

The Alutant

Ellensburg High School's Student News Magazine

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PHOTO CONTEST WINNER
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Alutant is an Old English word
meaning “bulldog.”

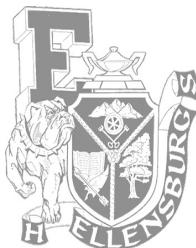
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Cover Photo:
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The Power of the Pen

Why You Should Join the Alutant



Lucy Altman-Coe
Copy Editor
Editorial

As second semester rolls around, the opportunity to join new classes has opened up again. We at The Alutant team invite you to join us for second semester in our quest to entertain the student body, spread the truth, and encourage critical thinking throughout the school.

Members of The Alutant have a unique experience as a student reporter: not only do you get to attend different events and get to know the school and its students better, you also have flexibility to explore and share your interests with the student body.

Whether your strength is writing, photography, or graphic design, there's a place for you in student journalism. Due to Covid-19 things have gotten pretty hectic, but The Alutant has stood strong as a pillar of truth at Ellensburg High School.

If there's something you haven't seen in The Alutant that you want to see, registering to join Journalism second semester is the perfect opportunity to change that. Because of the flexibility that comes with being an EHS student journalist, you will be able to explore varying areas, whether it be sports, arts, or news. As a newsmagazine that aims to represent the student body, the best way we can do that is through the synergy of diverse standpoints throughout the school.

Through the second semester, The Alutant will also accept freelance articles (creative writing and art, however, should be sent to the Retrospect). Once

you send in your articles to alutant@esd401.org, we will be able to work towards having your article published in our next issue.

However, joining The Alutant as an official staff member definitely has its perks. Working in publications can show colleges and/or future employers your drive, ability to work under pressure, and many other skills.

Journalism is also a way to improve your skills within education. Because of the different work style that comes with writing articles, The Alutant can influence your work in English-based classes as well. You will also learn critical thinking skills as you research for your articles,

which can help in a variety of classes.

Because of the wide skill set that comes with being a journalist, being in The Alutant makes you eligible for Elective, CTE, or English credit. Journalism is a particularly good option for seniors looking to get in their last semester of English, but all grades can benefit from this experience.

Before first semester ends on January 29, check in with your counselor and ask about joining The Alutant. Additionally, you can email Editor-in-Chief Jada Godwin using the email alutant@esd401.org for more information.

Issue 2 Corrections:

It was stated in an article about the College Board that AP Tests are scored on a scale of 0-5, however, they are actually scored 1-5. It was also reported that the ASB was planning on running a Shiverfest this year in an article on ASB activities, yet this did not occur.

Having Covid-19

A Reporter's Experience

A Helen Mills
Staff Reporter
Feature

Five weeks ago my father said he was sick. As a lawyer he has to meet with tons of different people from many different backgrounds, making the quarantine a little tricky.

We all thought it was just a simple cold. Him and my mother got a test at the hospital. After three days of waiting, they found out they were positive. My three siblings and I then got tested. It turned out we were all positive too.

For months I'd been wearing a mask and social distancing, which is still an incredibly important and helpful thing to do.

Having Covid-19 was different for each of my family members. My brothers didn't have any symptoms. My smallest brother was always running around the house. My sister was hit harder by the virus. She was crying, sleeping, complaining, and mainly playing computer games. As middle schoolers they were given a bit of leeway to rest and get better. Though, the amount of time they spent on school was low.

My father got over the virus rather quickly with mild symptoms. He's gotten back to working at home and at his office.

My mother had the worst of it. No taste, no smell, sleeping all day, very weak and couldn't do anything. We were all very worried and let her rest in her chair and read.

I had a mild time, I felt too weak to do anything and my smell and taste were dulled. I also found that everything I did made me incredibly tired. I stayed in

bed most days. As the oldest, I still had to help my family with work, helping my parents and siblings eat and get enough water.

I'd say the worst thing was not being able to go to the store to get food and medicine when we needed it. We ordered our food online and had to wait a day or two for it to be able to be picked up.

Unfortunately, my grades have plummeted because of my illness.

Now I need to catch up on a bunch of school, while also getting over a virus. I've been given slight flexibility to wait till school to do tests and quizzes. Studying would still have to happen at home.

After all the symptoms, rest, and boredom that came with having Covid-19, I wouldn't recommend getting it.

I'm thankful that my family and I weren't hurt badly by the virus. There were many moments I worried about my parents' health, but I'm thankful they're better now. For myself, I just have a ton of school to catch up on.

I hope people wear masks as much as they can. Even though I've had the virus, I will continue to respect social distancing rules and wear a mask.

I'd just like to also write that masks, social distancing, and washing your hands matters. People with compromised immune systems rely on other people to do their part. Even if you're healthy and fit you can still get the virus.

Covid-19 Update

A Lucy Altman-Coe
Copy Editor
Column

In Kittitas County, as well as throughout the world, Covid-19 numbers continue to rise.

At the high school, there have been 14 positive cases among the students and staff as of January 5th. Additionally, there have been 64 positive cases in the district.

As of January 5th, Kittitas County has 1,751 confirmed Covid-19 cases, according to the Weather Channel, with 27 total deaths due to complications with the virus. Of these cases, 230 have occurred on the Central Washington University campus, reported the CWU website as of January 5th.

Washington State has also continued to see large numbers of cases and deaths, with 246,376 confirmed cases as of January 5th, according to the Washington Department of Health. Of those, 15,160 people have been hospitalized due to the virus, and 3,482 lives have been lost.

As a nation, the United States has seen 20,558,489 positive cases in the period between January 21st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021, according to the Center for Disease Control. In the United States alone, 350,664 people have died since January 21st, 2020 due to the virus.

The Alutant urges you to continue following Covid-19 protocols set by both healthcare professionals and the state in order to slow the spread of Covid-19 and prevent the loss of life.

A Sit-Down With Snow

Interviewing EHS' Principal

Jada Godwin
Editor-in-Chief
Feature

On December 1st, 2020, I was offered the opportunity to sit down with Ellensburg High School's principal, Beau Snow. During the interview we discussed several Covid-19 related issues within the school and our larger community, and by the end I was a little more informed about the school's role in Covid-19 transmissions and how the students and staff are faring with the new programs and policies in place.

As we all know, EHS is the largest school in Washington State still open with a hybrid model. This makes us an interesting case study for other schools, but also a possible danger for currently attending students and staff. Snow, however, was quick to assure that those dangers have been mitigated through the students and staff's behavior.

"In our classes we've actually done a really good job, according to the Health Department, of everybody staying masked and everybody sitting where they are supposed to," explained Snow. Both of these policies, wearing proper face masks and remaining socially distant, are critical in repressing Covid-19 transmission and keeping EHS open for in-person learning. Snow describes these policies as, for the most part, being followed within the school.

However, we have had members of EHS test positive

for Covid-19. As of January 5th, 14 students and staff were reported to have had or currently have Covid-19, not counting the cases of people both contracting and recovering from Covid-19 during the winter break. Snow argued that this doesn't necessarily mean we have had an outbreak.

"All of our cases have been independent; they have contracted it from family outside of school," said Snow, "and so the Health Department does their investigation and figures out where they were, where they contracted Covid, and then they determine if it wasn't from here. If we haven't passed it from student to student, then it's not considered to be an outbreak." Instead, these cases have been the result of "community spread," and not school policies.

"So the way that it works for students," stated Snow, is that "the Health Department does their contact tracing with the individual and they determine if the student had any close contact with staff or students defined as either unmasked contact or if they had masks on and they were less than six feet (away) for longer than 15 minutes."

This has been the bare minimum for nearly the last year, but as community and state Covid-19 numbers change, so do



Beau Snow elaborating on a point discussed during the interview. Photo courtesy of Stephen Martin.

the guidelines the school district follows.

With Governor Inslee's November 15th month-long restrictions, EHS was faced with a special test at keeping open. The restrictions didn't automatically close schools, but many sports were cut, postponed, or altered to address the issues with group or indoor meetings. The community restrictions also forced EHS to relook at its policies for classes. It appears, however, that we made the cut.

As Snow stated, "but as far as school goes itself, we are able to continue with the approval of the Health Department with our same plan that we had because of our spacing and because of the way that the governor has declared schools as essential and they're able to continue to operate."

He contributed our success with several factors, such as having actual staff to enforce Covid-19 policies throughout the building.

"We have people there (in

schools) to help ensure all of the rules all of the time. Part of my job, and part of Mr. Musser and Mr. Hall and Mr. Kanyer and the teachers' is to make sure everyone is following the rules."

And follow they should. If we do end up having a large enough outbreak within the school or reach our community capacity, Snow warned that we would have to shut down in-person learning.

Another factor to shut us down is the amount of available substitute teachers in the district during the pandemic. In a regular, non-Covid-19 school year, Snow reported that there are usually 10 substitutes in EHS every day. For a school with fifty or so teachers, a Covid-19 school year could end up disastrous.

"The variable that we can't control is how many subs are available in the community to come in. And so that variable is largely unknown in terms of the actual number because some days people are available, some days they're not, and so it's really tough to tell," said Snow.

"So if a teacher had remote learning posted in Schoology, could a class of twelve come



Ellensburg High School Principal Beau Snow (left) sitting with Alutant Editor-in-Chief and Reporter Jada Godwin (right). Photo courtesy of Stephen Martin.

to the commons and work on Schoology? Absolutely."

Snow warned that, while this is a possible solution, it's only a bandaid on a more complicated problem. "It could work, but if that happened multiple classes at the same time, that's when we would run into exceeding our capacity to manage that within the building."

He went on to explain that, right now, administrators and other teachers in the building are helping to cover classes in their spare time and during planning periods. Unfortunately, there won't always be someone available to do that, especially if more teachers have to leave the school temporarily.

As for the students, both virtual and hybrid face a similar problem—failing classes. There are about 350 students currently failing at least one class at EHS, a sharp increase from the normal 250 of previous school years.

Struggling students have been specifically invited to come in on Wednesdays to work with staff, but on that day the commons is open from 12 to 3 for any student that needs wifi access or a quiet place to work.

The school is trying to reach out to students and help them figure out what they need to turn in to pass all their classes, but the change in the number of failing students has slowed.

For the students who failed a class last spring or will fail a class this semester, there will be options to receive credit.

"I'm actually working with our teacher leadership team to come up with options by department so that we have math options, science options, english options," stated Snow. "It won't look like normal winter school, where it was after school, because our day ends so much later... we're actively working on it now because it's going to take us a while to figure out." One of options being debated is to set up a credit retrieval option through Edgenuity, but "we're hesitant to just say 'oh, get online and do Edgenuity' because that might not work for everybody, and so we're trying to work on a variety of solutions so that kids can have something that works for them to regain a credit that obviously wasn't easy to get in the first place." More specific information on credit retrieval is set to be released to the students before second semester begins.

Other information will be slow coming, including on when students and staff can expect mask and social distancing policies to dissipate. These policies rest mainly on the availability of a vaccine that students and their families can use, and the rate of vaccination of members of EHS.

"The optimist in me wants to hope that the vaccine works well and it becomes available and we can get it to enough people, we can make school look like a more normal experience for kids and staff, if possible," stated Snow. He informed me that the state and school district haven't yet released any information on vaccine policies for schools, but they have started the very beginnings of talks on the subject "in general terms only."

The Monologue Show

The Show Must Go On

A Stephen Martin
Associate Editor
Arts & Entertainment

Fall Play is an annual tradition at Ellensburg High School. However, like many other school traditions, it has been derailed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Jim Denison, a local attorney who directed "Almost, Maine" last year, was selected as the director for the 2020 Fall Play. His initial plans for the production required serious revision after the pandemic began.

"We were going to do Clue, which is based on the board game, Clue, and the movie that came out in the '80s, but as soon as this hit, we weren't able to do that," said Denison. "So we postponed that to next year."

This left the Fall Play without a play, and forced Denison to look for another performance.

"This year I was looking all

over the place for a show that we could do with socially distanced actors, where there was only one or two of them on the stage at a time," he said.

Denison eventually settled on "The Monologue Show", a play based around the individual performances of a high school drama class.

"And so it's kinda funny, y'know, a bunch of different monologues," he said. "And so you can do as many of them as you want or as few of them as you want."

Auditions and rehearsals also had to be greatly modified to comply with Covid-19 restrictions. Instead of students auditioning in-person, they sent in videos of themselves performing.

"We had an online audition form that [the students] filled out, and then they submitted a recorded monologue audi-



Denison watches a student perform.

tion, so basically 30 seconds to a minute of just a play or something that just let me see them act," Denison said. "And then I look it over and cast them in the part that I think is the best fit for them."

One of the students in the play was Freshman Krista Nolan, who was involved with previous productions at both EHS and Morgan Middle School.

"I was going to be in the middle school play, the Phantom Tollbooth, but that got cancelled," Nolan said. "I worked backstage for a few plays, like Oliver and the Music Man."

Nolan said that she liked the way that the play was being conducted, and that she looks forward to being able to do shows in person.

"Considering the circumstances, I think the choice of the play was very smart, because we can do everything individually," said Nolan. "And I don't mind it, like it kinda sucks that I can't really do it in front of a big audi-



Collin Marsh and Jim Denison record Aidan McKee-Burns' and Serena Arango's performance.

ence, but it's a start."

This opinion was echoed by Ashley Callan, a sophomore who made her theatrical debut with the show.

"I think it's smart because it's a lot harder bringing people in with corona," Callan said, "so it's a lot more convenient for people, and it's safer so I really like it"

Callan went on to say that she has enjoyed the experience and intends to audition for the Winter Musical later this year.

"I definitely want to do this again because I really like it," she said, "and hopefully in the future we'll be able to have a live audience, so I think that'd be super fun because although I like video, I like live audience better."

Because the show could not be performed live, the cast were recorded doing their performances by volunteers Collin Marsh, Annie Schlanger, and Jenna Callan. The different clips were then edited together to give the illusion of a complete show.

"Collin and Annie and I are going to go to the editing room



Krista Nolan as Jae reminisces over her old drama teacher.

and put it all together so hopefully it looks like all the kids were backstage, and just walked on, and did their monologue, and walked off," Dennison said. "But they will not have been in the same room, most of these kids don't even see each other in rehearsals, it's just me and them."

However, filming was slowed down as a result of the amount of students who are failing classes at EHS.

"This is an extracurricular activity, kind of like sports, we're in the same category as sports, so they have to pass their classes in order to be filmed because that's kind of our performance," said Denison. "They can rehearse, but they can't perform unless they're passing."

This has always been the rule for theatre performances, however this year has been especially hard due to the large number of students not passing classes as a result of online school.

"It's affecting it more than I thought it would, it didn't affect us hardly at all last year, but this year this remote learning and stuff is not good for high school kids, and so a lot of them have assignments they haven't turned in or something like that," Denison remarked. "I'm not worried that any of them are not going to get to participate, it's just that now I've got to wait for them to turn in their assignments."

To ensure that the production still made money for the Fall Play, the distribution of the video will be conducted online through a streaming service.

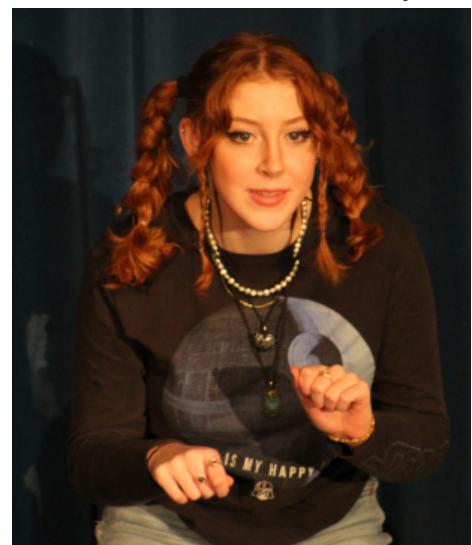
"We license this through Playscripts, and then they have a video streaming contract with



Amelya Husko as Mia pitches her idea for the next Harry Potter novel, "Harry Potter and the Divorce Attorney of Doom".

Broadway on Demand, and so we are contracted with them to do an on-demand," Denison said. "Basically for 48 hours it's gonna be available online and so you buy your ticket, which I think is gonna be about seven bucks, and then you can watch it as many times as you want in that 48 hour period."

Due to filming delays and the time it will take to edit the show, the play is set to be released sometime in February.



Ashley Callan as Tom presents her Star Wars fanfiction, "Episode 6 1/2".

Bulldog Talk:

What are students most looking forward to when the pandemic is over?

A Lucy Altman-Coe
Copy Editor
Feature

When the pandemic is over, I'm excited to start my next chapter of life by going to a 4-year university and having that college experience without worrying about Covid-19.

Camille Dondji, Class of 2021



Camille Dondji, Class of 2021. Photo courtesy of Camille Dondji.

When the pandemic ends, I am most excited to be able to play sports without restriction, and to travel to see my friends in far away places.

George Wright, Class of 2022



George Wright, Class of 2022. Photo courtesy of George Wright.



Mykayla Quezada, Class of 2023. Photo courtesy of Mykayla Quezada.

What I am looking most forward to when the pandemic is over is being able to hang out with my friends without any worries of getting sick. I am excited about this because it has been a very long time since we were able to go out and hangout with friends and even go out in public without worrying about getting yourself sick, family sick, or other people sick.

Abigail Sny, Class of 2023

When the pandemic is over I am most excited to hang out with friends that I have not seen in person in a long time.

Ryan Odd, Class of 2024

When the pandemic is over, I'm looking forward to living my normal life again. I'm looking forward to going to school without wearing a mask and distancing, I'm looking forward to sporting events and dances etc. Basically just having a normal high school life again.

Hannah Henry, Class of 2022

After this huge pandemic I am looking forward to being able to see my family! Because every once in a while we would have huge family reunions and my family from all over even family I have never met in person would come down to Seattle and we have such an amazing connection together.

Mykayla Quezada, Class of 2023

When the pandemic is over, I would really love to be able to be a part of one of the clubs available, as well as have friends over as much as possible.

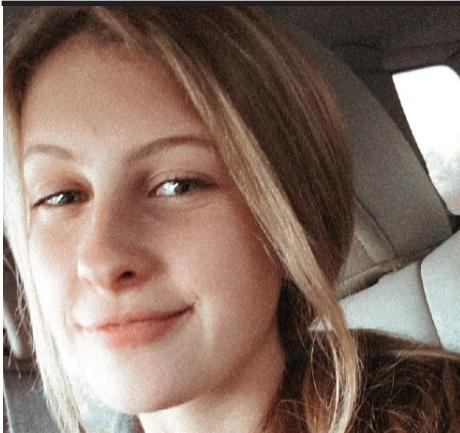
Zaden Yangas, Class of 2024

When the pandemic is over I am going to be happy to hang out with my friends in town without wearing masks. And not be so careful.

Cherrylyn Brogard, Class of 2021



Hannah Henry, Class of 2022. Photo courtesy of Hannah Henry.



Lauren Kocher, Class of 2022. Photo courtesy of Lauren Kocher.

I am excited to travel again after this pandemic is over. I miss going to new places, meeting new people and trying new things, there's nothing quite like it!

Lauren Kocher, Class of 2022

When the pandemic is over I plan to go on trips with my family and spend time with my friends.

Taylah Connor, Class of 2024



Taylah Connor, Class of 2024. Photo courtesy of Taylah Connor.

When the pandemic is over I'm most excited to hang out with my friends without the fear that one of them might unknowingly have the sickness. And shop for perfume, of course.

Garrett Simpson, Class of 2021

I'm most excited to go out with all my friends and see people that I haven't seen in a long time.

Nova Ross, Class of 2022

After the pandemic has gotten stable and has been over, I am most excited to pursue my interest towards Biology and other career options hopefully at BYU-Idaho in Rexburg, Idaho this next fall because I would actually be able to see people and attend classes in-person without having to worry about the virus being as deadly as people are making it out to be - it's both worrisome and stressful to those that are working in public at this time and attending in-person classes. I'd want to just feel the original normal in society soon.

Mason Walsh, Class of 2021

When the pandemic is over, I'm excited to be able to travel again, because before everyone was in quarantine, my family and I could have gone to California during the summer. And I was really excited for that, but our plans changed because of the pandemic. But hopefully next summer we'll be able to go.

Lily Smith, Class of 2023

When the pandemic is over I'm gonna be most excited to play sports again because that is something I've really missed.

Kelsey Franklin, Class of 2024



Kelsey Franklin, Class of 2024. Photo courtesy of Kelsey Franklin.



Mason Walsh, Class of 2021. Photo courtesy of Mason Walsh.

Just having stuff open and no more masks.

Bodie Eklund, Class of 2023

After the pandemic phases out, I'm most excited to be able to focus on something other than the pandemic, and to have the absence of stress associated with going to large gatherings without worrying about catching [Covid-19].

James Richmond, Class of 2021



James Richmond, Class of 2021. Photo courtesy of James Richmond.

When Covid is over I am most excited to travel a lot and get back into track training.

Elaine Joyce, Class of 2022

I am most excited about not wearing masks everywhere I go so that when I wear glasses they won't fog up.

Cody Snyder, Class of 2022

Coming to America

Immigrants Weigh In

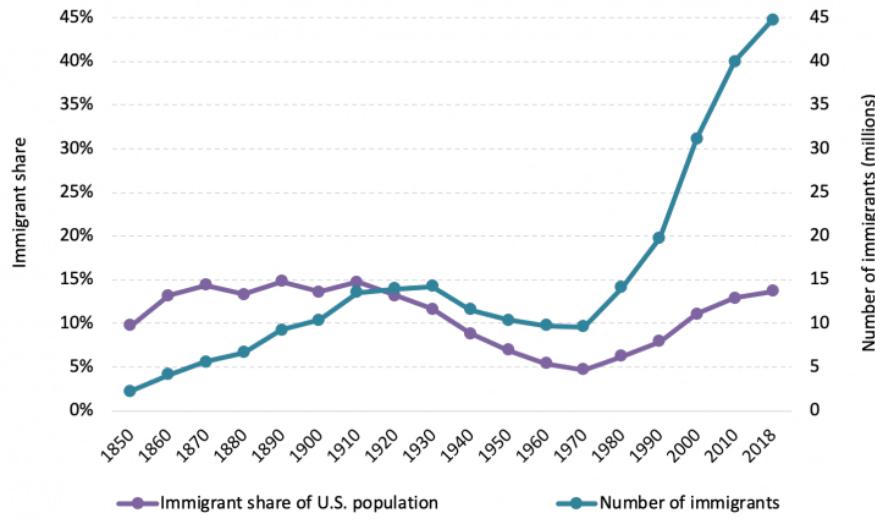
Lucas Wright
Staff Reporter
Feature

The United States is a country founded on immigration, which has helped it to become the thriving, diverse, and successful country it is today. We're all descendants of immigrants, unless you're Native American.

According to the Department of Immigration, as well as the Department of Homeland Security, one in seven people living in the United States are foreign born, and there were 44.7 million documented immigrants living in the U.S. as of 2018. They touch every part of our lives: they're our schoolmates, friends, teachers, or our co-workers. They influence the food we eat, the way we dress, the music we listen to, the television we watch. But what's it really like being an immigrant in the U.S.?

Veronika Klemar from Budapest, Hungary, who's in her mid-twenties, answered a few questions.

*When did you move to the USA?
March 2020*



U.S. immigration figures from 1850-2018. Photo courtesy of the Migration Institute.

What was it like to move to a new country?

I'm from Budapest, Hungary, however I was lucky enough to live in a bunch of different countries: Greece, France, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom before moving to WA, USA. I like to experience different places, and it's always a fun adventure to move to a new country, but it's also very sad to leave friends behind. I also miss different aspects of life from the different places, like theatres and museums in London, cafes and culture in Paris...

What were the biggest differences between the countries that you saw?

A lot! In the US, I still can't talk about the weather, as I'm not used to Fahrenheit, I know the temperatures in Celsius. Same thing with cooking, I used to measure ingredients in kilograms and grams and not ounces. Plus I moved from London, U.K, and there cars are driving on the other side of the road! Then you



Veronika Klemar immigrated from Budapest, Hungary, in March 2020. Photo courtesy of Veronika Klemar.

have the different customs, like Thanksgiving in the U.S, that's not celebrated anywhere else, while Easter is celebrated all over Europe and not in the U.S. I think as the U.S is such a large country, the choice of products and services are much greater here. For example, there are so many streaming providers, how do you even choose?! Or so many grocery chains, cell phone plans, insurance providers.... In terms of size, US is also bigger than any other country I ever lived in, and much more diverse than any other country, which I think is great!

Why did you immigrate to the USA?

For work I was offered a job in the U.S and I decided to give it a go!

What were some of the difficulties in settling in here?

Settling into a new city/country is never easy, you need to get to know a new city, find a new apartment, make new friends, find where to go grocery shopping, how to get around. Imagine the added complication of the COVID-19 pandemic! The U.S

also has the credit score system that's super important here, and less so in other countries. I had zero credit history moving here, I needed to build my credit score from scratch and it's more work than I thought it would be.

How have you found the American people?

It's hard to form an opinion about American people in general, as America is a huge and diverse country, and each person is different. I also don't believe in stereotypes, I lived in a bunch of different places, and for example I know that many people say that French people are rude, yet I had a very different experience, and I have a lot of French friends. The only way I can answer this question is that personally, I had a very-very positive experience so far, I received a ton of help settling in from American colleagues. I met great people here, and I feel lucky to be living in the U.S!

We also spoke to Neha Jain, originally from India.

When did you move to the USA?

June 2010

What was it like to move to a new country?

Unsettling because all my family was in another continent but exciting the prospect of a new life.



Neha Jain moved from India to the United States in June 2010. Photo courtesy of Neha Jain.

What were the biggest differences between the countries that you saw?

Culture. Asian and American culture differ widely. Asian society is very closely knit in terms of family and relations but it is also very judgmental and limiting, especially for women.

Why did you immigrate to the USA?

For better career opportunities and to experience a life with more opportunities and less judgement. Also, early education here is less stressful for children.

What were some of the difficulties in settling in here?

Culturally assimilating. Understanding and finding food (we are vegetarians), finding friends, understanding and adapting to a more self serve work culture and raising kids without family support.

How have you found the American people?

Less judgmental, more accepting, polite and easy to interact with in everyday lives but hard to breach the walls and form deep friendships, primarily because families here have their own family and friend circle from generations and it's hard for implants (esp with cultural differences) to get through that.

Lastly, we interviewed Tony Wright, from London, Great Britain.

When did you move to the USA?

May 2019

What was it like to move to a new country?

Easy as my wife is American, we travelled back and forth a lot anyway.

What are the biggest differences between the countries?

Complicated springs to mind.



Tony Wright came to the United States from England in May 2019. Photo courtesy of Tony Wright.

Everything in the U.S is politically separated, you have city, county, state and federal laws and procedures. Whereas in the U.K its one law that covers the whole nation, gets confusing here. U.S politics is confusing as well, they are like two warring kids who argue just because they can and their views are so opposite. In the U.K they disagree but it's not as bitter as it is here.

Why did you immigrate to the USA?

For a change, and to be closer to my wife's family.

What were some of the difficulties in settling in here?

Settling Lucas into EHS, U.S education is not remotely like education in England, sitting a driving test after driving for 30 years and on the other side of the road.

How have you found the American people?

They're a lot more friendly and open than Brit's, as I'm English I'm a lot more cynical by nature, Americans generally aren't.

As we can see, America is still a place that people from other cultures wish to settle in, and build a new life. Yes, it has its challenges and cultural differences, and there are little hiccups on the path to a new and better life, but it seems they're worth it.

Winter Holidays at EHS

Safely Celebrating

An Ellensburg High School tree, holiday ornaments along the halls, and a food drive contest by graduating class. While it wasn't a normal holiday season, the school was still able to get into the spirit in a safe manner. The tree, decorated with various holiday symbols, was courtesy of the Associated Student Body, as was the accompanying informational holiday descriptions. Underneath the tree were gift boxes, identified by graduating class, for students to donate non-perishable food items. Each student also had a holiday ornament with their name on it hung up on the lockers, produced by the ASB. Even though we didn't get to have traditional events like Shiverfest, the school still rallied to make this a memorable season.



Featured Holidays:

Diwali
Hanukkah
Christmas
Winter Solstice
Kwanzaa
Las Posadas
Chinese New Year



Rafa Gomez & Dylan Hernandez

Education in Isolation

Lucas Wright
Staff Reporter
Student Feature

With Covid-19 still running rampant across the United States and a large portion of Washington state students back at school in hybrid learning, what happens if students are exposed to Covid-19, or come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19?

Let's start with the school environment. According to the Governor's Safe Start plan, each county can make their own decision on hybrid or virtual schools, or if you have space for social distancing, whether the whole school can return. There are guidelines laid down by the state but there are not exactly rules. The counties have the final say, even if their infection rate is above the guidelines.

According to data from Washington State's Covid-19 Dashboard as of December 10th, 2020, Washington state has a Covid-19 infection rate of 1.08, meaning each infected person will infect 1.08 other people. And according to Yaktrinews, 1 out of every 36 people in Kittitas County have had or are infected with Covid-19. You can see it's a problem statewide and in our county.

So where does that leave students exposed to Covid-19 or who tested positive with Covid-19?

We spoke to Rafa Gomez, a sophomore at Ellensburg High School about his experience of isolation.

What happened to cause you to go into isolation?

A member of my extended family was diagnosed with

Covid-19 so we followed State procedures and self isolated as a family for the required time.

What was your experience of isolation?

If I'm totally honest i didn't care for it, dam boring but it is what it is i suppose.

Are you still in quarantine, and if so how much longer do you have?

All done thankfully.

What were the restrictions at home?

None really we just kept our distance from neighbours and friends and family.

Was you worried that you may have Covid-19?

Yeah some at first, you see the news people dying and you're silly not to have that thought you might die flash through your mind at some point.

The big question now, were you worried your education would suffer by missing school?

Nah my parents wouldn't let me slack off, and i just switched to virtual while i was in quarantine.

We also spoke to Dylan Hernandez, a junior in Issaquah, about his experience on education in isolation.

What happened to cause you to go into isolation?

My dad was exposed at work and given a test, which came back positive.

What was your experience of isolation?

No difference really as my school district has been virtual since the start of the pandemic. Only thing I missed was soccer training for 2 weeks.

Are you still in quarantine, and if so how much longer do you have?

Nope i'm finished with that, everything's back to as it was before.

What were the restrictions at home?

For me none, but my parents had to work from home while we were in quarantine.



Dylan Hernandez, posing for a picture.
Photo courtesy of Dylan Hernandez.

Were you worried that you had Covid-19?

Kind of its all about people dying, when the test came back positive it did throw me , but luckily i was what they call asymptomatic didn't even know i had it.

The big question now, were you worried your education would suffer by missing school?

Nope was the same, my parents wouldn't let me be a slacker.

Gomez and Hernandez's experiences of quarantine weren't too bad. They both survived, Gomez back in hybrid and Hernandez back at soccer training, as if nothing happened thankfully. Obviously until the vaccine is rolled out to a large part of the population these stories will become more common—let's hope they all have such a happy ending.

Bryton Wilson

STEM Inside and Outside of School

A Stephen Martin
Associate Editor
Student Feature

Bryton Wilson is a senior at Ellensburg High School. He likes the outdoors and science.

Wilson takes fly fishing at EHS. "I've fished for like my whole life with my dad, I started fly fishing two years ago," Wilson said. He has numerous spots in and around Ellensburg that he enjoys fishing at. "I like the creeks a lot, there's some lakes out in the basin and in Cle Elum that I like."

Wilson also is an avid runner, participating in both Cross Country and Track at EHS.

"I started Cross Country and

Track in 7th grade, but I ran 5Ks and stuff like that for a long time," he said. "I'm one of the captains for cross country right now. And I made it districts in track in my freshmen and sophomore year, and then didn't have a season junior year."

Wilson's love of the outdoors has fueled his interest in natural sciences. He is looking to pursue a degree in either biology or engineering from a wide variety of schools, including the University of Colorado, Montana State, and Western Washington University.

"I've always been decent at math and so I thought that engineering would be fun because



Bryton Wilson sits behind a rock on Mt. Stuart. Photo courtesy of Bryton Wilson.

it's kind of in that genre," Wilson said. "And I like being outside a lot so that's why I like biology. And biology is just so open, there's so many different options from it."

Wilson does not know exactly what he wants to pursue a career in, but his interests will take him far.

Himiko Amos

A Helen Mills
Staff Reporter
Student Feature

Himiko Amos is a high school sophomore, working her way through the challenges of high school.

Amos, like everyone in the pandemic, is working through Covid-19. She goes to school,



Himiko Amos posing for a picture. Photo courtesy of Himiko Amos.

Education in a Pandemic

works, hangs out with friends and gets her classwork done.

"My favorite class this year is AP Psych, because I can relate it to real life events," Amos wrote in an email.

Amos does hybrid learning, coming in on the A schedule days. She wrote, "School is going pretty well during Covid."

However, homework seems to be an annoying feature to both online and in-person learning. "From my hybrid classes it's less homework, but with online it's more."

Amos does it though. When asked about what field she is planning to go into when she

graduates, she said marketing, meaning Amos needs to take classes that align with her future career goals like Psychology.

Amos also has hobbies, things that relax her and keeps her happy.

"Right now I have plants and I'm just trying to keep them alive," Amos wrote.

Amos is a driven student who works hard to achieve her goals. Though she keeps her eyes on her school work, it's also important to chill every now and again, whether safely being with friends or keeping alive plants. Himiko Amos has a bright future ahead.

Annie Schlanger

The School's New Voice



Lucy Altman-Coe
Copy Editor
Student Feature

This year, morning announcements have sounded a little different. Senior Annie Schlanger, the new Public Relations member of the Executive Associated Student Body, has taken over reporting the daily bulletin.

"It made me nervous at first because I was afraid of messing up," confessed Schlanger, "but now I know it's really not a big deal at all... The experience has been super good."

Schlanger also helps with planning with the rest of the Exec. Board. "As a group, we all work together to plan events and come up with ideas," she explained. "Most of the position is just a lot of brainstorming and planning out the school activities month by month."

Some of the activities the ASB has put on include a bingo night and a drive-in movie, "Monster House". Both these activities were ideas thought of and organized by the Exec. Board.

While the workload may seem high, Schlanger says it's worth it.

"My favorite thing is getting to work with the other exec board members and being able to get to know more people around the school a little better," she said.



Schlanger, far right, participated in last year's weekly climate strikes with the Environmental Club. Photo courtesy of Annie Schlanger.

Schlanger's time on the Exec. Board has left her with valuable experiences that will endure a lifetime.

"I decided to do ASB because I think it will help me gain more insight on how to be a leader and how to use leadership skills to better the community," explained Schlanger. "I think these

skills will be useful in whatever my future may bring. I think these skills are things that I will be able to use and look back on for my whole life."

Aside from ASB, Schlanger also finds other ways to connect with her peers. She is a part of the Environmental Club, Peace Club, 4-H, Cross Country, Track,

Winter Musical, and Fall Play. Her other extracurriculars have enriched her high school experience in a similar way to ASB.

"Along with ASB, my leadership positions in my other clubs, activities, and sports will also help me be successful in the future," Schlanger said.



Schlanger with her horses Halli and Lobo, whom she does 4-H with. Photo courtesy of Annie Schlanger.

Winter in Ellensburg Photo Contest Submissions



Lucy Altman-Coe
Copy Editor
Photo Contest Layout

2020



Cover: Connor Aimone, Class of 2024,
Contest Winner
Top: Trenton Williams, Class of 2021
Right: Emily Pannatoni, Class of 2023
Left: Conner Aimone, Class of 2024
Bottom Left: Thomas Svendsen, Class of 2023

