



APRIL - MAY n°12

THE NEWSHAKER

Let's shake the news!
St Marc High School newsletter



Welcome back to the last Newshaker of this school year. We know this month felt as a supernatural event and may have been a source of concern for our families but let's find a silver lining, talking about positivity, solidarity and technological breakthroughs. Our generation is going to be the one that went through covid-19, at home, at school, in our cities...and in our heart! This has been a particular month and our team worked hard to give you our perception of it. But don't worry besides our personal opinions, we will consider lockdown's cultural consequences and the link between COVID-19 and the climate. You will see how over mediatisation has also affected us. This Newshaker is almost like a special issue, as if it was the eye in the storm report. It is a 15-year-old angle you will discover. We hope we will be the only Newshaker's team to write about such an "earthshaking" event. In the name of the team, we would like to thank you all for your support and wish you all the best.

Anaïs G.

Conflit_fr : The modern media

When the NEWSHAKER meets the creators of a new NEWS WEBSITE!!!! Mr Stanislas Racine, the founder of Conflit_fr, accepted to tell us about his project and how the sanitary crisis has been seen from journalists' eyes. The goal of the initial project was to build a Twitter account giving reliable information concerning geopolitics, conflicts, spying, cyber-security or health. In our society, "people are fed up of opening 2000 websites with adverts to get a newsitem. So in 280 signs, he wanted to give people what they expected, straight to the point!" says the founder. This project, started with the conflicts between the USA and Iran, became real in January 2020. On Twitter, the page is fed with some news every 12/13 minutes and on Instagram, once a day with a daily picture.

To get the best feed, Conflit_fr searches for the last fresh news through secured sources like press agencies from multiple countries: USA: AP, Great-Britain: Reuters, France: AFP and German: DPA. It can get into press conferences and after being checked repost a journalist's scoop on Twitter. To feed the account, it is such a huge organisation. The team is composed of 19 volunteers who are IT engineers, reporters, video makers and writers. On a classic day, the team starts publishing some feed at 9/10am and ends the day between 10:30pm and by 1 am the goal is that everyone should have posted 3 to 5 tweets a day.

With the sanitary crisis, no one has been so close to media. Stanislas Racine gives us his account of the



crisis: "In January, I was alone. In February, we were 2. And until end of march/beginning of April, the team grew up. So in January, I thought that this disease was serious but that it would only hit few Asian countries and that we would quickly close the borders. Now, it has taken such an extent that week after week, each thing that we considered as historical was spurn to surrealism. What we live was just unprecedented! (...) At the beginning, we tried to make people aware without being pessimistic, relaying positive news, later we fed the followers into creating lots of debates with the tweet comments. Then we participated to the media coverage by relaying massively some unknown facts".

This new concept is now gathering 345k Conflit_fr's Twitter followers. Thanks to notifications, people don't have to stay in front of their TV or radio all day long. Conflit_fr an aggregator of daily actuality. The geopolitical conflicts and the quarantine helped to develop the community. 30.000 followers were active beginning of February. 60,000 thirty days after and 100k on March 7th. With the Iran strikes, the account gained 16k followers in a night. And the quarantine permitted a gain of 160k followers in 55days. This account continues to grow each day and tries to develop by trying to create an app available on androids and ios. Will Conflit_fr be one of the main media? Stay tuned !
Timothé M.

FESTIVITIES IN THE WORLD



HOW DO PEOPLE MANAGE TO CELEBRATE RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES DURING LOCKDOWN?

Easter is a religious christian celebration that commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus. But this year due to lockdown, Christian believers had to celebrate it differently and were welcomed to follow the mass in front of their Tv. It was the very first time that Pope Francis held a Palm Sunday mass with a deserted Saint Peter square.

People have to adapt and find new ways to celebrate while respecting social distancing. In fact, on the evening of April 8th, there was **the beginning of Passover which is for Jews, one of their most important religious festivals** in their calendar. Usually, it is a time where

Jewish families gather around a meal and read religious text. Unfortunately this year, social distancing measures taken all around the world will prevent Jewish people from inviting each other.

Finally, **the Muslim holy month of Ramadan started on April 23**, and Muslim people will not be able to gather. But, in some countries some alternatives were found, for example, in the UK, a group of young Muslims came up with the brilliant idea to use the new reality as an opportunity. Indeed, Zoom-based Iftar meals will take place throughout Ramadan, with a live call to prayer every day.
Léna C. and Mathilde F.

A THREE-MONTH HOME-RUN

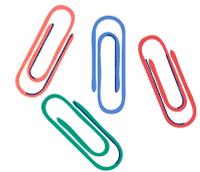
Because of the lockdown, sport buildings are closed, but athletes continue to train at home. Some bought sport machines, others run outside, respecting the 1km rule. To finish, some athletes wanted to challenge themselves and they ran marathons in their garden, around their table or on their balcony.

Besides, runners organized some races despite the lockdown. These special races had special instructions. All

athletes were running around their house, individually, and then, they had to share their performance and there was a national ranking.

Competitions have been canceled, including France and European championships. In addition, a lot of sporting events have been postponed, like the Olympics or The "Tour de France",

Lisa B. and Irina Z.



THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION REVIEWS

THE INTERS IN QUARANTINE

The Inters are homeschooled, like everyone else in France. Since the 16th of March, every student in France has to work at home, using different platforms such as Discord, Zoom, Skype... Classes using a computer or a phone are not something our teachers learnt to do, thus we all needed a short time to adjust. Working from such a distance can be hard for some of us, thus the inequalities in class are only spreading farther. Some of us don't have the presence of parents to help them, or have to share their computer with siblings. And, we shall not forget about the connection problems. Wi-Fi is becoming scarce in many homes, thus presence in the vocal classrooms can be difficult sometimes. Following lessons without a visual can also pose a problem for people with visual memory. I think we all agree that this period is not something we would go through again for fun. Everyone is working hard to keep the pace, the students as much as the teachers. Moreover, we shouldn't forget that school is the main socializing place for children and teenagers. Not being able to hang out with friends, to go eat a kebab or to have sleepovers make for a really difficult time.



Even if it means having a lot of exams again, many teenagers wish to go back to class. Loneliness is something we are all experiencing to some extent. A phone can only do so much in a relationship. Many of us miss our friends, our teachers, classes, or even just going out.

We should all address special thanks to our teachers. Not just the ones in Saint Marc, but every teacher in France, and in the world, for doing their best to help the students in this difficult time.

Jeanne P.

IN THE DEPTH OF TODAY'S SOCIETY

PRESERVING THE EARTH, TO PRESERVE LIVES...



Coronavirus has been striking for 6 months, creating a hitherto unseen world crisis. The pandemic originated from a marketplace, in Wuhan, China, where a pathogen carrier pangolin allegedly infected a human host. Nevertheless, the mammal was nothing but an intermediary, knowing that the real root was the bat. However, can we really consider these animals as the one to chide for this epidemic ?

Human activity disrupts ecosystems, starting by deforestation. Indeed, logging annihilates entire habitats, notably in tropical areas, causing extreme wild life disruption. Facing this disaster, species have to adapt by seeking for a new refuge. It leads to numerous gatherings of individuals, which can result in the proliferation of virus carrier groups, like the bat, and consequently, boosting the spreading and the creation of new viruses. In addition, infectious diseases mutate as they change host, becoming more and more life-threatening and resistant. The ever-growing world population doesn't come to improve the situation, as it forces people, in certain areas, to live more and more closely, and in disputable hygienic conditions. Furthermore, populations requisition deforested areas,

former habitats, which engenders an ineluctable contact with the previous occupants, potential pathogen carriers. For instance, if we step aside from the case of the coronavirus, we can rely on a 2010 study, from the scientific review *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, the destruction of only 4% of the Amazon rainforest, led to a 50% increase of the malaria cases.

Moreover, air pollution is as well a major factor in the development of viruses, such as the coronavirus. Certainly, fine particles and dust are as many roads for the pathogen to circulate. Concerning coronavirus, the most affected organs are the lungs, a part of the body already weakened by air pollution. This phenomenon heightens the dangerousness of the infection on our health.

To sum things up, pangolins and animals aren't the primary sources of this worldwide catastrophe ; our actions toward wild life are also to be held accountable. Therefore it is essential to preserve and safeguard ecosystems in order to preclude the development of new pathogens. If the earth is healthy, so are we !

Louane N. and Ana B.

CLIMATE CHANGE, MODERN SOCIETIES AND PANDEMICS- WHERE IS THE MISSING LINK?



Since the beginning of the year, the World is facing the impacts of **Coronavirus**. Similarly, **climate change** has been a matter of concern for Mankind for decades. **Both are disrupting our society and our lifestyle.**

We came to the conclusion that our behaviors had and still have a huge impact on coronavirus' spread. Increasing human activities claim more and more land, thus destroying natural habitats, a consequence shared with climate change, which also disrupt those ecosystems. As a result, multiple species are forced to live closer to human settlements. This high proximity makes it easier for diseases to transfer between species. This notably favored the coronavirus spread in Asia. In the same idea, intensive livestock induces genetically similar animals which opposes little resistance to the development and spread of violent diseases. Furthermore, the rapid and massive movements of humans and goods induced by globalization has greatly helped the spread of diseases on other continents and is an essential factor in pandemics, such as in the Covid-19. Ironically, coronavirus also has an impact on our climate and its changes. as a matter of fact, multiple countries established a lockdown that

resulted in a decrease or a stop of industrial activities, a sector that usually represents 1/3 of gas emissions. In the same way, the vast majorities of long-distance transports are not operating, therefore reducing a pollution usually responsible for a quarter of the carbon dioxide emissions. In the same way, the vast majorities of long-distance transports are not operating, therefore reducing a pollution usually responsible for a quarter of the carbon dioxide emissions. For example, China's carbon emissions decreased by 25% while New York's decreased by 5 to 10%. However, It is not the first time that a crisis causes a temporary dip in global carbon emissions. 2008's financial crisis had a similar impact, but later on, the restart of the economy cancelled those improvements and pollution rates rose faster than ever before.

As a conclusion, we reckon that the current covid-19 crisis is not a coincidence, but the predictable and expected outcome of how we treated the environment. The consequences of our catastrophic actions go far beyond climate change. Decisions must be made now, while we still can. It is our duty to leave a livable earth behind us.

Salomé D--R. ; Pania B. ; Carla A and Vincent G.



History repeats itself

These past few weeks, as we have all been in lockdown, **Social media have taken a much bigger role than they already had.** Nowadays they are used as Entertainment and most importantly communication, either with your friends or your relatives. Using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, are much easier to get informed on what is going on around the world, or even just to know if your family is fine, but in these stressful times, we also found that social media were a really good way to have some fun or share what ways of entertainment you found for yourself.

Since the lockdown people have changed their minds on social media which have helped in keeping memories of this historical event, updating everyday about worldwide lockdowns, giving a warning to future generations so that something like this will not happen again: a history e-book.

Damien D. and Maxence T.



New technologies vs. coronavirus

Coronavirus is now spread all around the world. To face this huge pandemic, **scientists are working hard to find ingenious solutions to ease our lives because of social distancing.**

This little aerial object called a drone that you are playing with in your garden or that army forces use in military operation is now used by the Police in many countries to control population and make sure there is not any unauthorized assemblies, by broadcasting prevention messages or instructions on the streets with the help of a loudspeaker and by permitting to guide the security patrols in the cities. Then, in China, the Police have created a highway tool permitting to register inhabitants that are travelling. A drone is flying above the cars with a QR code so that drivers can scan it easily with their smartphones. They can also be used to spread disinfectants in few Asian countries but according to some experts, the efficiency of this technique is not relevant. Not to mention that drones can deliver packages from commercial brands like Amazon or from pharmacies. But in the meantime, authorities are allowing new conditions of use to let these machines fly, to a certain extent this is leading to the creation of other businesses which can be seen as surveillance companies... To end on a good side, in Lebanon, on March 21st, it was mother's day. Three students began to sell flowers to people on WhatsApp and directly delivered the gifts to the mothers by air.

When it is not possible to send or to use drones, robots are also available. Pharmacies for example can use them. In the USA, autonomous robots looking like little rovers are able to deliver packages directly to the customer. So chic! In other cases, robots are able to spread disinfectants. In Wuhan, the first epicentre of the pandemic, few employees perched on electric gyro pods were controlling those robots normally used only in agriculture.

The world of automobile quickly got involved into producing, with the help of machines and materials in their factories: masks and respirators. In France, a diving mask invented few years ago by Decathlon got transformed into an artificial respirator by a smart engineer and all the output was given to hospitals. These hospitals are also being equipped of new door handles (created with a 3D printer) which could be opened with one's arm.

Timothé M.



Culture suffered from Corona...

Since March 17th, of the incredible year 2020, all French are stuck at home! Indeed, **a major part of public places are closed, including Movie theaters, museum and libraries.** Museums all around the world, are closed because of corona virus, and they offer online visits of exhibitions. Now you can visit the Galerie des Glaces with nobody to obstruct the beautiful view. You can also visit museum in countries you have never been and you never considered to go to.

For movie theaters and film directors, times are tough. Moreover, all the cinema industry is blocked. Films were out in the movie theaters just before the lockdown began, and the few days the motion pictures were released have not been sufficient to pay back the cost of the filmmaking. On a more positive point, in a district of Paris, every Friday evening a film is projected outside on a wall. Inhabitants of the neighborhood go out on their balconies, stay by their windows, or go out into the street and remain at the required and necessary social distance from each other, to watch the classical movies projected .

Lucile M.

Media and world's anxiety, what is the link ?



Corona virus being a major first-of-its-kind worldwide crisis, **media of all types were quickly overwhelmed by the extent of what their role has become.** As a result, a quantity of inaccurate information circulated at the sides of other truthful advice and data, which led the world to be plunged into a state of unprecedented confusion and uncertainty. This excessive media exposure was of course justified, given to the circumstances, but maybe not to such a degree, as in France for example, more than three quarters of air time was dedicated to corona information. In addition of preventing some from watching their favorite shows which can be interpreted as quite insignificant, the omnipresence of the virus in the media, greased the wheels for anxiety to settle in our daily life. The day-to-day assessment of the number of deaths, along with loads of other crude statistics and scientific terms contributed to build up people's angst and panic toward the virus. One of the most dramatic consequences, also tied to the constraints of the lockdown itself, is the increase of violence within households, with a 35% rise for domestic violence in France, even if the same scheme is observed all over the world, and an astounding 89% rise of the number of calls from endangered children compared to last year at the same time.

Ana B.

CROSS CULTURAL BOARDING PASS

CORONAVIRUS ACROSS THE BORDERS



The boarding pass takes us to the United-States, where we got in touch with our host families, respectively living in Minnesota and Wisconsin. How does the government handle this crisis? Are there any measures taken? What is the American population's response to this plague?

As the virus is spreading all over the world, the United-States is still on May, 25, the most infected country, hitting more than 1.38 million reported cases of the disease and more than 81.000 deaths . On April 8th, the state of New York had more cases than any country of the world. First of all, each state is independent from the government, which means that they can apply any laws or restrictions as they want. Indeed, not all of the American states imposed a "Stay at Home Order" to their population. However, according to Robert Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Social distancing is one of the most powerful weapons against COVID-19". That's why; these social distancing measures were taken in every state, to protect the population and to implement the government's strategy, which consists in flattening the curve. Also, beaches, schools, parks and non-essential shops were shut down in order to soothe the contamination.

Teresa King, the mother of one of the host family, is a physician working in La Crosse (Wisconsin). She joined a respiratory outpatient clinic, to take care of COVID-19 patients. For the moment, she explained us that the clinic wasn't very busy, but they are expecting it to pick up over the coming weeks. They are ready to fight against the virus. This pandemic is extremely severe in the United-States ; so severe that on April 11th for the first time in US history, every state was under a disaster declaration at the same time, expressing the seriousness of the illness. In terms of politics, the virus has split the USA into two warring political factions: the Republicans and the Democrats. While Democrats care about people's lives, the Republicans care about the economy and fear another Great Depression. This schism has led to anti-lockdown protests, located throughout the country, making the USA the only country of the world where people express their anger against quarantine. However, some demonstrators neither wear masks nor respect social distancing, which can lead to new epidemic outbreak.

People protest because the United-States doesn't have a partial unemployment system that helps them receive a salary while being in the incapacity of working because of quarantine. As a consequence, 14, 7% of the total population is unemployed, that is to say more than 23 million, a percentage never hit since World War II; also more than 20 million of jobs have vanished.

This unprecedented economic crisis, has triggered a massive company closure that has scared investors, causing a market crash, illustrated by the fact that oil prices reached -37 dollars per barrel. This situation is a first since the 30s.

Maé M-D and Lenny P.

Do you miss anyone?

For a couple of months, Covid-19 has intermingled with our lives. We had to change our habits almost overnight. For the ones living alone or far from their family, we had and still have to deal with anxiety for the people we love... **Who can say, reading this article, that he or she has not a grandparent or a friend that he or she misses during this period.** Because of the risks, a lot of our elders have had to endure a stricter locked down; a radical but necessary measure.

Even so, many people had to give up with their autonomy, having to rely on their family and friends. For a lot of them, just being able to go to the grocery store or even driving a couple of miles was their last act of independence, which this pandemic has suspended. Our Elderly are not the only ones concerned by loneliness. A lot of children placed by social services in children's boarding houses have not seen their parents for three months now... Everywhere in the world, people are learning to live on their own, without any social interactions. As a matter of fact, everyone is facing this strange reality. This loss of our landmarks affected a lot of people. Not to mention how strange it is not to go to work, not to get out with friends, or getting used to wearing a mask to buy a baguette. On the other hand, lockdown is the opportunity to spend time with people living with us, our close family. Indeed, a lot of us probably realized how enjoyable and important it is to be home with our family. The use of video conferences and social media has largely increase, helping to keep social interactions going. To conclude, despite of these numerous ties and the gap left by our friends and family, we proved, as a society, that we are able to stay united and resilient in order to emerge greater.

Salomé D--R.



Solidarity to cope with social distancing

Lockdown helped to grow solidarity movements between citizens. The perfect example was when Emmanuel Macron's address on April 13th was broadcast at 8:02 pm so that people could applaud the medical staff at 8:00 pm and then listen to his speech.

Besides, some famous Chefs decided to prepare meals for the medical staff. Youtubers also wanted to help so a lot of them gathered in charity lives to collect money to donate to the hospitals or EHPAD, nursing houses. Athletes also participated in this big solidarity movement. Some races were organized in which each participant had to pay his registration, and then run individually and share his performance to be ranked on a national scale. The money collected was then given to hospitals to help them fight against this unprecedented sanitary crisis. To finish, some retired doctors returned to service and people joined charities to provide additional support to homeless people. Hoping that people will continue to be united when this crisis will be over !

Lisa B.



When the ordinary becomes extraordinary!



In effort of containing the growing number of cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in France, the French government has kept people in quarantine. Under normal circumstances working as deliverers, cashiers, garbage collectors or even doctors might not seem extraordinary. But when workers from the entire country are told to stay at home **service workers and people working in the medical field are putting themselves at risk by simply doing their jobs.**

For those who are still working at their workplace, conditions have changed. For instance, cashiers of supermarkets are sometimes protected with homemade protections and masks. Moreover, the number of customers is limited in the store to 15 people so the 1-metre safety distance can be kept. In hospitals, the way of working has changed too. The different departments are in a way "corona or not corona" the

doctors and nurses are working with different patients in their section from before this crisis.

Many countries have decided to impose lockdown. Indeed more than 3.9 billion people are in containment, the half of the worldwide population. Moreover if in some countries the lockdown decision has just been taken, some others began to reopen step by step.

The entire team of the Newshaker wanted to address a huge thank you to our everyday heroes that are helping people out while still putting themselves under huge risks. A warm tribute to the people that are staying safe in quarantine, are respecting social distancing and other small gestures to try to stop the spread of the virus, not to mention the workers who are still in the front lines.

Lucile M. and Claire B.



Let it go...

After two months of strict confinement French people regain « freedom » but not the life led before. A lot of public places remained closed but the government gave access to some beaches all around the country to welcome some local tourists. Small shops have also reopened in order to avoid large economic losses. However some department stores such as Ikea didn't want to reopen the time to find an organization to avoid the further spread of the virus. Despite the appeasement of controls, health security measures are maintained such as wearing a mask in public transport or the presence of hydroalcoholic gel in public places (subway, shops,etc). We must therefore remain vigilant in the meantime, we are still working away from our high school and waiting for the government's decision.

Irina Z.

GOODBYE...



As you might have noticed, **this is where we all have to say goodbye to each other**. On behalf of the all the international 2nd we wanted to thank all of you for taking part in this big fulfilling project that we, students, really enjoyed. We all loved creating new subjects and innovating this year's edition. The Newshaker brought us a new vision of the world in collecting news that could perfectly fit and be essential into our month review. We also had a lot of fun picking information and to rearrange them so that they can be as entertaining for everyone. The Newshaker also established a bound between all the International of 2nd and made us feel connected in agreeing on all sort of articles, it made us discover each other and how to manage such a big project. It is a work of **a close-knit group**. We owe this to our great and helpful teacher **Miss Barret** who was present and always ready to help us. But also, to **Miss Gautron** who gave her time to help us find new ideas of articles and ways of arranging them on paper. Without their precious advice we probably could not have been able to publish the articles therefore we are very thankful to them and their patience. Finally, we hope that all of our articles have entertained you and we hope that the next year's edition will be even better! Until then, **stay safe, keep smiling and do not worry the Newshaker will come back soon**.
Ysée M.