



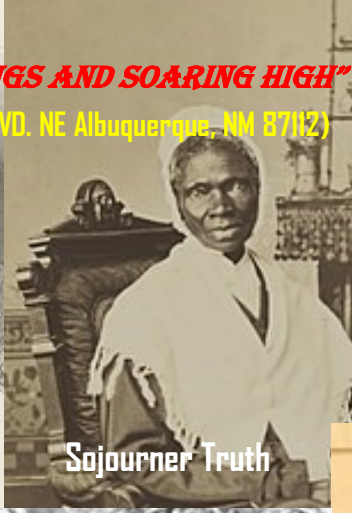
Anne Frank



Catherine the Great



Jane Austen



Sojourner Truth



Queen Elizabeth I



Maya Angelou



Hannah Voeks  
(Frontline Worker)



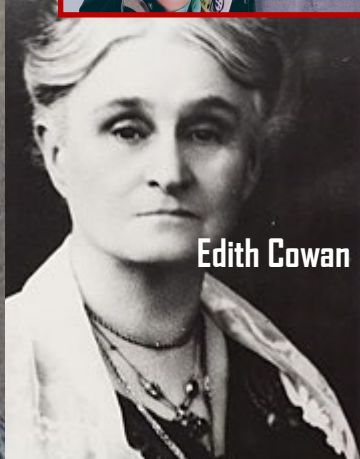
Rosa Parks



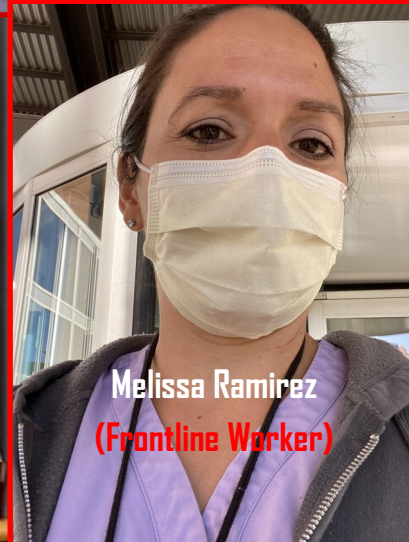
Malala Yousafzai



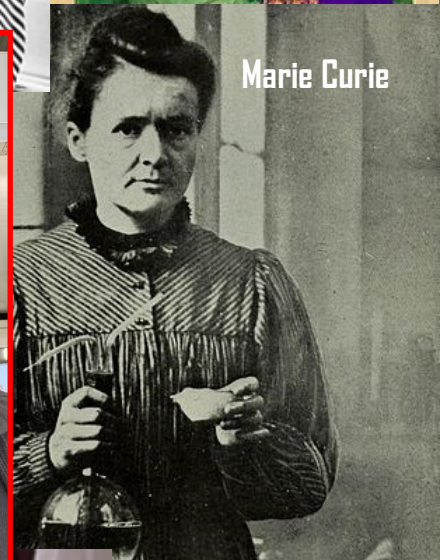
Ada Lovelace



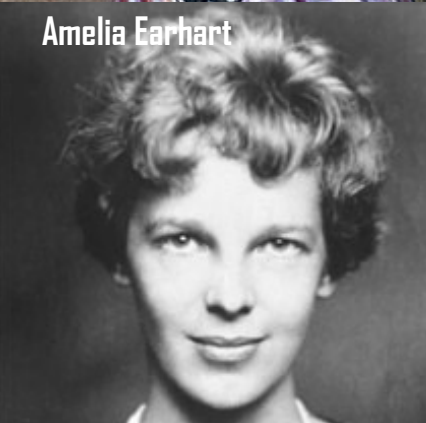
Edith Cowan



Melissa Ramirez  
(Frontline Worker)



Marie Curie



Amelia Earhart



Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Kamala Harris



Mother Teresa

Photo Credit: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

## Celebrating Women's Month

Honoring Women of Yesterday and Today: Inspiring Women of Tomorrow



# ASE completely re-opens for in-person learning

by Camree Volk

**Albuquerque School of Excellence's (ASE) Governing Council voted to approve in-person learning for K-12 effective April 5th, 2021.**

Families are allowed to choose whether or not to send their students to in-person school; and once a choice is made, students are not allowed to change it at any time.

If an in-person student does not come to in-person classes, they will be marked absent and will not be accepted in the Zoom meeting; The only time it is acceptable to attend online classes instead is if a student is sick

or has gotten permission to stay home by ASE administration.

ASE has been holding hybrid classes for K-7th grades for three weeks now, with 144 students on Monday and Tuesday and 120 students on Thursday and Friday.

Student's schedules will remain the same in-person as they were online, and Wednesdays will still be half days.

After recent surveys, ASE concluded that approximately 75% of their elementary students intend to join in-person classes.

There is not an equal distribution between grades for how many students intend to return, so an even percentage is hard to make, but most secondary school students intend to return as well.

Some of the teachers at ASE cannot return due to underlying conditions, but ASE has been able to hire multiple new teacher aids to help fill in gaps in staffing, who can be in a classroom while a teacher teaches online, allowing for even more students to return while keeping teachers safe.

ASE strictly follows all

COVID-19 guidelines and even made some extra improvements, such as adding air filtration systems for every classroom, sneeze guards for students, and coordinating with local health offices to prioritize vaccination for teachers and school-related workers to ensure the safety of all involved at ASE, as well as the community.

Last month, the Center for Disease and Control (CDC) approved as close as a 3 feet distance between students, allowing for a larger capacity at the school.

## ASE starts hybrid

by: Sydney Koranyi

**With the aim of providing students and their families the accommodations they need during this Covid-19 pandemic, while still keeping the entire ASE community safe and healthy, Albuquerque school of excellence opened its doors for hybrid learning last March 1, 2021.**

Three weeks, since its opening, ASE has not had any Covid-19 case on campus.

Students and staff temperatures are taken daily and strict adherence to social distancing and mask wearing are observed.

Random Covid-19 surveillance testing is also done by the school regularly as required by the state of New Mexico.

Students are provided meals in their respective classrooms instead of going to the cafeteria, and recess are also strictly monitored observing proper Covid-19 protocols.

ASE was also able to conduct fire drills and lock down drills in both the elementary

and secondary buildings within the first three weeks of hybrid while still adhering to strict Covid-19 protocols.

The New Mexico District 2-Public Education Commissioner, David Robbins and Public Charter Schools of New Mexico Representative, Mr. Jordan Franco also visited the school last March 11 and 19, 2021 respectively.

Deep cleaning in the elementary and secondary buildings is done every Wednesday and Friday.

ASE also invested in portable air purifiers and air filtration units which are provided in every classroom.

At present only Kindergarten to 7<sup>th</sup> grades are approved by the ASE Governing Council to start with hybrid; 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades hybrid re-opening will be re-visited during the next GC meeting.

Parents are still given the

option to have their children stay online for the remainder of the school year.

**SOCIAL DISTANCE PLEASE!!!** Students from Ms. Madison Meetze's 4-IAIA class are having PE socially distanced and with mask last March 4, 2021 at Albuquerque School of Excellence, Albuquerque, NM. Photo by Sydney Koranyi



**YOUR SAFETY: OUR PRIORITY** Ms. Jolene Martinez teaches her K-London class socially distanced with protective sneeze guards and mask last March 4, 2021 at Albuquerque School of Excellence, Albuquerque, NM. Photo by Sydney Koranyi



# ASE's Student-Journalists bag awards - Camree Volk

The Phoenix Times, the official school paper of Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE) joined and received multiple recognitions from the recently concluded National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) At-Large High School Communications Contest with the affiliate judging completed last March 3, 2021.

This year, students from New Mexico, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, Florida, Connecticut, New York, Nevada, North Carolina and Virginia participated in the

contest.

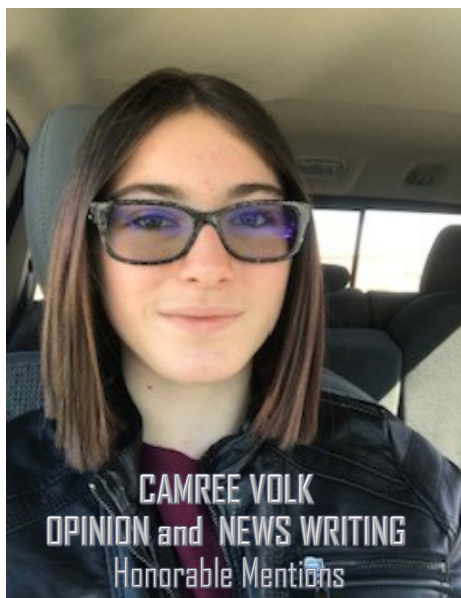
The Phoenix Times Editorial Board received a total of eleven awards out of the 27 entries submitted for the contest. Three honorable mentions were awarded for the three entries submitted for the Single-Page Layout.

Individual awards were also awarded to: Alec Trujillo, third place, cartooning, another award for Alec Trujillo, cartooning, honorable mention; Rebecca Hernandez, news or feature photo, third place, and another award

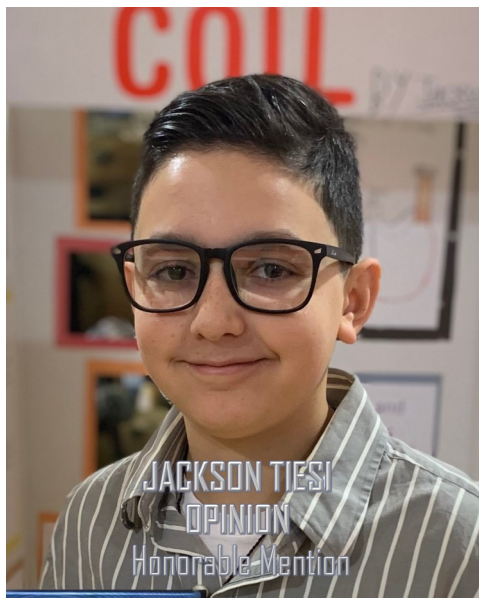
for Rebecca Hernandez, news or feature photo, honorable mention; Jackson Tiesi, opinion, honorable mention, Camree Volk, news story, honorable mention, Camree Volk, opinion, honorable mention, Abigail White, opinion, honorable mention.

The recognition is considered a great achievement by ASE and The Phoenix Times,

Likewise, all editorial staff are middle school students who competed against high school student-journalists coming from different states in a high school journalism competition.



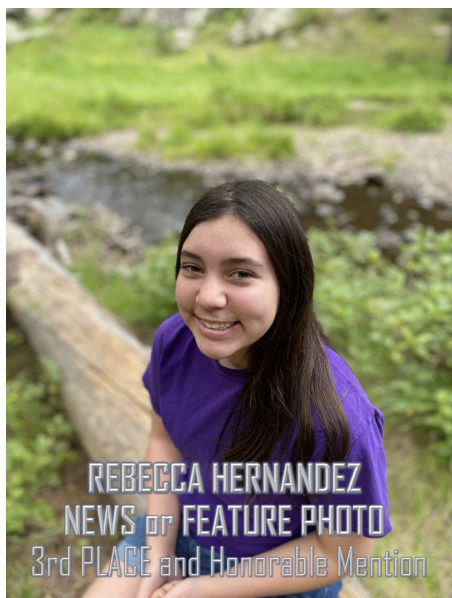
**CAMREE VOLK**  
OPINION and NEWS WRITING  
Honorable Mentions



**JACKSON TIESI**  
OPINION  
Honorable Mention



**ABIGAIL WHITE**  
OPINION  
Honorable Mention



**REBECCA HERNANDEZ**  
NEWS or FEATURE PHOTO  
3rd PLACE and Honorable Mention



**The Phoenix Times**  
SINGLE PAGE LAYOUT  
3 Honorable Mentions  
(3 Entries)



**ALEC TRUJILLO**  
NEWS or FEATURE PHOTO  
3rd PLACE and Honorable Mention

## EDITORIAL

# Safety: A Collective Effort

By Camree Volk

Recently, Albuquerque School of Excellence's (ASE) Governing Council made the choice to give K-12 students the option to return to full in-person instruction beginning on April 5th. This was a particularly important decision that required a lot of consideration and preparation. ASE is proud to say that they can allow students in-person again, and most students are looking forward to it.

As exciting as the possibility of returning to pre-pandemic state of in-person learning is, making the decision to return to in-person learning is not an easy one for ASE's Governing Council. There are many factors that must come into consideration; of course, the school's main priority is keeping students and staff safe.

To keep students and staffs' safety, many precautions must be taken. The most important is following all the CDC's guidelines, such as daily temperature checks, wearing masks, and staying three feet apart at all times. Mandatory routine cleanings of the buildings and having social-distancing recesses are also precautions being taken. ASE has also gone over and above to ensure everyone's safety by purchasing air-filtration systems for the classrooms and added sneeze guards around the student's desks, among other things.

As of today, all of the CDC guidelines are being met and exceeded at ASE; and they finally feel it is safe enough to allow students to return.

Another consideration is the issue of choice. ASE will not force anyone to return in-person; families have the option to keep their children online or bring them back to school. By giving families these options, ASE also has decided to set some ground rules, so students do not flip back-and-forth between in-person instruction or online instruction depending on how they feel on a

particular day.

ASE has decided that, for students who choose to go in-person, they will be marked absent from classes if they do not attend in-person. The only time it is acceptable to attend online classes instead is if a student is sick or has gotten permission to stay home by ASE administration, the same way attendance was done in school before the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) began.

Lastly, it was crucial that ASE cover any new issues brought up by the Coronavirus Pandemic. For instance, COVID-19 caused a bit of a staffing issue; some teachers resigned, and some have underlying health conditions that hinder them from returning to school. ASE addressed this issue by hiring a few new teacher aides, who can be in a classroom with students while a teacher teaches remotely. These new teachers' aides can fill in any gaps in staffing that may occur. Another Pandemic issue was with passing periods; as anyone who has gone to middle or high school may know, passing periods can cause hallways to be very crowded. ASE cannot have students in such a crowded area with the three-foot restrictions. Thus, ASE will have teachers transfer from one class to another while students stay in the same classroom all day. This way everyone remains safely socially distanced, and the classrooms can still work efficiently.

These are just a few examples of the problems ASE has had to address. They have done their best and are so appreciative that they can now welcome students back again for an in-person instruction model. Many students look forward to being back in the classroom, and it is fair to say ASE has done everything they needed to do to bring them back safely.

Thus, for students, they can do their part by showing cooperation and by strictly following the rules and procedures mandated by the school, for their own

The Phoenix Times

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# Mental Health During the Pandemic By: Abigail White

**Mental health is a crucial part of everyone's wellbeing and makes every individual perform at its best. A sound body and a sound mind are integral towards a holistically sound or healthy person. The total well-being of people makes them successfully productive and enable them to live a healthy and peaceful life.**

When COVID-19 pandemic hit, it took a toll to everyone. The sudden and prolonged social isolation that quarantine entailed was shocking and seemingly unreal. The consequences of not taking COVID-19 seriously earlier on have been deadly and most everyone is anxiety-ridden because of it.

Prolonged depression can make it hard to be motivated and it can make it hard to do work. It may even be difficult to do everyday things such as doing laundry, making the bed; even seemingly simple tasks such as brushing teeth or taking a shower can seem like a chore. Depression can even be manifested in physical symptoms like fatigue.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have reached an all-time low in terms of their mental health. The social isolation that was needed to keep people safe was very sudden. Lots of students

thought that quarantine was just going to be an extended spring break. Little did they know it was going to be the start of a quarantine period lasting longer than spring break could have possibly lasted. People described the everlasting quarantine period as seeming unreal or feeling like a nightmare.



Although it may feel like a bad dream, it is very real and sadly COVID-19 has claimed the lives of over 2.8 million people around the world. Everything about Covid is unpredictable and scary. The unpredictability of it all is petrifying and it is no wonder that so many people are left full of anxiety because of it.

Though it is important for people to stay updated with the news, it is also important

for people not to fill themselves with needless anxiety over things that are out of their control.

The COVID-19 pandemic and all that it entails has severely and negatively affected the mental health of so many people. The isolation has left people feeling low and it almost does not feel real. All the deaths COVID-19 has caused are leaving people scared and anxious.

In this time of struggle and stress, mental health is more important than ever, and it is important for people to take care of themselves and stay safe as best they can. It is also important to try to fight the anxiety and depression through self-motivation; it is always good to remember that even completing the smallest task can still be an accomplishment especially when it

feels impossible to get out of bed.

When people feel like they are at the tipping point or at the lowest point of their mental state, it is important to consider talking to people and seeking for help. It is also important for teenagers and students to talk to family members or reach out to the school-guidance counsellor when they feel down, anxious, depressed, or anything that they think they need help with.

## Celebrating Women's Month by Jolene Cole-Holpp

**The month of March is a month to celebrate all the wonderful women in history.**

There are many female role models from either the past or the present that have inspired many people. This month is the month that we take the time to celebrate them and learn about many great females in history. This year's women's month theme is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced."

Women's history month started as a

history week. It was a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. This tradition soon spread across the country and many people started celebrating their own women's history week. Soon after this the week of March 8th was declared women's history week. It was not until 1987 that the congress passed the public law declaring the month of March as National Women's History month.

During the month of March, people take time to celebrate and learn about many great women in history. This month is about learning not only about what these women in

the past and the present are famous for but learning about their life stories and the hardships they went through to get what they believed in, to be heard.

There are many famous women that we know and celebrate but women's month is a month to celebrate not only the famous women in our history but also to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the strong women who are a part of the American society right now. Likewise, to celebrate the women who fought for women's rights and equality.

# Melissa Ramirez - Facing A Battle with COVID-19: One Vaccine and One Day at A Time

By: Jackson Tiesi

Melissa Ramirez has been working hard as a Physical Therapist Assistant at Presbyterian Health of New Mexico for over ten years now.

When the pandemic started, she helped battle COVID-19 by assisting infected patients at Presbyterian hospital downtown in any way she can. As of March 2021, she has helped by delivering vaccine shots to local New Mexicans.

Melissa first got into the medical field at a young age. Her initial interest in Physical Therapy was when she injured her shoulder playing softball. After her experience with the athletic trainer, she decided to pursue the same field in college. After earning her bachelor's in Athletic Training, she then went on to get her degree in Physical Therapy.



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she was no longer able to do physical therapy due to the new COVID-19 regulations. After this happened, she decided to help the hospital in any way she can including screening workers and patients; assisting with food distribution to patients; as well as helping with sanitation.

During her interview, she talked about how frontline workers do not get as much appreciation as they should. As a frontline worker herself, she has experienced and endured various treatments from people. There are times when she gets yelled at by family members of patients who are only given limited access, or at times no access at all to visit their loved ones depending on the patient's condition or diagnosis due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. She must work various hours and shifts completely different from the pre-pandemic schedule and miss time with her family due to the scarcity in frontline workers. "As a frontline worker myself, I can say that we, frontline workers risk our lives every day so that we can save other people's lives, but we barely get

any appreciation," Melissa said.

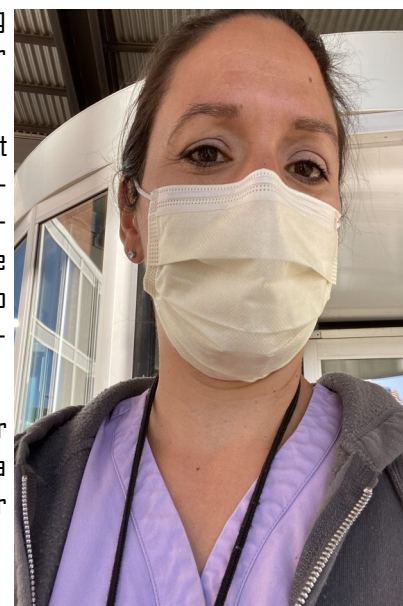
As a physical therapist, Melissa said that it is not always what people think it is. "A big role of Physical Therapy is prevention, and I don't think a lot of people think about that aspect of this profession. We help people before they go in for surgery to get them stronger and get more range of motion. That is a huge component that I do not think people are aware of with physical therapy," she added.

Melissa's dedication and passion to her work keeps her moving, but above all, she keeps motivated by her family. She explained that day in and day out, her family is what keeps her coming home and keeps her moving through her day regardless of what she may have experienced at work.

Even when the people she sees are rude to her, or when her day just does not work out, she always has her family to go back to. Going home becomes her stress reliever. She cannot wait to see the smiling faces of her kids and get the warm dinner that her husband made for her. The warmth that she gets from her family is the biggest reason why she goes to work every day, because she knows that that is the same feeling that her patients is longing for as soon as they get better.

Melissa also added that being surrounded by great co-workers and supportive patients who appreciate the care and passion she provides also eases what she feels and motivates her to keep going.

Melissa is a loved mother and wife by her family, and a loved co-worker by her colleagues.





# Hannah Voeks: WE TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU

by Camree Volks

Hannah Voeks is a Pediatric Intensive Care nurse at Presbyterian Hospital of New Mexico. She graduated from Central New Mexico College (CNM) with an associate degree in Nursing as well as in Applied Sciences. She also holds a Certificate in Public Health and Safety.

At present, she attends the University of New Mexico (UNM) for her bachelor's degree in Nursing. Anna says that she enjoys her job as a nurse and is very fulfilled and happy.

Ever since she was a child, she knew she wanted to be a nurse. She has always been fascinated by the medical field and has always wanted to help people. Without fail, there is someone who needs help in the world, and she wants to be a part of those people who will be providing it for those in need.

She started her nursing career in the Cardiac Progressive Care unit at Presbyterian Hospital before eventually joining the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) team.

She learned a lot working with adults who needed care but feels her true calling is as a pediatric nurse. Hannah has always

loved being around children, which is part of what made her want to work in pediatrics. Having family members in the medical field was part of what helped her make her decision to become a nurse.

"Sometimes being a nurse can be a challenging job with an emotional toll but having support from my family has really helped me," Hannah said. "Nursing also provides a stable career for me to provide for my family and do something I am really passionate about. It was a decision that perfectly matched with my passion and my responsibility," she added.

Hannah continuously serves the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; luckily, the PICU has not had many COVID-19 cases. However, most of the pediatric nurses including herself have been reassigned to other units to help care for adults during this pandemic.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, she had an added responsibility of working as an Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Specialist.

All throughout this ordeal, she has cared for many COVID-19 patients and has seen the sufferings that patients and their families have to endure. She has also seen COVID-19 put her fellow nurses out of jobs; patients die from the disease; and people deal with serious mental health issues because of this pandemic.

Presbyterian is the main hospital in New Mexico for cardiac care and has the only cardiac surgeon for babies in the state, and it is crucial that they have stayed open and available during this COVID-19 pandemic.

To keep herself and her family



safe during this pandemic, she wears Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at work every day; follows all the CDC's guidelines; exercises special caution during her working hours; applies personal home routine like separating clothes she used at work and taking a shower and sanitizing herself after a shift before greeting her family. Luckily, having received the COVID-19 vaccine is an added protection for her and the people around her.

In her spare time, Hannah enjoys archery, joining archery competitions, hiking, camping, fishing, and spending time at home with her husband.

"Nursing can be a tough job, but became tougher especially during this pandemic," Hannah said. "It is always amazing to see people recover, especially after the suffering they have endured due to COVID-19," she added.

Appreciation to nurses and other frontline workers like Hannah Voeks who put their lives on the line for other people is something that others can do to lift their high spirits.



**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY****Azra Begit—Kindergarten**

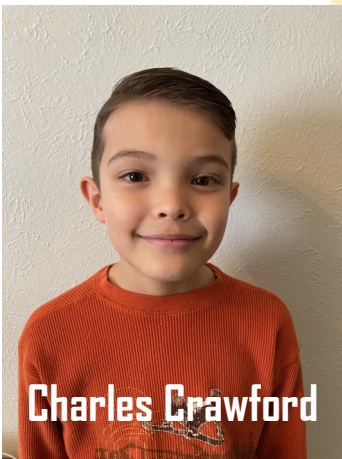
Azra works hard each day. She attends every zoom class prepared to participate and share. She is always ready to learn more. She excels in art, science, social studies, reading, writing, drawing, and math. Azra Begit is an outstanding role model for her peers. She enjoys learning so much that she usually chooses to stay and read one on one or in a small group setting after ELA zoom classes, even if it's not her scheduled intervention session. Azra is caring, independent, and helpful. I feel fortunate to have such an enthusiastic, well-rounded student in my class. I'm confident that she will continue to do great things for herself, her family, and her community in the future. **By: Catherine Boone**

**Landen Sandoval - 1st Grade**

Landen has made tremendous growth both socially and academically. He has enthusiasm in class, participates and is kind to all of his friends. **By: Michelle Wallin**

**Landen Sandoval****Lauren Anthony - 2nd Grade**

Lauren is a great student! She is always prepared for Zoom class. She is polite and respectful of her peers and teachers. She always completes her work on time and goes above and beyond what she is asked to do on her assignments. I can count on Lauren to add great insights into our class discussions, especially in math. Lauren is also one of the most cheerful students with a positive outlook everyday. **By: Jamie Blackledge**

**Charles Crawford****Charles Crawford (aka- Aiden) - 3rd Grade**

He enjoys the science and is dedicated to his school work. He is helpful to his peers when questions come up. **By: Leslee Landavazo**

**Addison Sevey - 4th Grade**

Addison has a strong work ethic and always does her best. She has been diligent about attending class and doing her work even when her family had to travel out of state to care for relatives. When she got a new puppy that distracted her from school, she sat in the closet so she could focus. Addison puts the "excellence" in Albuquerque School of Excellence :) **By: Lorette Lambert**

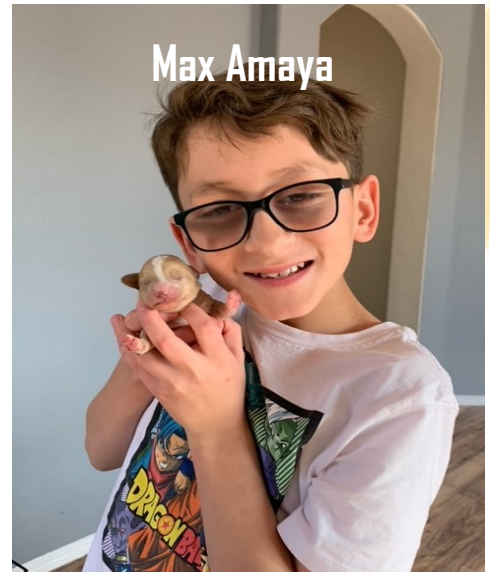
**Addison Sevey**



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

## Max Amaya - 5th Grade

Max is a very hard worker. He asks questions when he doesn't understand and he asks to redo when he doesn't feel like it's his best work. He is an excellent student and young man to represent ASE. **By: Suzanne Zamora**



Max Amaya



Lucas Serna

## Lucas Serna - 6th Grade

Lucas is a very responsible student. He is very prompt in performing his academic tasks and is very diligent. He has a great character, well-mannered, and values oriented. **By: Mrs. Ma. Gloria M. King**

## Noah Carroll - 7th Grade

Noah is an amazing student. He is an active participant in Zoom sessions and works very hard. **By: Shawn Graybeal-Sellers**



Noah Carroll



Celeste Bivens

## Celeste Bivens - 8th Grade

Celeste is a very responsible student. She is very prompt in performing her academic tasks and is very diligent. She has a great character, well-mannered, and values oriented. She is also a great addition to the school paper, The Phoenix Times. **By: Ma. Gloria M. King**

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

## Andrae Griffin - 9th Grade

Andrae is conscientious and advocates very well for himself and his classmates' learning. He always asks questions, and shares resources, that advance everyone's learning. **By: M. Tither**

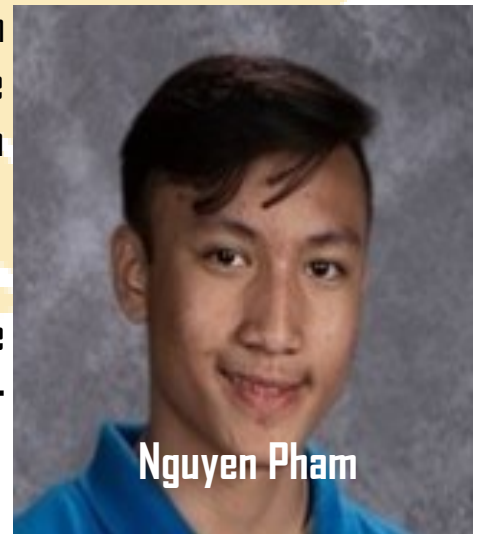
Andrae is a student who can always be depended upon to volunteer answers when asked. He is engaged with the material in my class, and asks really good questions. He works well with his peers in group work, and always has a positive attitude about class and life in general. Although he might not get straight "A"s in my class, he is thoughtful about his work and his participation. On top of that, he was the only one of my students who participated in the recent Governance Council meeting about returning to school, basically becoming the voice of the high school. He engaged in the meeting in the chatbox with intelligent, relevant ideas and responses. **By: Ms. MacDonald**

## Aya Ejiawi - 10th Grade

Aya is consistently willing to show up as her authentic self in class and do the work; not only the challenging academic work, but also the self-growth and community building we need for a brighter future. She always has something beneficial to add to the conversation and she makes a point to support her peers. **By: Kitty Hurst**

## Nguyen Pham - 11th Grade

Nguyen is a very hard-working student. He goes above and beyond on most assignments. **By: Shawn Graybeal-Sellers**



Nguyen Pham



Xavier Rodriguez-Serna

## Xavier Rodriguez-Serna - 12th Grade

Xavi has shown his commitment to improving in AP Lit. He is challenging himself to dig deeper into literary analysis and push himself to become a better writer. He has shown excellent growth in the last month. He also has a positive attitude and is respectful during discussion. **By: Kitty Hurst**

Xavier is working hard. He attends Zoom sessions and is very good at communication. **By: Shawn Graybeal-Sellers**



# TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

### Ms. Madison Meetze

by Beau Weaver



**"Find something that makes you happy and build on it,"** a favorite quote of Ms. Madison Meetze

Ms. Meetze has been with the Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE) for more than four years now. She belongs to the Elementary Department and teaches PE.

She earned her bachelor's degree in General Education from New Mexico State University.

Ms. Meetze finds delight in teaching here in ASE, "I love all my students at ASE and I hope they have the best memories of their time here," she shared.

Her most important goal in life is to have fun by finding things that makes her happy.

During her spare time, she loves travelling, gardening, and spending quality time and playing with her fur children.

Ms. Meetze 's positive outlook spreads good vibes to all.

## HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

### Mr. Begli Sapayev

by Sarah Adi

To be featured once in The Phoenix Times is good, twice is great, but to be featured for the third time is amazing! This is true to Mr. Begli Sapayev.

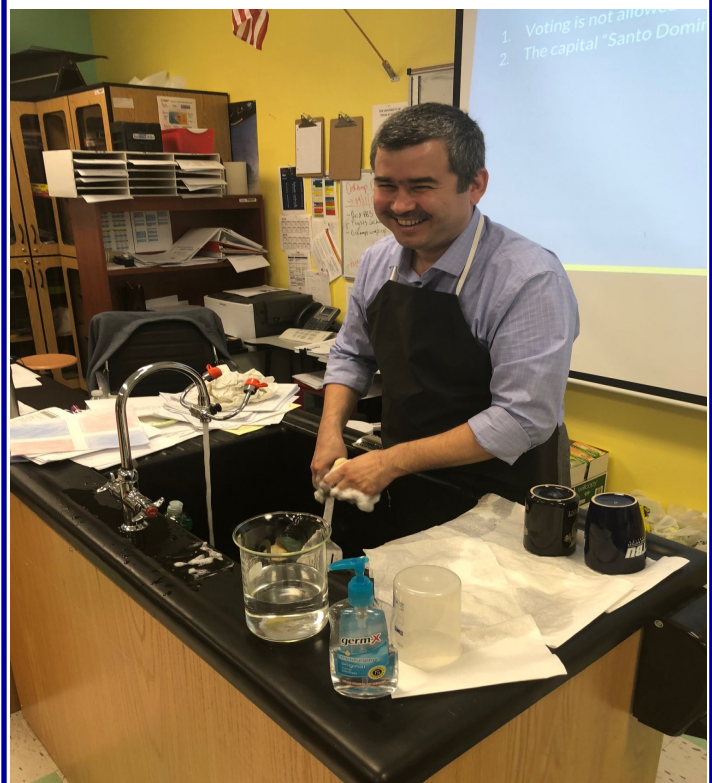
You will be thrilled to hear about this excellent teacher in the Science Department.

Mr. Begli Sapayev is an expert in his chosen career. He earned his master's degree in Physics from Texas A&M Commerce. His impressive background highlights educating high school students on various branches of Science including Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and Biomedical Science for 10 years now.

As a devoted educator, he says that he is a workaholic, and has no time for sports at all. When asked about what he feels being part of ASE, he says, "Awesome colleagues and respectful students."

Mr. Sapayev is happily married and a great father to three amazing kids. He came to the US in 2017 from Turkmenistan, which is old Russia.

At present, he is conducting a research on climate change and its effects.



# MEET The Phoenix Times Editorial Board

## Sarah Jwary



My name is Sarah Jwary and I am an 8th-grade student at ASE. I belong to the class 8RUTGERS. I am a staffer of The Phoenix Times School Paper and I am one of the Literary writers. I

have been a student here at ASE since I was in 3rd grade.

I love playing video games, especially the game Fortnite. I also love is writing short stories and poetry; currently, I am working on a very long story. Another thing I love is drawing, especially anime; I am an anime and manga fan. I like playing basketball as well and sleeping all day.

When I grow up, I want to be a dentist. I also want to become a writer of a book and publish it.

I have two siblings, one brother, and one sister.

They are awesome but sometimes overly playful.

My favorite subjects in school are Math and English.

I love attending ASE because it is a wonderful school full of



possibilities. All the teachers and the staff are exceedingly kind and helpful. Students are also truly kind and welcoming. The school also helps you achieve your goals. It is just wonderful and I will be back in ASE next year.

## Abigail White



My name is Abigail White, I am twelve years old. I am a seventh grader and am a student at Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE). I am a managing editor for The Phoenix Times and I often write Features as well as opinion pieces.

I live with my mother, grandma, and my little brother. My grandmother moved in with us almost a year ago and has been a big help around the house and with my brother. I also live with

four pets; one dog named Phoebe and three mice.

My hobbies include painting, reading, and photography. I used to paint mainly with watercolors but more recently I have been working with acrylic paints. When I read, I mainly read printed books, but I have also started reading eBooks. I have been doing photography for a couple of years now, I got my first camera on my eleventh birthday.

I have great friends and they have really helped boost my morale throughout quarantine. I have known my best friend for nearly ten years and our mothers are remarkably close; because of this our families have been 'co-quarantining' together and we see each other fairly often. She fills me with so much happiness and I am so glad that I have been able to continue seeing her throughout this past year because otherwise, I might have lost my mind by now.

This is my second year at ASE and I have had a wonderful experience thus far. Online school has been a struggle, but all of the teachers have done such a great job at being understanding towards the students. The school has such great students and staff, and they have all really shaped the way the school runs, and I am so grateful that I can attend this school.





# CELEBRATING WOMEN'S MONTH

## Marie Curie



Photo Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie\\_Curie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Curie)

Marie Curie was a chemist and a physicist in the study of radioactivity. She was born in Warsaw on November 7, 1867, and died on July 4th, 1934 in Sallanches, France. Curie was not exposed to much science as a child, other than being given little scientific facts from her father. As she got older, she began a scientific education at the University of Paris. In 1902, Marie Curie and her husband, Pierre Curie, were the first to successfully isolate radium.

She received her Doctor of Science degree in 1903, and during that same year, the couple won a Nobel Peace Prize in physics for the isolation of radium. She was the first-ever woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

Following the death of her husband in 1906, she took over his position as the Professor of General Physics in the Faculty of Sciences at the College of Sorbonne. She was the first woman to hold that position, a position of a Professor.

In 1910, she isolated pure, metallic radium for the first time with her partner, Debierne. For this achievement, she received the 1911 Nobel Prize in chemistry. Marie Curie was

the first person ever to win a second Nobel Prize.

Curie then began studying the medical uses for radium and had a job as a Professor studying it at the Radium Institute of the University of Paris starting in 1918.

Her daughter went on to win Nobel Peace Prizes as well, following along in her mother's footsteps. Marie Curie managed to achieve all of this before dying of leukemia as a result of excessive radioactive exposure in 1934.

Marie Curie has always been an enormous inspiration to young female

Science fanatics and enthusiasts including young aspiring girls and teenagers.

She lived during a time when it was not always accepted for a woman to be a scientist.

Many people during her time laughed at her or assumed that she would fail. Yet, in the face of adversity, Marie Curie triumphed.

She continued her research and went on to earn Nobel Prizes and discover elements. If Curie could do that, it makes every young girl believe she can do anything, even if the world does not believe she can.

Marie Curie is a wonderful role model for girls everywhere, and truly someone a lot of girls aspire to be.

In this changing times, the world needs more Marie Curie of the 21st century.



Photo Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie\\_Curie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Curie)



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# CELEBRATING WOMEN'S MONTH

## RUTH BADER GINSBURG



Photo Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth\\_Bader\\_Ginsburg#/media/File:Ruth\\_Bader\\_Ginsburg,\\_SCOTUS\\_photo\\_portrait.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg#/media/File:Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg,_SCOTUS_photo_portrait.jpg)

As Ruth Bader Ginsburg a.k.a. RBG once said, **"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you,"** and she did just this in her inspirational lifetime.

She had to fight for every opportunity and chance she got until eventually she won by getting the career of her dreams.

RBG was born on March 15, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York. She left a great legacy after she passed away on September 18, 2020 from pancreatic cancer.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Cornell University. She then married Martin Ginsburg and the couple were blessed with two



Photo Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth\\_Bader\\_Ginsburg#/media/File:Ruth\\_Bader\\_Ginsburg,\\_SCOTUS\\_photo\\_portrait.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg#/media/File:Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg,_SCOTUS_photo_portrait.jpg)

children before furthering her education.

She went back to Harvard law school where she was among a very few women in her class; then transferred to Columbia Law School to pursue her education.



Photo Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth\\_Bader\\_Ginsburg#/media/File:Ruth\\_Bader\\_Ginsburg,\\_SCOTUS\\_photo\\_portrait.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg#/media/File:Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg,_SCOTUS_photo_portrait.jpg)

RBG was an American lawyer and judge serving on the Supreme Court of the United States as an

associate justice from August 10, 1993 until her passing.

Former President Bill Clinton nominated her to be a member of the Supreme Court in 1993.

She was the first Jewish woman to serve in the Supreme Court, and the second woman to ever serve in the Supreme Court.

RBG spent a majority of her life and legal career fighting for gender equality and women's rights and winning many arguments before the Supreme Court. She won five big cases on gender equality in the Supreme Courts.

RBG has been and will always be a great figure and inspiration not only to women, but to all members of society in general.

As she is known by many as the "Notorious RBG," she has proven that size and gender cannot define success, courage, and wit.



# MARCH : HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS

## Lailat al Miraj – March 11, 2021



## St. Patrick's Day – March 17, 2021



## St. Joseph's – March 19, 2021





# MARCH : HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS

## Passover – March 27-31, 2021



## Lailatul Barat Starts – March 28, 2021



## Palm Sunday – March 28, 2021





# THE SUN WILL RISE

## *Written by Ericka Defazio*

### Chapter 7: Memories

"In memory... grateful to all the contributions... preceded by her brother and friends..." For days, the words spun around in Michael's head. They made no sense. In a day, he had gained a sister, somehow saved the world, and then lost a sister.

Of course, the little girl was fine. She had been stuffed in the car before anything had happened. She escaped without a scratch. Raymie, on the other hand, had *not* been okay. There was no part of her to try to help. Nothing. Except her tiny communicuff, which had been covered in black dust. Lieutenant Madison had given it to him, with many apologies for his loss.

To be completely honest, Michael was not sure how he felt about the whole thing. Raymie had been his sister for less than a day. He barely knew anything about her. All he knew was that she was part of some weird organization that was saving New York from the sun, that she was insistent that he come with her, and that she had died, which also ultimately stopped everyone in the city of New York from dying.

Died. Raymie had died. As he sat on his cot, fidgeting with the communicuff, he was shell-shocked at how quickly the entire community of New York had recovered. There was not a single mention about the incident. And at headquarters, everybody forgot about Raymie. People died every day; you could not be sad for them all. And yet, how had these robotic, emotionless superheroes saved the city when they cared for almost no one.

Maybe it was a dream. When he woke up, he would be sitting at his desk, waiting for Margalo to bring him his third cup of coffee, and yelling into the phone. He would also have the organized schedule with nothing out of

place. There would be no mysterious sisters popping up, no saving New York, and no deaths of sisters, all on the same day.

And to make sure it was a dream, he pinched himself. His face contorted into a painful grimace. He was awake.

Michael sighed, staring at the communicuff as though willing it to speak. The words seemed to echo. "In memory... in memory... in memory..."

But no one had remembered. After the service was over, everybody just went back to working, ignoring Michael completely. Only he had remembered. He started a list of memories in his head, so Raymie, wherever she was, would know that someone had kept their promise.

"Number one. Raymie was extraordinarily strong. She broke my wrist once. Number two. Raymie enjoyed bossing me around. I had to work with a group of girls pasting reflectors all over the place. Number three. She cared a lot about people. She cared so much that she saved a little girl before she..."

He could not say 'died' out loud in his thoughts, especially on the list.

"before she left. Number four. Raymie was my sister."

He could not think of much else. But at least he remembered, and the list would stay in his brain for an exceedingly long time.

Michael stared at the communicuff some more. Then he closed his eyes. He could hear Raymie's voice, how she had sounded in the taxi. "Hello! Hello, hello! Michael, hello!"

Something was wrong with this. This was not coming from a dream. It was not coming from his mind at all. When he looked down, he saw a familiar face, smiling and repeating.

"Hello Michael! Hello, hello!"

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

# WOMEN

By Sydney Koranyi

Women told to sit pretty  
Like an obedient flower  
No opinions, No thoughts  
Stay in the kitchen where you belong  
Legs crossed, Hair curled  
But we will fight, We will speak up  
We belong to no one  
We will not go down quietly

We are all beautiful  
Black, white, red, yellow, or brown  
The color of our skin does not define us  
Nor the size of our tummies  
Or the length of our hair  
We are our own person  
We belong to no one  
We will not go down quietly

We are all born with a spark inside us  
Whether we light this fire  
Us up to us to decide  
Will you stand up for yourself  
Or go down quietly  
Will you use your voice and speak up  
Or go down quietly  
We belong to no one  
We will not go down quietly

The world will try and try again  
To snuff this light, this fire  
Don't let them stand tall  
Speak and yell and shout  
Use your voice  
Fight for yourself  
And every woman around the world  
We belong to no one  
We will not go down quietly

Photo Credit:  
<https://na-ture.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/1204289/>

Farsi Poem By: Marwa Zameer

## من و کودکم

کودک هم دوست ندارم همه ی دنیا را  
به جز حلوا و نیروشکر و خرما را  
فکر او سبز که بر صفحه ی گل می خواند  
قصه ی خاطره ی شاپرک تنها را

مثل من بغض ندارد که صدا می زند او  
دختر کوچک همسایه ما شهلا را  
چاشت از پنجره دیدم که پی هم می داد  
اندکی نان به سارا و کمی زهرا را

صبح با ساده گی سبز صداقت می چید  
گل پرپر شده در حوضچه رویا را  
گاهی پیدا گهی شب های دیگر گم می کرد  
بین تنهایی خود هم همه فردا را

English Translation:

## Me and My Child

As a child, I do not like the whole world  
Except for halva, sugar, and dates  
A girl who tells a story to flowers  
The story of a lonesome butterfly

Like me, she does not hate to be called  
Our neighbor's little girl Shahla  
One afternoon, I saw from the window  
A little girl giving bread to Sara and a little to Zahra

One morning, the smiling little girl  
Was picking dried flowers from her pond  
She sometimes talked and hide other times  
Thinking about a better tomorrow

Photo Credit: <https://people.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/314019/>

### Check Us Out on Niche!



Please Review ASE  
Today!

<https://www.niche.com/k12/albuquerque-school-of-excellence-albuquerque-nm/>

### 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
- 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.

### CHECK OUT

The Phoenix Times  
BROADCASTING  
EPISODE 2

On ASE's official Face-  
book Page and YouTube

<https://youtu.be/-kBLurari6s>