



“A safe and caring place for all to learn”

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THOM TIMES

“The ‘oh cool, I didn’t know that’ edition!”

@thomtimesnews



All unmarked photos have been taken by : Hannah H., Grade 9 (She/Her)

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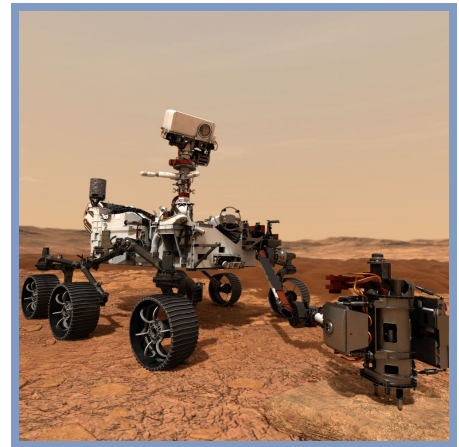
our email : [*thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com*](mailto:thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com)

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The Revolutionary Age of Space exploration

Marjan R., Grade 12 (She/Her)

The Perseverance rover made the remarkable landing on Jezero Crater in Mars on February 18, 2021 along with the Mars helicopter Ingenuity. Ingenuity itself has made a name for itself as the first helicopter in another celestial body to explore possible signs of life. If the helicopter successfully survived the harsh conditions of Mars, far more helicopters will proceed to advance space exploration. The Perseverance rover will “seek to discover indications of life and collect martian rocks and regolith (broken soil)” (NASA). The mission will span for one Mars year (about 687 days on Earth). The rover’s responsibilities include, but are not limited to: “drill to collect core samples of Martian rock and soil, then store them in sealed tubes for pickup” (NASA). This is an experimental gear that will acquire oxygen from the Martian atmosphere as supply of oxygen is limited in Mars, and ensures the environment is safe for future astronauts. The Perseverance is a testament to NASA’s determination to enhance future prospects of space exploration and to instill curiosity within the general public.



I am incredibly excited for what the future holds for space exploration and how it will revolutionize modern human expansion! What appears to be a costly and time consuming mission will provide us with extensive details about how humans can survive in harsh environments and the possibility for us to reside on Mars. Nonetheless, I encourage students to read and learn about space exploration as it is a relevant topic that touches on human curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. All of which will be beneficial to your studies and how you interact with the world around you. Be curious and persevere!



Recommended reads/videos if you are interested!

1. *Cosmos* by Carl Sagan (1980)
2. *Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space* by Carl Sagan (1994)
3. *Introduction to Astronomy: Crash Course Astronomy!*

Credit: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mission/overview/>

A simple search in Google/YouTube will be sufficient to find what you are looking for or ask your teachers if you are curious about something!

One year later...

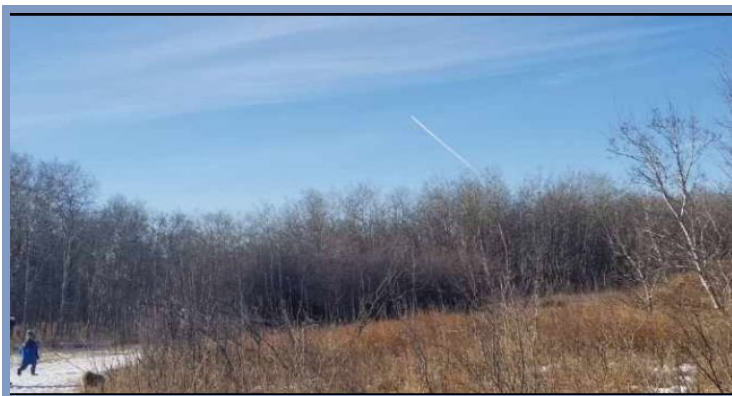
Ben S., Grade 9 (He/Him)

The Covid-19 virus was declared a Global Pandemic a year ago. So many unbelievable things have happened in the last year, it's honestly surreal. I mean, Mr. Peanut from the famous commercials died and returned as a kid!

On a slightly more serious note, the Coronavirus Pandemic got people to wash their hands to "Happy Birthday," twice through. It's honestly scary to think of all the people who didn't wash their hands properly before Covid - so yay! Also, a year ago, everyone also started mass purchasing toilet paper, Lysol wipes, and hand sanitizer like they thought they were just going to run out. But I guess they actually did!



Yes, there was a lot of crap that has happened over this year, but there have also been some very positive things that have come out of it, too. There are now a lot more resources for mental health, which is fantastic. More people have started exercising at home, which obviously makes the house shake like an earthquake. But it's a good excuse for a fake earthquake. As well, more people have been spending time outdoors. Much to the dismay of the bees and other insects, I'm sure.



I know you already know this.. but this last year has been CRAZY but I hope you have found some sort of comfort through these hard times, 'cause as we know too well that things can change in the blink of an eye.

Covid-19 has changed my life for the bad but also the good

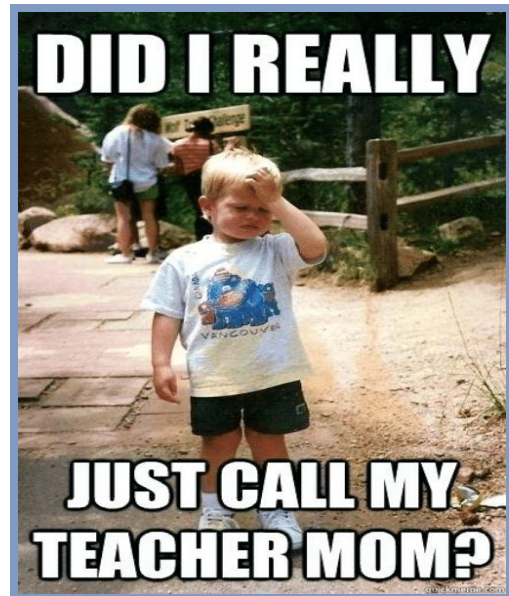
Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)



This global pandemic has affected me in more ways than I will probably ever know. It has changed my way of thinking, and it has also challenged my level of motivation to always make the most of every day. I have always been the type of person who believes that you should live life to the fullest. So being cooped up inside has been a challenge for me, but throughout the pandemic, quarantine, and lockdown it has allowed me to do all that I can in the best way I can with the time I have.

The Covid pandemic has taught me to always focus on the little wins; or, as I like to call it, the “little things.” Even if it is just reading a couple of chapters of my book, taking my dogs for a walk, sometimes even just a weekly grocery run - all of that is important and it matters. I have also become stronger and tougher. My first thought during the tough moments is to remind myself: “just think, you have survived through a global pandemic!”

Last, but certainly not least, something I remind myself every moment of every day before and after the pandemic is “Life is too short.. So live it up!”



A brief look into the life of Mattie Mayes, an important figure in Sask. history

Isaac M., Grade 12 (He/They)

Ms. Mattie Mayes was born into slavery in Georgia, 1846. While enslaved, her name was Martha Jane Warner, named after her master. When she was young, she was separated from her mother which wasn't an abnormal practice. While we know she was young when this happened, the best guess is that she was four at the time. Though she thought of herself as a free slave because she was favored and given lighter duties, this of course was not the case.

In December 1865, the 13th amendment was adopted by the government of the United States, which meant that the slaves were now 'free'. Because of this, she was able to work for an optician and later move to Tennessee, where she trained as a midwife and met her husband Joseph, a Baptist minister. They later moved to Texas, then Oklahoma.

We can't be certain, but it is believed that the reason for their immigration to Saskatchewan from Oklahoma (April, 1910) was because in 1907, Jim Crow laws were implemented. These new laws enforced segregation based on race. This means that before their abolishment, black people couldn't use the same bathrooms, couldn't attend the same schools and weren't given the same job opportunities as white people. The affects of this along with slavery are still felt today. The reason why they chose Saskatchewan was because at the time, Saskatchewan was offering free farmland based on the federal government's offer to settlers of free homestead in the western part of the country.

Ms. Mayes settled in Eldon SK, which is near Lethbridge, close to the Albertan border. She and her husband began living here with twelve other families and were known as Shiloh People. This name comes from the small church they frequented which later became a school and graveyard. This site is now a recognized and protected heritage site.

While living in Eldon, she continued as a community leader with great knowledge of herbal medicine without 'formal' training. Being highly respected and seen as refuge from harm, she was the most important woman of the community. While there, she even had thirteen children. Ms. Mayes died in 1953 and it is important to note that she was the matriarch of Saskatchewan's first and only black pioneer settlement.

Sources : Curlykeish (TikTok); <http://sachm.org/biography/mattie-maves/>

To those interested, here is a Kahoot on phenomenal black women who made history :

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/phenomenal-black-women-who-made-history/2c8f314e-f0bd-4c9a-b2ee-5013c634ce90>

Historical Women Spotlight: Kalpana Chawla

Marjan R., Grade 12 (She/Her)

As space exploration has taken a sharp flight in the past few years, it's only right that we reflect on great scientific minds who contributed to our understanding about space exploration and making great feats in human independence. Kalpana Chawla was among these groups of great minds. She was a pioneering Indian astronaut who made the remarkable step of becoming the **first Indian woman of origin in space**. She single-handedly ousted the stereotype about women of colour being unsuccessful in science. However, with most things, it took drive and determination to foresee a brighter future for herself.



Kalpana was born the youngest of four on July 1, 1961 in Karnal, India. Kalpana always had a fascination with flying, poetry, and even dancing that revolved around much of her childhood. She pursued a B.S. in Aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College in 1982, completed her M.S. at the University of Texas, and her PhD from the University of Colorado in 1988. She eventually joined NASA and participated in two flights to space.

She served as a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Columbia on STS-107 in 2003 after repeated delays. The crew consisted of 7 astronauts who were able to complete more than 80 experiments within the 16 day period in space. On Feb. 1, 2003 the crew was designated to return to earth and land on the Kennedy Space Center until the space shuttle disintegrated into the earth's atmosphere. The entire crew of seven astronauts were killed immediately. They were only a few minutes away from returning to home. May they rest in peace.



The future is brimming with inspired and ambitious individuals who are seeking to pursue their career in space exploration, certainly Kalpana Chawla is among the role models.

“When you look at the stars and the galaxy, you feel that you are not just from any particular piece of land, but from the solar system.”

-Kalpana Chawla

Credit: <https://www.space.com/17056-kalpana-chawla-biography.html>

Apparently, Peanut Butter and Pickles are a Thing!

Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)

On March 1, peanut butter enthusiasts everywhere celebrated National Peanut Butter Lovers' Day (did you know that was a thing? Now you do!). And, I am not sure if you are aware, but apparently deliciously luscious peanut butter has been teamed up on a sandwich with tangy dill pickles. Or, at least this is what Bridgeman says - and if you have a problem with it, take it up with him (his words, not mine!).

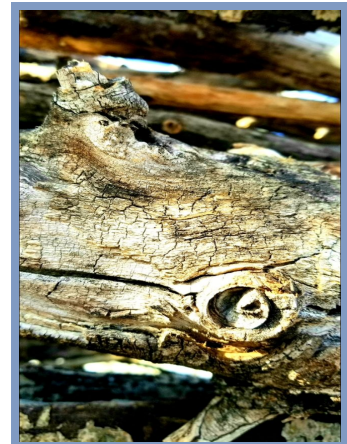


Source : Tasting Table

But the real story behind peanut butter and pickle sandwiches is an interesting one... According to the WideOpenEats website, "Putting peanut butter & pickles on slices of bread got its start during the Great Depression. Americans were cutting corners any way they could, and pickles and peanut butter were cheap and plentiful." I can't speak for the Americans because I am Canadian, but food, specifically peanut butter and pickles, is not where I would choose to cut the funds.

Apparently, editors for HuffPost decided to voluntarily take on taste-tasting the peanut butter and dill pickles sandwiches. The verdict from most subjects was that it was "good." I don't know how and I don't know why they thought that this sandwich creation was delicious. In answer to your question, yes there is evidence. People really dig the acidic vinegary taste of dill pickles with the rich, mild, sweet and salty taste of peanut butter. Who knew?

I read through all of the final verdicts, and heard some things I wish I could unhear like "I love it" and "I would eat this everyday," and those were only a few of them. I know -- wild, right? But there was one verdict from the peanut butter and



pickle sandwich taste test that made me think *yes man, finally*. Well here it is: “This just makes me want a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.”

March Holidays

Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)

If you ever thought March was one of those boring months, with no holidays except good ol’ lucky Saint Patrick’s Day, well, you are in for a rude awakening. There are actually over 100 speciality holidays in the month of March! I’ll show you some of my favourites!

March 1

Peanut Butter Lover’s Day

March 3

If Pets had Thumbs Day

March 8

International Women’s Day

March 10

International Day of Awesomeness

March 17

St. Patrick’s Day

March 21

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 26

Make your own Holiday

March 30

Turkey Neck Soup Day

Wacky right? I bet you’re curious to know more, especially about If Pets had Thumbs Day. Here is the link to the website that tells you about all these speciality holidays:

<http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/march.htm>

Celebrating and understanding International Women's Day

Isaac M., Grade 12 (He/They)

International Women's Day is a day to remember that without women, nothing would be possible. While it's a day to thank someone who identifies as a woman, it is also a day to challenge our gender based biases.

This year, the theme was to 'choose to change': "A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world" (IWD's website). While March 8th has passed, this does not mean that things have changed; it is still vital that we challenge our biases and make sure we are keeping our spaces safe for all, no matter the context.

Source : <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme>



1. What do you do with a dead chemist?

You barium

2. What do you call a fake noodle?

An Impasta

That was so embarrassing!

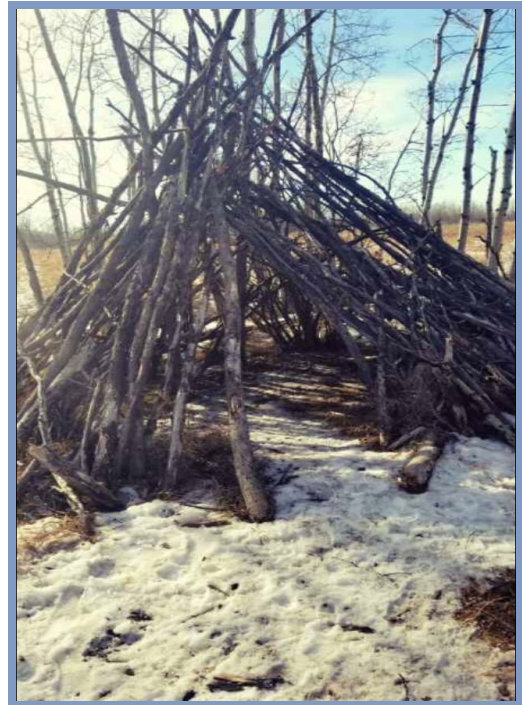
Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)

Have you ever been in a situation where you did something so embarrassing that you just want to change your name and move to Antarctica? You are probably saying “nope” right now, but I know that is a lie. Well, let’s find out what some of our Trojan family’s most embarrassing moments are.

“There was one time when I thought the door was a push door but it was actually a pull door and I banged my head on the door in front of senior citizens.”

“It was my first day at Thom, and I was walking up the stairs so I could go up to my TNT, and I tripped and fell down the stairs. Right in front of a staircase full of people.”

“I remember one time I was in a Dollarama store, and my grandma gave me the honor of pushing the cart. We were going down the Tupperware and dishes aisle, and I stood on top of the cart letting me roll. Next thing I know the whole shelf of glasses fell down. Let’s just say I haven’t pushed a cart in a long time.”



Writers : Ben S., Marjan R., Isaac M., Emmalea H.

Photographer : Hannah H.

Editors : Isaac M., Ms. Kuntz