Hello everyone! It’s me again, Kelly, from Exploring College. Is there anything specific you want to see in our next edition of the newsletter? Are you interested in writing a column? Feel free to email me at exploringcollege@vassar.edu with any comments, suggestions or questions! In the meantime, enjoy our latest edition!

Poetry Competition!

We have exciting news! In honor of National Poetry Month, Exploring College will be hosting a poetry competition.

To process thoughts and feelings during these uncertain times, we want to encourage you to try writing it out. With this in mind, submissions for our competition should be inspired by life during COVID-19.

The top 5 finalists will all have their poems featured in a newsletter and receive a $20 Amazon gift card. The winner will also receive an extra surprise on top of all that! We will be accepting entries from April 13th through May 1st. Got questions? Read on for more information!

“How do I submit my entry?”
You can submit your entry in a few different ways. Depending on what’s easiest for you, you can submit your poetry by sending it to exploringcollege@vassar.edu either in the body of the email or as an attached document. If you handwrite your poem, you can also send a photo of your poem via email. If none of these options work well for you, call 845-437-7308 and we will find another option!

“What should my entry include?”
You entry should include your name, your email address, your class year, your school, and a transcript of your poem. If you would like to send in a spoken word poem, you should also include a recording of you reading it out loud.

“Who will judge the competition?”
The staff members of the Vassar College Urban Education Initiative will judge the competition. This includes our executive director, our faculty director and the program managers of our three programs (Exploring College, VAST and VELLOP).

“When will I know if I won?”
We will review all entries and come to a decision by May 8th. You will receive an email from us regarding the results!

“What happens after I win?”
We will contact you via email to find the best method to deliver your prize. We will publish your poem in one of the May newsletters! If you are the first place winner, we will also have a column featuring you!
What’s Happening with AP tests?

Last week we focused on the changes that have happened with SATs and ACTs, but what about AP tests? This week’s newsletter will tell you what we know so far!

With COVID-19, students will be unable to take AP tests in person. College Board put out a survey asking AP test-takers if they wanted an opportunity to test this year and the majority said yes. In response, College Board has developed secure, online AP tests for each course that will take place throughout May. Each subject’s exam is scheduled to occur at the same time across the world. In the event that you are unable to attend the original exam date, there are make-up test available for each subject in early June. The full schedule is available on College Board’s website at this link:

https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/educators/taking-the-exams/ap-exam-schedule#makeup

This testing format will require certain at-home resources, including stable internet connection and a device to test on. Acceptable devices include a computer, tablet or smartphone. If you need one of these (or know someone else who does!), you can fill out a form by April 24th and College Board will help you acquire what you need. Here is the form:

https://collegeboard.tfaforms.net/74

To make sure that students are prepared to use the testing technology, College Board will post video demonstrations and FAQs to help students familiarize themselves ahead of the test date.

College Board also recognizes that schools across the world closed at different times in response to COVID-19. Following these closures, schools have adjusted in various ways and chosen a variety of methods to continue providing course material. Due to these differences and inconsistencies, the AP exams will only cover topics/skills that most teachers had covered by early March. The test will also be open book/open exam.

If you’re feeling a bit rusty on your knowledge or you just want more study materials, here are some places to check:

YouTube videos from College Board for each course:

https://www.youtube.com/user/advancedplacement

Tips for Open Book/Open Notes Exams:

https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students/open-book-tips

Mentor Spotlight!

Featuring: Melisa

For our second spotlight, we’re featuring one of our mentors, Melisa! Melisa is a first-year at Vassar from Long Island. She studies Latin American and Latinx Studies. While at home, she’s been playing a lot of Animal Crossing (see image to the left!) and discovering new YouTube channels. She loves peaches and she has been eating a lot of them recently. A final fun fact about her is that she volunteers at a cat shelter and says that all the cats are great!
Wellness Tips

I think many of us are struggling to stay motivated and finish assignments. That’s ok! Without normal socialization or the ability to leave the house, it’s really hard to separate the day and take breaks that feel meaningful. Here are a few suggestions to do when you just can’t seem to focus. Hopefully it will help you get your mind off things and feel rejuvenated to give your work another try!

Learn a dance:
I know a lot of you are fans of Kpop, so our mentors, Asho and Melisa, have shared a few of their favorite dances to learn. Just search for a dance tutorial on YouTube!

Boys With Luv by BTS
Fancy by Twice
Gotta Go by Chungha
Psycho by Red Velvet

Crossword:
We had a crossword two weeks ago, so if you liked it, here’s another!

Art Prompts:
We’ve been including writing prompts in all our newsletters, but maybe you’re getting tired of writing or you don’t find it relaxing. Instead of writing, use the prompt to create art! This can be drawing, painting, collage, digital art, whatever you have around your house!

Suggestions!

Music:
- Album: Future Nostalgia (Dua Lipa)
- Artist: Lake Street Dive

TV Shows/Movies:
- The Circle (Netflix)
- Kingdom (Netflix)

Writing prompts

1. Creative
Using the image above, write a poem, a story, a personal memory etc. What story does this image inspire? Tell it!

2. Personal:
Especially now, it’s important to think positively. Write a list of things you are looking forward to! Elaborate wherever you want to.

3. Opinion:
What do young people not receive enough recognition for? What should they be given more credit for?
SOCIAL MEDIA

ACROSS
1 Message up to 140 characters long that's read by "followers"
6 People R.S.V.P. to it on their computers
11 What a karaoke singer sings into, for short
14 Long stories of heroic exploits
15 Actors memorize these
16 Show folks to their seats in a theater, informally
17 Web hosting service for viewing and sharing pictures
19 "Glee" co-star _ _ _ Michele
20 Coke, Mountain Dew or Dr Pepper
21 Last section of an Italian sonnet
23 Tampa Bay N.F.L. team, for short
27 Cruel Roman emperor
29 Quarterback Tebow and actor Curry
30 "I couldn't care less" attitude
32 Ease off: 2 wds.
35 Lose one's sanity: 2 wds.
36 Bit of Web televising that might be presented on YouTube: 2 wds.
40 Dollar bill
41 Working hard
43 Pie ____ mode: 2 wds.
44 Simulation game that's popular on Facebook
46 Deep gulf
48 Church passageway between pews
49 In dreamland
50 Spanish term of endearment that means "daddy"
52 Like endangered species
55 Catering hall dispensers
56 "Angels We Have Heard ___" (Christmas carol): 2 wds.
59 Hog fat used in cooking
61 ____-cone (cold treat)
62 Virtual community where users may keep online diaries
63 Element in bronze
64 Turn ___ new leaf: 2 wds.
65 Cancel, as a mission
66 Look at
67 Sends messages on a 25-Down, for example
68 Turn ___ new leaf: 2 wds.
69 Buddy ____ (rosters of instant-messaging friends)
70 "____ to recall ...": 2 wds.
71 Has a real-time conversation via AOL, Facebook, etc.
72 Like a gaunt person
73 Buddy ____ (rosters of instant-messaging friends)

DOWN
1 Sixth of a fluid oz.
2 Sound of a crying baby
3 Bigheaded person's problem
4 Scarf down
5 General ____ chicken (Chinese menu item)
6 Manage to avoid
7 ____ of Christ (title for the pope)
8 Fluid filling a pen
9 Casual shirts
10 Opposite of west, in Spanish
11 Massively ____ online game (virtual activity such as World of Warcraft)
12 "____ to recall ...": 2 wds.
13 Has a real-time conversation via AOL, Facebook, etc.
18 Like a gaunt person
19 Returned part of a theater ticket
20 All that and a ____ chips: 2 wds.
21 Returned part of a theater ticket
22 Returned part of a theater ticket
23 All that and a ____ chips: 2 wds.
24 "Once ____ time ...": 2 wds.
25 Device on which you can talk and take pictures: 2 wds.
26 Railroad depot: Abbr.
27 "____ to recall ...": 2 wds.
28 Song from the 1950s, say
29 Producers of sharp viewing images, for short
31 Producing of sharp viewing images, for short
32 suffix with velvet or Hallow
33 Massively ____ online game (virtual activity such as World of Warcraft)
34 Old Roman robes
35 More foul
36 Showbiz twin Mary-Kate or Ashley
37 Sick
38 Old kings of India
39 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
40 Give a heads-up to
41 Sick
42 Old kings of India
43 Old kings of India
44 "____ to recall ...": 2 wds.
45 Prefix with dynamic
46 More foul
47 ____-ray Disc
48 "____ to recall ...": 2 wds.
49 Prefix with dynamic
50 Messages in online forums and newsgroups
51 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
52 Producers of sharp viewing images, for short
53 Give a heads-up to
54 Old kings of India
55 suffix with velvet or Hallow
56 suffix with velvet or Hallow
57 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
58 Bees' hangout
59 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
60 Having two components
61 suffix with velvet or Hallow
62 Baseball hitting stat.
63 suffix with velvet or Hallow
64 Baseball hitting stat.
65 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
66 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
67 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"