

# The Buccaneer

RBR's Student Newspaper

The *Buccaneer* Winter Survey asked students questions about the pandemic, 2020, school issues, the coming year, and a variety of lifestyle topics. This issue will present results from the 338 student responses.

## I've got a secret (talent)

By Julianna Vockroth

You may not know this, but RBR is full of uniquely talented students. Why might you not know this? Well, some of these cool talents are hidden ones! Some of these skills are both impressive and valuable: for example, we learned that Zealen Therrien is an EMT and can save a life. Most talents in the survey, however, are not as crucial.

Many students have interesting bodily talents that sound super cool. One can balance on their head for over four minutes, while another can fold the tip of their ear into the opening of their ear. Another can walk on their hands. One genetic trait someone has is being able to roll their tongue. Some of our classmates are incredibly flexible, like being able to twist their arm while holding on to a basketball rim or licking their elbow, like John Moran. Another can wiggle their ears, or spin a basketball on their fingers. One that I found especially cool was that someone has synesthesia, which I learned is when one sensory experience leads to another, like hearing music in your

Please see *Talents*, p. 2

## RBR Staff "Inks" Outside the Box

### Part 1

By Maria Rigopoulis

For years, getting tattoos has been a way for people to express themselves, and they have served as permanent reminders of things that are important to them. This form of expression has become increasingly popular over the years, and now it seems as if just about everyone has one! Some have large tattoos, some have small ones, and some have tattoos that can not be seen at all. The tattoos the RBR staff members can definitely tell you more about them, so continue reading to find out if some of your teachers have one you may not have known about!

Mrs. Studd teaches engineering to all four grades, and the tattoo she has is a hibiscus flower. She originally got this tattoo

Please see *Inks*, p. 3

## Making the best of a boring situation

### How did you fill your empty pandemic time?

By Amy Serrano

It's impossible to believe that we have been quarantined for almost a year. For many of us, it has been hard, and we did not know what to do after school, since most of the time we had to be locked inside. At the same time this was a chance to learn, experience or watch new things. I personally took some Russian lessons; was it helpful? It pretty much was. Can I speak fluent Russian? Definitely not, but I spent time learning something new that will be helpful in the future if I practice more. *The Buccaneer* wondered what RBR students have done while being quarantined. Our survey found a wide range of activities.

Some people increased their usage of technology, such as gaming and watching new content like anime, documentaries and streaming series. Others took advantage of the lockdown and decided to do physical activities, such as working out, boxing, playing tennis, golf, volleyball, basketball, roller skating, skateboarding, running, walking and yoga. Jessica Valente said that she has enjoyed riding bikes and is still learning how to ride a skateboard.

For others this quarantine was a moment of creativity, and they did things such as knitting, bookbinding, needle felting, songwriting, crocheting, aquascaping, improving their makeup, hair and nail care techniques, even looking into skin care routines to help acne. Kara Coccozza has been writing and making films. Caitlin Farry got more into photography. Another student said that they have explored their interest in architecture by "building stuff [such as a] wooden rowboat, birdhouses and working on houses." Similarly, one student wrote

Please see *Hobbies*, p. 2

Inside: Get out of bed! (4)  
Read this! (5)  
Student poetry! (7)

Bake this! (4)  
2020: not all bad! (6)

## Hobbies, from p. 1

that “before the pandemic, I got this dremel and a wood burner. So I’ve been doing carvings and stuff like that...I did like a world map, and little stockings for my grandma for Christmas. Yeah, super wholesome.”

Several students mentioned that they continued to play or began learning to play instruments: “I’m 5 times better at guitar than before the pandemic,” one student wrote. Still, Ricardo Mercado admitted that “producing beats didn’t really work out.” CJ Principe wrote, “This is weird but I have gotten into buying weird, funny, wacky socks for fun. I don’t know why.”

Others have taken this time to read. One student actually mentioned that they “used to be really obsessed with reading [but] in 7th grade fell out of it; now I’m back into it again.” Morgan Wright said that she “read two +200 page books in one day. Another student provided a teacher’s dream response: “I never felt I had time for [reading] before, but since pandemic began I’ve had so much time and I got sick of my phone, so I branched out to hobbies I had when I was younger, like reading and writing.” Taniya Morris has gotten more into reading and politics. Kelly McIntyre, a fan of K-pop music, decided to learn Korean “just for fun.” Amazing isn’t it?

During the pandemic, we had enough time to do something and most people took the opportunity to give a deep clean to their rooms; many students mentioned the satisfaction they’ve discovered in keeping their rooms clean. Kyre Gonzales said that she spent time planning her business, and others were re-selling clothing for profit.

This pandemic has taught us many things. As a student I never thought of having to experience this situation and probably you can relate. But at the end, this was a time to discover ourselves, make improvements and gain more knowledge. Most of the time without the necessity of technology. Many summer plans were canceled, and we definitely got mad about it, but advice I would give is to think that “everything happens for a reason” and if we had to experience this weird pandemic lifestyle, it is because we will learn something from it. This time has helped us to be closer with our families, and to appreciate what we have.

### More responses:

- Handstands
- Fly tying for fishing
- Linear algebra
- Working and learning stuff like construction and hardwood floors
- Learning how to read tarot cards
- Finding a new interest in reptiles
- Collecting baseball cards
- Furthering my knowledge about dog shelters
- Exploring my interest in terrariums
- Building computers
- Gaining more knowledge on true crime and unsolved cases
- Caring about cleaning, neatness, earning money, creating stories
- Doing karaoke
- Fishing more and finding more interest in cars
- Increasing my rock collection

## On the Record

### Old school vinyl makes a great new hobby

By Marcos Medina

I decided to start collecting records around August. The first record I bought was from Barnes and Noble, and that record was *Are You Experienced* by The Jimi Hendrix Experience. The first ever record I bought from a record store was *London Calling* by The Clash. I already have listened to that album on my iPhone 7. I ended up buying it on vinyl because that’s the original experience: dropping the needle down at the edge of the record, just listening, and seeing the tonearm travel from beginning of the record to the end of the record.

The best part of this new hobby is playing as many records as I want or can. Or just simply listening to the record again and again.

From collecting records, I’ve learned that listening to music on a turntable can bring more pleasure to you than listening to music on your phone. Playing a record on a turntable can set a mood, and it’s pleasing to just sit and listen, while the tonearm is traveling track to track.

## Talents, from p. 1

mind or seeing colors to represent letters. Another flexible student is double jointed and able to bring their hands over their head and through their legs.

Also, we are surrounded by many athletes and hidden sports talents. Many people are usually surprised when Elly O’Scanlon tells them she plays ice hockey. One student plays video games professionally. Hula hoop tricks are one talent that I personally would love to see. We are also surrounded by soccer players, roller skaters, dancers, jugglers, a TaeKwonDo master, and someone with a exceptional aim, whether shooting or throwing.

On the music front, many people can sing or rap, mostly, however, when they’re alone. We also have some musicians, who play piano, guitar, violin, and saxophone. One person can play three different instruments, and another can make realistic trumpet noises.

Some real linguistic students attend RBR. Someone knows the alphabet in sign language. Aren Springvloed speaks pig Latin, and someone else can speak three languages. Another student can flip a word around instantly if someone says it backwards.

Baking and cooking are common hidden talents. Many people are good at writing, drawing, and other art forms like Amber Sudnikovich, is very artistic and good at makeup. Some more specific talents include mind reading, reading emotions, and having dreams that predict the future. Another can solve a Rubik’s cube in under 20 seconds! One student can think about a character in their head, then become them in their actions.

Next time you’re in a room or a Meet, look around: someone with a hidden talent might be right beside you.

## *Inked*, from p. 1

to “represent all that is beautiful in the world.” She got it while she was in college, and her best friend was right there with her. While she was getting it done, her friend was so excited that she shook Mrs. Studd, which created a snag in the design. Her friend has since passed away, so looking at the snag reminds Mrs. Studd of her and the connection they have.

Principal Clark has a tattoo in memory of a teacher at RBMS who was a close mentor to him, who suddenly passed away. It is an ankh with angel wings on it. On top of this symbol, it states “God Giveth Life.” This teacher had many tattoos of ankhs, which is what prompted Principal Clark to get it in her memory.



# RBR Staff “Inks” Outside the Box

## Part 2: Matching Challenge

Match the staff member with the tattoo you think is theirs!

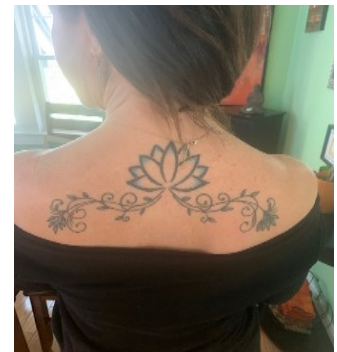
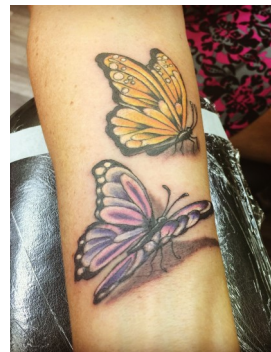
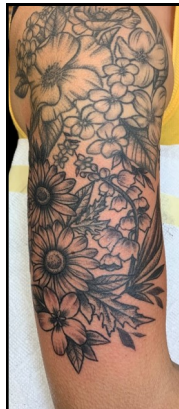
1. Ms. Kavanaugh (English)
2. Ms. Carotenuto (VPO)
3. Mrs. Liss (Source)
4. Ms. Finck (Science)
5. Mrs. Morris (Math)



Ms. Judice teaches Global Citizenship, CP US History 2, ELL US History 2, and AP European History. To go along with teaching European History and the black plague, she got a plague doctor from a historical wood-carving tattooed on her arm. Underneath it reads “this place is death” which is the title of a Deftones song. This is her most recent tattoo, and she feels this title is “fitting for 2020 as a whole.”



Miss Mozino teaches child development and preschool lab to all grades, and her newest tattoo is a half sleeve on her arm which she began in February. She first got the state flowers of New Jersey, California, Georgia, and North Carolina, which are the states where all of her favorite people live. In November, she added the birth flowers of the months of April, May, and July to symbolize her family members' birthdays.



Answers on page 6!



Mr. Tedeschi-Ortiz teaches CI class, and his favorite tattoo is one he actually did not originally plan on getting. He was on his way to get a different tattoo, and he saw this motto graffitied on the side of a building. He took a picture of it, and thought it was great to get tattooed!



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# Notes from the Bed: Why you probably shouldn't work there

By Matthew Blankley

It is an easy scenario to imagine: waking up to the temptation of taking your first block class in bed. From the comfort of a mattress, it seems reasonable to prop up a Chromebook and start the school day. For many, working from bed is the easiest way to get a grasp on online school, even though a desk or kitchen table might be two steps away. However, what we, myself included, chose to neglect is the toll we are implicitly inflicting on our physical and mental well being.

Though warm blankets may taunt you, taking class from a desk or table is something that might not only help get through class, but the night too. After studying the effects of working in bed, many psychologists have concluded that sleep and productivity have a direct correlation. By having the laptop or notebook open, the brain connects the bed to work, even though it should be connecting it with sleep. This correlation makes quality sleep less common and harder to achieve, making students less rested for their next day in class. Without this necessary sleep, people have a harder time working the next day, a vicious cycle which inevitably repeats itself.

This same conclusion was reached in an academic study from the Sleep and Healthy Activity, Diet, Environment, and Socialization study, which analyzed sleep in the context of workplace productivity. In staggering data which linked insomnia and poor sleep quality to workplace unproductivity, the researchers came to the conclusion that sleep should be considered an important element in workplace health. In working from the comfort of a bed, the bed generally loses its comfort, so how can we still continue to rationalize our indulgent behavior?

One way that you can keep yourself under the covers during the school day is realizing one common misconception about working in bed. Though it is heavily debated whether the

bed is conducive to back support and maintaining good posture, according to Janice Fletcher, the problem is not where we sit, but how we sit. Fletcher, an ergonomics expert at UC San Diego Health, believes that keeping a neutral spinal position is much more important than where the workplace is. This includes keeping the neck in a neutral position so it is not flexed or extended and keeping the wrists in a straight facing down position, all of which reduces pain and strengthens the spine. Keeping this posture can all reasonably occur in the bed as well as the desk. However, this does not eliminate the clear signs of bad posture in bed, as laying down in an awkward (yet somehow still comfortable) position is much preferred to sitting up straight supported by a pillow.

Though my neck is likely not neutral while writing this, there is an obvious draw to working in bed. The comfort and relaxation is something that I personally know my hard desk chair will never provide me. However, as you lay, listening to your first block class, consider the hidden drawbacks that come along with your -5 in participation grade for sitting in bed.



## Baking My Way Through a Pandemic (you can too!)

By Julianna Vockroth

In July, I started hosting virtual baking classes on Zoom. At this point in the pandemic, we were starting to get a bit of a handle on it, and many things had adjusted to going virtual. I had heard about someone doing a virtual cooking class, and I thought it would be fun to do the same thing, but with baking. I've always loved to bake, and I figured this would be a great opportunity to teach people my passion. I had also hoped to get a job, but since the circumstances changed, I figured this would be a great way to make a little money.



In the first class, we made brownies. I usually host once a month, and since then, I've taught people how to make key lime pie, pumpkin snickerdoodles, and more. Classes are joined by my family and friends, and I promote them through my personal Instagram, @juliannavock. All you have to do is reply to one of my posts to join! Classes last about 45 minutes, and once we're done, people have a delicious homemade baked good to brag about and eat. Not only has it been incredibly fun to teach some of my favorite recipes, but it's such a great way to socialize.

Beyond Red Bank and Shrewsbury, participants have joined from New York and even California. Once you sign up, I send a list of all the ingredients and materials you'll need. Classes are usually on Sunday, and I'm always happy to have more participants!

## Winter Survey

# 2020 wasn't all bad....

Yes, it was one of the toughest years in memory, but 2020 did afford some bright spots. While many students answered “Nothing” to our question about the best thing that happened in 2020, many others recalled moments that made the horrible year a little more bearable. Below is a representative sampling of responses.

I overcame a lot of insecurity issues and became comfortable with myself.

My parents finally received their green cards after years in court fighting for residency. We will be going to Mexico soon with my parents going for the first time in 17 years.

I got into my first college!

Two life changing surgeries!

I surfed the biggest wave of my life.

The best thing would be that I was in the *Asbury Park Press* for being in the Long Branch protest for BLM (Black Lives Matter).

I think the best thing that has happened is meeting a bunch of new friends. I feel like if it wasn't for the pandemic I wouldn't have made the friends I have made or gotten as close with some people.

The best thing that has happened in my life in 2020 is over quarantine I really figured out the type of person I want to become.

Animals were coming back out in places where they have not been seen for a long time.

Getting to know how to make food and earn money.

The majority of the population's ability to come together and survive a pandemic is crazy. Our whole daily life completely changed within months.

I got a job! A job that I really like.

The best thing that happened in 2020 is that people realized that you should appreciate what you have and how things are because you never know when things could change.

I've been more myself than I ever have been.

I bought a car, I got a girlfriend, 2020 was terrible but I've had a pretty good time.

I officially launched my baking business.

Shipping my brother off to college!

Going on my DECA Trip to Atlantic City right before the pandemic began.

My team won the basketball championship on my birthday, and it snowed.

There were so many good movies and books and music! My personal highlight was probably *Hamilton* coming to Disney+.

I got a perfect score on the math section of the (freshman) PSAT.

My parents opened a second restaurant.

I think the best thing is staying at home with my family. I wouldn't interact with them as much as I do now.

Animal Crossing

I got to do a show for a live audience for the first time since March.

Got my drivers license, parents got married, began reading more and did more fitness.

I learned to be grateful for the stuff I have because you never know when its gonna disappear. I feel like that was a really good life lesson.

Being able to have a valid excuse to not go outside.

I learned to appreciate the little things more often than before and to really make sure to count all of my blessings.

I became more confident in myself and stopped caring what other people think about me which has made me a lot happier.

My streaming is taking off.

My cousin and her fiancé were able to get married and we had a party for it.

The vaccine coming out, watching horror movies with my friends via Google Meet, meeting new friends, and finding a passion for writing.

My relationship with my mom, sister, friends have strengthened greatly. I have been able to find out who my real friends are. I've also changed greatly since March due to the great amount of self reflection I was essentially forced to have (but am immensely grateful for).

I got to work two jobs at the same time and they helped me to learn to control stress.

For me the best thing that happened in 2020 is how close I have grown closer to my family because for a while I felt distant, but now I definitely feel like I have gotten closer with them.

I think this year was very impactful, especially between minorities. People of all races coming together to fight for the injustice that many African Americans face in this day and age and not only the United States—it also got global attention.

When the wrestling team went out to eat together it was just fun having everyone there not one person was missing. Everyone also had so much fun because we won against the team we wrestled.

I feel like due to the pandemic, the bad relationships that people had kinda wore off, and the good ones got stronger.

People supporting others and standing up for what is right.

And one thing we all seem to agree on: the best part of 2020 was... **The end.**

# RBR(eading)

Check out some good reads!

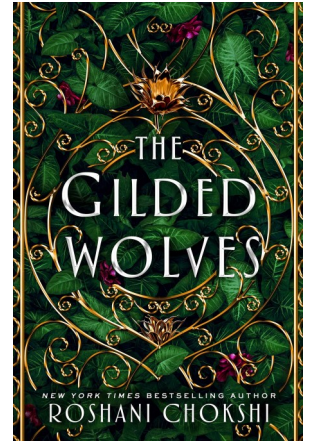
## *The Gilded Wolves* by Roshani Chokshi

Review by Molly Jain

**Genre:** Fantasy/Adventure

**People who would like this book:** This book is perfect for fans of fantasy, alternate histories, historical novels, adventure, and romance. Fans of lavish historical settings and drama will also love it, as will fans of the *National Treasure* movies, which were inspired by the book.

**Summary:** It's 1889 in Paris, just before the opening of the World's Fair. In this world of glittering parties and complicated intrigue, a group of outcasts have made a team of treasure hunters, and more importantly, a family. When the patriarch of one of France's houses in the magical and mysterious Order of Babel makes a deal with the leader of this group that could lead them all to their deepest desires, the team is thrown into a twisting, high-stakes and high-scheming adventure. However, they soon discover there is more to this acquisition than simply stealing the artifact and getting what they want, and their adventure may be more serious than they ever thought.



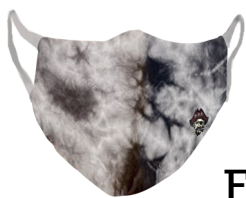
This book is easily one of the best books I have ever read. The plot is incredibly engaging, with the constant twists, puzzles, and high-stakes parties and plots making it hard to put down. At its core, this book is a heist novel, complete with disguises, chases, and many moving parts of an elaborate plan. The book only gets better as the adventure and its stakes become larger and larger.

While the plot is very fun and full of adventure, the book also manages to address many different, very real issues, from colonialism to racism to bullying. Alongside these discussions of the evils that hid beneath the glamour of late 1800s Paris, Chokshi created some of the best characters I've ever encountered to face these challenges. The characters feel like nothing short of real people, and learning both about their struggles and about them as simply people, from their little habits to favorite hobbies, makes reading every chapter a delight. Several romance subplots, and the banter that accompanies both these flirtations and even the more platonic relationships, only make these interactions more entertaining.

Drawing you in even further is the stunning setting, described every time in beautiful language. As one would expect, the book is filled with parties and interactions with late 1800s Paris's richest aristocrats, and the parties, clothing, and estates are amazing to read about. The mix of fantasy and real facts and places in Paris, along with references to various religions, mythologies, and historical events tops off a book that I truly think everyone should read.

Looking for a great book? Check out your library for even more fantastic reads!

Have a book recommendations or a review? Submit it to *The Buccaneer*! [cdorn@rbrhs.org](mailto:cdorn@rbrhs.org)



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### Match the Tattoos: Answer Key

Ms. Kavanaugh: Wave (Inspired by "The Great Wave off Kanagawa"; in memory of her friend)

Mrs. Carotenuto: Butterflies (In honor of her mom and dad)

Mrs. Liss: Lotus Flower (Represents enlightenment, self-regeneration and rebirth)

Ms. Finck: "Lifers" (In memory of her friend; matching with her best friends)

Mrs. Morris: "Always" (From Harry Potter; matching with her sister)

## *The Buccaneer*

Red Bank Regional's Student Newspaper

Editors: Cooper Strauss, Maria Rigopoulos,  
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# Tears into Gardens

By Iyanna Smith

When we cry, our ancestors cry with us.  
 Their tears drop in the form of rain;  
 a pure and silent grief.  
 The rain kisses our cheeks and glides off our bodies.  
 Heals cracks in the earth,  
 loosens soil for early graves,

and grows gardens to remind us life is still possible...

When we cry the earth roars.  
 Roles anger off its tongue like lava.  
 Screams out in thunderstorms and earthquakes.  
 Unleashes hurricanes to run wild in fits of rage.  
*Never-ending* until the slaughter of its people is over.

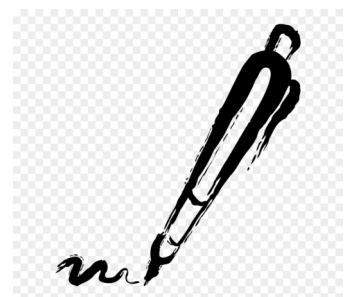
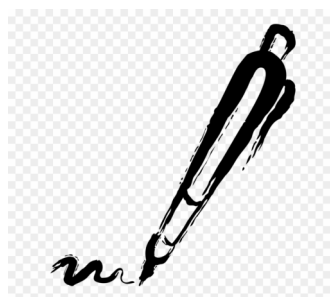
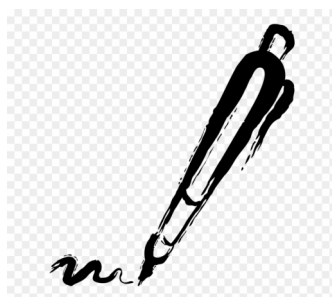
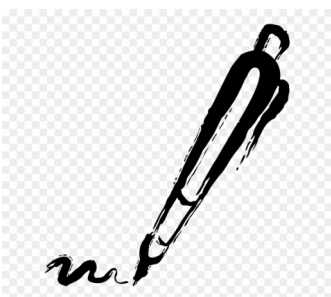
When we cry, our hearts ache as one.  
 Every step taken, is one in unison towards the path of justice.  
 Every breath a silent prayer, pleading they stop taking our breaths away.  
 Every look, one of love for everything they hate about us.  
 And every fist a promise,  
 A promise that we are done with what *they* say it means to be black and beautiful

When we cry... you should be crying with us.

## Growing up

By Kira Ashton-O'Connor

When we were younger we promised we would never grow too old.  
     Too old to make mud pies-  
     Too old not to be scared to slide down the tallest slides.  
     We dreamed of being Barbie and ken.  
     Oh, how I wish I could be young again.  
 We didnt know growing up would be as empty as the teacups we drank out of.  
 We didnt know it was going to be as hard as working up enough courage to climb the monkey bars.  
     Why were we so anxious to grow up?  
     We should all be running around still.  
 We should be competing to see who can be the first to roll down the hill.  
     We shouldn't be jealous of the people that have the most likes.  
 We should be jealous of the people who don't have training wheels on their bike.  
 When we were younger I thought we promised we would never grow too old, what happened to that promise?



## Winter Survey

# Bucs' #1 Coping Tool: Music

By Kasey Watson

It's no secret that many of us, whether you're in middle school or graduated middle school forty years ago, have been feeling stressed from the COVID-19 pandemic. Learning and working from home is more exhausting than we could have ever perceived it would be. Now more than ever we should be addressing our stress and finding ways to manage it, relax, and breathe.

We asked RBR students what their de-stressing techniques were and how they've been handling any troubles they've faced in the past year. Several students mentioned therapy. Others discussed focusing on managing their time and staying organized. Out of approximately 120 responses, the five most common de-stressing tools among students were:

1. Listening to music (26.4%)
2. Talking to friends & family (16.8%)
3. Playing video games (15.6%)
4. Physical activity (15.6%)
5. Watching movies and TV (14.4%)

Not far behind watching movies and television, however, a shared "technique" among numerous students was "I don't." Many individuals have found that by not completely acknowledging and coping with their stress, they can get through what they need to accomplish. One student even wrote, "I try not to look around." While this may seem fine in the moment, studies show that this can be detrimental to one's health. People may experience headaches, tense muscles, insomnia, and more if they keep such stress bottled up. We suggest using some of these methods to de-stress to relax your mind and body regularly :)

Some other, less common techniques included:

- Fishing
- Meditation
- Spending time with pets
- Yelling it out
- Knife throwing (please be safe!)

As you can see, there are many different approaches to de-stressing when you need to. Even if you struggle to find an activity that soothes you, try different methods, be patient with yourself and you will benefit from the positive effects of relaxation.

# Battling Leukemia, Times Two

By Julianna Vockroth

Every three minutes, someone is diagnosed with blood cancer. Every three minutes, a person hears this terrible, life-altering news. Junior Julianna Vockroth has joined the fight against these diseases through the Students of the Year program of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Students of the Year (SOY) is a seven-week fundraising program that requires each candidate to form a team in an effort to reach their fundraising goal. Last year, SOY candidates nationwide earned \$30.3 million benefitting LLS, which provides money for research and support for families and patients.

The program entails an application process that requires candidates to answer questions about what the program means to them. The cause is important to Vockroth for a special reason. "I have partnered with my friend Lacey Kobylowski," Vockroth explained. "I've known her since preschool. She's my connection, as she was diagnosed with Leukemia in 5th grade." Their fundraising goal is \$20,000.

Their group, TeamHopeHelpers, must reach out to companies for corporate sponsorships and host events, such as a book fair at Barnes and Noble on Friday, February 5, where Kobylowski will be doing birth chart readings for donations. Vockroth is also hosting a virtual baking class on Saturday, February 13. According to Vockroth, the girls will market their fundraising page and host events throughout the course of the initiative, which runs until March 20.

As a survivor of Leukemia herself, Kobylowski is passionate about finding a cure. "SOY gives high school students the opportunity to not only raise money for a great cause, but also gain valuable leadership skills. I believe that with my own personal experiences regarding Leukemia that I can hopefully inspire not only my team, but others who want to see a cure in their lifetime!"

To donate, please go to the team's fundraising page: <https://events.lls.org/nj/snjsoy21/hhelpers>. For updates on events, follow their Instagram, @teamhopehelpers.



Have suggestions for The Buccaneer?

Want to submit a story, essay, or artwork? Email [cdorn@rbrhs.org](mailto:cdorn@rbrhs.org)

Want to join our staff?

Classroom code: 3vtuxok    Remind: text @bucpaper to 81010





## Winter Survey

# Resolved: 2021 will be better

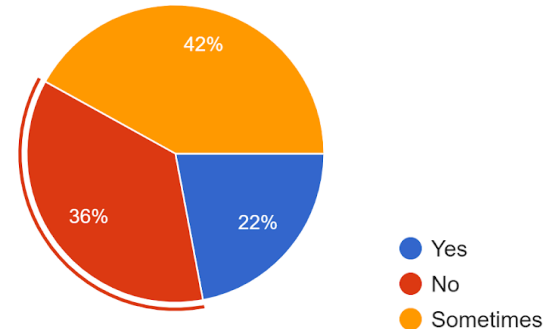
About half of survey respondents offered a goal (or goals) they're aiming for in the coming year. A general breakdown:

- Be healthier/work out more: 19%
- Self-improvement (skill, mental health, relationships): 19%
- Improvement in schoolwork/grades: 16%
- Improved self-care/self-acceptance: 13%
- Maintain positive attitude: 5.4%
- Stay healthy/just get back to normal: 5.4%
- Work harder: 5.4%
- Manage time better/get organized: 5.4%
- Get a job/make money: 4.7%
- Read more: 3.4%

Below, a sampling of representative and/or unique responses!  
Good luck, all!

Do you generally make New Year's resolutions?

336 responses



Think more about my future

To stop depending on other people to bring me happiness

TRY HARDER! work harder, study harder and play harder

To do something epic

Learn to play an instrument

To live every day without regret, because the pandemic has made me realize what we are missing out on in life.

I wanna be able to dunk before my birthday.

If this pandemic lets up, to get a girlfriend.

Continue on my weight loss journey

I am going to try to do more hobbies other than staring at a screen and to manage my time better.

Read more in Spanish

Be a nicer person all around and try to befriend everyone.

To bench over my body weight

To try and be honest with the people around me more and to be true to myself.

Remind myself that it doesn't matter what other people think

Spend more time attending to my rabbit and his needs

Notice when I'm stressed and talk about it.

Tell family and loved ones I appreciate and love them more often!

I want to read more books and interact with more people with a different perspective

Get a job and use that money for the future and others.

I want to try and note at least three things that made me feel 10/10 happy to ensure that I always look at the positives

To make up my mind what I want to do after high school because is really hard, especially being the first generation to go to college in my family

Spend less time on that computer and more time outside

To create my best self

Maybe pull up my skills for Fortnite

Stop waiting for the future because it might be different than expected

I promise myself that, following the gradual reopening of the country, I will not only get familiar with new potential friends, but interact with and become closer with my old friends

I generally don't really like the pressure of New Year's resolutions, but I've been trying to work on mindfulness, so I'm hoping to continue learning and practicing mindfulness in the new year.

Try and live in the moment instead of constantly worrying about the future

I will grind YouTube and get to 1000 subscribers before February

And what we all want? Juss gimme a better year.

# Ethan and Aiden return!

(and they brought some friends)

Artwork by Leo Morales

