This year has been a crazy year due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It has affected me in so many countless ways. First of all, my school is way different. Now, we have to do all of our school from home and it is super irritating. I didn’t even know this until now, but I have serious focussing issues. I can now understand why we aren’t allowed to have our phones at school because my battery literally goes to 20% almost every day. Also, school online is super hard because usually in class, I can just go up to my teacher and they will be able to answer my question right away. Now, I have to wait hours at a time for an answer. I’m also finding that I’m having a lot more issues with things because teachers aren’t used to having EVERYTHING online so I am emailing my teachers way more often. Ever since school first got shut down, I’ve sent and received about 68 emails. Another thing that is kind of weird is seeing how differently people are coping with this situation. Most people I have met are super bummed about school being canceled, even though we usually hate school. I’ve only met one person that feels excited about this. She says that this is just a super long summer vacation. I just can’t see it that way. Also, this is kind of off topic, but I’m super stressed about my Social Studies project because I have been stalling for a few weeks and I still have done hardly anything on the slideshow that I have to complete.

The coronavirus has also affected my daily life, some positive effects and some negative. Something that has been really good about this is that I am getting a lot more sleep and I feel a lot better and less tired during the days. Also, when I am doing my school, I don’t have to work on a certain subject for an hour and a half or something. I get to choose and be responsible about how long and how much I work on each subject. Another thing that actually turned out to be good about this is that I have a lot more time to work on any projects at home. The only bummer is that my family is currently trying to move to Texas. This means that I can’t really make a mess because we have showings all the time and if I start working on a project, it kind of just creates this tornado in my room, and then I have to spend longer than I want on cleaning it up.

Most things about this virus have not been very good though. First of all, I play two instruments; piano and violin. I have private lessons for both of them, but
my private lessons for violin have been canceled. My teacher for piano has been trying to still teach her students through this time when we can’t really come in contact with people. She has been teaching over a video call. It is not the same, and definitely not ideal, but it has some pros. One thing that is really nice about it is that we usually have to drive to downtown Richmond for our lessons, and that takes about an hour every week. Now, I can just walk downstairs when it’s my lesson time. I don’t even have to get into the car. But, I really like to play on her piano because she has a grand piano, and it makes a lot more sound than my piano does, but it’s okay.

COVID-19 has affected everyone, worldwide. No one has escaped change. That goes for friends and family too. In my family, my entire family used to live in Oregon, and most of my relatives still live in the West. Our closest relatives live about a 24 hour drive away. It’s really hard sometimes to live this far away, but it makes it really special when we do actually get to see our family. For spring break this year, we were going to go to Texas, mostly because we are moving there and my dad has to live temporarily in Texas because that is where his job is. Also, while we were there we were going to visit our really close family. I was super excited about this trip, but now my mom doesn’t think that we are going to go because hotels are being shut down. My family was very disappointed about this, but at least we are going to live about twenty hours closer now. I’ve already talked about this a little, but my friends are super bummed about school ending. I do a lot of video calling with my friends, and I have been also doing a lot of origami with them. It’s really hard sometimes because if I am trying to teach someone origami, it’s really hard to get a good angle. Also, sometimes I wish that I could just reach through the screen and show my friend how to do the step on their paper. Maybe that way, I wouldn’t spend ten minutes on every step.

Today, my mom taught a lot of piano over this app called Zoom. It’s really weird to hear her teaching piano on a computer, and it makes you think that you don’t really have to be quiet, but in reality, you have to be even more quiet. Also, today I retook a Periodic Table Quiz and got a one hundred! I felt really proud of myself because I had studied for it for a while. Then again, I have no excuse to get a worse grade because I have all this time to study. Also, I worked on a project in Social Studies that I have really been stalling on. I was the first person to create the
test questions, so I got to call the one recall question that we were allowed to have. It was pretty nice.

Also, today we had pictures taken of our house for when we are trying to sell it. We tried to hire this guy to do the work for our yard, but he was very ‘sporadic’, as my mom would call him. I’m sure my mom knows his name, but he always wears cowboy boots when he is working, so we just call him Cowboy Boots. So, Cowboy Boots had given my mom an estimate and said that the work would take about four days, which is a bit long, but my mom still had him do the yard. Well, it’s two weeks later and he still isn’t done yet. He kept making excuses for why he had been gone for so long. At first, they seemed legitimate, but then they just became suspicious. First, he said that he had car trouble. Then, it was a flat tire on a trailer. (Also, take note, these happened almost 3 or so days apart from each other). Then, his girlfriend needed a ride to work. After that, he wasn’t feeling well, which is okay, I guess. Today, we just assumed he wasn’t coming back, so we had to do the rest of the yardwork ourselves, which isn’t that bad, just irritating because my mom had hired him to complete a job. Anyway, long story short, I ended up kneeling in the dirt outside and spreading mulch for about an hour. It sure was fun when I smelled like mulch for the rest of the day. Cowboy Boots did end up coming back, but way after the pictures had already been taken. His excuse was that his relative had coronavirus and he had to help move him out. He was talking about how sad he is for his friends that are hair stylists and whatnot, and it kind of seemed like he was trying to use that as an excuse as well. He was kind of weird.

Also, we had to get the house so clean, it was shiny in my eyes. I never want to get behind that toilet and scrub off all that dust and gross bacteria stuff again. Anyway, because there isn’t really anywhere to go, we just went to the grocery store and sat in the car for an hour. Then, we came home, and the photographer wasn’t done yet so we just had to sit in our car on the street. It’s the weirdest feeling. Being able to see your house, yet you are sitting in your car on your street. It feels really stupid because you’re asking yourself, “why don’t I just go to my house. It’s mine. There’s nothing that’s stopping me.” But, then you have to remind yourself that there actually is a reason why you are sitting in your car on your street, not in your house.
Another thing that I have been doing a lot is playing this one song on my piano and keyboard. I have been experimenting with all the different sounds you can make with the keyboard, and I have probably played that song almost 500 times, it feels. It’s a really good song! It’s called Jazz ‘n Java. It has a lot of jazz elements and makes me want to dance. Literally every time I play it, I bounce to the beat, even though that sometimes makes me mess up. The song has a lot of chromatic scales with interesting beats that mix up the song and it feels really good when I do the beats right.

Okay, this is the last thing that I am going to write about. Over this break, I have hardly ever used my crutches. My foot is feeling a lot better, and I can even walk on my tippy-toes sometimes. I feel like I could even attempt to run someday soon! That is going to be so exciting because I have been struggling with this foot for almost 13 months now! It’s crazy!

3/26/2020

Today, I don’t have as much to talk about in comparison to Tuesday. I’ve already talked about the effects of the coronavirus. I did think of one other thing that has been pretty good about school being out and not being able to see people. First of all, I have learned a lot more about how some new technologies work. Also, I’ve had this strange fear of talking to people over the phone. Throughout this adventure, I have talked a lot more to people on the phone and have started overcoming this fear. The reason why I am scared of talking on the phone is because I don’t have amazing hearing, so sometimes I have to say, “What?” so many times, I feel completely ridiculous. When I am on the phone, I can’t see people or attempt to lip-read what they are saying. Anyways, at least I have been able to work on that.

Also, tonight I worked on my Social Studies project and got about a quarter of the work done! I’m so proud of myself! I don’t even know why I was stalling for that long. Maybe it just seemed like a ton of work, but in reality, it was not hard at all because of how much research I had done before. It feels pretty darn good to have this accomplished. Yesterday, (I think) I had a Zoom meeting for science and it was really nice to see everyone and talk about how tough this all is. Also, on Zoom, you
can change the background around you, but I couldn’t figure it out on my phone so I was one of the only ones that didn’t change my background to a panda or something.

Yesterday, I started this project with my friend Lily to become more ambidextrous. I taped my right hand together, put an ACE bandage on it, then put a sock over the ACE bandage to keep my hand warm. I tried writing, and it is really hard. I keep having to adjust the way that I am holding my pencil, but I eventually want to be able to have my right hand tired of writing, then switch to my left hand for a few minutes. That would be so handy! (Get it?) Anyway, I had my right hand immobilized, then tried to do math and I was so slow and I couldn’t read my handwriting, so I decided to use my right hand to write for now.

Today, we had our first two showings! The house was super clean, and we had to leave all the lights on. It was super weird because you would walk into the pantry, get something to eat, turn off the light, leave the pantry, remember, then walk back into the pantry and turn on the light. Anyway, at my house, we have a hill instead of a driveway, so a lot of people are always scared to drive up the hill. The first people that came parked on the street, which is kind of bad because then they have to walk up this driveway and they get tired and already don’t like the driveway.

Also, while we were waiting in our car, my sister’s friend was there, but that isn’t really relevant at all, I just wanted to credit him. Then, we went to Chick-Fil-A and picked up our order and went to my mom’s friend’s house. We do sometimes hang out with other people, but only if it is outside. While we were there, they had a few hammocks and we discovered that we can flip in them. My record for continuous flips is 8 flips, but after I did that, the hammock fabric starts to rub on your skin and then your skin becomes raw.

Again, I would like to talk about that song, Jazz ‘n Java. My sister recently discovered that I have been playing the beginning of the song wrong. I have been playing a note in my left hand then my left and right hand together. Instead, it is supposed to be left hand, right hand, left hand, but super fast. I don’t know if I like it, but it adds more of a challenge to the song. I have played the song so much that almost everyone in my house is subconsciously humming it and it’s really funny when I start staring at them because they are singing the song. Then, they realize what they are humming and immediately stop. I have the power.
Today, I started watching *Into the Spider Verse* with my sister’s friend. It’s actually a surprisingly good movie, although I never would’ve watched it on my own. Also, I got a bag of popcorn, and it made me really happy because popcorn is my favorite food. After watching part of that movie, we went to see my brother’s elementary school parade. My brother and I went to the same school because we were both in CBG, so it was nice to see some of my teachers for the last time. Anyways, I don’t have anything interesting to talk about anymore, so I will be finished with this for today. Until the next day!

3/30/2020

Today wasn’t very interesting. I did “go” to physical therapy. By “go” I mean that I had a video call with my physical therapist. He was very excited about the progress I have been making, which would seem like a good thing. The only bad thing about it is that the better I am doing, the harder the exercises get. Let’s just say, I am not the most physically fit right now. A lot of things tire me out really fast, and this COVID-19 is not helping at all. Now I am all cooped up, so I don’t get much exercise. Anyway, he had me do a bunch of new stuff, most of which include one-legged squats that make me feel super weak. My thigh is so sore and I know that tomorrow will be even worse.

After physical therapy, my sister’s friend came to our house. It was the last time that we were going to be able to see him, so he spent a while at our house. The first thing we did was ride our bikes on the street. The only issue was that most of the bikes had flat tires and my dad took the pump to Texas so he could still use his bike. Then, we had to fix my brakes and a bunch of other things. Finally, we got out onto the road and we started biking down our street. About three fourths down the street, I realized that I don’t have enough stamina and I was running out of oxygen. I turned my bike around and headed home. By the time I finally got into the house, I was panting like a dog, and my throat was terribly scratchy. It was hard to breath, so I headed to my room so that I could lay on my bed.

After that, it just so happened that I had a competition for Spanish right after I finished calming down. I was doing the first competition, and felt like I was doing so good, especially when the results came in. I got first place! As I scrolled to see how many people played, a laugh escaped my lips as I saw that I was the only one that
played. I felt completely ridiculous. At least I had practiced my Spanish! Anyway, after that I played two more games, which I again placed first in because no one else played.

This new school situation is very hard to manage. I have to set alarms on my phone so that I don't miss a conference or an online competition. It is so easy to lose track of the time. Sometimes, it feels like the days creep by and this quarantine will never end. Then again, I do also have those days in which I suddenly look at the clock and it's four in the afternoon! At least we have a time when we have to get up and have our jobs done. Any sort of schedule helps. Also, this feels completely ridiculous, but every time my mom has to go to the grocery store or something, oh how I desperately want to come. Even driving around in our car is better than sitting around and doing homework. Sometimes we even drive around with no place to go in mind. This is that boring. I mean, the whole world has shut down! Anyway, back to my day.

After playing the games in Spanish, we finished watching the movie, Into the Spider Verse with my sister’s friend. We had started the movie a while ago, but we weren’t able to finish it because there was a showing at our house. I think the movie was really interesting. The way that the movie looks a little bit like a comic is super different from other movies and I really like it. I just wish that in the end, Miles would have told his dad that he was the new Spider Man. It would have made a heartfelt moment between the dad and son. Well, it’s too late now to change it.

Also, this is the last thing, but I have become addicted to Netflix. I think I need my phone taken away. Honestly, I would be upset if someone took away my phone, but at the same time I would be grateful. I just finished the last season of Greenhouse Academy and I literally watched all eight episodes in one day, which isn’t that much compared to how much I watched around Christmas, but still. It is kind of weird to ask for my phone to be taken away. Maybe I actually just want what my friend has. When it is 8:40, her iPad just shuts off and the only thing that she can do is text her mom. I think that that would be a much better solution for me. Anyway, there isn't much more to say. Until Thursday!

4/2/2020
Today has actually been a really good day. One of the first in a while. Today, I finished a puzzle with my siblings, which isn’t relative at all, just thought that I should put it in here. It’s one of the most commonly recommended things to do when you’re bored, which I am. Other than my puzzle, I haven’t really done anything this morning. Some school work, obviously. I do that every day. As the days go by, I get increasingly sad. I keep thinking back to all the fun moments I’ve had with my friends, and how I’m never going to see them again. In school, I don’t have good friends really. Merely acquaintances. Sometimes, I will be telling a story to about four people, then someone thinks of something and starts talking over me. Then, I will still be talking, yet the other people that were listening to me then divert their attention to the other person. Then, I start saying things like, “And you’re not even listening.” or “And you guys aren’t paying attention and my story doesn’t matter to you.”. Even when I do that, they don’t notice that I’m saying those things. I just happen to be friends with people who aren’t in my classes or who don’t even go to my school. It’s so frustrating. Usually I just read during lunch or watch Netflix. I guess this quarantine has been good in that manner. I just hate school, and am excited for this fresh start. I only wish I could take my real friends with me. At first, it seemed so surreal, and I was in shock, so it didn’t fully process until we started getting ready for showings. Now, I’m worrying that I won’t be able to get my friend’s gift completed, and I really just want to see her. But, alas, her dad is a doctor, currently treating coronavirus victims, so I’m not allowed to see her. Anyway, I’ll talk about my day. By the way, I’m writing this during spring break, so that’s why I was able to see my friend sometimes before her dad went back to work.

So, if I’m writing like it is actually the second of April, yesterday, I hung out with my friend, Hattie. Hattie’s dad is a doctor, as I previously mentioned, but he has been on vacation, pretty much since the coronavirus rates started going up a lot. Anyway, I had been asking my mom if I could hang out with her, because I didn’t feel like it was fair that my sister’s friend got to keep coming to our house, even though he has a really hard home life. That sounds really mean and it seems like I don’t care about his home life, but it’s just really complicated. Anyway, I had a genius idea. If we can’t get together, then why not set up a time when we can call each other, without interruptions? I know, genius, right? After suggesting it to my mom, she said that she
had actually set up a time when we could get together in person, but that it was a good idea to set up a get-together online.

Hattie came to my house at about 3 pm. At the time, my brother was playing Kinect Sports on the Xbox because my mom has him doing physical exercise every day. He was playing ping-pong, which the game titles "table tennis". I should probably explain how an Xbox counts as physical exercise. At my house, we have this thing called a Kinect Sensor. It senses your movements and it looks like you are actually in the video game. This counts as physical exercise because my brother gets way too into it and gets all sweaty. It's actually really gross. Anyway, after Hattie got to my house, we played a little bit of Kinect Sports. After that, we left our house and drove to someone else's house, but don't worry, we didn't get out of our car. It was a safe distance. The reason why we went to their house is because in our church, some people decide to go on what we call 'missions'. This is when we try to spread our knowledge from the church to different places around the globe. Obviously, because of this pandemic, that isn’t necessarily safe anymore. Usually missionaries are gone for 2 years and don’t make contact with family, so when they come home, it is a big deal. So, the missionaries from different countries came home, but it is really sad, because they can’t make physical contact with their families, in case they are infected with COVID-19. Anyway, the point of this whole explanation is that we went to one of my other friend's houses to welcome home the missionary. It was nice to see more people that I know, but aren’t that good of friends with.

Then, we came home and started playing a new game on the Kinect Sensor for our Xbox. It's Just Dance, but you actually dance. It is a real workout. We had a lot of fun with it, but after a while, my foot started hurting, and as I said before, I run out of stamina extremely quickly. Then, we went up to my room and made an explosion. Actually, we made bracelets, but it started becoming a mess. I was with her for a long time, but when I started writing this, I realized that we didn’t actually do that many things. A lot of the time, we just talk about random things. I'm really good friends with her because we have a lot of things in common. The other day, we started taking MagiQuiz quizzes together, and almost always got the same results. It's nice having someone that you can relate to. Anyway, that was Wednesday. Now I'll write about Thursday.
On Thursday, my mom let me go to Hattie’s house. It was about 3 pm when I got there. I don’t really know why I keep writing the time, but I just do. Anyway, before I went to her house, we had been talking about doing something for the girls our age in our church. It is feeling really hard to stay connected, especially with those that don’t have devices to communicate with. So, Hattie and I came up with a plan to uplift others and make them feel good about themselves. We decided to make a survey in which you would say nice things about any or all of the girls that we listed. Then, when everyone finishes taking the survey, we will collect the general words that each person writes about one person and create a wordle. This is still a work in progress. We are having a few issues with people taking the actual survey.

After we sent out the survey, we were at a loss for what to do. We went down into the basement of her house, and into her room. Then, we were playing on her iPad. She got an email from someone from our church about an online escape room. It was Harry Potter themed. We worked on that for a few minutes, and did everything correctly, therefore leading us to our destination. It was pretty cool to see one of the many different things that people are doing online since they are stuck at home now. After that, we worked on the coloring app that we both have. It is called Recolor. It is the best coloring app that is out there. After that, we went back upstairs to see if her parents had brought food back yet, but apparently, their food was taking a long time, so we went back downstairs. At their house, they have a nintendo switch, which my house does too. We started playing this game, which I don’t remember the name of, but soon after we started playing, her parents came home with the food.

The food that they got was Indian food, which I haven’t ever had before, but I know that it is sometimes spicy. I cannot deal with spicy food. At all. Anyway, I was brave and I ate the food, even though I didn’t love it. I even had a happy face on the entire time! Which is a weird thing to be ‘bragging’ about. After that, we went outside to use her family’s new fire camp. We set up chairs around the fire and had s’mores. I haven’t had s’mores in a while, so it was a nice treat. Also, this doesn’t pertain to my day on Thursday, but if you wanted some s’mores during the winter or something, you could use your stove if you have a gas stove. Just stick a marshmallow on a stick, and toast the marshmallow exactly the same way as you would with regular fire. Anyway, back to my day. While we were making s’mores, we
were messing with Hattie’s youngest brother, Eric. He is 3 years old, and responds a lot better to the name, ‘Bacon’, which is really weird because he doesn’t even have an extreme love for bacon. I mean, he likes it, but it’s not overwhelming. Anyway, he started individually telling each and every one of us to not throw him into the fire. It was really funny. Then we started asking him to make all these different kinds of faces, like “happy”, “sad”, “scared”, “angry”, etc. Then we cleaned up outside and went back inside.

We went to the 2nd story to print out some papers. Also, at their house, they have something called a Lightpad. A Lightpad is something that helps you a lot when you are trying to trace something because it lets you see all of the lines from the original paper. Anyway, we printed some papers of scenes where people don’t have hair or anything, just facial expressions in a scene. Also, there isn’t any color. Hattie and I have both been reading the Keeper of the Lost Cities (which is REALLY GOOD by the way). We started fantasizing about which personage in each picture would best represent the main characters in the book series. After that, we brought all of our supplies to the basement, where we could be quiet because her siblings were sleeping. Then, we were just having a really good time, laughing about nothing in particular, especially since it was getting really late and we were getting loopy. I ended up going home at about 11:30 at night, which was great for me because I got to stay with her for a long time. Currently, I am a night owl because the rest of my family are night owls. If I decided to be the early bird that I love to be, I would miss out on a lot of things that happen at night at my house. Anyway, it was really nice to hang out with Hattie because we will hardly ever see each other. Next time, I’ll talk about more effects of the coronavirus because it’s kind of weird to just read about me going day by day, hour by hour, but I will still be doing that. Later!