



Youth of Today  
Hope of Tomorrow



## The Importance Of Saving Money



Zoey King  
Idea Montopolis

Saving money is important because it will help you get the things you need in the future or in case of an emergency. In order to save money it's important to have a budget. A budget is a plan on how much money you need to spend in a time period. For example if someone shops three times a week without a budget they may run out of money fast. However, if they went shopping once every two weeks with a budget they would have a lot more money to shop in the future. It's important to have a plan on how to save money.

Most people save

money from their paychecks and will decide how often and how much. The more money someone has saved, the less chance they have of using a credit card. Most people save money in a bank. When I get older and get a job I plan to have to have a savings account to save for big purchases like a car, college, and a house. I would also save for small purchases like clothes, and food. It's also important to have savings to pay for emergencies.

For example if someone's tire flattened and they had been spending too much money they wouldn't be able to pay for a new tire. Another example is if someone had a medical emergency they might not be able to work but if they had saved up their money they could get treatment to go back to work and have money to spend until they return to work. These are just a few reasons why it's important to save money. Overall it's best to try to save money no matter how much money you make.

## The Value of Mentorship



Lacey Johnson  
Connally High School

What is a mentor? A mentor is a person that holds more knowledge and or experience on a certain subject and provides guidance to someone with less knowledge. Examples of a mentor can include a coach, tutor, or a trainer. We often think of having a mentor in the workplace especially when you are new to a job. We think of our parents and teachers as mentors. In addition to using parents and teachers as mentors, I have learned the value and importance of also having the guidance of someone who is not part of your immediate circle.

Mentorship in a school environment is extremely significant.

Mentoring helps build communication skills development within a student and focuses on certain areas which also allows growth. A mentor can provide you the support and resources you need. The impact of this could be the difference between a failure and a success. Mentorship will provide an opportunity to gain trust, accept feedback and can enhance your communication skills. It gives you the room for both academics and personal development. I firmly support the power of mentorship. In most cases all it could take is one mentor to rotate the tracks a student follows towards a more successful path.

Therefore, I believe mentorship is important for students of our generation. The influence of a mentor can change lives and permanently leave a printed mark on the future of a student in more possible ways than just academic culture. It can spread across a kid, changing their way of life, and possibly steering them into a brighter future.

## Using the Past to Better the Future



SaNaya White  
Ann Richards

We have officially stepped into a new year, bringing new experiences, challenges, goals, and ways of making this year different from the previous one. As we all know, the year 2020 was one to remember. It was a year that will be recognized in history, the year that the world shut down. As a whole, we faced many difficulties. We had to approach these challenges in ways that we never would have thought to be necessary before. Looking back on last year, we were faced with one of the most devastating wildfire seasons, introduced to an entirely new and deadly disease, grieved the deaths of many important individuals and legends, the rise of the Black Lives Matter protest and movement, the first sightings of "murder hornets" in the United States, a new president, the first African American and Asian American Vice President, and lastly the development and approval of the Covid vaccine.

This year consisted of many things, causing us to grow stronger as a community, and to find ways to approach the obstacles that we had to face. It is easy to look at the year 2020 with a negative lens. Many will say that 2020 was the worst year ever, but it is important to focus on both the negative and the positive aspects of the year. Although the year brought many changes, it also brought the ability for us to learn

how to adjust to them. We are still collectively adapting to our new way of living, but we have all had to do it together. Last year had its negatives, but it also had its positives and those are extremely important to look at and focus on to better yourself for this new year.

For the new year, some people are setting a high bar of expectations and already comparing it to last year. I believe that we must use the year 2020 to find ways to avoid mistakes, lost time, and negative mindsets to make the most of 2021. If you haven't set goals for yourself, I believe that this is the perfect time to do so. Make 2021 the year to tackle and achieve the tasks that you have been putting off for so long. We have seen so many new experiences during 2020 and we must use those to carry on through the new year and make them even better. Sometimes adjustments can be frustrating. They can take up time, cause you to have to get out of your comfort zone, or they can even prevent you from doing things that you enjoy. As an individual, you must do what you can to find new experiences and activities that work for you, and allow you to progress over time.

As a community, we have to make this year different from the last as we must do what we can to support each other and ourselves by continuing to stay safe and to motivate those who are losing hope. There is a common phrase, "New year, new me", that is often used at the beginning of every year. Whether or not you believe this phrase, I encourage you all to work on yourselves. I am not telling you to change yourselves, but rather better yourselves. I have many things to work on this year as I have set some goals that I need to achieve. I am hoping for the best of this year, and the best for you all as well.

## A Special Christmas



Aiden Loyden  
Teravista Elementary

This year, Christmas was special. It was a blessing for me to be able to spend time with my grandparents and uncle. This Christmas was different than others. I wasn't able to see some of my family due to Covid-19, and things were different in my

hometown. It wasn't as many family members as I'm used to but I still had a good time. I baked cookies with my grandma. My mom, grandma and I made a gingerbread house. I also ate some of her homemade chocolate covered pretzels. It was great spending time with them. I also hung out with a few of my cousins. It was amazing. I was able to feel the Christmas spirit that I've been craving since last year. To top it off, I got amazing gifts. I got clothes, shoes and other items. I know that I have been blessed to see another Christmas and a New Year when others weren't. I'm happy that we made it through 2020 healthy and safe.

## It's Been a Nice Break!



Rebekah McNeal  
Round Rock H. S.

It's 2021 already! It felt like every month of 2020 went by quickly, but the whole year felt slow.

I'm ready for this new year and especially summer break! The first six months of school went by surprisingly fast. I'm glad midterms have been long over and I had a nice break from school that I can't believe is al-

## Planting



Ava Roberts  
Pflugerville H. S.

During Covid-19 shelter in place and quarantine times, many became focused on old and new hobbies. Some enjoyed yoga, painting, exercising, and sculpting. But, I became interested in gardening and began planting various species of indoor and outdoor plants.

I bought my first plants the Lowe's deeply discounted plant section. They needed attention and care. For many Saturdays, I visited the store and purchased discounted plants of all varieties. I knew that nursing these plants to healthy state would be challenging, but I was ready for the task.

As my collection

most over.

Over the break, I ran out of shows to binge-watch. It normally takes me 20 to 40 min-

utes to pick something to watch, so I finally used Netflix's 'play something' feature to avoid choosing. That's what grew, I researched the varieties to learn about each one of them. I looked for plants that would be conversation starters because of their beauty but would not require a lot of maintenance. I was fascinated by succulents and cacti because of their colors and pretty flowers. I have "string of" dolphins, turtles, pearls, bananas, and hearts; several Kalanchoes - flapjack, mother of thousands, and mother of millions; several pothos ivy's - golden, jades & pearls, n'Joy, neon, and satin; and two types of monstera - also known as "swiss cheese plants".

I find gardening to be therapeutic. I make time to nurture my plants so they would stay alive and continue to grow. I have learned to be patient because the process tends to be slow. But the beautiful outcome is well worth it. If you don't own a plant, buy one and enjoy the experience.

utes to pick something to watch, so I finally used Netflix's 'play something' feature to avoid choosing. That's what

started it. After three tries, it landed on an interesting, cute cartoon that I finished in two days. Now I've been trying to find similar shows for the past week. I've stumbled on some great ones, my search has not been entirely in vain.

I got this cute, little thing called an 'Egg Bite Maker' for Christmas. When I first figured out

how to use it, it was like I discovered something great. I made egg and sausage bites, and egg, cheese, and bacon ones. They were really good! You can make desserts with the maker. One of these days I'll make cheesecake bites!

I didn't do much over the break. Mostly watching TV and playing with my Christmas gifts!