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Passing the Time

My favorite movie is *Raya and the Last Dragon* because it is about exploring. I didn't go out with this Corona. (2nd grade girl)

I've been learning new things like plants because I have a book so I'm almost a genius at flowers. Well, I know a little at least. (5th grade boy)

My favorite book series so far is *Dog Man Unleashed*. My best friend got me into reading it. (3rd grade boy)

My favorite part was watching *Amazing World of Gumball*. The show makes me laugh a lot. I watch it by myself. (2nd grade boy)

My favorite TV show this year is *Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug and Cat Noir*. I watch it with friends on FaceTime and we get popcorn and we watch it. (4th grade girl)

I watch movies with my family, I play with my legos, and I build forts. (1st grade boy)

I'm having a lot of time being by myself and singing by myself very loud and dancing. I like to sing this song that's about not wanting people to see them together and then it says it doesn't matter. The title is "Don't Matter." (4th grade girl)

Looking Ahead

I am nervous about life being normal because it is going to be weird seeing people without a mask. (2nd grade girl)

When life goes back to normal I'm mostly looking forward to not wearing a mask. (5th grade boy)

Now that things are reopening I want to go see my grandparents graves in Mexico. (5th grade girl)

As things go back to normal, I want to go back to school and different places but I am scared of taking the covid test. (1st grade boy)

I'm looking forward to hanging out with my friends and family more. Right now, people can only come over for a short time because people might have COVID. (4th grade girl)

My fear is that the Pandemic will happen again. (4th grade girl)

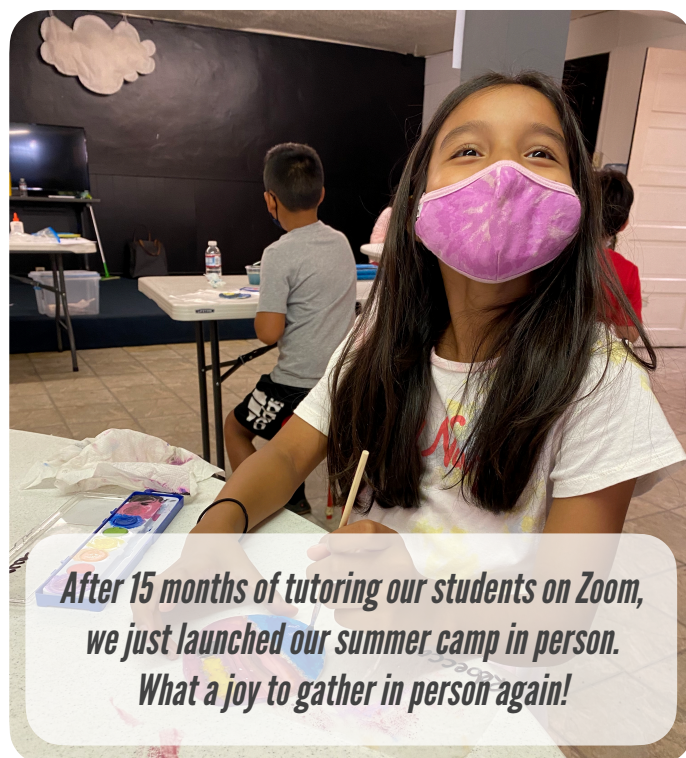
Reflections

It was kind of boring until I went back to Adventures Ahead. It really taught me a lot during the pandemic, and it was really fun reading other things and learning about new stuff. Growing up in different levels of A through Z, the words were difficult, the words were getting bigger and everything. But now that everything is going back to normal, I've realized how much this program has meant to me. It's improved my grades in school and my quality of life. (4th grade girl)

I notice that some people are going through hard stuff and some people are going through good stuff. It's pretty hard to live with a crazy world just like mine. (4th grade girl)

Some words that I would use to describe the pandemic are: boring, a little fun, scary, making people lazy, stressing, and hard. (5th grade boy)

I learned from this Pandemic to not take life for granted. (6th grade boy)



*After 15 months of tutoring our students on Zoom,
we just launched our summer camp in person.
What a joy to gather in person again!*



REDEEMER

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

SOUTH LOS ANGELES • SUMMER 2021 UPDATE



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Adventures Ahead Pandemic Journals

Bright Spots

The best thing that happened is how I am able to have candy all the time. (4th grade girl)

During Covid one thing I was excited for is decorating my room! (5th grade girl)

The best thing that happened to me this year is when I stayed in San Francisco for 2 weeks. I ran out of clothes because I only packed for 1 week. (3rd grade boy)

The most joy came from my cousin Eva. She helps me a lot when I am down. (6th grade girl)

I liked Zoom school in the beginning because I didn't like to go to school in person. I still like Zoom school. I like that I don't get bullied anymore. (2nd grade boy)

Hardships

Since my family are not here with me so close, I couldn't give them a big hug. It's pretty hard to live with the pandemic because you think it's all over you, trying to attack you; it's like you are the good guy and the pandemic is the bad guy. (4th grade girl)

At first I was excited to know we were getting two weeks off school. Then, it turned into a worldwide pandemic and it made me miserable. Zoom school made me feel horrible because I couldn't pay attention and it has cost me my mental health. (5th grade girl)

The sadness/distress usually comes from a lot of my family members dying. (6th grade girl)

I am scared of getting Covid-19 germs on my hands and people not wearing their masks. (2nd grade boy)

My cousin has COVID and he came over and sat on the couch and my mom spent a lot of time to clean it. And my mom doesn't want him to come over again because he had COVID. (4th grade girl)

Online School

What I don't like about online school is that we are on the screen all day and it hurts my eyes. When I started Zoom I didn't know what Zoom was and it felt weird. I know how to use Zoom now. (2nd grade girl)

I felt nervous and scared when I had to start school on Zoom. I had to do a lot of work differently. I didn't know how to use an iPad so I was nervous about it. I was mad they closed my school and stores. I was scared of getting sick. I was mad because I couldn't go outside to play. (1st grade boy)

Zoom school was fun in the beginning but then I got bored because I couldn't concentrate. Being in person for school feels better. (3rd grade boy)

I enjoyed school online because during my break my cousin and I were able to play Barbie house and the Barbie camper. (2nd grade girl)

When we started on Zoom, I did not know what was happening. Now I am bored, unfocused, and want to go back to in person classes. I miss playing with my friends. My brothers are little and they do not know how to play. (1st grade boy)

Before Covid I used to like school more but Covid has made school harder and I don't like it as much. Online school lowered my grades because of the homework they were sending me. Online school was hard because I was shy and didn't turn on my camera so it was hard to ask questions. (5th grade girl)

I wasn't mad but I was sad when they said we had to go on Zoom. I miss having teachers helping us a lot in real school. Teachers still help us and everything on Zoom but it's not as much. They've been really nice to kids. I'm happy that teachers are safe and we're all safe. (4th grade girl)

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END NEIGHBORHOOD DRILLING

Drone photo taken by Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun, *South Los Angeles oil wells worry neighbors, spark lawsuit*, Published March 11, 2021.

Over the last year we have prayed that the Lord would illuminate what is hidden at the Murphy Drill Site, a toxic oil drilling site in our neighborhood. Divine appointments have led us to the site at just the right moments to gather evidence that has launched several regulatory investigations.

In January, our call to the South Coast Air Quality Management District led to two Notices of Violation. One was for degassing five 21,000-gallon frac tanks within 1000 feet of a K-12 school. The other was for lying about the nearest resident. The operator said the distance was ½-mile, not 40-feet.

In March, our report to the California Highway Patrol of an unlicensed truck deploying radioactive materials (i.e. “R/A Material”) confirmed that the operator lacked three required permits needed to drive the vehicle.

In April, Cal OSHA opened an investigation in response to our photos of workers without face shields being sprayed with oil, workers smoking, men working in the dark, and other dangerous practices.

In April our photos of unpermitted acid maintenance moved the City to order the oil company to come in for a full review of its operating conditions. This is the same process we used to put the Jefferson Drill Site on a path closure and clean-up.

Recently, we asked the courts to compel the LAFD fire chief to enforce fire code rules for idle wells. These wells must be capped to keep toxic and explosive gases from reaching the surface. For more than a year he has refused to take action.

Meanwhile, a new USC study found a substantial decrease in lung size and strength for residents living within 1000 meters downwind of the drill site. The reduction was larger than those living next to freeways or regularly exposed to secondhand smoke.

Children in our community are beginning their lives with smaller, weaker lungs with enormous implications for their ability to live a healthy life, compete in sports, avoid asthma and other respiratory diseases. Step by step we are gaining traction for the urgent work of closing and cleaning up this drill site.

Nobody expects to see toxic drill sites in the Kingdom of God. So when we pray, “Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, in the neighborhood as it is in heaven”, it is a prayer to end neighborhood oil drilling. Please join us in praying for the L.A. Catholic Archdiocese to break the oil operator’s lease in love for their South LA neighbors, for the City to close the site, and for a beneficial use—like a park—to take its place.

