only from your local region, offering work in a broader spectrum of interests.

2) Starting an Online Community

With the pandemic making meeting in-person difficult for many, starting an online community surrounding a topic that interests you can be a fantastic way to make meaningful connections in the current times. Whether it be through an online blog, social media page, or a Discord server, any initiative to share your interests and values with others is great for university applications.

3) Writing and Publishing a Book

The idea of writing and publishing a book as a high-schooler seems unrealistic, but it's entirely possible, and a great way to demonstrate your learning experience and your passion for a subject! It could be publishing a children's book, or perhaps an intro textbook on a subject you've mastered. The way you present your knowledge is up to you!

4) Creating an Organization

In creating an organization, impact and scale are important. Just by virtue of creating an organization, impact can vary quite a bit. It is important to create an organization with a scope and passion for the part it may play in the lives of other people. The more people your organization is able to reach, the greater its impact will be! Whether you choose a non-profit or a business to sell products, the pandemic bringing focus to the internet allows for many possibilities in globalizing your mission.

ANSWERS
(1) C (2) B (3) B (4) D (5) A

