

# SOUTH SIDE STORIES

*We are so excited to continue creating newsletters for South Side Middle School. Each issue will feature articles about the exciting events the students at South Side take part in. We hope you enjoy reading about our personal experiences, creative pieces, and upcoming events. –The Newsletter Club*

## VETERANS DAY

*Written by Aaron Weisenburger and Kathryn Harding*



Did you know that Veterans Day was first called Armistice Day? It is an extremely important day in which we appreciate the veterans who have served in previous wars and battles for us. It was established after

During the week of Veterans Day, South Side Middle School students made cards for Veteran during extended Advisory. This was very considerate and meaningful. It was also very fun because it was the first Extended Advisory activity of the year! When you see a Veteran walking down the street you should say “Thank you for your service!” Remember, a true hero isn’t by their physical strength or mental strength, but the strength of their heart!

World War I to remember the “war to end all wars,” and occurred in Europe on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

## TOP 10 MOVIES DURING QUARANTINE

*Written by Jim O’Connell & Aaron Weisenburger*

- Star Wars a New Hope
- Jurassic Park
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone
- Back to the Future
- The Wizard of Oz
- The Lord of the Rings
- The Matrix
- Jaws
- Frozen
- Ferris Bueller’s Day Off

# TOP 10 MOVIES TO WATCH IN QUARANTINE

*Written by Aaron Weisenburger*

1. **Star Wars A New Hope.** “The force will be with you always.” You can experience the heart and courage of the original characters in one of the most beloved franchises in the galaxy.



2. **Jurassic Park.** “Rawrrrr! Welcome to Jurassic Park.” This movie takes you to an amazing theme park on a remote island where dinosaurs once again roam the earth.



3. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.** Visit Hogwarts with Harry and his friends, Hermione and Ron Weasley, and experience the wonder, danger and magic.

4. **Back to the Future.** “88 miles per houuurr!” A worldwide cultural phenomenon and highest grossing film of 1985. Go back in time to November 5th, 1955 with Marty McFly as he plays Johnny B Goode.

5. **The Wizard Of Oz.** “Toto, I have a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.” Travel to a world of munchkins, witches and magical creatures and remember to follow the yellow brick road.

6. **The Lord of the Rings.** “You shall not pass.” The future of civilization rests in the fate of the One Ring, which has been lost for centuries. Powerful forces are unrelenting in their search for it. But fate has placed it in the hands of a young Hobbit named Frodo Baggins who inherits the Ring and steps into legend.

7. **The Matrix** is a computer-generated dream world designed to keep these humans under control. Humans are kept sedated, effectively living a virtual life.

Neo awakens in a bed back on Morpheus's ship, and Morpheus further explains that one man was born into the Matrix with the power to change anything in it.

**Jaws.** “Were gonna need a bigger boat.” When a young woman is killed by a shark while swimming near the New England tourist town of Amity Island, police chief Martin Brody wants to close the beaches, but mayor Larry Vaughn overrules him, fearing that the loss of tourist revenue will cripple the town. Ichthyologist Matt Hooper (Richard Dreyfuss) and grizzled ship captain Quint offer to help Brody capture the killer beast, and the trio engage in an epic battle of man vs. nature.

9. **Frozen.** “Let it goooo!” When their kingdom becomes strapped in perpetual winter, fearless Anna joins forces with mountaineer Kristoff and his reindeer sidekick to find Anna's sister, Snow Queen Elsa and break her icy spell. Although their epic journey leads them to encounters with mythical trolls, a comedic snowman, harsh conditions, and magic at every turn, Anna and Kristoff bravely push onward in a race to save their kingdom from winter's cold grip.



10. **Ferris Bueller's Day Off.** “Life moves pretty fast if you don't stop and look around once in a while you could miss it.” Ferris Bueller has cut class 9 times and always gets away with it. Intending to make one last duck-out before graduation, Ferris calls in sick, “borrows” a Ferrari, and embarks on a one-day journey through the streets of Chicago. On Ferris' trail is high school principal Rooney determined to catch him in the act.

## CELEBRATIONS DURING COVID

*Written by Madison Livingstone & Olivia Grace Tortorella*

It is clear to see celebrations have been different during a pandemic so we will have to make the best of it! Yes, you have to celebrate from afar but that doesn't mean you can't have fun. You might not be able to do as many activities as you would like to have but you can still do everything you loved; it's just a little different. Maybe you can't see your family as much as you want because they live far away. You could celebrate from a distance but still enjoy. Celebrations will definitely be quieter; you are probably used to your family and friends yelling across the table but make the best and create new memories.



Here are some ways you can make your holidays as amazing as they were in the past.

- You could eat your dinner over Zoom or Google Meet so you can still see all the beautiful people as you normally would.
- If the weather is nice, you could eat with your family outside while being socially distant.
- Have a craft contest! Choose a craft each family can create and then you can take a picture and send it to each other to vote on which one is the best.
- You could create holiday face masks to wear on the day.

Until this virus is gone, we have to make the best out of these new ways to celebrate and have fun. Don't let this virus ruin the holidays you love or traditions you cherish.

## SSMS TEAMS UP WITH ADOPT A FAMILY

*Written by Aaron Weisenburger*

“Adopt a Family” is a nonprofit organization through Long Island Cares. Mrs. Norris works with a friend to raise donations and collect canned foods in order to feed Long Island families during the holiday season. According to community [solidarity.org](https://www.solidarity.org), “Approximately 283,700 people will suffer from hunger on Long Island at some point this year.” \$18 will

help feed a family and they've fed over 27 families! Also, they received many bagged goods as well. In addition to that, they have collected \$470-\$500 and this is the second year of doing this! Their goal is to help 300 families. “I was impressed by the amount of generosity shown by my colleges especially this year in 2020 and I want to thank them all.”-Mrs.Norris

## PAWS OF WAR

*Written by Aaron Weisenburger*

Hey you! Yeah you! Paws of War needs you in order to help veterans that are still battling the gruesome effects of war. Paws of War is an organization where people rescue, train and place shelter dogs to serve and provide independence to our veterans and first responders that have suffered the awful effects of wars and battles. You can help these veterans and first responders by a few simple actions. You could donate a dollar in Room 222 during extra help hours or if you would

like to donate something besides money, the organization is in need of dog beds, treats, toys, etc. There will be boxes setup in the lobby for these types of donations. If you want more information, please see Aaron Weisenburger or Mrs. Gilchrist and don't hesitate to ask. Remember we are also accepting monetary donations in room 222 during extra help. We have to find the goodness in our hearts to help those who have protected this country, especially during these tough times.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

*Written by Marina Ioannou*

### ***What is Community Service?***

Community service is doing things that benefit the community or the world around you. You can perform small tasks, like walking a dog, or more complex, like creating an environmental organization. At South Side Middle School each year, the 8th grade has to take part in a Community Service Project and the National Junior Honor Society has to perform and record

6 acts of community service throughout the semester. Even if you're not in 8th grade yet, it's still good to be prepared for the future.

### ***Where Can I Find Places to do Community Service?***

Places of worship, libraries, neighbors, teachers, and volunteer groups are great places to find community service. The

internet can be a useful resource for finding organizations and new opportunities but be cautious with it. You can even start your own project, such as a lemonade stand.

### **Here are some places and/or organizations that you can help out!**

#### **RVC Library**

A maximum of **two community services can be completed at the library**. Usually, you can volunteer in the summer for helping kids in a program, but that was cancelled due to COVID. However, you can still **submit reviews** for books you've read, TV shows or movies you have watched, or games you have played. The library's address is 221 N Village Ave, Rockville Centre and their website is [rvclibrary.org](http://rvclibrary.org).

#### **Senior Centers**

Senior centers include the Sandel Center (RVC), Oceanside Senior Center, Sunshine Senior Services (in South Hempstead), Bellmore Senior Center, Nathan Hale Senior Village (Lynbrook), and others. It might be harder to volunteer in person during these times, but you can still support the senior centers. At the Sandel Center, you can **purchase tribute cards** for \$5 each, with the proceeds funding programs for the residents of the center.

#### **Saint Baldrick's**

You can **shave or cut your hair** to spread awareness about cancer and make the people who lost their hair from it feel supported. You could also **donate** the hair that they cut to **other charities** who can turn the hair into wigs for people to wear.

St. Baldrick's also accepts **money donations** to help fund cancer research. Their website is [stbaldricks.org](http://stbaldricks.org).

#### **Operation gratitude**

Operation Gratitude offers many opportunities for services. You can **write cards** to veterans, **make paracord (survival) bracelets** for 1st responders in emergencies, and **knit, crochet, or sew items** with love. You could also **donate stuffed animals** or plushies like beanie babies for care packages, which will help comfort children near wars and entertain troops. Sometimes it's all someone needs to smile! Additionally, **collection drives** can be organized and are very much appreciated. Their website is [operationgratitude.com](http://operationgratitude.com).

#### **No Dogs Left Behind**

Students can work together to create red and black bracelets for each adopter to wear and spread awareness to end the dog meat trade in China. You can also make homemade dog treats for survivors flying into JFK. Treats and bracelets were presented to adopters as a care package for their arriving dogs back in January.

#### **Do you need inspiration for the MYP Community Project? Here are some ideas:**

- obstacles for injured veterans
- endangered species
- drug abuse
- illness awareness/cure research
- helping people stay active/maintaining fitness
- children's interest and performance in education
- nutrition

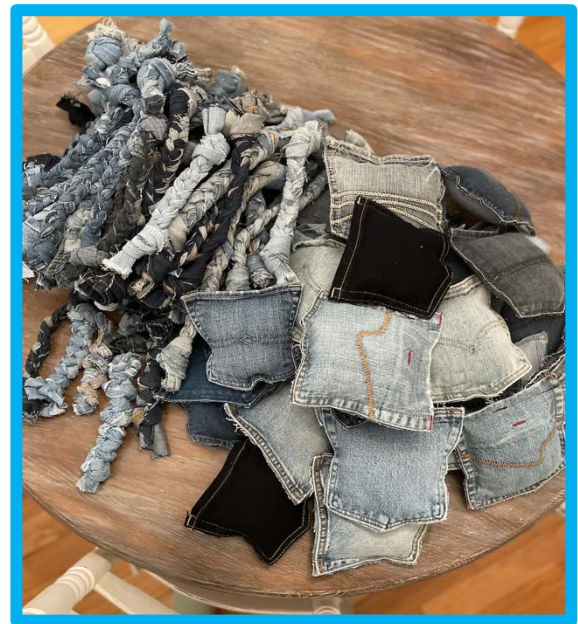
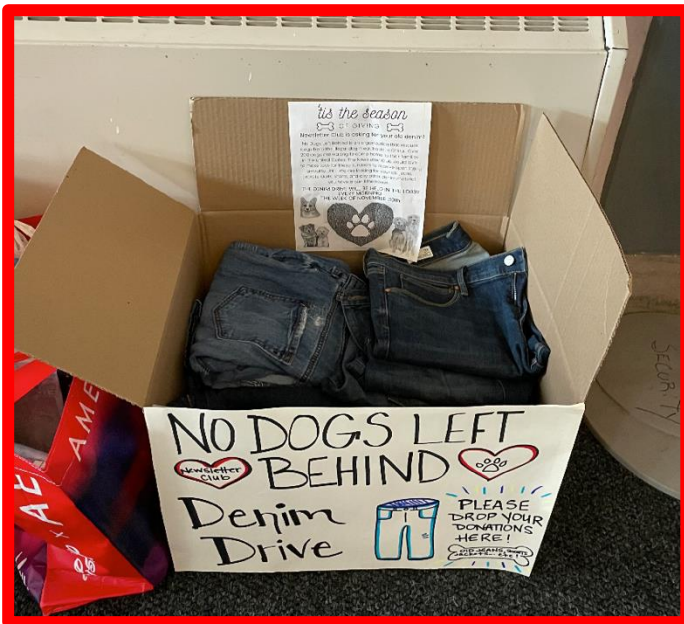


## DENIM DRIVE TO SUPPORT NO DOGS LEFT BEHIND

*Written by Alice Miller*

A denim drive was conducted for pups who needed some toys. The Newsletter Club worked with No Dogs Left Behind to create dog toys out of old jeans. No Dogs Left Behind rescues dogs from the illegal dog meat trade in China. These were repurposed when a handful of the club

members stayed after school to braid these jeans into wonderful toys. The pups were absolutely elated to come home to their families and new toys! The Newsletter Club and all the dogs thank everyone who donated their jeans.



## KEEPING ROUTINES WHILE LEARNING FROM HOME

*Written by Jonah Testa and the Newsletter Club*

Even though we are learning from home, it is important to try to keep some of the same routines and traditions of a regular school day. This can not only help to stay on track academically but can also help to keep that SSMS feel while working remotely.

Each morning students begin their day in their Advisory, listening to the morning news and announcements, and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

However, in the era of COVID-19, it has become difficult to know if remote students are actually reciting the pledge or participating in their typical school day morning routine. While the pledge itself is important, it is also a perfect way to start our day as we typically would in school. This small step in beginning of each day, could lead to a whole chain of events to keep us on track!

HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU FIND?!

N	O	S	C	H	O	O	L	G	R
V	I	R	U	S	N	E	E	Z	E
S	I	N	K	A	H	G	U	O	C
T	E	C	H	N	O	L	O	G	Y
E	Y	G	N	I	N	R	A	E	L
T	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	G	C
O	P	E	N	I	C	C	A	V	O
M	A	G	D	Z	R	E	T	A	W
E	O	Z	S	E	L	G	O	O	G
R	S	V	I	R	T	U	A	L	T

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