

INFORMAL ASSESSMENT

COVID-19

02b News article Memorandum

* Easy

** Average

*** Challenging

1. Read the newspaper article below that appeared in a middle school newspaper in the USA named “South Coast Today Newspaper”.

South Coast Today Newspaper

By Aimee Chiavaroli

DARTMOUTH — An illustration by seventh grader Dylan Manchester-Rogers on the front page of the first issue of Big Green News captures what a lot of his classmates are likely feeling during the coronavirus pandemic.



“At first it felt like vacation but now it’s like we’re trapped in a bubble,” it reads, including drawings of three bubbles with figures inside them.

Students at Dartmouth Middle School are used to passing by each other in the halls, eating lunch with friends, hanging out after school or catching up during sports practice or clubs. As for many students, that normal routine has vanished since schools state-wide have been closed for about a month and remain closed at least through May 4.

Boucher knows what it’s like to have a parent as an essential worker. Her father works as a truck driver for a solid waste collection company, she said.

"I don't really get to see him during the week, so I kind of dedicated this to him," she said.

She misses eating lunch in the cafeteria and seeing people that were part of her routine. Due to the coronavirus, she'll miss out on a trip to Six Flags with the band and chorus and yearbook signings, she said. But despite that, she understands how critical it is to social distance, keep in touch virtually, and try to keep a positive outlook.

"Every time we don't keep our social distance, first responders pay the price and so do others," she said.

As a member of a parent Facebook group, "Dartmouth Parents 14.0," Mary Waite created a series of challenges children could do at home which included fun and educational aspects, with the opportunity for parents to share photos of completed challenges. That proved more of a way to engage elementary school children, but she wanted to do something for middle schoolers, like her sons Lucas and Desmond, eighth grade and sixth grade, respectively.

That's when Waite, who is running unopposed for a School Committee seat, decided to launch a student newspaper.

"It kind of taps into their individual interests and skills," Waite said.

2. Answer the following questions.

2.1. What event prompted the writing of this article for the school newspaper? **

An illustration by seventh grader Dylan Manchester-Rogers on the front page of the first issue of Big Green News accompanied with the words "At first it felt like vacation but now it's like we're trapped in a bubble," it reads, including drawings of three bubbles with figures inside them.

This is what a lot of other learners were feeling during the lockdown.

Mary Waite wanted to do something to engage these middle school learners so she decided to launch a student newspaper.

2.2. What was Dylan referring to when he drew this picture? *

His experience of the COVID-19 lockdown regulations.

2.3. According to this newspaper article, what were students at Dartmouth Middle School missing since the COVID-19 lockdown regulations were imposed? *

Students were used to seeing each other at school, eating lunch with friends, hanging out after school or catching up during sports practice or clubs. They missed their normal routine.

2.4. What is an “essential worker”? Name some examples to clarify your answer. ***

Somebody that provides a service which is a core necessity for a community, like the fire department, police, doctors and nurses. They work in services that communities cannot do without. This includes rubbish removal and supermarket deliveries.

2.5. What could happen if someone does not adhere to the lockdown regulations? *

If people don't keep their social distance, they may become infected and add to the burden on frontline workers/first responders. They may also infect others with the COVID-19 virus.

2.6. What can we do to make a positive contribution during the lockdown period? **

We must try to understand how critical it is to practise social distancing, keep in touch with others virtually, and try to keep a positive outlook.