



MANY SIGNS, ONE VISION, ONE COMMUNITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF “47” THE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH SECONDARY SCHOOL

Volume 1, Issue 1 | March 2021

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Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of *Many Signs, One Vision, One Community*, our new monthly school newsletter. We hope that this newsletter helps to bring us together as a community, even though we are more separated than usual. In these newsletters, you can expect to find updates about what our students and staff are doing, as well as useful tips for students and families and reminders of important upcoming dates.

As a school dedicated to teaching and learning American Sign Language, we know the importance and value of accessible communication. We are translating the newsletter into Spanish to serve our Spanish-speaking families, and we have endeavored to embed accessibility features wherever possible. If you have accessibility concerns or would like to see translations into other languages, please let us know!

This is the first edition of this newsletter, and we expect many of our features to evolve as time goes on. If you have any feedback at all, we'd love to hear it—please send us an email at communications@47aslhs.net.

With our warmest regards,

“47” Communications Committee

Ms. Helton, Mx. Howard, Ms. Schaeffer, and Ms. Zaken

Lights, Camera, Remote Learning!

Contributed by Mr. Bridger and Ms. G. Johnson

It has been an interesting and unique school year for everyone. Virtual learning started in March of last year and has brought about new opportunities and challenges for us all. Since we are not able to physically be together, we thought it would be best to bring us together virtually in a creative way!

THE IDEA

Parents, the idea is to have you **record a video up to 30 seconds long** of your “47” student engaging in virtual learning in some manner. We will edit all these clips together to showcase the “47” community learning virtually. As we are all trying to navigate this new learning experience, this video will be a great way to build upon our school community.

WHAT YOU SHOULD RECORD

You can record your child physically sitting in on a virtual class, them doing schoolwork independently, you working with your child, or anything that you feel best highlights your child's effort during virtual learning. **Feel free to showcase yourself with your child as well! Be creative!** But please make sure that the video is school appropriate.

HOW TO RECORD

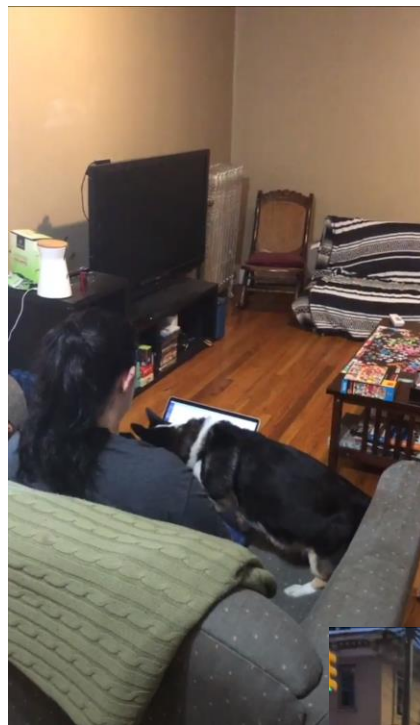
You can record video via a cell phone, iPad, or computer webcam and send your video to Mr. Bridger (kbridger@47aslhs.net). If recording on a cell phone or iPad, **it is best to record in landscape mode** (holding the phone sideways).

WHEN IT'S DUE

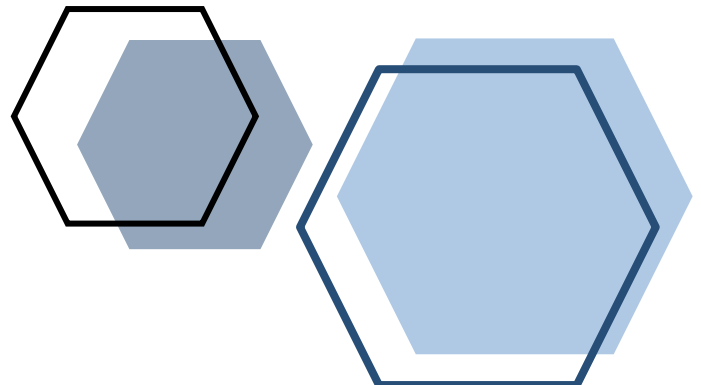
Please submit your recording to Mr. Bridger by **Friday, April 9th**. The more who participate, the more fun it will be!

EXAMPLES

Here are example videos: [one which our school created last year during the start of the pandemic](#) and [one which is the type of thing we are trying to do](#).



These stills are from last year's video. This year, we're requesting that you film in landscape mode!



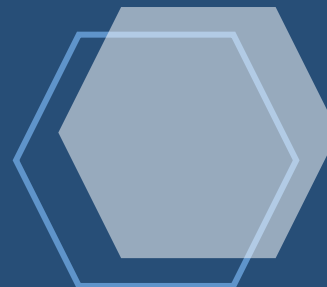


School Safety Officer Michelle Faulkner Honored

New York Police Department (NYPD) School Safety honored Michelle Faulkner, who serves as safety officer for "47" and P.S. 347, the lower school, on February 23rd:

SSA Michelle Faulkner is a dependable pillar of strength to those who need her. We commend her during #BHM. She continuously improves her skills to better serve the kids. She even learned sign language to bridge any gaps for the hearing impaired and their families. Way to Go!!

— @NYPDSchools on Twitter



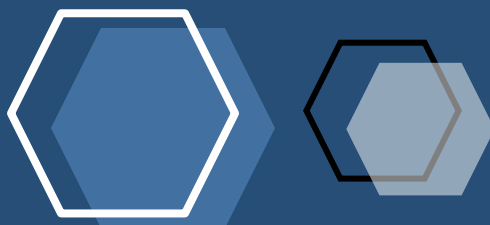
Study Tips

Contributed by Ms. Zaken, with inspiration from IndyStar and Connections Academy

1. **Make an intentional study space** (IndyStar) — When we learn in person one of the things we complain about the most is the commute. While we're remote, the only commute we have is from our bed to wherever our laptop is and back again. Sometimes I'm sure we don't even leave our beds. One of the best things to do to separate school and home as much as possible while they're both in the same physical space is creating a separate and intentional place to "go to school" everyday. Whether it's a specific table or chair in your kitchen or you have an actual office in your apartment, make sure that's the space you go to, to force yourself into the mindset of "I'm in school now" vs. "I'm just wearing PJ's and my teachers can't see my lower half". It will also make a huge difference when you go back to bed at night and don't feel the wrath of your laptop just a few inches away from you. We all need time to recharge, laptops and minds alike.
2. **Take those 5 minutes in between classes to actually be screen-free** (IndyStar) — We're all guilty of it... the second class is over we check our phones immediately and give ourselves a 5 minute timer until the next class starts. While it's okay to do that sometimes, your body and mind will thank you for not forcing yourself to look at a screen for a few minutes. Taking breaks is necessary and can help you set a balance between school and life in general.
3. **Get outside!** (IndyStar) — We're currently in what I like to call "fake spring" so why not take advantage while you can?! Even if it's walking your dog for a few minutes or walking to CVS to get that one thing you just ran out of. Exercise is

proven to help behavior, confidence, overall mood, and your cognition (IndyStar). It will make a huge difference over time!

4. **Ask for help** (IndyStar) — Take advantage of the amount of tutoring time and office hours that teachers have right now. We are here for you and you alone and since we are currently remote, just like you, we understand that things aren't exactly ideal right now. Because of that, we are always looking to find new ways to support you in any way we can. Reach out to a teacher or a friend and ask for the help that you know you need; chances are they will be so happy you did!
5. **Set personal goals** (Connections Academy) — While teachers create deadlines for you and give you assignments to do, setting personal goals can help you stay on track even more and help you hold yourself more accountable for what you're doing. Think about both short-term and long-term goals. Do you want to pass the Regents? Are you thinking about that one college you really like and want to get in next year? Set those goals now and keep them in mind so you know you're always working towards something.
6. **Learn how to handle the setbacks** (Connections Academy) — Truth be told, setbacks suck. And they are also inevitable. Every single person in your life, even the most successful people you can think of, has had at least one major setback in their lives. Chances are they will say that that one setback actually helped propel them to where they are now more so than the things that seemed like they actually worked out for them at the time. When the setbacks happen, don't panic, don't give up. Just focus on the facts. What happened? Can I change it? If yes, what do I need to do? If not, how can I learn to accept this and move on? When it comes to setbacks, planning for them is always the best option.
7. **Time management** (Connections Academy) — If you start on track, you'll be more likely to stay on track. Some people need to follow a strict schedule to manage their time and others can follow a more go-with-the-flow routine. Whatever works for you, do that! Rather than waiting until the last minute, break down the bigger assignments and do a little bit each day so when you don't feel as overwhelmed as the due date slowly approaches. It's not always the most fun, but managing your time will allow you to be more stress free overall, and you'll end up being back to enjoying what you do a lot quicker than if you were to procrastinate until the last minute!
8. **Virtual study groups** (Connections Academy) — Although you're on a screen all day, it might be nice to actually "sit" with friends and just do some work together. It's also a great way to hold each other accountable for getting your classwork and assignments done!
9. **Be positive** (Connections Academy) — It might sound slightly trivial during these times, but it's amazing what your thoughts can control. We tend to think that our surrounding situations will influence the way we think, but it's actually the opposite. How we think can and will alter our situations and environments. If we alter our thinking, we will begin to see change around us. As hard as it is to stay positive right now, there is always a way to find the silver lining. And when it comes to school, "a positive attitude about online learning is the best gift you can give yourself. Everything you learn, whether it's your most favorite or least favorite subject, will help you grow as a person."



Student Contributions

In this issue, we're proud to feature contributions from the following "47" students:

THIS IS NEW YORK

A song about what it has been like to live through 2020 (and now 2021). Written by the "47" Performing Arts Club.

One tap on the keyboard, For every single day.
From BLM to Biden's victory,

Whirlwind of wires all by themselves,
Waiting for life to plug itself in.

Pre-chorus:

This is New York,
We move around all the time
We go where the music takes us, we go where the food
takes us,

Chorus:

But now we're Rapunzel,
Stuck in our boxes,
Watching each other
In boxes
In boxes
9 million people
Glued to our boxes,
Together, alone.

Verse:

You think it's like the movies,
It's full with hopes and dreams,
but it's made to tear you down 'til you feel nothin'
Injustice, you see it, you live it
Move on, speak up,
Or it's never gonna change

Pre-chorus:

This is New York,
We move around all the time
Away from the crowds of people,
away from the rudest people

Chorus:

But now we're Rapunzel,
Stuck in our boxes,
Watching each other
In boxes
In boxes
9 million people
Glued to our boxes,
Together, alone.

CODA:

[Spoken]: I'm gonna live here because
[Sung]: This is my place
This is my life
I'm gonna stay here
This is my home
My sanctuary
I'm gonna live my life...

[Pause]

This is my place
This is my life
I'm gonna stay here
This is my home
My sanctuary
I'm gonna live my life...

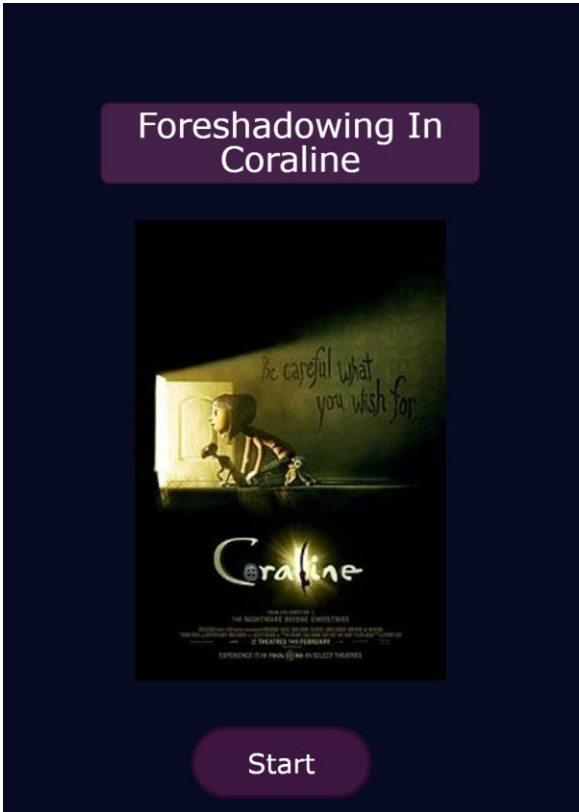
[Pause]

This is my place
This is my life
I'm gonna stay here
This is my home
My sanctuary
I'm gonna live my life...
Like I want it

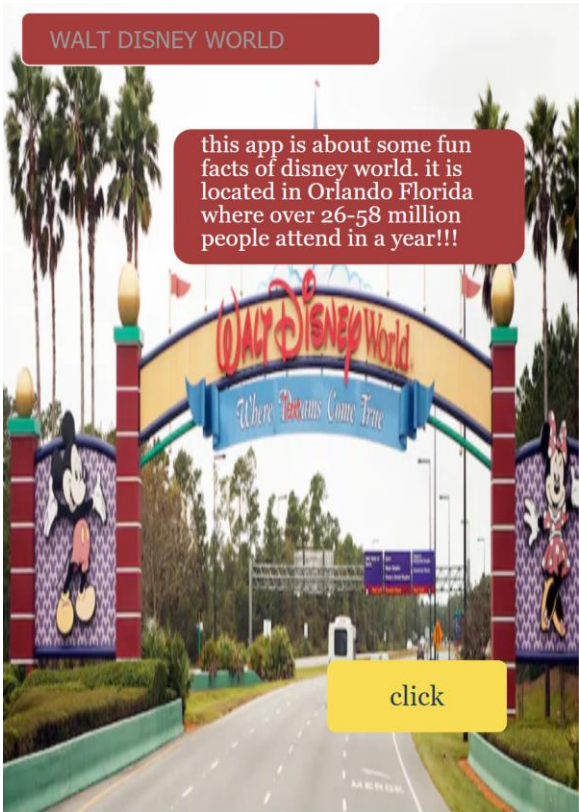
© 2021 Garzon, Perez, Thompson, Coons & Gerstein

APPS BY COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS

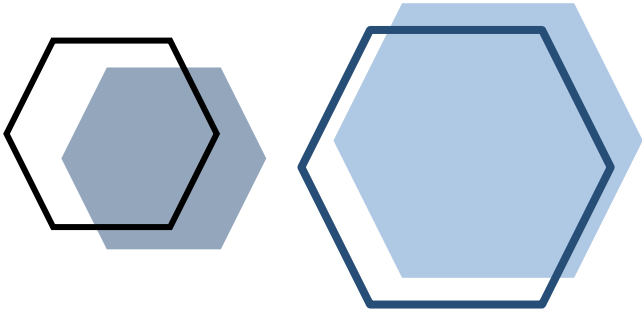
“Foreshadowing in Coraline” by Carla Rosario Montero '23 (click to open app)



“Walt Disney World” by Isabella Gimenez '23 (click to open app)



“Exotic Birds” by Egypt Boyd '23 (click to open app)



FIRST DRAWN

By Nializ Torres '24

I hated being in this folder. I'd been stuck in here for weeks. Andrew never uses me, he uses those fancy thick sheets downtown by the bookshelf, the ones in the brown cover. I was thin, and had lines across my sheet but I was still important you know! I may have not been as good looking, but I was definitely important. Us loose-leafs stood in the bottom folder in a drawer, Andrew only used us for work, notes and other unimaginative habits. Why couldn't we be like the blank sheets on the bookshelf? Andrew would use the most colorful and brightest materials on them, creating beautiful images straight from his mind! How bad I wanted to be drawn on.

I gave up on the dream. Andrew had never used loose-leaf to draw. Apparently thin, lined paper wasn't good enough. Whenever he had left his room I'd try to make myself noticeable, I'd climb onto his desk and wait for him to notice me. Each time he put me back in the folder. Back in the drawer I couldn't stand being in. This time however, I was certain I could be drawn on. Andrew had been out all morning, I overheard him on the phone, he was going to be busy that whole day. This was my chance.

I climbed out of the folder and onto the desk. As always downtown was busy, all the books up there, all the figures Andrew collected, and all the paper's he used were up there. They were all chatting, admiring each other, it seemed like a party to me. I figured I would ask for help, I only knew one person on that book shelf. Eraser. She was my best friend, Andrew used her all the time when he wrote notes on my kind. She got moved downtown with the others for being so "famous".

I made my way to the dresser, climbing the knobs until I got up to the third floor of the bookshelf. I don't know whether I liked being here or hated it! It was loud, and crowded, but it was where all the useful items belonged. "Where could she

be?" I thought to myself, all the erasers were usually on the third floor? Had she been moved?

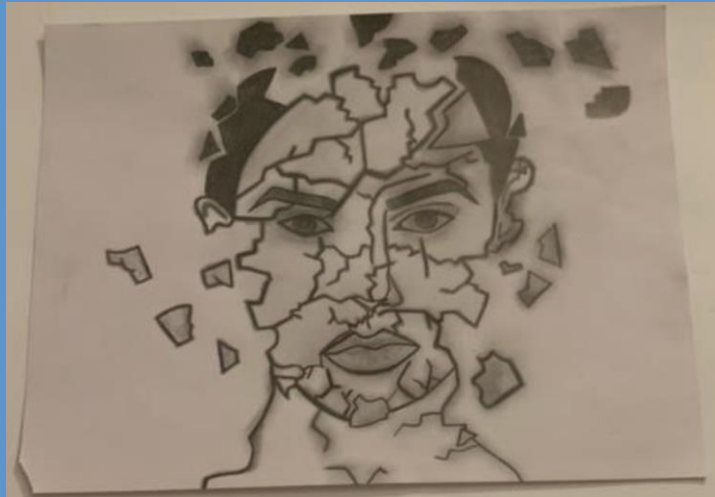
"Excuse me, are you lost?"

I heard a deep voice call my attention and immediately turned around. It was a paper who had been drawn on! The beautiful red and black swirls across his page, Andrew sure had talent.

"No, I'm looking for an eraser. Pink, She got moved here sometime ago, about a month ago. I need her help. Do you know where she is?"

"I'm afraid I don't, is there anything I can help you with?"

I didn't know this man, but maybe that was what I needed. Someone who looked as inspirational as him?



Artwork by Alissa Nieves '21

"I want to know how to be drawn on, just like you!"

I sound ridiculous, like some fanboy. Deep down I was, but I didn't want that to be seen.

"That's.." he cleared his throat. "You're a loose-leaf, why do you want to be drawn on again?.." He sounded hesitant to speak to me at that point.

"No loose-leaf had been drawn on before, I want to be the first

and be as important as you guys up here on the bookshelf! Will you help me?"

He nodded "I know something that might work." He took me up to the roof of the shelf, where all the pencils were.

"Why.. are we here swirls?" I decided I'd call him swirls, he was covered in them, it rang a bell anyways.

"Well, if Andrew won't draw on you, the pencils will. Maybe if Andrew see's you with some color he'll decide to continue the drawing."

That was actually smart, I had never thought about that. We decided to give it a go. I laid flat on the shelf, I was nervous but more ready for it than anything. The pencils danced, leaped and spun all across my lines. It was the most

incredible thing I had ever experienced. It took all day to fill half of my page, Swirls said I should wait on the desk, then Andrew will think he started me and never finished. It was brilliant! We said our goodbyes and I walked from downtown back to the desk, I laid flat waiting and waiting.

I heard Andrew's keys, here was the moment of truth, the moment I've waited for all my life. He walked in, set his bags down and took a seat in his chair. He glanced at me and a pencil, followed by an eraser. Andrew picked me up and examined the grey and black stripes, swirls and polka dots filling half of my page. He started to crumble my corners. I

thought I had failed. Was this it? All this work for nothing.

Suddenly he cut off my corners and began filling the white, empty side with colors. The colors I had admired off others. I spent his night spreading out his imagination on my blank canvas. I finally did it. I was the first drawn from the bunch. That night I experienced what it was like to be colorful, useful. From that day forward the loose-leafs began to be filled with all sorts of patterns and colors. Downtown was no longer VIP, the whole room was welcomed for anybody. I had finally changed things in this bedroom. I may have been the first, but I now know I will not be the last.

THE DOG NAMED LEO

By Sirandy Garcia '24

It was a cold night. There sat a girl by the window stand named Luna. She was gazing at the night sky that was filled up with stars, as she was holding her moon necklace. This moon necklace meant so much to her, it was left behind by her grandmother. She is a quiet kid, she doesn't get along with her family or her siblings as they think she's a disappointment. Her grandmother was the only person she trusted and got along with, but soon after, she died because of a sickness that couldn't be cured. Luna walked back to her bed slowly. The carpet was soft. Her whole room was soothing with the moonlight glowing on the pink flowered wallpaper.

As Luna got back to her bed a wishing star passed by and Luna quickly closed her eyes to wish for someone to be by her side as she felt lonely. Luna drifted off to sleep while holding her moon necklace, as her dog Leo jumped right up to her bed and snuggled into her arms. The sun was shining into Luna's eyes as she could only open them halfway. "Good morning grandma, I hope you're doing well up there," she said as she was holding her necklace tightly. She looked beside her bed and saw two giant hands with big giant feet. She screamed and panicked at the same time. She grabbed the nearest white pillow and hold it up as she was about to throw it to the person in front of her.

"W-who a-are you?" she stuttered.

"It's me Leo," the mysterious boy stated.

"Where, w-what, when and h-how?" Luna uttered all the words she could think of.

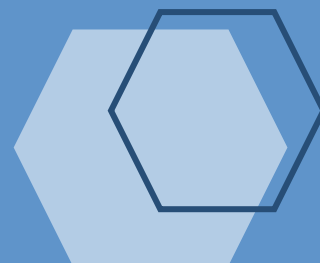
As Leo was about to speak a loud growling came out of Leo's stomach. Luna didn't know what to do, she fully doesn't trust this boy in front of her that was supposedly her dog Leo, but she doesn't want the boy to be in hunger either. So she made her way down the big cracky stair and to the kitchen where she saw her family eating.

"Oh look it's the smelly butt" said Luna's brother Noah, as everyone started laughing. This made Luna upset because her family never treats her right and the only thing she wants is to be appreciated, just a slight affection would make her happy and loved. She didn't put too much thought into it as she realized that the boy was waiting for her upstairs. So she grabbed the bag of strawberries that was near her and went back to her big room that was located at the second floor and gave some strawberries to Leo. Leo tilt his head out of curiosity.

"Um what is this looking red thing?" asked Leo.

"This is a strawberry," stated Luna. Leo couldn't help and wondered why Luna was so upset.

"Hey, are you alright," said Leo.



"I'm fine, it's just my family who are always mean to me, I don't know what I did wrong to deserve this treatment from them," said Luna who would burst into tears any moment now.

Leo can't stand his owner crying, so he pat her shoulder in order for her to calm down. Luna looked at Leo and her eyes softened because nobody has ever cheered her up.

"Maybe this boy is really trustful", Luna thought.

Leo was sent for a mission by Luna's grandmother. Leo is Luna's spirit animal, every spirit animal is sent down to complete their mission and would have two strips in their right arm, for every task they complete the mark will disappear. This time Leo's mission was to make Luna laugh and when she laughs for the last time with tears coming out he would disappear.

"You know I need an explanation on how you suddenly turned into a human you know," Luna said seriously.

"Um well you know it's a long story, I was sleeping and then I drank this weird looking drink and bam I turned into a human," Leo started nervously.

"Uhuh," Luna said suspiciously.

"Oh well, would you let me stay here for the meantime", asked Leo, trying to change the topic.

"Sure, but not in my bed, you would sleep on the hard floor," Luna pointed out while throwing the blanket and pillow to Leo. Luna thought that Leo was there when she was crying, might as well turned back the favor for letting him stay here, as they both fell asleep.

The next day, as Luna woke up she saw Leo was nowhere to be found, like if he completely disappeared. She looked everywhere around the house as her family looked at her crazily.

"Hey you nerd, you look like a crazy lady doing that," Luna's brother Noah laughed. Luna went upstairs and cried her heart out not believing what her brother said to her. When she looked down her necklace started to glow and she screamed out of fear and when she looked up she saw Leo standing right there laughing out her shocked face. Luna asked Leo how he got here and he said that the necklace tells him every time she's upset. He calmed Luna as they both drifted off to sleep of tiredness.

Weeks had passed by and Leo was his usual self. He likes to learn new things he hasn't seen. Even Though he annoys Luna alot, she really enjoys Leo's company. One day she tried telling her parents about Leo, but they couldn't see him. He was invisible to them, like he never existed.



Artwork by Kenneth Burney '24

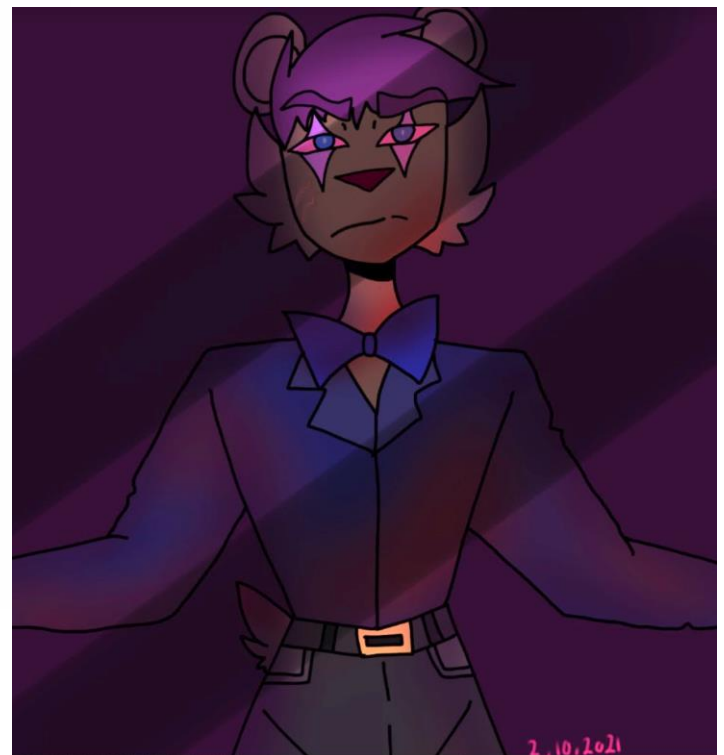
They all call her crazy and weird names that made her really sad and torn inside.

At that moment Leo showed up and saw her crying. He made her cheer up and made her smile. He saw his arm and one strip disappeared. Luna wondered what that 2 strips meant, but lost her thought as soon as Leo disappeared again. She was heartbroken when her family was really mean to her in a way that they never acted before and Leo came again, but Leo made her laugh really hard as possible that made

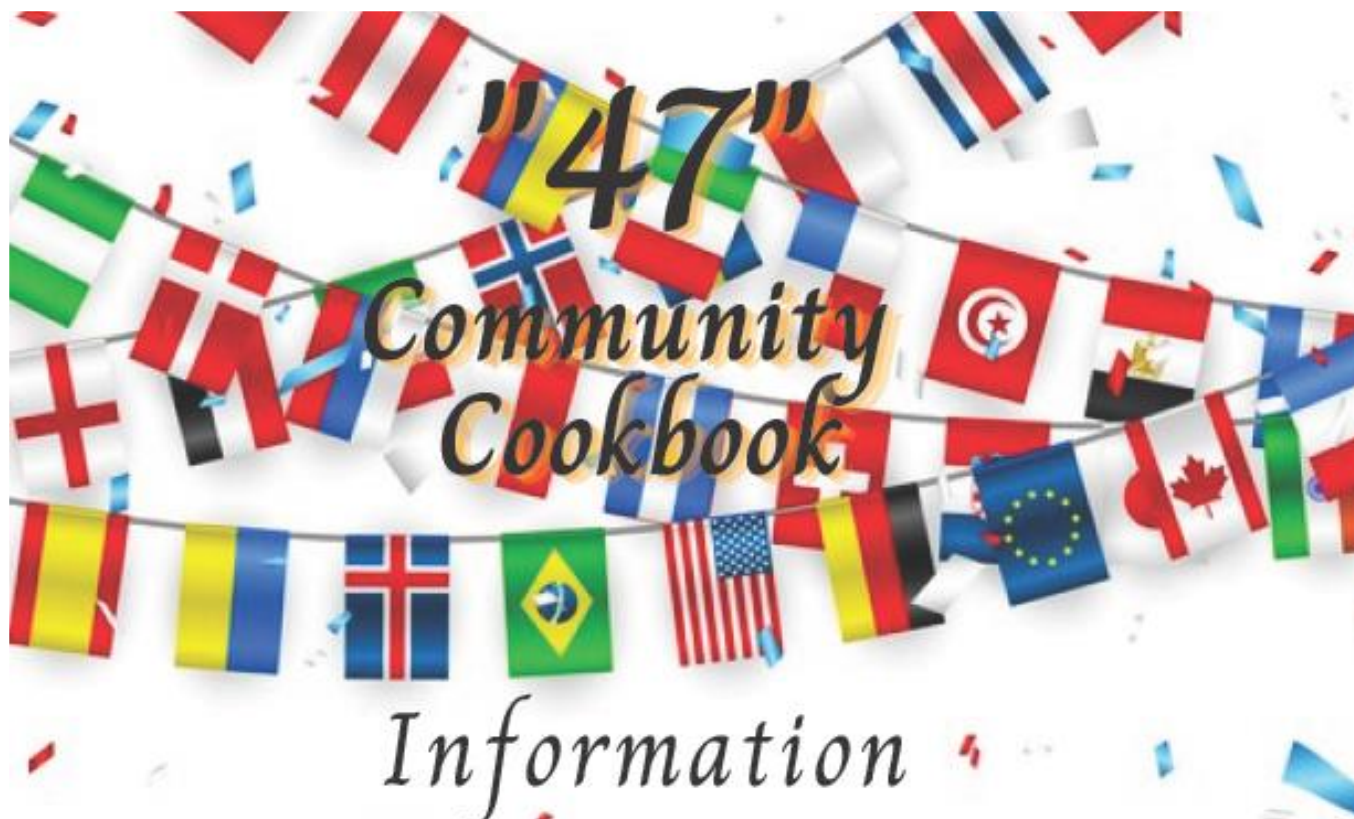
Luna cry out of happiness and the next strip disappeared. Leo knew it was time to go.

The next day, Luna called for Leo and he didn't respond and called again, no answer at all. She cried as she realized he left her, but never forgot the best memory they hold. After this she didn't talk to anyone, not even her family. She felt down and alone all over again.

"Maybe we would meet in the afterlife," said Luna quietly. Is this really the end of them? What would her family think of her now?



NHS Community Cookbook Recipe Request



The "47" chapter of NHS is putting together a cookbook of recipes that are important to the members of the "47" community.

-Submit a recipe along with a short introduction that explains what type of significance the recipe holds to your family.

-The format should include the following:

**Name of Student/Staff/Family*

**Recipe Name*

**Intro*

**Ingredients*

**Procedure*

(All submissions are due by 3/26/21, so submit your recipes ASAP to Ms. Jamie at jmorris@47aslhs.net)

Tutoring Schedule

We encourage students who need academic help to look for when their teachers offer extra help, as well as when other staff members offer tutoring. Information is available on the [After-School Schedule](#).

Calendar of Important Dates

For more information, check out the [New York City Schools calendar](#) and [our school calendar](#).

FAMILY CONFERENCES

Monday, March 29 – Friday, April 2, 2021 ([Sign Up](#))

END OF MARKING PERIOD 1

Friday, March 19, 2021

COOKBOOK RECIPES DEADLINE

Friday, March 26, 2021

SPRING RECESS | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Monday, March 29 – Friday, April 2, 2021

S.A.T. SCHOOL DAY (11TH GRADE)

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

ROMEO AND JULIET LIVE EXPERIENCE

Friday, April 30, 2021

END OF MARKING PERIOD 2

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

EID AL-FITR | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Thursday, May 13, 2021

MEMORIAL DAY | SCHOOLS CLOSED

Monday, May 31, 2021

ANNIVERSARY DAY | STUDENTS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Thursday, June 3, 2021, 2021

END OF MARKING PERIOD 3

Friday, June 18, 2021

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday, June 25, 2021

