

# The Phoenix Times

**"SPREADING ITS WINGS AND SOARING HIGH"**

The Official Publication of Albuquerque School Of Excellence  
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**VOLUME NO: 1**

**ISSUE NO: 6**

**JANUARY 2021**

## ASE holds Science Fair 2021 By: Marwa Zameer

To provide an opportunity for students to apply the scientific method in conducting independent research, Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE) held a Science Fair last January 15, 2021.

All research entries were presented in a school-wide science fair competition and were judged individually.

Students who demonstrated thoroughness in their studies and efforts will advance to compete in the regional, state, national, and international science fair competitions.

ASE's Science Fair was different from the

past years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

ASE made the Science Fair an optional and extra credit assignment, instead of making it mandatory as the previous years were.

All student participants were given an allotted time to finish the project and entries were all presented virtually.

The winners for the Science Fair 2021 were announced last January 19, 2021 with (cont. on page 2)



**TROPHIES ON THE WAY!!!** ASE students wait for the announcement of winners for the ASE Science Fair 2021 with Ms. Suzanne Zamora held virtually last January 19, 2021.

Photo by: Marwa Zameer

## ASE elementary students bag Spelling Bee awards

by Sedona Johnson

Mason Vargas, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Elena Schwarz, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tied as the top spellers in Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE) during the recently concluded Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition 2020-2021 held virtually in compliance to social distancing regulations in

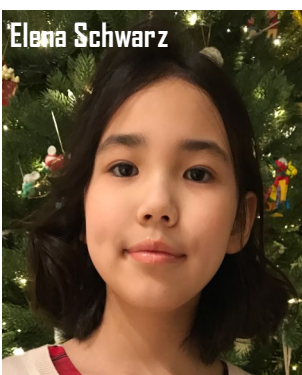
New Mexico due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Both students qualified for the District Spelling Bee competition held last January 22, 2021 were Elena Schwarz also won.

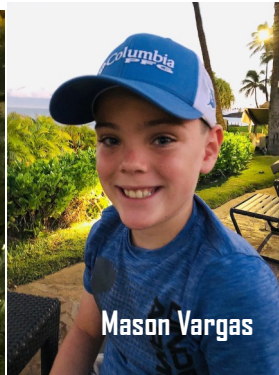
Ms. Lorette Lambert spearheaded the competition in ASE and trained the students through the Spelling Bee club where they were provided various activities and games to prepare the students for the competition.

The winning students said that hard-work, diligence, and self-confidence are the key in joining a spelling bee competition.

Both students were also trained by their parents at home in preparation for the contest.



Elena Schwarz



Mason Vargas

## ASE stands out

**Offers free after-school programs**

by Jackson Tiesi

One of the unique attributes that help set ASE apart from other schools is its after school clubs, which are offered to all students for free during this Covid-19 pandemic.

ASE is one among the few schools in the city which offer after school clubs in a

virtual setting during remote learning, though some extra-curricular activities have been canceled or delayed including dance programs, team sports and the like.

The virtual clubs give parents and students a cost-friendly alternative to these canceled activities. (cont. on page 3)

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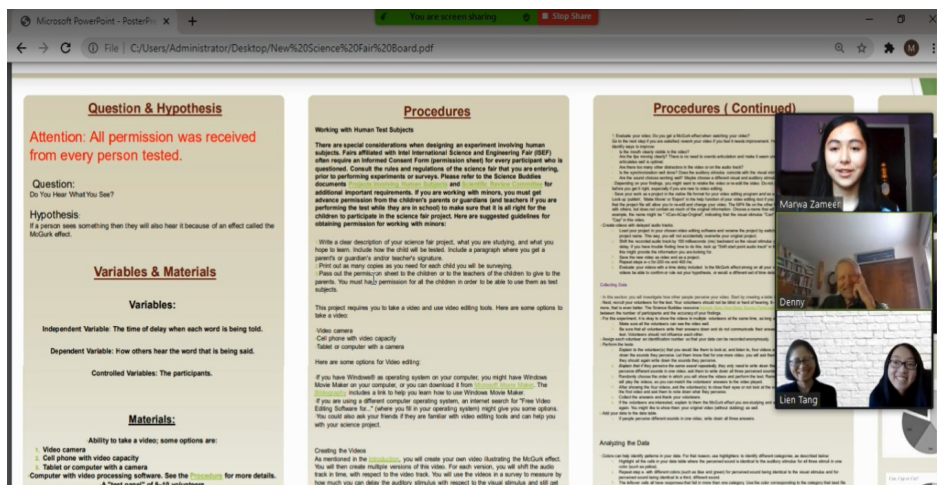
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## Continuation...ASE holds Science...

Mr. Ayik, Mr. Yanar, Mr. Sisek, Ms. Kwiecinski and other teaching and non-teaching staff in attendance.

Community members from the Sandia Laboratories, Explora, and Air Force Research Laboratory served as judges for the competition.

The following students were given recognitions respectively: 3rd place winners - Aiden Crawford (3rd grade), Adam Briceno (4th grade), Betul Selma Anderoglu (5th grade), and Fisher Rego (6th grade); 2nd place winners - Elena Schwarz (3rd grade), Lorelai Hopkins (4th grade) tied with Nevaeh Moore (4th grade, Cameron Martindell (5th grade), Brandon Luu (6th grade), Rubi Aguilar (8th grade), and Haydee Ventura-Lopez (High School); and 1st place winners - Cole Miller (3rd grade), Mikho



**Science makes sense!!! Marwa Zameer presents her ASE Science Fair 2021 entry held virtually last January 15, 2021.**

Photo by: Marwa Zameer

Huynh (4th grade), Blake Volk (5th grade), Elsea Ochoa (6th grade), Jackson Tiesi (8th grade), and Sherwin Thiyagarajan (High School)

4th to 12<sup>th</sup> grade winners will qualify for the next round.

Ms. Suzanne Zamora and Mr. Begli Sapayev spearheaded the event.

## ASE to re-visit decision in preparation for hybrid

Teachers, school staff anticipates vaccine availability by Camree Volk

**Due to the health risks and safety concerns with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic, Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE) made the decision to remain online for the month of January.**

New Mexico Public Education Department recently gave schools the discretion on when to start the in-person learning based on Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's announcement that NM schools can already open up for in-person learning come February 8, 2021.

ASE's Governing Council identified many health and safety risks that would be of concern if the school tried to return to in-person learning.

Some teachers are concerned that the children or families may not be able to report Coronavirus exposure in a timely manner and risk the staff and the students by doing so.

High risk students and teachers are also a concern, as well as susceptible family members of people attending or working at ASE.

It was also expressed that even if the school can determine a student is not positive with Coronavirus at the door, it is not impossible that the student could have been exposed through a family member or by other means.

Multiple ASE teachers and staff members expressed their willingness to go back to hybrid or have the in-person platform if the vaccine is distributed and they are already able to get it.

Others feel hopeful about the vaccine but want to continue online for the time being.

Likewise, it was discussed that the vaccine comes in two doses, thus, even if teachers and students get the vaccine, they still must wait around 28 days after the second vaccine before returning to hybrid.

The Governing Council hopes that everyone will be willing to get the vaccine and stated that it will be a significant defining factor in whether they open the school for hybrid.

Even if ASE was able to open for hybrid

again, the concern of shutting down again was also brought up.

Some teachers and staff mentioned that children (particularly younger children) need consistency in their lives.

Both parents and teachers are concerned that having to go back and forth with hybrid and online learning might be distressing for the young minds at ASE.

Because of all this concerns, ASE has decided to remain online and re-visit the decision on the next governing council meeting come February 20, 2021.



Photo Credit: UNM Health Science-public page

## ASE-PTO re-visits role, eager to expand

By: Marwa Zameer

Albuquerque of Excellence's (ASE) parents and teachers expressed their eagerness to expand the Parent-Teachers Organization's (ASE-PTO) role by the upcoming years, since the pandemic has hindered them to perform their duties and improve more, as the past years have been during the ASE-PTO meeting held virtually last January 20, 2021.

The ASE-PTO also re-visited the traditional role of the organization, which includes holding fundraising drives, volunteering at sporting events and other school-related activities, providing support for school needs (student needs, parent needs, teacher needs), and spearheading or sponsoring events (Muffins/Donuts, etc.); yet due to the Covid-19 pandemic, each of these roles are all put on hold.

In the meeting, they also identified ASE Open Houses and Orientations as great opportunities for parents to volunteer on.

"There's not a lot of opportunities or allowances for the traditional roles that PTO has played in years past," Ms. Angela Lopez, ASE parent and school liaison officer said. "PTO would love to grow by the next school year, that would be great! Getting involved now, even in a small capacity such as attending meetings or volunteering as a room parent or grade level parent for next year would be tremendous!" she added.

## NM starts mass vaccination

By Sydney Koranyi



The Pit, Albuquerque New Mexico (January 20, 2021) — Photo Credit: UNM Health Science-public page

The Pit, Albuquerque became a large Coronavirus vaccination center last Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

This site will be open to the public, with an estimated 3000 people a day receiving the vaccine.

There will be four vaccination admin-

istration phases (1A, 1B, 1C, and 2).

Phase 1A will include hospital personnel, long term care facility members and workers, congregate setting workers, medical staff, and home-based healthcare with expected timeline completion this winter.

Phase 1B will consist of people 75 years old and up, people 16 years old and up with high COVID-19 risks, frontline and essential workers, and people vulnerable to COVID-19.

Phase 1C will integrate adults 60 years old and up and other essential workers.

Lastly, phase 2 will be for the general public.

Continuation...ASE stands out

Ms. Lopez, an ASE staff said in an interview that students can do something other than schoolwork. "It helps fulfill a social need to be around peers. It's a good break from school and switches the focus to something fun," she added.

Teachers can choose to sponsor various clubs outside of their academic field of expertise, for example, a math teacher does not have to sponsor a math club and may choose any type of club they are willing to have.

Parents benefit by not having to supervise their children during these online sessions, and though attendance is taken, there are no grades associated with the clubs.

The ASE Administration team wanted to help keep students' routines as comfortable as they could.

ASE wanted to help keep

those opportunities available to students, even in the online platform.

Elementary clubs offered this semester are Drawing, Sign Language, Greeting Cards, Book Club, Turkish, Finger Knitting, Spanish, and Digital Photography.

Middle School clubs available include Anime, Greeting Cards, Journalism, Drama/Video Production, Digital Photography, Minecraft, Leadership, Advanced Turkish Language & Cultural, Rocket League (eSports), and Book Club.

High School clubs being offered are Drama/Video Production, Student Council, Chinese, Minecraft, and Rocket League (eSports).

To register for the online clubs, students can visit the student database and click the "Course Selection" tab and may also reach out to the sponsoring teacher or Mr. Hakan Yanar for any questions.

The state of New Mexico is currently in stage 1B.

Children 16 years old and below who do not belong to the Covid-19 high-risk category will not be given vaccines yet and still needs the approval from the CDC and FDA to receive it.



The Pit, Albuquerque New Mexico (January 20, 2021) — Photo Credit: UNM Health Science-public page



## EDITORIAL

## Tough Decisions for Best Results by Camree Volk

Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE) has been online for almost the entire 2020-2021 school year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. ASE has been trying its best to return in-person, but its top priority has always been its students, students' families, and staff.

Health and safety have always been the most important focus in all schools, including ASE, but with the Covid-19 pandemic happening, trying to return, and keeping everyone safe has been difficult. But recently, a medical breakthrough on the Coronavirus vaccine has already been available for administration, thus, providing the potential to solve the schools' struggle.

The Coronavirus vaccine has been the topic of conversation for many schools recently. The vaccine is still new, and it is still hard to determine for sure whether the vaccine really works to prevent contracting and transmitting the virus.

As of right now, scientists believe that the vaccine will work and is currently being distributed to selected demographics or groups at a time.

In New Mexico, school staff and teachers are now asked to register for the vaccine, though they are not yet included in the first phase. The frontline workers, elderly, and those with underlying conditions are the ones categorized on the first phase, thus, school staff and teachers may receive it earlier based on their health conditions.

However, the decision on whether to get the vaccine or not is imperative. The State can require vaccinations, but if they do not

make a public decision about it, the districts can decide.

After the Supreme Court ruling in 1905, employers can require workers to have vaccinations; only making exceptions for people with medical conditions or certain religious beliefs. Although now, vaccinations are not required for Albuquerque School of Excellence, many teachers and staff have been choosing to get their Coronavirus vaccination.

ASE's Governing Council hopes that everyone will be willing to get the vaccine, as it would be a significant factor in whether they open the school for hybrid. Multiple ASE teachers and staff members claimed they would be comfortable and willing to go back to in-person school if the vaccine is distributed. Others feel hopeful about the possibility of a successful vaccine but want to continue online for the time being. Some teachers are concerned about the infection rate of Coronavirus that could occur if the school reopened.

There is a growing concern about students and staff with high-risk family members, who could still be exposed to an ASE member even if that member themselves had the vaccine. At the time being, studies have shown that a person with a vaccine could still possibly carry and transmit the virus to others in contact with them.

Although the vaccine opens a window of hope for the school, there are still many factors to consider, and while doing so, Albuquerque School of Excellence is

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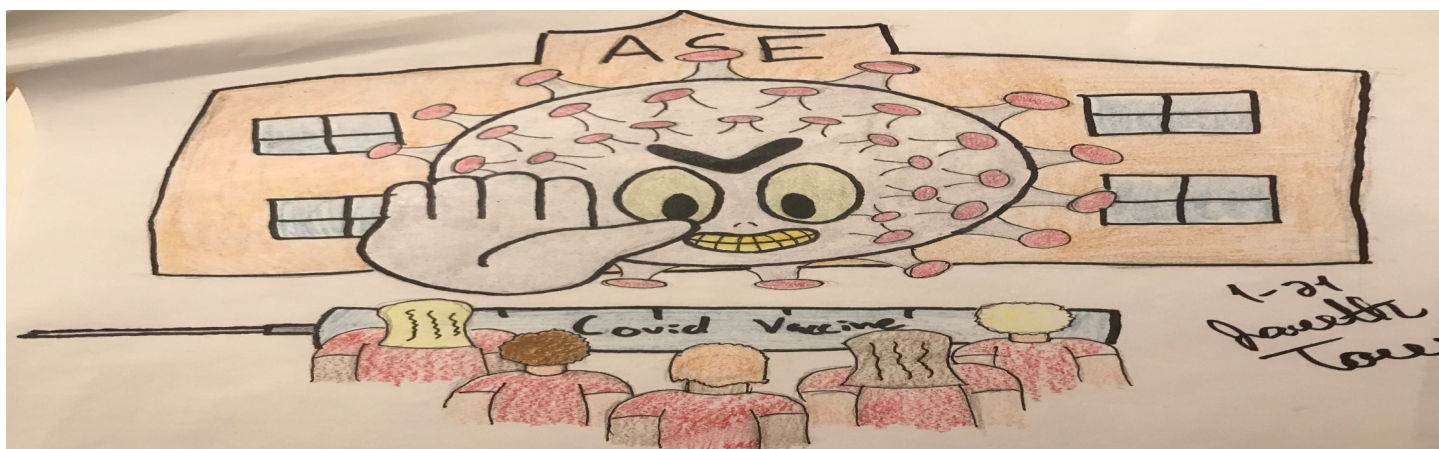
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remaining online. ASE does hope to try hybrid learning again before the end of the school year, possibly in the fourth quarter.

The vaccine may make such a dream possible. It is important that ASE staff, teachers, students, and families stay hopeful and continue to adapt to the change time brings.

And as Robert H. Schuller once said, "Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future."



## 2020 Reflection

By: Abigail White

### 2020, what really happened?

We started 2020 with the Australian wildfires and World War 3 rumors. Then of course the global pandemic that resulted in quarantine and multiple state lockdowns. Then there were the Black Lives Matter protests during which people were being attacked, tear-gassed, and arrested.

First, the Australian wildfires that were carried into 2020 by 2019. The wildfires started in June of 2019 and ended in March of 2020. During that time nearly 3 billion animals were killed, harmed, or displaced. As it seemed, it could not get any worse, the rumors about World War 3 were being spread insanely fast. During an already terrible time, World War 3 rumors did nothing but cause more panic across America.

During all this, Covid-19 was on the rise. The first case of Covid-19 in America was on January 20, 2020. From that day on, cases kept rising and continued to affect lives in more and more drastic ways. The Covid-19 restrictions were never enough and there are many people at fault for the rise in cases and deaths. The rise in cases lead to a longer quarantine period and closing of many establishments which have been much longer than expected resulting in online school.

Another of the most memorable events of 2020 were that Black Lives Matter protests.

People, outraged by the epidemic of police brutality, took to the streets to engage in peaceful protest. These peaceful protests soon turned violent as police used

unnecessary force on the protesters. While all of this was happening, Covid-19 cases continued to skyrocket.



Photo Credit: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/coronavirus-outbreak-who-pandemic>

unnecessary force on the protesters. People that were apart of these protests were being shot directly by rubber bullets, teargassed, beaten, and arrested. While the protests have died down with time, the BLM movement is not forgotten.

In summary, the year 2020 was filled with tragedy and fear but it was not the end of the world like plenty of people predicted. The year started out iffy with the Australian wildfires from 2019 prevailing into 2020. Then there were World War 3 rumors spreading even more unnecessary panic. Then when people finally had enough of police brutality they took to the streets, soon the peaceful protests turned violent when police started using

Looking back to 2020, it makes people realize the value of the simple things they had taken for granted in the past. The simple hugs from family and friends had been missed, the value of food which often were put to waste is now the antithesis of the long lines of people trying to get food from food banks, and the value of life and humanity is now front and center.

**There is a saying in Tibetan, "Tragedy should be utilized as a source of strength." No matter what sort of difficulties, how painful experience is, if we lose our hope, that's our real disaster.** — Dalai Lama



Photo Credit: <https://www.corporatecomplianceinsights.com/compliance-lessons-australian-bushfires/>



Photo Credit: <https://signalscv.com/2020/08/drive-thru-food-distribution-draws-long-line-plenty-of-gratitude/>



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

## Alyssa Banks



## Alyssa Banks - Kindergarten

Alyssa Banks shows the most potential of all our students. She is very responsible, punctual, and respectful. Alyssa attends each zoom meeting daily and is happy to join us for independent work or small groups to be challenged. She completes classwork, homework, and platform assignments efficiently and accurately in all subject areas. Her work is very neat as well. Alyssa participates consistently during zoom meetings and she completed independent Nepris activities that accompanied our class science experiment as well. **Ms. Catherine Boone**

## Milan Arriola - 1st Grade

Milan has shown great enthusiasm, gaining growth in both academic and social areas, and showing stronger leadership skills. We are always happy to hear his stories. He also has perfect attendance and works hard to always smile. Keep up the great work Milan! **Ms. Wallin**



## Milan Arriola

## Luke Sevey



## Luke Sevey - 2nd Grade

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" Last semester, Luke would read the teacher's comments on his assignments and would sometimes go back to re-do his work. As soon as he realized that he could do much better with more effort, Luke learned to do his best work each time. Although Luke is already very successful in his work, he knows that you only get better by learning from your mistakes and going back to fix them. Luke has wonderful attendance, even showing up for class while on the road when his family needed to take care of extended family. He is an avid listener and contributes frequently to our discussions. Luke is polite, funny, and loves to read! He is a good classmate and shows respect to others. **Ms. Cristina Sherman**

## Emili Aguilar - 3rd Grade

Emili is a very diligent and committed student. She tries her best, is a role model for her peers, and asks for help when necessary. Emili consistently exceeds expectations and takes feedback like a champ! **Mrs. Cashill**



## Emili Aguilar

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER



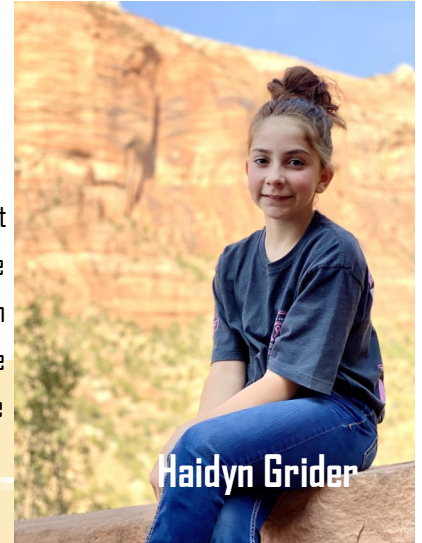
**Nishta Koli**

## Nishta Koli - 4th Grade

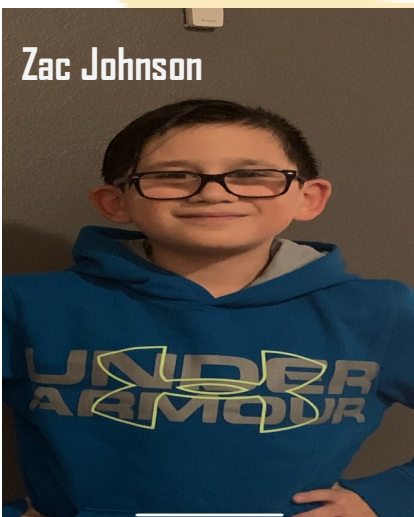
Nishta has an incredible work ethic and is also creative and enthusiastic about her classes. She is always upbeat and willing to add to a discussion or help others. She goes above and beyond to do her best work. **Ms. Lorette Lambert**

## Haidyn Grider - 5th Grade

Haidyn is an incredibly determined student. She has set academic goals and has really pushed herself to achieve them. Any time a classmate is experiencing difficulties in class, whether that is academically or with technology, she is always the first to offer help and guidance. Haidyn arrives to class everyday ready to learn! She is always engaged and ready to answer any question presented in class. **Ms. Atkinson**



**Haidyn Grider**



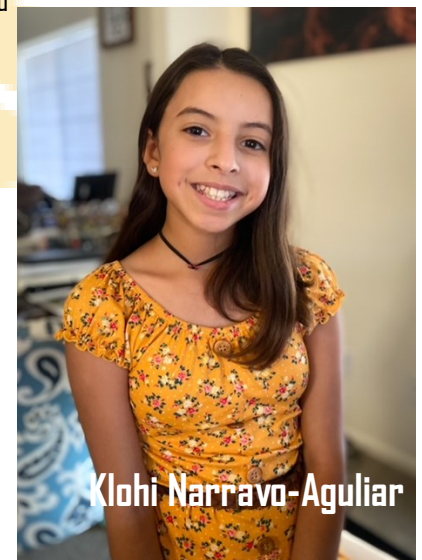
**Zac Johnson**

## Zac Johnson - 6th Grade

Zac is a very committed student who contributes mightily to the class daily. Zac has an ability to "draw out" his fellow students into academic discussions of the material at hand. In this way he facilitates student-led problem solving and higher-level thinking among his peers. **Mr. Norcross**

## Klohi Narravo-Aguliar - 7th Grade

She has perfect attendance, works hard, and puts her full effort in her work, works well with others. **Ms. Dana Gray**



**Klohi Narravo-Aguliar**

## Sarah Adi - 8th Grade

Sarah is a very admirable student. She is very diligent with her work and does not settle for anything less when it comes to all her academic endeavors. She is very well-mannered and fosters great sense of responsibility and respect. **Mrs. Ma. Gloria M. King**



**Sarah Adi**



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

## Ashlee Mora - 9th Grade

Ashlee is an athlete and an "A" student in my class. She always opts to do extra credit when available. She takes ownership over her learning by making contact with whenever she needs help. She is always upbeat and positive in my interactions with her, and with her peers during group work. **Ms. MacDonald**

Ashlee Mora



## Angela Castillo - 10th Grade

Angela works hard, advocates for herself and her classmates, and asks insightful, wise questions about history and the world around her. She is an inspiration to all those around her. **Ms. M. Tither**

Angela has actively participated in class discussions and worked very hard with all her assignments. She not only tried to complete her work on time but tried very hard to understand the materials and managed the skills by redoing her assignments and/or reaching out for teacher's help when she struggles with any topics. Very hard worker! **Ms. Qingqing Cui**



## Camille Evans - 11th Grade

Camille has incredibly good self-management skills. She cares about learning and challenges herself with extra practices for courses and SAT. She actively participated in Zoom discussions and completed her schoolwork with an excellent quality. She is very respectful in class and in email correspondences too. **Ms. Qingqing Cui**

## Taylor White - 12th Grade

She is enthusiastic about her education, willing to work hard to improve her analysis and writing skills. She has excellent attendance and great communication skills. **Ms. Hurst**



# TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

### Ms. Dianne Barrett

by Sydney Koranyi

**"ASE brought such great change to my life,"** says Ms. Dianne Barret, a 1st grade teacher at Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE).

"I am glad to be here with such an amazing team of teachers. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers have been so helpful and supportive, and they are so kind and understanding to me, added Ms. Barrett.

This admirable teacher has taught Pre-K through 3rd grade and has nine years of experience being a pre-K teacher at a childcare center.

Ms. Barrett earned her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Multicultural Education from University of New Mexico (UNM).

She loves spending time with her son. They enjoy the mother and son bonding over outdoor activities, such as hiking and love watching movies.

Ms. Barrett is a dedicated and passionate teacher who teaches from the heart.



## HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

### Ms. Qingqing Cui

by Jolene Cole-Holpp

**"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't- you're right."** – Henry Ford



A positive mindset is what Ms. Qingqing Cui lives by. "If you think you can, YOU CAN," she exclaimed. "That is what I always tell myself, my students, my family and my friends," she added.

This lady of positivity teaches 10th-12th grades Algebra II and Pre-Calculus here in Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE).

Ms. Cui earned her degree in Master of Arts in Mathematics from University of Kansas. She has eight years of teaching experience and has taught a variety of grades levels and age group from middle school and high school Math to College Algebra.

She has the passion for teaching and said, "I enjoy teaching and I am delighted to see my students' accomplishments in their learning."

Ms. Cui is a wife and a proud mom to two daughters. She loves spending time with her family and enjoys cooking, hiking, playing tennis, and playing piano with them. "I am very proud to have them in my life," she said.

This is Ms. Cui's first year in ASE and when asked about the school, she said, "We have an amazing group of people at ASE. The students, teachers, and the admin team are all respectful, supportive, and dedicated hard workers. I feel grateful to be a part of the ASE community."

# MEET The Phoenix Times Editorial Board

## Beau Weaver

My name is Beau Weaver, and I am a member of the Editorial Board of The Phoenix Times. I am a feature writer and occasionally write poems.

I have four little sisters and one big sister. All of whom goes to ASE, which makes it easy on my parents. I also have one dog that is a coon-hound boxer mix, that is adorable!



I have played soccer for five years, but I have stopped playing because of Covid-19. When my parents allow me to, I play video games such as Mario Kart 64 and Super Smash Bros. 64 and watch tv. I occasionally draw and at other times, when I want my alone time, I go on walks around the neighborhood with my dog.

Over the past year, I have become interested in different things. Currently, I love math, however, I used to like history more. I also used to love watching movies with alien species, Xenomorph, which the movie Alien included, and I used to watch Jurassic Park all the time, but lately, Star Wars movies and series has become my favorite to watch.



My parents hold high standards for me to follow and help me to get good grades. However, while they hold standards for my siblings and I, they still reward us with things like snacks. They also encourage me to advance forward in life and always remind me that most things are possible if I work hard for it.



I may have only heard this recently, but my favorite quote is from Star Wars. "I'm just a simple man making my way through the universe."

## Jareth Torres

I am Jareth Torres, a twelve-year-old seventh grade student from Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE). This is my second year at ASE, and I am incredibly happy and proud to call myself an ASE student. I am part of The Phoenix Times, the official publication of ASE and usually do feature articles.



I love to play video games, draw, play outside, and spend time with family and friends during my free time. I was born and raised here in Albuquerque and go back and forth between two different homes with loving parents and stepparents.

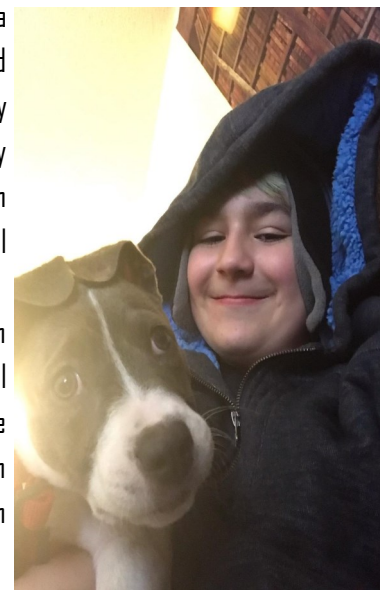
Drawing has been a big part of my life since I was a little boy, and still enjoy it now. I love drawing because it is very entertaining, and it helps calm me down when I am stressed or when I am having problems. Drawing has helped me a lot in various situations and with life problems all throughout.

I have three younger siblings including two sisters and one brother. They are fun to be with and we have a good relationship. They tend to get a little crazy at times, but I am quite sure that it is part of their toddler years.

Playing outside has also been a fun and relaxing activity especially with friends alongside me when I need them and when they need me. I really enjoy spending time with friends outside and checking in and seeing how they are and comforting them when they need it. I care for them and I am sure they feel the same way for me.

I also enjoy going to school. ASE is a great school with great students and teachers. It has a great core curriculum and great topics that are especially important for future life in any career. ASE also has many fun and informational after school clubs and activities.

As an ASE student, I am proud to say that this school does not only equip me with the knowledge I need, but also with the great character I am expected to have.





# HISTORICAL FIGURES

## Martin Luther King Jr. by Jolene Cole-Holpp



Photo Credit: History.com

**"I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream."** – Dr. Martin King Jr

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader and spokesperson. He was also a minister at a church and is very well-known from the speech he delivered in 1963. The "I Have A Dream" speech is about how he felt about his kids and other younger generations growing up in a better environment than he did. His speech also tells people that they should fight for their civil and economic rights.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. This historical figure was famous for becoming an activist, leader, and spokesperson for the civil rights movement.

Dr. King was a very inspiring person then and he still is. He made the impact that he did because he fought against racial inequality and did not wait for other people to fight for it.

He was an influence on many people in the community. He peacefully fought the various injustices that happened during his time and inspired the African American community to peacefully express their voices after the arrest of Rosa Parks and was also part of the big march called the Selma March which he and the other people in the African American community marched from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, the state capital.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. took part in many of these events to voice out the sentiments of the African American people about racial injustice, inequality, segregation, thirst for civil rights, as well as to provide his children and the future generation a peaceful and healthy environment to grow up in.

In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. received a Nobel peace prize for his peaceful and nonviolent protests against racial inequality.

If Dr. King did not take a nonviolent approach in protesting against the injustices, the outcome of his actions may not have made the impact that it has on today's generations. He knew that violence was not the answer and nonviolence was. Having this mindset of peace and nonviolence helped him to achieve what he thought was right.

As he once said, "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor political, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has changed the way that people see the world and helped people to look past their differences and see that in the end no matter how others look, or no matter what their beliefs are, they are all humans and should be treated equally and with respect.



Photo Credit: <https://www.biography.com/activist/martin-luther-king-jr>

# HISTORICAL FIGURES

## Claudette Colvin by Camree Volk

Many people know the story of Rosa Parks. Her story is taught in schools and she is an icon for Race Equality Activists throughout the country. What many people do not know, is the story of the brave Claudette Colvin, the first to do what Rosa Parks is known for.

Claudette Colvin was a teenage civil rights activist. On March 2nd, 1955, Colvin was 15 and riding the bus home from her high school when she was asked to give up her seat to a white passenger. She refused to give up her seat on the bus.

She was then arrested for violating Montgomery, Alabama's segregation laws. Colvin pled not guilty in court, and received probation, much to the relief of her family who feared for her safety.

News of the incident spread, and 9 months later, Rosa Parks did the same as Colvin in refusing to give up her bus seat. After the incident, Colvin reportedly told a newspaper, "I felt like Sojourner Truth was pushing down on one shoulder and Harriet Tubman was pushing down on the other—saying, 'Sit down girl!' I was glued to my seat." Later in her life, she became one of four plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*, which ruled the Montgomery segregated bus system to be unconstitutional. Claudette Colvin may have not been chosen by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to be a face for stopping segregation in the south due to her youth, but she played a particularly important role in history and it is crucial we never forget her bravery.

Claudette Colvin's story to be an inspiration to all teenagers. She did the right thing even when



Photo Credit: <https://enacademic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/101624>



Photo Credit: Wikipedia.com

it was scary, even when she was given little to no publicity and faced possible jail time. Without her original courage that day on the bus, NAACP may have not been exposed to the idea, and Rosa Parks may have never been able to refuse to move publicly. A move that made a crucial difference in the advancement of equality, a motion that is still talked about today, was done by a young teen girl. Her story can have a huge influence on young girls and is very important to be told.



Photo Credit: <https://www.biography.com/activist/martin-luther-king-jr>



# JANUARY : HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS

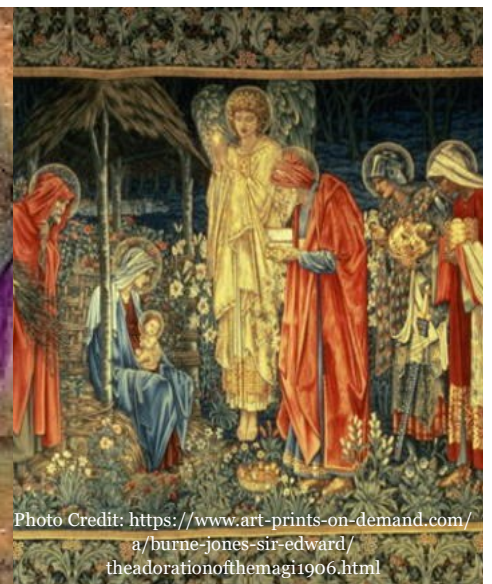
## New Year's Day – January 1, 2021



## Solemnity of Mary – January 1, 2020



## Epiphany – January 6, 2021





# JANUARY : HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS

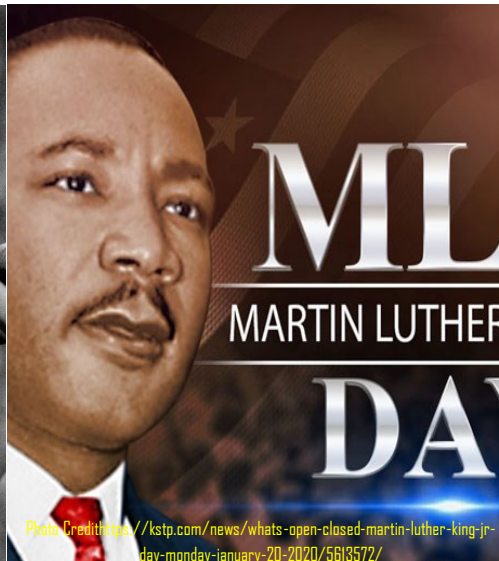
## Orthodox Christmas – January 7, 2021



## Orthodox New Year – January 14, 2021



## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – January 18, 2021



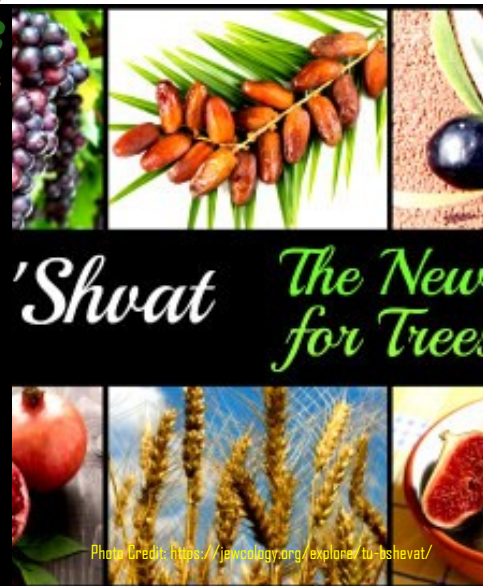


# JANUARY : HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS

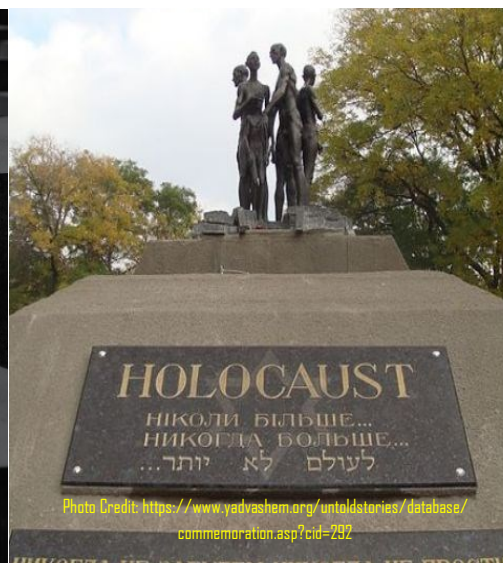
## Inauguration Day – January 20, 2021



## Tu Bishvat Starts – January 27, 2021



## Commemoration (Holocaust Victims) – January 27, 2021



# THE SUN WILL RISE

*Written by Ericka Defazio*

## Chapter 5: "Leave it up to us"

When there is something important to do, and somebody completely clueless is trailing behind you, they are more a distraction and a nuisance than anything else. So Raymie deposited Michael in an empty dormitory upstairs and told him to stay out of the way. "We have a lot of work to do, so just stay in here until I come get you."

She walked out of the room and waved her hand toward the door. It shut, leaving Michael alone in the room. He waited until he heard her footsteps die away, then tried the door.

It was locked.

He sighed. "Can you imagine being stuck in a building where your sister is working to save the world?" he said out loud. Then he looked at his surroundings. There was the weird silver foil thing again, pasted on all the sides of the walls. He tried to peel it away. It would not budge. The cot he had was also covered in the foil.

There was a window on the far side of the room. It was small and looked as if it had not been used in years. He tried opening the latch, and after a considerable amount of effort, it swung open with a creak. To his amazement, there was a ladder just outside. He looked up and saw workers at the very top pasting more of the foil on every coverable surface.

He carefully climbed out and swung out onto the ladder. The workers at the top looked down to see what was disturbing it. He started climbing down faster, as the workers recognized him and started shouting. When he got to the bottom, he ran. Through corridors, turning right, then left, and right again. Finally, he stopped for breath. He looked around. There was a corridor to the far right, another to the far left and... that was it. He spun around.

Raymie's face was contorted in anger. "I TOLD you to stay up in the dormitories. And you disobeyed?! You caused FIVE workers to fall from that ladder, broke about seven valuables in the building, and caused everybody to think we were under attack. Is that the definition of 'stay in your room'?"

Michael backed away. "You think you can lock me in my room like a five-year-old, tell me to keep quiet, and tell me nothing while you're *saving* the world? I want to help! I have no idea why you brought me here if it weren't to help!"

Raymie grabbed his ear in her surprisingly strong grasp and marched toward the nearest corridor. The feeling of being compressed overcame him again. Then they were out in the sunlight, with the painful feel of Raymie's finger and thumb. "Raymie! Ow- let go!" He twisted around, trying to break free, but she would not budge.

"You want to help? You can help by putting the reflectors around the building. On the roof, in the sun," she added. She walked him up several flights of stairs, and onto the roof. "Hello ladies! My brother wants to help you all. Please make sure he does not run off, and if he tries, I authorize you to use whatever means necessary to retrieve him. Thank you!"

She gave one last, painful pinch and left him on the roof. A bunch of smiling girls crowded around him. "Ooh - you're Raymie's brother, aren't you? The one who was sent to the human family?" said one with an abnormally large hat. "And is it true that people don't believe in two suns?" asked another. The tallest girl parted through the small crowd. "Hello, Michael. Here are your supplies." She pushed three packages of the reflectors into his hands. "Welcome to the club. You do the easy parts. Leave the other ones up to us. And do not try to run away, or the result will be quite painful."

BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

Photo Credit: <https://people.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/2375288/>



## BOOKS... Sydney Koranyi

Open a book  
And you shall find a land  
Far, far away  
With fairies, trolls, warlocks, and giant bean stocks  
Or would you rather  
Detectives and mysteries,  
Not your cup of tea?  
Try intergalactic battles, aliens, and spaceships!

All languages and styles  
Old and new  
Weathered and pristine  
With a library full  
Calling your name  
A home away from home  
A key to live another life  
Two worlds  
One book  
Reading late into the night  
Waking early  
Can't put it down  
No matter the effort  
Held close to your heart  
Whispering great words of wisdom  
And fantastical stories

Books high on selves  
Or in boxes  
Rich or poor  
Knowledge is for all  
Young or old  
Open a book

Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/252339/>

## Jewels of Nature by Teya Swtizer

These jewels  
These perfect crystals  
Living without worry  
Tied to the spring fields  
My jewels  
My perfect crystals  
The jewels of nature

I see gold in the sun  
I see emeralds in the trees  
I see silver in the ocean  
I see the amethyst breeze  
I see sapphire flowers  
I see the quartz moon  
I see the bronze rabbits  
I see Nature's jewels

The peace of these elements  
Jewels in harmony  
Life and power  
Living eternally  
Perfect balance  
Careful creation  
Meaningful rhythm  
A Powerful song

These jewels  
These perfect crystals  
Living without worry  
Tied to the spring fields  
My jewels  
My perfect crystals  
The jewels of nature

Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/1521850/>

## ARABIC POEM—Sarah Adi

## صورة من الفرح

صباح الزهور ... برائحة العطور  
ووجبة الفطور ... مع زقزقة الطيور  
يبعث في سارة السرور

رحلة ممتعة جميلة ..... إلى الغابة  
الخضراء

غيوم كالثلج متناثرة ..... وسماء صافية  
زرقاء

وأزهار متفتحة حمراء

ورود كثيرة ملونة ..... وفرشات تشع في  
الضياء

وطيور تحلق عالياً ..... أسراباً وأسراباً في  
السماء

أبهجني وأصدقائي وجعلنا سعداء

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION—Sarah Adi

## A Picture of Happiness

Flowers in the morning,  
With their fragrance spreading,  
Beginning the day eating,  
While listening to the birds chirping,  
Brings Sarah happiness

A trip full of joy  
To the green forest  
Clouds white like snow scattered  
And a clear blue sky  
Their many red flowers

Colorful beautiful roses  
Butterflies reflecting the sun rays  
Birds Flying high  
Flocks and Flocks in the sky  
It delighted me and my friends and  
made us happy

Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/2129745/>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!

- January 15, 2021 to April 15, 2021 - Start of Enrollment Applications for the 2021-2022 School Year Lottery
- April 21, 2021 - Schedule for Enrollment Lottery
- February 15 - Re-enrollment of Current Students begin
- We pay tribute to loved ones who lost their battle against the coronavirus, contact us to share your story.
- Send us photos of your family members who are frontline workers, first responders, and/or essential workers and we will include them in the next issue.

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