

I have always heard “be careful what you wish for”. Joel wished for two weeks, and here we are closing in on week seven! If you have not had “cabin fever”, “the quarantine crazies”, or “been countin’ flowers on the wall”, you are in better shape than most of us. I think we have all missed seeing each other, classes, sports, mid-morning break, lunch (I especially miss Taco Salad day), and just that feeling of the KVA community.

Our amazing Journalism class brings you Quarantine Edition #2. With the exception of the lovely and talented Juliana Negron, the entire staff are Seniors. Not only have they written for the Newsletter, but have produced an awesome Yearbook, which will be published sometime soon. Unfortunately, they have been robbed of almost all of KVA’s Senior Traditions. You could not blame them for being disappointed, upset, broken-hearted, and those are the feelings we can print! But, this group, this group is made of sterner stuff. They have not missed a beat. They have plans. It was a bumpy road in the beginning, but working with them has been one of the joys of Mrs. Humphries’ and my year. So proud of them!

Brooks Spencer – Co-Advisor

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Edited By:

Myles Ball

Co-Editor-in-Chief

# Lower School Spartans

Despite having to stay home and do schoolwork, the lower school Spartans have found a way to still do specials that they would normally do at school. Whether it is Library, computer, music, art, or P.E. the young Spartans find time during the week to complete fun and engaging activities for each special.

However, it is not just the students that are doing their specials. Mrs. Spencer's high school public speaking class were put to the task to read a children's book for the lower school students. There are even teachers that are helping to keep the children engaged in reading, such as Mrs. Thompson who has been selecting some children's books and has been reading for the students.

In the bottom right picture, Levi Odom is practicing one of his favorite sports, basketball for Coach George Hoyle Jr's P.E. special/ class. In the bottom left picture, Jenna Cash is holding two of her drawing and coloring assignments from Mrs. Hartness's art class. Jenna stated, "I like all the specials, but my favorite special is art because I like to draw and color." Our KVA Spartans are doing such a great job doing their special work, whether it is an assignment for art, an assignment for music, or an assignment for computer. Keep up the great work!

Lauren Moseley

Art and Layout Editor



# Starbucks in Henderson

Where once stood Payless Shoe Store, now sits the first ever Starbucks in Vance County! Back in October of 2019, construction began on the building, but long before then there were rumors about its possible existence. This left citizens excited for the new addition to Dabney Drive. I speak for myself, and others, that the last thing I would expect to come to Henderson during a pandemic would be the official opening of a Starbucks. So, when my sister and I received the news of its "grand opening" on Friday, April 17th, you can bet your bottom dollar that we were there at seven o'clock in the morning! We can not wait for it to be used to its full potential after quarantine has been lifted.

With the recent success of the new Biscuitville and now the Starbucks, I am so happy to see the growth in our town, and can not wait to see what else comes to Henderson.



Juliana Negrón

Business Manager

# Cards to the Nursing Home

At Kerr-Vance Academy, the Student Government Association visits the Senior Citizens Home of Henderson every month. They typically talk, sing, and color with the residents. But, due to the Corona Virus and the safety restrictions that came with it, this is no longer possible. To keep the tradition alive, the SGA decided to make cards to send to the nursing home during these tough times. This simple act is a way to keep spirits high and show love to residents while they are not allowed any visitors. The SGA is trying to do their part in bettering their community while still practicing safe social distancing.

Lorena Negrón

Sports Editor



# Bettering Yourself During Quarantine

With all this free time we have on our hands now, boredom is a very common factor added to our week. Watching TV is fun, and so is raiding the pantry, but how can we keep from becoming a couch potato as we wait for life to get back to normal? For me, I've had the time to pick up old hobbies I used to have, like painting and going biking. It was really fun for me to pick up the paint brush for the first time in a while and see how much better, or worse, I have gotten over the past little while. To my surprise, it wasn't half bad, considering how long it had been! I've also had time to get into things I have always wanted to do, but never had the time, like cooking at home and working out.

Eating healthy and exercise go hand and hand, so after a few nights of making desserts for my family, I began cooking healthy meals, too! Staying active and healthy is very important during this difficult time, because not only does our body need it, but it's also a great distraction and something fun to do.

The weather has also been beautiful over the past couple weeks, so I've made the change and started doing my remote learning outside! Not only do I love getting the fresh air and sunshine, but I think my dog enjoys the company almost as much as I do! This time away seems awful when you look at it from the surface, but once we start doing little things everyday to better ourselves, it may be what we have needed after all.

Zoey Ivey

Copy and Caption Editor

# Family and the Quarantine

While I likely cannot vouch for the majority of the families out there, my family has had a rather pleasurable experience during this pandemic outbreak. While my brother used to annoy me a lot when we were younger, we have both matured and now greatly enjoy time around each other. We have gone on many excursions through the woods, and been through several rounds of ammo together since the quarantine began. My brother and I love to cruise the abandoned streets together on a regular basis come nightfall. It is crazy, and a little sad, to see the empty streets, yet it is an amazing experience to be able to go anywhere and do anything we want together without having to worry about traffic and other people on the road. This quarantine has also allowed my brother and me incredible bonding time with our parents as well. There have been several nights now that as soon as my parents get home from work, the entire family will go out on the porch and sit and talk, simply enjoying the presence of one another. I realize how fortunate I am to say that this has been the case with my family. Sadly, I am sure there are plenty out there that are not having as pleasurable of a quarantine experience and my prayers go out to them.

Jake Watts

Newsletter Staff

## The Things We Didn't Realize We Would Miss

As with all other parts of the world, KVA has had to cope with the effects of the recent coronavirus outbreak. Both teachers and students have had to overcome adverse conditions and changes like never seen before, but all of the hustle and bustle uncovered something, the Traditions - fun fourth quarter activities, and little everyday things typically taken for granted. Looking back on past Field Days, Spirit Weeks, May Days, and all the Senior events, it's easy to realize why KVA is such a special school, why it has such an impact on people, and why everyone sincerely looks forward to returning. Though some "free time" has been nice, we all look forward to hopefully returning to normal as soon as possible so we continue the traditions we miss so much!

George Hughes

Newsletter Staff

# Living in a Ghost Town

By: Ira Wilder



Instantane for Mac



# Pet Adoption

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus many people have been searching for things to keep them occupied during this Quarantine. For many people, this has meant adopting a new pet. All over social media, many of us have been seeing people showing off their new puppies. However, it is not just puppies that people are adopting, many people are visiting local pet stores such as A-to-Z in Oxford. Since Quarantine has begun, this pet shop has sold many of its pets such as hamsters, reptiles, ferrets, and fish. Many customers tell us that they are adopting new pets so that they will have something to do while stuck at home. This is a great idea as long as you understand the responsibility that comes behind taking care of a new pet.

Maya Lopez

Newsletter Staff

## KVA Families on the Front Lines

While most of us are residing in the comfort and safety of our own homes, we need reminding that there are others who have chosen to put their health and safety on the line to fight the pandemic on the front lines. We have many members of the KVA family who are essential workers, continuing to do their jobs in the midst of this mess. We wanted to highlight one such worker who has dedicated his time to the care of others, Taylor Abbott, a certified paramedic and KVA alumni. Taylor graduated with the class of 2014 and quickly realized his heart was in the back of an ambulance, working alongside other life saving practitioners. I took the time to ask him about his thoughts on the current situation. One thing he stressed heavily was the importance of social distancing. He expressed, "If you want my advice, if you don't want to get sick, STAY HOME!" He stressed that practicing social distancing is the most important thing the general public can do to stop the spread of the virus and flatten the curve. We are very grateful for people like Taylor and all the essential workers out there, putting their lives on the line to fight this pandemic.

Austyn Abbott

Co-Editor-in-Chief

# The Future After COVID-19

As the coronavirus pandemic wears on, some may ask, what will the lasting impact be when it finally ends? Will our generation be able to recover, and what will the future of society hold? The younger generation, the “millennials,” are the ones believed to be most impacted by the aftermath the pandemic will bring. Many people agree that the pandemic is the equivalent to a world war, in which it certainly is in a way. They say that our generation will come out of this strong- that the economy will boom due to high demand and a sense of patriotism will come about in society- much like the generation who lived through the end of the second World War. We will look back on this event in history and be proud to say that we lived through it, and that we won the battle.

However, a lot of changes will certainly be made. We could see the current technique of fever scanning for COVID-19 at airports continued as a security regulation in this manner, much like how security was tightened after the 9/11 attacks. This could also be continued at large businesses that see several different people a day around the country, as another extra measure. In society, handshaking could actually become a thing of the past as health advisors have warned it is how most diseases are transferred. After experimenting with online classes and working from home to stay safe, this may actually turn out to be a window to the future. We may also see more jobs done from home if there is no need for a public office.

All of these changes could potentially be seen in the near future. Hopefully by enacting them the United States, as well as the world, will be much safer and prepared the next time an outbreak like COVID-19 occurs.

Brian Teiser

Newsletter Staff

## Quaranteens: How We're Coping with Social Distancing

Social distancing can be tough. Especially for all of our high school students. And while it has us looking online to be social and stay in touch, others of us are taking advantage of our newly gained free time to explore hobbies and interests. Some of the students I interviewed shared how they're adjusting to the new normal and what they find allows them to take their mind off of social distancing.

One such student is Juliana Negron, who in her free time has been raising her 5 pet chickens since they have grown from chicks. She spends her mornings refilling food and water, while also checking for eggs. Often, she lets them out for exercise, managing and supervising their health. Juliana has told me she feels it eases her being able to take care of her chickens.

Senior Ira Wilder has taken up a new hobby during his free time: cooking. "Quarantine has taught me the value of the simple things in life. To fill some of my time during my first week of isolation, I began cooking dinner every night for my family." Ira tells me his favorite dish he has made so far is a seven cheese mac and cheese carbonara, the recipe for which he learned from celebrity chef Bobby Flay. Another Senior, Edie Echols, is trying to make a positive impact on her community. She has committed to baking 150 cookies for her neighborhood, in an effort to spread hope and joy to her neighbors.

Even I have found solace in my new hobby: making specialty coffee! In my own free time I've been experimenting with my espresso machine, honing my skills as a barista. While at home, I've been able to successfully make both hot and iced drinks such as lattes, cappuccinos, macchiatos, and more! Of course there is a lot of trial and error, but I've found it quite the activity to pass time while social distancing!

While it is true these are hard times, we must not forget to do the things we love. Life may be different, but we can make the best of it. I applaud these students and others who are taking a bad situation, and making the best of it.

David Folger

Newsletter Editor

# New Head of School

Congratulations, Mrs. Short! At the Board of Trustees' April Zoom meeting, the Board voted unanimously to offer Mrs. Short the position of Head of School, and we are so glad she accepted!

While we all know and appreciate Mrs. Short, did you know she has worked at KVA for the past fourteen years? She first served as the Assistant Headmaster for thirteen years, then has led KVA tirelessly as the Interim Headmaster/Head of School since summer 2019. Mrs. Short's ties to KVA began even earlier; she attended Vance Academy as a student for nine years. This is her 23rd year as a Spartan!

You may ask, why the title of "Head of School" instead of "Headmaster?" Quite simply, the title Head of School can be used for either males or females. Headmaster is an older term dating from the 16th century, used by schools in the United Kingdom. Headmaster implies a male as the Head of the School. The female form would be Headmistress, but that term has grown archaic. In the United States, the terms Headmaster, Headmistress, and Head of School typically refer to the head of a private school, while the term Principal is used in a public school. Many private schools in North Carolina have switched to using the term Head of School, too.

KVA is truly fortunate that Mrs. Short has accepted this new role, leading our school into the future. Her outstanding leadership has earned her the trust and respect of the entire school community. We are incredibly grateful for her authenticity, creativity, warmth, and dedication. Kerr-Vance Academy shines as the best college preparatory school in our region, and Mrs. Short will lead our continuing pursuit of excellence.

# Quarantine Lifestyle

Despite the current stay-at-home situation with the Corona virus and all the downsides that come with it, KVA students are finding new ways to stay active and entertained at home with the extra time on their hands. Everyone has had to develop a new schedule that combines time for schoolwork and also fun activities while social distancing. Some students from the middle and upper school were interviewed on what they are doing:

**•What are some activities you are doing to stay entertained and active?**

Hallie Ruth Sherrill, 11th grade: Painting and drawing, embroidering, Bible study, bike riding.

Briana Lamb, 12th: Playing video games, doing art, and watching Netflix.

RJ Johnson, 11th: Staying active by working out everyday: lifting weight, running 2 miles, and jump roping for 5 minutes. Also designing graphic sports edits with his free time

Bailee Branch, 12th: Running outside, playing with her new puppy Thor and her older dog Bentley, cleaning the house, and watching Hulu and Netflix

Shelby Renn: Daily workouts and riding her bike, binging shows on Netflix, planting a garden, spending time with he family and FaceTiming her friends

Holly Hughes: Walking her dog everyday, watching Netflix and listening to music

Tyler Fleming: Working out and riding his bike to stay healthy, watching and editing YouTube videos and playing racing video games.

Mattie Grissom: Riding her horses and baking treats for her family

Faith Himmel

Newsletter Staff

## Teacher Appreciation

I wanted to recognize our teachers and staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. I am so proud of them on any given day, but am so honored to work with this group during these past few months. They have stepped up and done everything possible to make learning meaningful and students successful. I thank you for your positive attitude, flexibility, and commitment to learning.

-Alison Short