

Humans of Milne Valley

Meet Roula; positive, hopeful, ambitious.

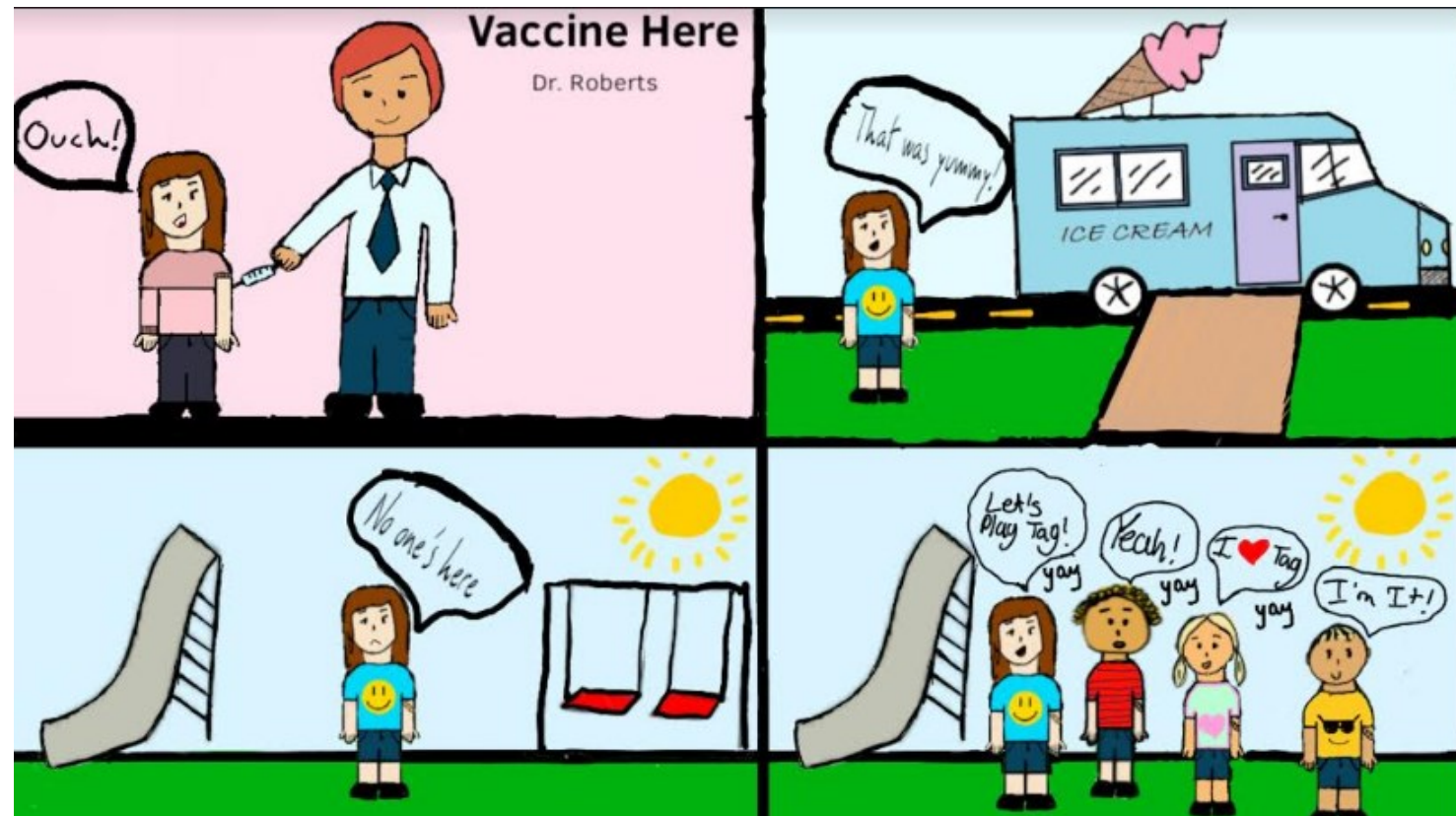
This has been quite a year. Deep in COVID, our lives are so different. I remember back in grade 6, after the March break when we first went online. No one was really prepared or expected it. My teachers posted slide decks for lessons and all of a sudden we were all just home, sitting at a desk, all day long. It was the best we could do at that moment. I told myself I wanted to finish off the year on a positive note-continue to keep the gains I made throughout the year.

This past spring's lockdown was even harder. I shut down and at first felt distant from my friends. I do not like FaceTime and did not want to engage that way. But then, I started feeling more hopeful, seeing an end to all this. Sure, there were times when I have said "I'm tired, I'm done." But I take a deep breath and remind myself of what matters.

I'm not going to lie, sometimes my parents push me. That helps. My Dad has encouraged me to take daily walks and this has helped. Ms. Fusco says that I have been participating online a lot. For me, it is a chance to interact with my classmates. It helps me get through it. In the break out rooms we work on the task but we also ask each other about our weekends, etc...At least I am talking to people, not just working.

As for my future, I want to finish 7th grade strong and start grade 8 strong. I have started a jewelry business to help with my savings. By 18 I want to be able to buy my own car. My long term goal is surgery. I want to be a surgeon.

Remember, there's always tomorrow!



Vaccine Nationalism on Full Display

By Ethyn B.

For the past 13 months, due to Covid-19, Ontarians have been in a province-wide lockdown. For many it has been an



Justin Trudeau receiving his Covid vaccine

emotional rollercoaster, as though we have traveled downwards into a dark abyss. There have been about 160 million cases of Covid-19 reported worldwide along with over 3 million deaths. Despite the government's intervention, Covid-19 cases have risen at an exponential pace, resulting in backlog on Intensive Care capacities in our hospitals and nursing homes. It seemed as though we are at the brink with lockdown regulations.

Without exception, each country has used their own methods to prevent the spread. Countries such as New Zealand have thrived with their low case count and highly vaccinated population. Others like the United States and Brazil

did not, reporting the largest amount of cases and loss of life.

Now that the vaccine is available this nationalist approach continues. Many countries have acted selfishly, such as the United States, with vaccine supplies. Because of this hoarding, poorer countries are losing hope.

The idea of vaccine nationalism has displayed the arrogance in the wealthier governments attitudes towards the health of the world's population. Vaccine nationalism occurs when governments sign agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers to supply their own populations with vaccines ahead of them becoming available for other countries. Even before many of the now-approved COVID-19 vaccinations had completed their clinical trials, wealthy countries such as Britain, the US, Japan and the European bloc had procured several million doses of the ones that seemed the most promising. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed its concerns about this and

there are fears that such unilateral deals with wealthy countries will make the vaccines inaccessible to those in some of the poorest parts of the world. If we were to vaccinate only those countries that bought up the majority of the supplies of the vaccine, it would mean the virus would continue to rage in other non-vaccinated ones. And we have already seen just how quickly and efficiently this virus can mutate when allowed to ravage unchecked through populations anywhere. As vaccines continue to be administered here in Canada, one wonders what harmful consequences vaccine nationalism has on world health. It piques the thought of the amount of harm that was done to the world's population, as a result of vaccine nationalism.



Vaccine Nationalism on Full Display	1
What A Year!	2
Greenhouse Gasses And Pollution: The time is NOW!	3
Art Club	3
Asian Heritage Month Winner	4
If Your Pet Was A Person	4
“Shadows” Still Life	5
The Photography Club	5
Covid’s Affects and How We Can Keep Safe	5
Humans of Milne Valley	6
Comic	6

Milne Valley Messenger
 Summer 2021
Editorial Board
 J. Fusco and J. Rosen
Publisher
 J. Fusco
Contributors
 Ethyn B., Alina D., Dharshita D., Simone G., Manal H., Aneeb R., Zehra S.
Art
 The Photography Club
 Art Club
 Manal H.

What A Year!

By Manal H.

We have been through a rollercoaster of a year. Still, we created some great memories and made the best of it, despite all the obstacles. Teachers at Milne want to say thank you to the students for attending and participating in our online classes. On behalf of the students, we wish to thank the staff for all their hard work this year. Thank you to all the Humans of Milne Valley!

Character Traits

Our character traits this year were: Empathy, Responsibility, Respect, Kindness & Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity, and Perseverance. This is a shout out to our recipients and everyone else for trying their best to model each trait.

Student’s Favourite Memories

Here are some of our Spartans favourite memories: Many Spartans loved receiving and seeing their parents get vaccinated and loved hanging out with friends safely during mask breaks. Students enjoyed doing school projects with friends and having freedom to be creative and have fun! 6-1 students made Mars Rovers and tested them with friends. Other students loved playing educational games with their classmates in-person and online. It was wonderful to see how many fun memories Milne Valley made with Covid-19 still existing!

Clubs This Year

We had clubs this year which many students took part in and showed their creativity! The most popular one was the Art Club. It was a student-led club by Simone. G. Simone won first place for her poster which she made for the TDSB Asian Heritage Poster Contest. The Art Club showcased student’s creativity with different prompts each week. Many found their talent in something they never knew they could do. The Art Club thanks Simone for being a leader and creating this wonderful venue. Thank You!

Another one was the Photography Club. This was led by Ms. Klink, she gave out different assignments each month for students to complete. “Ms. Klink taught not just myself, but many other students new techniques for taking photos. I really loved taking all the different photos this year and seeing them in each month’s gallery.” - MVMS Spartan.

Then we had our Student Council. The Student Council conducted many events and announcements. Those included Spirit Week, Rock Your Socks Day, Pink Shirt Day, and Pride Month Announcements. The grade 8 members are currently planning their virtual graduation.

We have all made the best of an incredibly tough year, for many reasons. In true Milne Valley spirit, I know we will continue to cope through the trials of Covid-19 as long as we stay connected. This summer, while most of us get vaccinated, let's all look forward to a more regular school year come September. Have a great summer, stay safe and get your vaccine!

“Shadows” Still Life The Photography Club



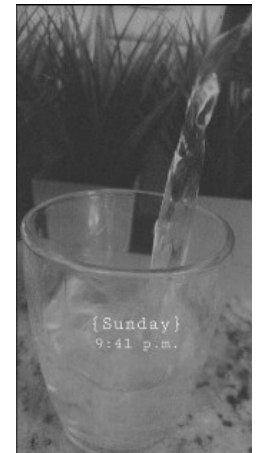
Rachael K.



Aneeb R.



Amina M.



Laila B.



Adeena A.

Join by using Google Classroom Code: irdeafx

Covid’s Affects and How We Can Keep Safe

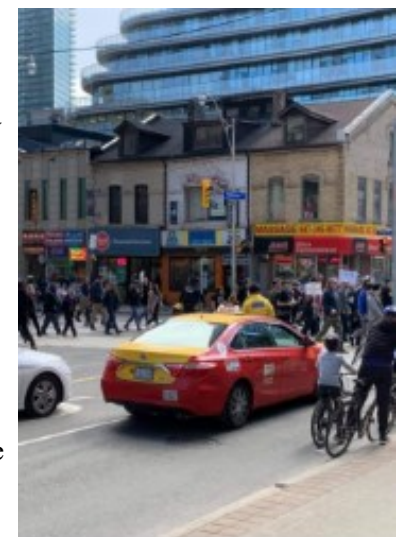
By Dharshita R. and Zehra S.

Due to Covid-19, many people have lost their jobs. This has had a huge impact on financial well being and mental health. In spite of this, there are still people who go to public places without masks, thinking they won't get covid. That's putting a lot of people in danger! There have been protests about not having to wear a mask. These protests have been led by a group called Stand4Thee. Stand4Thee has been protesting mandatory masks and they said they have the right not to wear one.

Covid-19 is spreading really fast. Some of this is from workplaces. Additionally, some people are going to parties with more than 5 people, and worst of all, some people don't wear masks. They're putting other people in danger by not staying at home and not doing what will keep thousands safer. At

school ,we can keep safe by wearing masks , social distance, and sanitizing hands. People should only go to public places when needed such as going to the store or going on walks. Masks must be worn when doing these activities as well.

Due to Covid-19 many of our favourite things have been shut down or closed. These include fairs, movie theatres and sports clubs.



Anti-mask protest in Toronto

Asian Heritage Month Winner



By Simone G.

“Our rich cultures and histories matter, so do we.” That was the title of the winning poster for the 2021 Asian Heritage month poster contest, created by me, Simone Ghosh. As someone of Asian descent, I want others to recognize my heritage, my culture, and to respect it. However, I realize I am more than that, that I have a variety of many other interests, just like the other 4.68 billion Asians around the world. That is what the poster means to me, and I want others to understand. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been a surge in anti-Asian hate. Includ-

are no longer willing to ignore microaggressions made by on the street, because these hurtful comments leave a negative impact on our lives. We now have started to stand up for ourselves, spread awareness about the violence we have faced, and ask for it to stop. There are 48 different countries that make up Asia and 3 dependencies/territories, each with their own unique cultures and traditions, we don't ask you to memorize them all. However, don't assume where we are from, and if we tell you, please respect our culture and our history. Finally, remember us for our interests and personality, not for our background unless we ask.

ing, but not limited to, verbal harassment, physical contact, and being coughed on. As a response to these attacks, people have educated themselves, taken to social media to spread awareness, and even started protests as a way of saying “We Matter”. Asians

If Your Pet Was A Person...

By: Dharshita R. and Alina D.



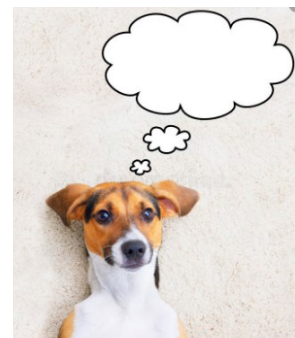
Everyone loves their pet and treats them like a princess or prince. We treat them like royalty and want them to have the best life possible. But, have you ever wondered what it would be like if you and your pets switched lives for a day?

I woke up to an annoying sound like an alarm, OMG, IS IT A FIRE? Riiiiiiiiiiiiing..... I should go wake my owner up... wait, why am I on my owner's bed? I thought I slept on my bed. Whatever. Maybe my owner put me here... I got up still sleepy. I tried to stand but I fell down! That's when I saw myself in the mirror. OMG! I LOOK JUST LIKE MY OWNER! WHAT IS HAPPENING? I had legs, hands and fingers. What was happening? Then I looked at my small bed. It was another

dog that looked just like me. That dog on the bed woke up and looked at me, then herself, then at me. I realized we had switched lives. This is going to be a long day.

Oh no, my dog was going to be me for a day. I have a test and a quiz, oh no! I wrote on a sheet of paper and surprisingly my dog knew what it said. I helped her walk and how to use a phone to text my friends. We were having so much fun until I looked at the time. It was 8:57 and I did not want to be late, so I wrote down what to do. We weren't late. I was relieved. The teacher was calling our names and when it was my dog's turn I was very scared of what my dog was going to say - hopefully nothing weird. False alarm. My dog said “Here” like a human being. The whole morning was great. My dog answered almost all of the questions and did my work.

Finally. The day is done with online school. Now I know how my owner feels. I went down stairs then my mom just said “Hey sweetie, how are you? Please take the dog for a walk.” Ok mom, I replied. I got the leash and walked my dog for 20 minutes. I came home tired and exhausted. How does my owner live like this?.



Greenhouse Gasses And Pollution: The time is NOW!

By Aneeb R.

There are two environmental issues that affect our local communities: pollution and greenhouse gasses. Greenhouse gasses are affecting the earth and oxygen levels. They also cause climate change. So, I want you to try and stop this big crisis in Toronto. If we don't do anything to help clean up our communities and this keeps up then, local animal and plant populations will be threatened and might suffer, because animals will not have access to healthy food sources and they will get sick. This will make some animals go extinct... so both pollution and greenhouse gas levels are bad for our local communities.

What Are the Effects of Greenhouse Gasses and pollution?

Greenhouse gasses produce harmful gasses that go out to the atmosphere, which causes climate change. It warms up the planet by the sun giving a lot of radiation. The gasses act like a blanket and absorb a lot of the radiation given which causes the earth to warm up. Pollution makes a lot of animals sick as some animals mistake waste for food and then get ill.

How Can We Prevent Greenhouse Gasses?

Firstly, we can turn off electronics when not needed. We can also turn off the lights when it is still bright because of the sun. Secondly, we can use public transportation and walk instead of using a car. For example if you want to go home to your school and its nearby instead of using the car we can just walk there or use public transportation. Thirdly, we can use energy efficient products to save energy and to reduce greenhouse emissions. Finally, if you do have to use the car for going to far locations, make sure to replace the air filters regularly because it filters a lot of the carbon dioxide to prevent it.

How Can We Prevent Pollution?

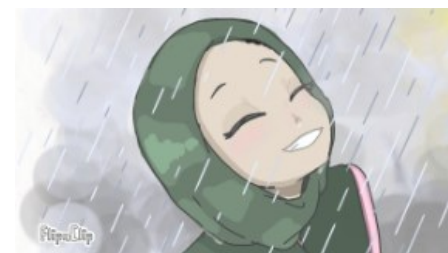
We can do many things to make our communities cleaner and less polluted. To start with, use the bins for garbage and put the trash where it belongs. We can form a group of volunteers that will pick up garbage. Finally, we can recycle more often. If we recycle, then we can reuse things and stop waste.

As research shows pollution and greenhouse gasses harms our local communities and big cities like Toronto. It is up to us to help clean our communities and protect our local animal and plant populations. We must take small steps now to help protect our environment for future generations.

Art Club



Shahd K.



Hanaimah A.



Dharshita R.



Simone G.



Emmelle H.